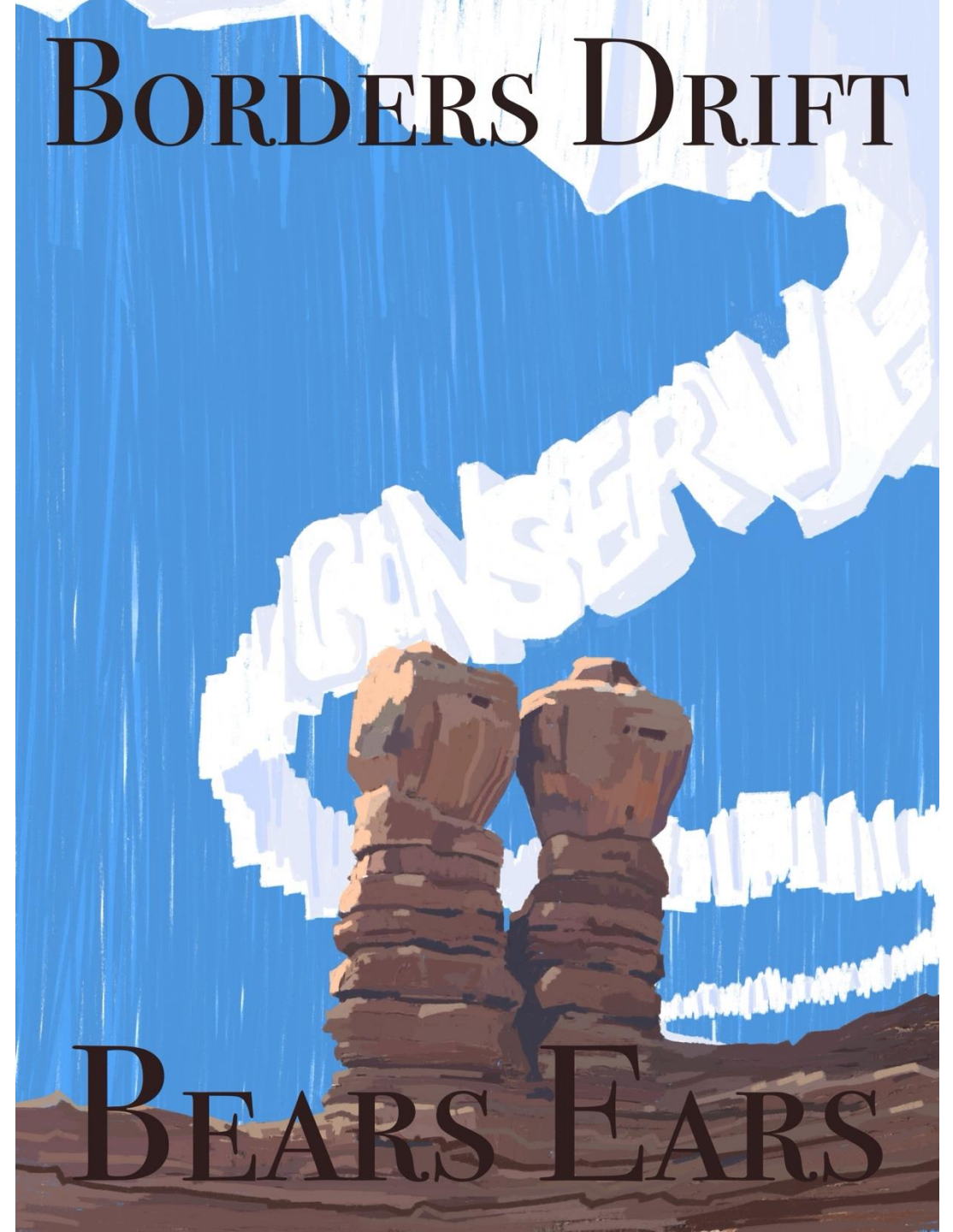


# BORDERS DRIFT

## BORDERS DRIFT

In light of Trump's reelection, Bears Ears National Monument faces the shrinkage of its borders based off the presidents past actions in his 2017-2021 term. The borders that guard Bears Ears have wavered like clouds, but luckily, they can also hold fast or expand and guard Bears Ears with our support.

by Hunter Dewell, '26





## STAY on the TRAIL

The Colorado Rockies, an aspiring natural wonder, are home to vital alpine flora and fauna ecosystems. However, off-trail hiking has led to significant environmental damage, including soil erosion and the destruction of fragile wildflower meadows and wildlife habitats. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics reports that 95% of trail damage results from hikers leaving the designated path. Staying on the trail encourages responsible stewardship, promoting the Indigenous concept of Seventh Generation preservation, which imagines a world where **all species** can prosper for generations to come. By sticking to designated trails, we can reduce human impact on these ecosystems and protect species like moose and elk among fields of Colorado Columbinas and Indian Paintbrushes. Maintaining these lands today means safeguarding them for future generations, so, **Preserve The Wild, Stay On The Trail.**

