



STANDARD MINE TECHNICAL
ADVISORY GROUP

FRIENDS OF COAL CREEK



Protect and Restore

www.coalcreek.org

Friends of Coal Creek is a joint effort of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition and the Standard Mine Technical Advisory group. See page 4 for more details.

SLATE RIVER COMMITTEE FORMS WATERSHED PLAN AS MAIN GOAL.....

The Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) is pleased to announce the formation of the Upper Slate River Committee (USRC) as part of CCWC to

create a Watershed Plan for the Upper Slate River Watershed. The Watershed

Plan will compile all of the existing data and reports for the Slate River watershed and provide direction on activities to improve watershed health and water quality. The CCWC and USRC, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management submitted a grant request to the Colorado Non-Point Source Program and have received preliminary notification of an award to create the plan. The grant will use matching funds from the Colorado Division of Reclamation

Mining and Safety. The USRC will begin some data collection this summer and encourages the public to get involved.

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"This is a pretty exciting opportunity for us to address impairments in the Slate River..."

opportunity for us to address impairments in the Slate River watershed which is

currently on the State of Colorado's list of impaired waters," said Steve Glazer, President of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition. State and Federal agencies have been working at inactive mine sites and recreation areas in the Slate River Watershed and this gives the community a great opportunity to support those entities in their work. "Creating a Watershed Plan allows the community to create a comprehensive plan to work towards addressing the

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BY THE NUMBERS:

Storm Drain Filters Installed and Cleaned in 2010:

3

Number of Volunteer Hours Devoted to Erosion Control in 2010:

156

factors affecting watershed health and we hope the community will be part of the process," said Steve Glazer. For more information contact Steve Glazer at (970) 349-6646 or steve@hccaonline.org. The next Upper Slate River Committee meeting is planned for April 13th at 2:15pm at Town Hall in Crested Butte. The public is invited to participate.

FREE COPIES OF CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO COLORADO WATER QUALITY AVAILABLE...

The Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) has received copies of the Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Quality from the Colorado Foundation for Water Education for distribution among residents of Gunnison County. These Guides are a great resource for understanding water quality laws and regulations, as well as a resource for which rivers are healthy for fish and safe for swimming. Residents concerned about current water quality issues in Coal Creek will find this a helpful document for understanding current standards and general water quality issues. Anyone interested in a copy of their own should contact CCWC by emailing Nicki@coalcreek.org or visiting www.cfwe.org.

HEALTHY RIVERS FUND TAX CHECK OFF



Donate to the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund (CHRF) this tax season. This fund is dedicated to the citizen watershed groups in Colorado (including CCWC) working to protect, conserve and enhance the water resources in their communities. Watershed groups use these funds for watershed planning and on-the-ground projects, and it has become an invaluable resource. You can contribute to the CHRF by checking the box on your state income tax return. This year the Fund is endangered by the downturn in the economy. If the Fund does not generate more than \$75,000 in a single year, it will be dropped from the Tax check-off program. Contribute to help protect one of our most fragile and important resources: our water.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEASED

At its annual meeting the CCWC evaluated the organization's goals and outlined a plan for 2011 and beyond. This is all outlined in a strategic plan which can be viewed on the CCWC website www.coalcreek.org. The CCWC has also summarized its 2011 priorities in an Annual Operating Plan available on the CCWC's website.

WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN RELEASED

The CCWC has prepared a Watershed Restoration and Monitoring Plan, which recognizes the areas of Coal Creek with water quality impairments and identifies how the surrounding habitat can be restored to improve the water quality. By summarizing the existing health of the watershed CCWC was able to establish a list of prioritized projects and create a timeline to ensure these projects are completed. To review the Watershed Restoration and Monitoring Plan please visit www.coalcreek.org.

STANDARD MINE UPDATE

In June of 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the Proposed Plan outlining the final remedies being proposed for the Standard Mine. The EPA has received comments from the the Standard Mine Technical Advisory Group largely supporting the EPA's preferred alternative. Sometime in 2011 the EPA will be responding to public comments and finalizing their conceptual plans for remediating the remaining issues at the Standard Mine. For more information visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/co/standard/>

SUMMER INTERNS NEEDED

The CCWC has begun recruiting for summer internship positions. There will be one paid position available starting in May or June. The paid position will be a full time 10-week intern who will assist with volunteer training and coordination, implementation of sampling programs, and Best Management Practices implementation and maintenance. This intern will be compensated with a weekly stipend and education award once their internship is completed. Additional unpaid internships will be available. Contact Anthony at director@coalcreek.org for more information.



**VISTA MEMBER NICKI DEVANNY
COLLECTING WATER SAMPLES IN
FEBRUARY.**

SUMMER 2011 RESTORATION PLANS FOR COAL CREEK

The CCWC will have another busy summer of activities in the Coal Creek Watershed to help improve the health of the watershed and Coal Creek. The CCWC will be working in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service, the Colorado Natural Areas Program, and Colorado State University to restore impacted wetlands to help reduce metals contamination reaching Coal Creek. We will also be installing more of the tan erosion control mat along Kebler Pass Road started in 2009. Areas with erosion control mat will also receive a native seed mix to help reestablish vegetation which reduces erosion. We'll also be working along Kebler Pass to reduce sediment sources from the road. The CCWC will also be working with the Crested Butte Land Trust and other project partners to restore the creek channel close to Slate River. We're working hard to protect your drinking water source and encourage you to join us a volunteer or donor. Contact us for more information at (970) 596-7496 or director@coalcreek.org.

THANKS ROBIN! WELCOME JIM!

Robin Jones recently resigned from the CCWC board to focus her attention on the Paradise Food Project. Robin has made countless contributions to Coal Creek with her strong science background and commitment to watershed health. We would like to thank Robin for all of her work over the past five years! In her place the CCWC welcomes a new Board Member, Jim Starr. Jim Starr has lived in Crested Butte for 33 years, and has always played an active role in the community. He began as a member of the Board of Zoning and Architectural Review (BOZAR), this led him to joining the Town Council and becoming **(Continued)**

