

**Final**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COLORADO REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Date: 08/27/2011	ATTENDANCE
Time: <b>07:01 PM to 07:59 PM</b>	Atencio E
Place: Summit County Community Center Frisco	Berry X
	Carroll E
	Jones X
This Meeting was called to order by <u>Berry</u>	Loevy X
	Nicolais X
	Salazar E
This Report was prepared by <u>Bo Pogue</u>	Tool E
	Witwer X
	Webb E
	Carrera X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, \* = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Welcome and Introductions Frisco	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only
Public Testimony Frisco	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

***Note: This meeting summary is not an official record of the commission or of the meeting. It is not intended to serve as a transcript or minutes of the commission meeting. The audio recording of the meeting is the official record of the meeting. This summary may be used as a guide to the audio recording. To access the audio recording of a commission meeting, visit the Colorado Joint Legislative Library located in the State Capitol, Room 048 (basement/ground floor level). You will need to note the date, time, and location of the meeting to access the audio recording. Copies of the audio recordings may be obtained at the library if you bring with you blank, recordable compact discs or a flash drive. Librarians are on site and available to assist you with accessing an audio recording.***

**07:01 PM -- Welcome and Introductions Frisco**

The commission was called to order. Commissioner Berry, acting chair, provided some opening remarks. Commissioners Nicolais, Witwer, Jones, Carrera, and Loevy introduced themselves to the audience.

**07:04 PM**

Ms. Kate Meyer, Colorado Reapportionment Commission Staff, provided background on the commission, its appointments, and the time table within which it must perform its duties. Ms. Meyer then outlined the federal and state legal criteria that the commission must observe as it redraws the state House and Senate districts.

**07:08 PM -- Public Testimony Frisco**

Commissioner Berry provided background on the testimony process. The following persons testified at the Frisco meeting:

**07:10 PM** -- Ms. Emily Tracy discussed connecting Grand County with a Western Slope House district. She made a proposal on how to create a Senate district with Grand, Eagle, Summit, Clear Creek, Lake, Chaffee, and Park Counties (Attachment A). She discussed the merits of this proposal, and the political competitiveness of her proposed Senate district. Ms. Tracy discussed the driving time and transportation corridors in her proposed district.



Attachment A.pdf

**07:21 PM** -- Ms. Julie Sawyer, representing herself, discussed the lack of common communities of interest in Grand and Boulder Counties, and the potential for Boulder County to drown out the voice of Grand County under the proposed House plan.

**07:24 PM** -- Mr. Don Sawyer reiterated Ms. Sawyer's testimony about Grand County, and suggested that representatives from the Front Range do not serve the interests of Grand County and western Colorado.

**07:27 PM** -- Mr. Dennis Carpenter objected to Grand County being put in a House district with Boulder County, and discussed the communities of interest shared in Grand County that differentiate it from Boulder County. Mr. Carpenter responded to questions about the division of Grand County on an east-west axis at Hot Sulphur Springs, and explained the differences between the two halves.

**07:33 PM** -- Ms. Jane Mather discussed the benefits of grouping Grand County with Gilpin, Clear Creek, and western Boulder Counties as proposed in the commission's House plan. Commissioners received a packet of information in support of her comments (Attachment B). Ms. Mather objected to the current incumbent being excluded from the proposed House District 26, and the economic base in this district as proposed when compared to counties in the proposed House District 63. She said she wants to be represented by a person who is in favor of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and discussed water issues that affect Grand County. Ms. Mather discussed an article that was run in her local newspaper based on Attachment B.



Attachment B.pdf

**07:45 PM**

Ms. Mather discussed the information in Attachment B, and objected to Grand County being grouped with counties in House District 63.

**07:47 PM** -- Ms. Tish Linke, representing herself, objected to having a representative from east of the Continental Divide represent Grand County, and discussed the areas that she and others in Grand County travel to for necessities and services. She also discussed the activities and interests of Grand County, and provided input on the dividing point between eastern and western Grand County. She feels that Grand County is being increasingly drawn out of the areas with which it shares interests.

