

PCEOC Newsletter

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“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing” - Abraham Lincoln

Southeastern Colorado is facing a powerful foe – gubernatorial candidate Scott McInnis. One of the real strengths of the expansion opposition has been its diversity of thought, and diversity of political affiliation. Those opposed to PCMS expansion may have honest differences on any number of issues, but have found common ground on this specific subject. The PCEOC has been, and still is, willing to work with elected officials of any stripe; sadly, Scott McInnis has been unwilling to do this. He seems to be making a concerted effort to twist facts, and miss-state the positions of anti-expansion groups. Scott McInnis seems anxious to nationalize part, or all, of Las Animas County, Otero County, Huerfano County, Baca County, Bent County, and any number of Southeastern Colorado Communities, for the debatable prospect of jobs in other areas of Colorado. Fortunately, two other gentlemen have exhibited the traits of true leadership – current Governor, Bill Ritter, who has signed legislation protecting Southeastern Colorado, and Republican gubernatorial candidate, Josh Penry, who has publicly demonstrated his willingness to learn about the issue. We truly hope that Scott McInnis will make a good faith effort to reach out to our community and try to honestly understand our position and concerns. However, there is some good news; with Senior U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch short-circuiting the Army’s plans to justify PCMS expansion by overloading the current maneuver site’s training capacity. Shortly thereafter, another DOD plan was exposed, one in which Fort Carson would actually annex PCMS, making it officially part of Fort Carson. This plan, still in the works, is designed to circumvent state and federal legislation that discourages expansion, and make funding for expansion much easier, as dollars for this project could be approved and camouflaged within the bureaucracy of Fort Carson itself.

The PCEOC would like to take a moment to wish our communities the best of luck this fall. We hope that local businesses prosper as the holiday season approaches, ranchers have a successful weaning, farmers have a bountiful harvest, and that our local schools have great success both academically and in the challenges that fall sports will bring.

Please view past PCEOC newsletters at:

http://www.pinoncanyon.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=68&Itemid=2

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Josh Penry (almost) gets it on Pinon Canyon: Scott McInnis, not at all

The subject of the Piñon Canyon expansion has become a wedge issue in the Republican primary battle for the gubernatorial nomination, with former U.S. Rep. Scott McInnis posturing as the champion of pro-expansion defense contractors and military interests in Colorado Springs, and Colorado Senate Minority Leader Josh Penry taking up the more traditional Republican mantle as the supporter of individual property rights.

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www.pinoncanyon.com/dmdocuments/Statesman102009.pdf

Current Status of Expansion Battle

- The U.S. Army is still pursuing the acquisition of land to expand PCMS.
- Eminent domain *has not* been taken off of the table by the Army.
- A federal judge blocked the Army's plans to greatly increase its use of the *existing* Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site. The Army had planned to greatly increase frequency of use without accounting for increased environmental impact.
- The Army has taken steps to annex PCMS into Fort Carson itself. This has been seen as a way to circumvent legislation discouraging expansion.
- The three most prominent and vocal expansion supporters include Congressman Doug Lamborn (El Paso County), Congressman Mike Coffman, and Colorado gubernatorial candidate Scott McInnis.
- Colorado House Bill 09-1317 is now law; this prevents the sale of some state land for expanding PCMS.
- Colorado House Bill 07-1069 is law; this withdraws Colorado's consent for the federal government to acquire lands sought for expansion of PCMS.
- For the third year in a row, a federal funding ban for expanding the PCMS is in place. The newest ban is for fiscal year 2010 (October 2009 – September 2010). This ban is

included in the 2010 military construction budget. However, army officials have contended that they could use funds from other Army budget accounts to expand the training site; this contention has been met with strong criticism from Colorado lawmakers who feel this move would be a defiance of congressional intent.

- The Army is currently targeting approximately 100,000 acres, termed parcel 1A. This is the first parcel en route to eventually acquiring 6.9 million acres as detailed in the Army's analysis of alternatives study. <http://www.pinoncanyon.com/documents/7million.pdf>

Current PCEOC Activities and Projects

The PCEOC has a variety of projects on-going:

- Traveling trailer for displays, art shows, public awareness, and PCEOC outreach.
- Messaging and publishing information.
- Presentations to community groups and organizations.
- Legal and policy analysis.
- Outreach to legislators.
- Biological study of affected area.
- Historical study of affected area.
- Fundraising.

Army's plans for Pinon site blocked

DENVER - A federal judge Tuesday blocked the Army's plans to greatly increase its use of the existing Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site. Senior U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch set aside the Army's decision authorizing new facilities and year-round training at the 238,000-acre site northeast of Trinidad.

The Pueblo Chieftain

By Robert Boczkiewicz

September 9, 2009

www.pinoncanyon.com/dmdocuments/Blocked92009.pdf

Purchase a piece of Southeastern Colorado and help support the PCEOC!

For \$10.00 you can become a Southeastern Colorado landowner and support the PCEOC! An acre of land has been donated and is being sold by the square inch. Purchasers will receive a legal deed to the property. The property is located on the historic Circle Diamond Ranch once occupied by 19th century cattle baron Frank Bloom and is located near Thatcher, Colorado along the historic Santa Fe Trail. The actual acre is across Highway 350 from the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

For more information:

http://www.pinoncanyon.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=70&Itemid=41

Current Events and Volunteer Opportunities – What You Can Do To Help

The PCEOC can always use volunteers to help fight off this unneeded expansion. Any help would be greatly appreciated, so please contact the PCEOC to offer your services. Among the most important things you can do is to attend public meetings, routinely write or call your elected representatives, and pass PCEOC information on to your email contact list. These things really make a difference.