**07:53 PM** -- Ms. Kaye Ferry, Chair of the Eagle County Republicans, urged the commission to include Eagle County in proposed Senate District 8, and discussed the geographic features that separate Eagle County from the rest of the proposed Senate District 5. Ms. Ferry discussed the community of interest associated with Interstate 70, and the need for a state senator to represent this community.

**07:57 PM** -- Ms. Lu Maslak supported the testimony of Ms. Ferry, and desires a representative that understands the Interstate 70 community.

**07:59 PM**

The commission adjourned.

Breckenridge  
8/27/11

## **PROPOSAL TO REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT FOR SUMMIT COUNTY**

**Emily Tracy**, 94 Monarch Drive, PO Box 8738  
Breckenridge etbreck@gmail.com  
8/27/11

I am asking that Summit County not be included in what's proposed as Senate District 8, which includes all of northwest Colorado. Summit County would be located on the far southeastern corner of proposed SD 8, with a border contiguous only with part of Grand County and no other county in the proposed district. Although every other county in the proposed SD8 might be seen as a community of interest in many ways - for example, primarily agricultural and energy development counties - Summit shares few of those interests with the other counties. In addition, the driving distances as SD8 is proposed are substantial, particularly from Breckenridge, the county seat of Summit County, to the far northwestern reaches of the proposed district. For example, Breckenridge to Rangely (in Rio Blanco County) is 217 miles, an estimated 4-hour drive.

### **MY PROPOSAL:**

I propose a much more compact Senate District for Summit County, as outlined on the **attached map**. My proposed district includes the following (whole) counties:

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>REG DEM 8/1/11*</b>	<b>REG REPUB 8/1/11*</b>	<b>REG UNAFFIL 8/1/11*</b>
Eagle	52,197	5,210	5,684	6,363
Summit	27,994	3,771	3,500	5,098
Lake	7,310	1,400	541	520
Park	16,206	1,817	3,793	2,546
Chaffee	17,809	2,591	3,820	2,650
Grand	14,843	1,767	3,677	2,118
Clear Creek	9,088	1,690	1,726	1,629
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>145,447</b>	<b>18,246</b>	<b>22,741</b>	<b>20,924</b>

***\*Per Sec'y of State website, active registered voters as of 8/1/11 (does not include minor party registrations)***

Not only does my proposed Senate District meet the requirement to be of similar population to the other Senate Districts, it meets state constitutional requirements as follows:

- The area within a district must be as compact as possible: *The seven counties in my proposed district are a very compact, contiguous district, as illustrated by the attached map.*

- Districts must be composed of contiguous election precincts: *Each of the seven counties in my proposed district are whole counties.*
- Counties and cities cannot be split unless necessary to achieve equal population: *No counties or cities are split in my proposed district.*
- Communities of interest – ethnic, economic, cultural, demographic, trade area and geographic – are to be preserved within a single district whenever possible: *My proposed Senate District is clearly a community of interest in many ways, as I describe below.*

**EXAMPLES OF DRIVING DISTANCES/TIMES WITHIN MY PROPOSED DISTRICT (as a measure of compactness):**

<b>TRIP</b>	<b>DISTANCE IN MILES (one-way)</b>	<b>ESTIMATED DRIVE TIME</b>
Granby to Salida	157	3hrs 9mins
Bailey to Eagle	127	2hrs 30 mins
Idaho Springs to Salida	127	2hrs 25mins
Idaho Springs to Bailey	38	1hr
Kremmling to Guffey	118	2hrs 31mins

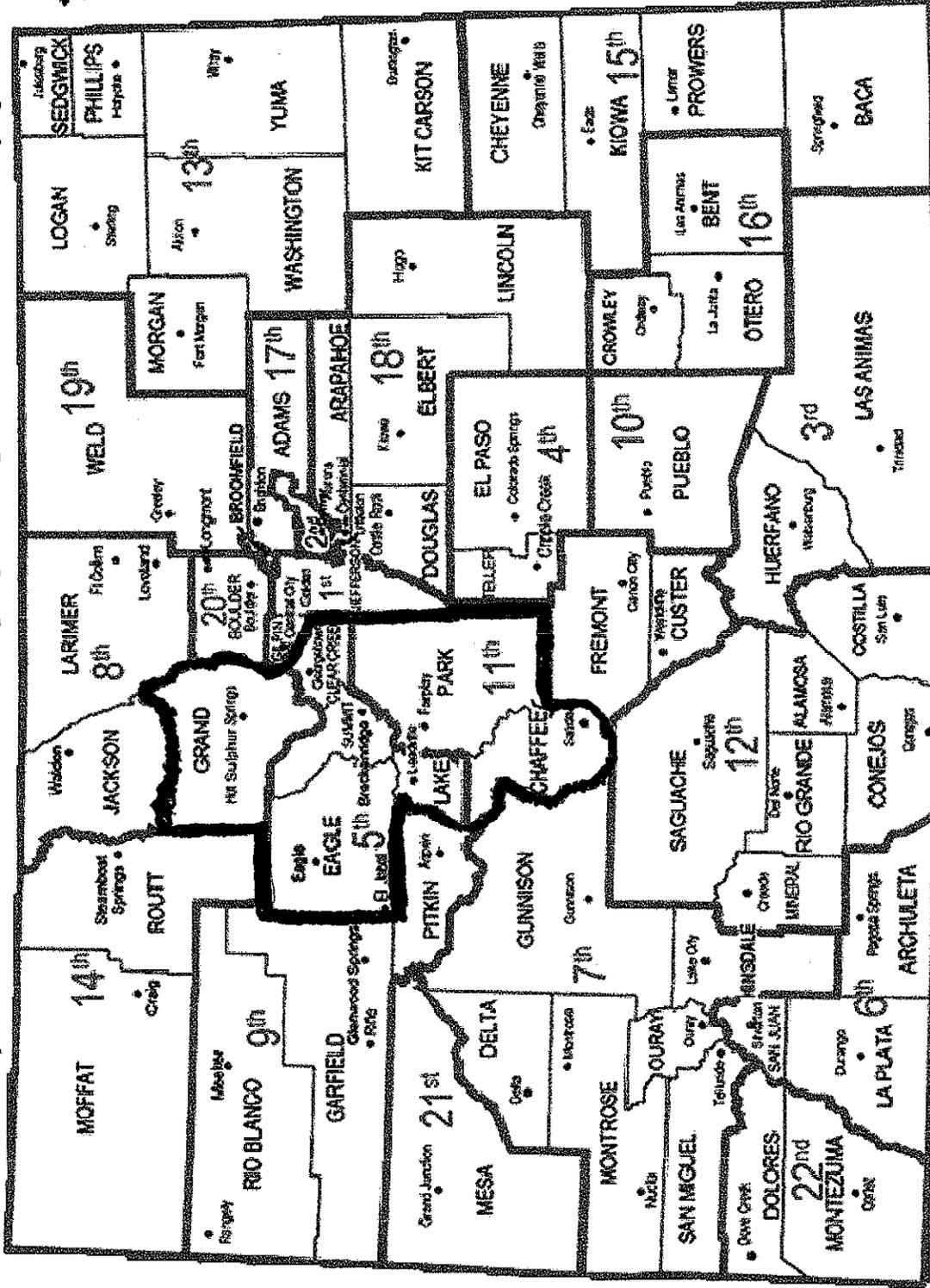
**EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST WITHIN MY PROPOSED DISTRICT:**

- Highway corridors:
  - I-70 corridor – Idaho Springs through Eagle County
  - US Hwy 285 corridor – Bailey through Fairplay to Salida
  - Colorado Hwy 9 corridor – Kremmling to Guffey
  - Clear Creek and Park counties are connected directly by Guanella Pass, and it is a relatively short drive from Idaho Springs to the Bailey area through Evergreen (Colorado Hwys 74 and 73)
  - Eagle, Lake, Chaffee and Park counties are connected by major highways (US Hwy 285 and US Hwy 24)
- Commuting corridors:
  - 100's of people commute every day from Park, Lake and Grand counties to Summit County
  - Significant numbers of people commute every day from Lake County to Eagle County
- Eagle, Summit, Grand and Clear Creek counties are contiguous ski resort communities (economic communities of interest)
- Other common interests among the seven counties:
  - Agriculture
  - Tourism – rural, mountain resort communities; heritage tourism
  - Historical commonalities such as mining
  - Cultural

Emily Tracy  
8/27/11

# Proposed Senate District

Click the map when the desired location is highlighted to go to that districts homepage.





## House District 26 with Front-Range mountain communities a better match for Grand County

Jane Mather, Fraser, CO

August 24, 2011

[jmather@criticalcore.com](mailto:jmather@criticalcore.com), 970.726.9500

*The article includes additional information beyond what is included in the column in the Sky Hi Daily News, August 24, 2011. It also includes the correct comments from House District 13 Representative Claire Levy.*

When my friend Eileen first told me about the reapportionment meeting, I, of course, had something else I thought was more important to do. Now, a few weeks later, I realize what reapportionment is, how important it is, I've travelled to Boulder to make a statement at the public hearing, and I've written this column to clarify some misunderstandings I've heard.

Unlike what you might have heard or read, many Grand County residents, myself included, support the new proposed House District. In this proposal, Grand County is combined with Clear Creek, Gilpin and western parts of Boulder County. Most of the population in these communities share a reliance on tourism and recreation, a strong interest in preserving the environment for both residents and visitors, the challenges of education and public transportation in small communities, and concerns about our forests, fire-mitigation, pine-beetle infestation, and yes, as you will see, water.

A better House District might include Grand, Routt and Summit Counties, which have 66,346 residents all together, plus some additional areas that would be added to reach the target of 77,372 residents. It seems unlikely the Reapportionment Commission would consider such a significant change. The reapportionment process is like a set of dominos -- change one district and nearby districts no longer have 77,372 people. The current proposal places each of these counties in a different House District, so this change could trigger changes through out Colorado.

My views reflect, in part, many pleasant days visiting my parents near Allenspark, in the part of Boulder County included in new proposed House District. Beginning in the 1930s, my mom, her mom and her brother escaped the Longmont heat to a one-room cabin with no electricity or running water. Her dad, a physician and a rancher, would drive up on weekends.

This article addresses the Reapportionment process for State House District 26. If you agree with what you read, please:

- Contact the Reapportionment Commission by email at [reapp2011@state.co.us](mailto:reapp2011@state.co.us) or by mail to 200 East Colfax, Denver, CO, 80203.
- Contact our County Commissioners especially James Newberry at [jnewberry@co.grand.co.us](mailto:jnewberry@co.grand.co.us).
- Attend a public hearing. Dates and locations are on the last page.

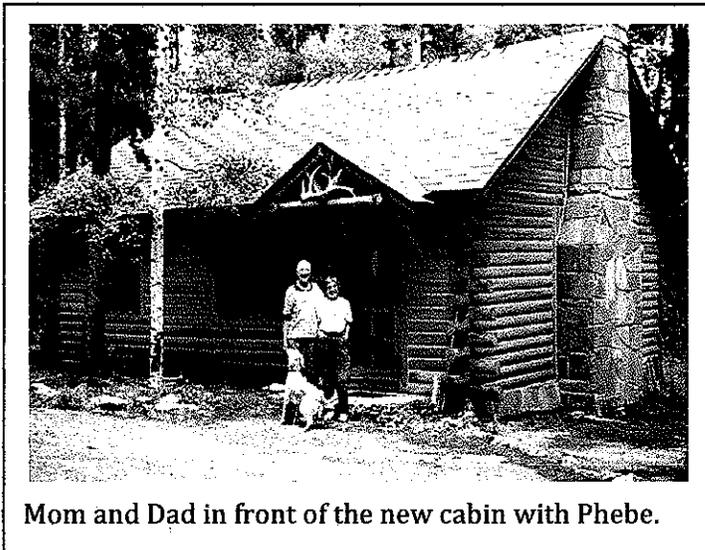
Since the last public hearing is September 1, it's best to contact the Reapportionment Commission by that date.

So far the Commission has received 119 emails opposing the proposed House District 26, the most comments for any District being considered. To counter these emails, we need everyone who cares to send an email.

Front-range mountain communities a better match for Grand County  
August 24, 2011

When my parents retired, they started visiting the cabin again. By adding electricity, Mom convinced Dad to stay three weeks instead of just one, but the outhouse was still a problem. Finally, they found a newer cabin in the same area, with both running water and electricity. My parents are now nearby from when the snow melts, through the summer, until cold temperatures threaten to freeze the pipe pumping water from the stream.

I could tell you lots of stories about my parents, their friends along the Peak-to-Peak Highway, which traverses the mountains on the Eastern side of the Divide, and my friends in other parts of the proposed District, but facts and data are more likely to explain why the proposed District has similar interests to Grand County.



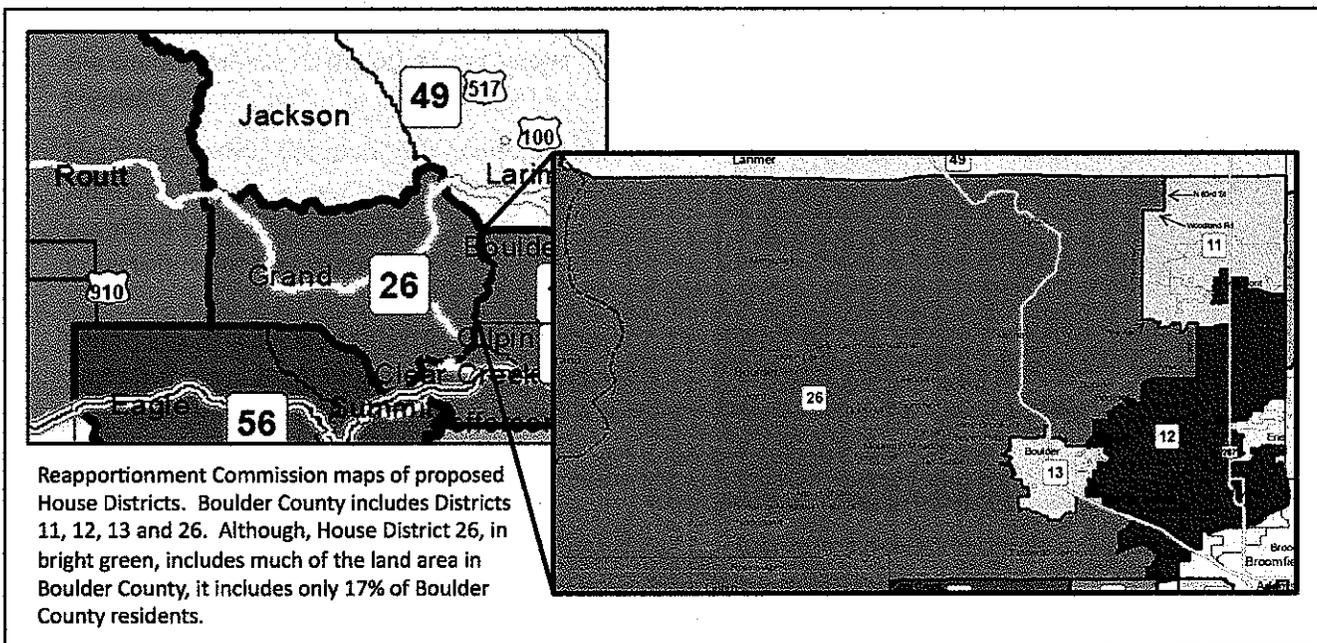
Mom and Dad in front of the new cabin with Phebe.

Here are some comments I've heard and some facts to counter these concerns.

1. *The District combines Grand County with Boulder and we aren't like Boulder.*

The proposed district includes only part of Boulder County. More than 65% of the population in the proposed District live in mountain areas, near ranch and farm land, or in small towns with a rural or tourist focus – Lyons, Hygiene and Eldorado Springs. Only 21% of the population live in suburban residential communities in the city of Boulder.

The other areas included in this district are residential areas in Niwot and Gunbarrel. As several people commented in the hearings, these areas are different than Boulder and Longmont, and like being included with the rural parts of Boulder County.



agriculture? No. Only 1% of workers in these counties are employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting.

Boulder County actually has more people employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, 382, than in Garfield, Rio Blanco, Moffat and Routt combined, 324. Grand County has just 58 people employed in these activities.

While some of the employment difference is in health care and government, the majority is in mining. Driving through the northwestern counties, you will certainly see ranches, but you will also see lots of oil and gas wells. Close to 20% of their employment is in mining, while Grand County might reach 4%.

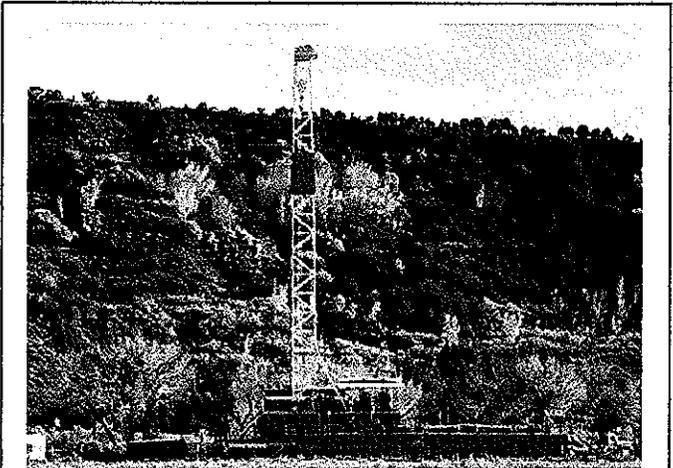
Mining leads to another significant difference -- higher incomes. Grand County's average annual wages are \$29,000. Average wages in these three northwestern counties are over \$43,000, 50% more than in Grand County. Average wages in Clear Creek and Gilpin, are closer to ours at \$37,000. The average for Colorado is \$48,000. (Data isn't readily available for just the part of Boulder County in the proposed House District.)

4. *They just want our water.*

Actually they don't. Many people in the proposed District are actively fighting the expansion of the

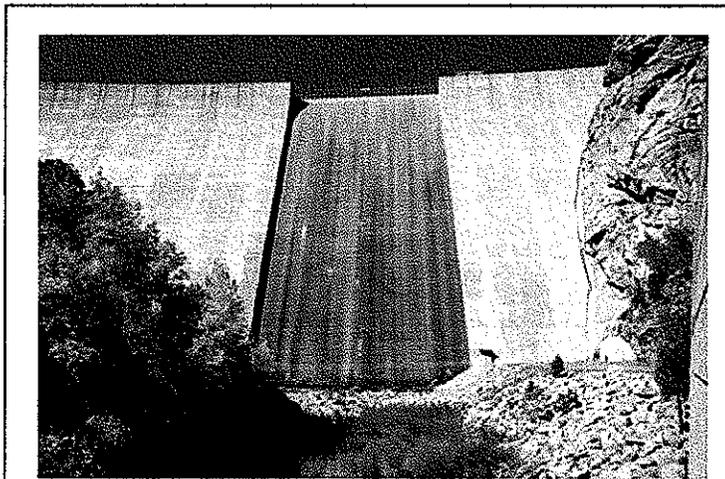
Gross Reservoir, where the Denver Water would store the water they want to take with the new firming project.

Jeanne Nicholson, the State Senator for this area and for Grand County, and Clare Levy, the State House Representative for this area, oppose the dam expansion. At the town hall they hosted, attendees noted the project would damage their environment while water would go to water lawns and support growth in Denver. Levy said, "We can't keep sucking water out of a river and killing it." Sound familiar?

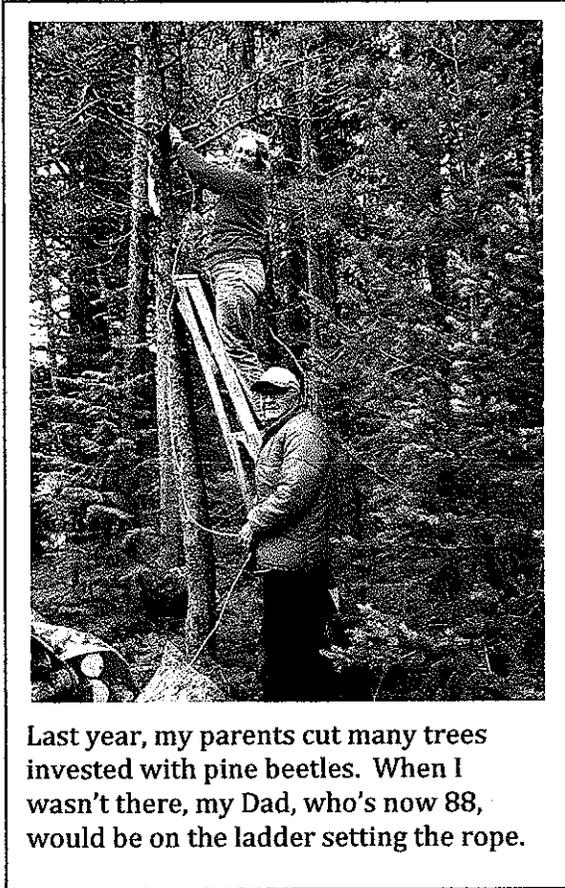


Oil rig on the Western Slope in Parachute, Colorado (Photo by Eric Prichard)

This picture is from an Environment News Service article, Feb. 9, 2011. It describes Colorado Oil and Gas Association decision to withdraw its lawsuit against the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, an entity established by the Colorado legislatures in 2007 to protect drinking water, wildlife and residents living near oil and gas operations.



Picture and quote from the Denver Water website. "The Moffat Collection System Project proposes to enlarge Gross Dam's height from its current 340 feet to approximately 465 feet to increase the reservoir's capacity."



Our County Commissioners recognize how important Reapportionment is. When members of the Grand County Republican and Democratic Parties claimed that we were united in opposing the Larimer/Jackson District and then the Boulder/Gilpin/Clear Creek County House Districts, the Commissioners said they would fight to stay represented on the West Slope.

With only 14,843 people in Grand County and a target of 77,372 for each House District, they recognize we can only elect a State House Representative who represents our interests if we are part of a House District with similar interests.

With the new House District proposal, our County Commissioners and the Reapportionment Commission still have heard primarily from those who object. When I spoke to County Commissioner Newberry, he said his comments reflected what the Commissioners had heard at the time. With sufficient new evidence, they would reconsider challenging the Reapportionment Commission proposal.

One piece of new evidence is the vote taken at the last Grand County Democrats meeting: 7 favored the new proposal with Clear Creek, Gilpin and parts of Boulder County; 4 opposed, believing a western-slope House District was necessary; and 2 abstained, saying they were just there to learn.

This vote reflects our belief that, even though our current House District is on the western slope and has a rural environment, that doesn't mean these counties' interests are more similar to ours than those in the proposed House District. With a large share of employment in mining and significantly higher incomes, a representative elected based on the needs in these three northwestern counties is unlikely to support the need for government services and appreciation for the environment that we have in Grand County.

If you believe that the current proposal is acceptable and prefer it to our current district, please let our County Commissioners and the Reapportionment Committee know. If you want to make sure that the Reapportionment Commissioners hear your views, consider attending one of these public hearings relatively close to us.

**Steamboat Springs** - Friday, August 26, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

Steamboat Springs Community Center, 1605 Lincoln Avenue, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

**Frisco** - Saturday, August 27, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Frisco Community and Senior Center, 0083 Nancy's Place, Frisco, CO 80443

**Denver** - Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

State Capitol Building, Old Supreme Court Chambers, 200 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80203