By Callie Dickman, '27

## PROTECT OUR HEADWATERS

According to the 2024 conservation poll, 92% of respondents support protecting existing public lands in the Dolores River Canyon. The region is the largest unprotected amount of land in Colorado, and as a result, is at heightened risk of biodiversity loss, pollution, and development because of mining and industrial interests (Protect the Dolores). Referring to the conservation poll, there is evidence to support that this is not in the interest of the general public, because 69% of respondents believe in placing emphasis on protecting water, air, and wildlife recreation rather than maximizing on available for mining, and 65% believe that inadequate water supply is a serious problem. The river is unique because a headwater for the Colorado River, a vital, yet endangered, resource for millions across the American Southwest (American Rivers). According to the EPA, headwaters are a vital part of ecosystems, as they promote and sustain the health of downstream rivers, through trapping floodwater, and removing pollution all while providing wildlife habitat (EPA). Because of the wide-reaching importance of these ecosystems, they are the focus of my poster. Designating the region as a national monument would aid much more than just the health of the Colorado River, as management of recreational activities would improve, and wildlife habitats and important cultural sites would be preserved for current and future generations. Because sometimes, the importance of conservation can outweigh the goal of development.

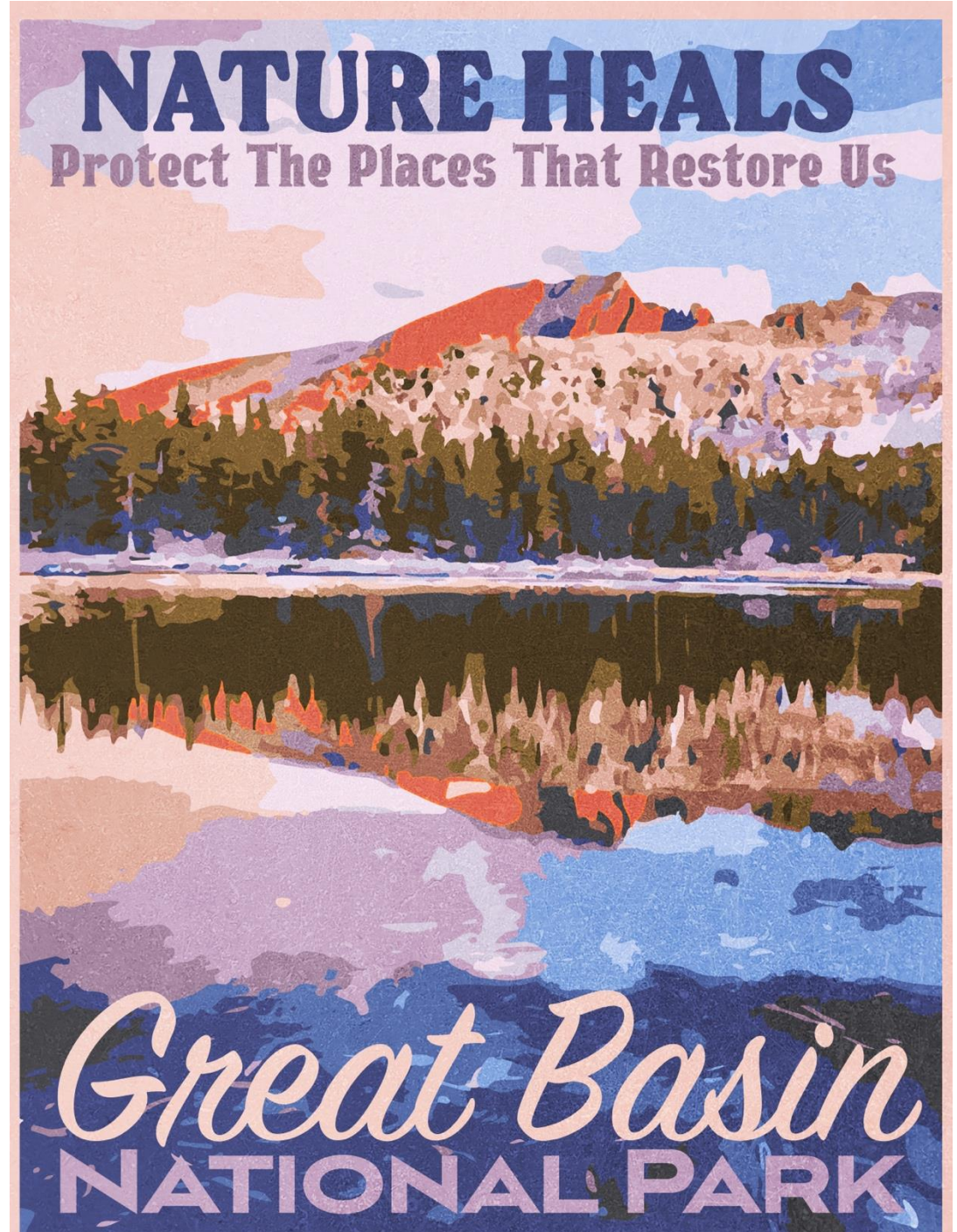
By Clara Hartman, '27



## NATURE HEALS

The calm waters of Stella Lake in Great Basin National Park offer sanctuary for those seeking renewal amid ancient bristlecone pines. I chose this site for its delicate balance of remote beauty and the healing potential it provides—qualities increasingly valued by residents across the Rocky Mountain West. Findings in the 2024 Conservation in the West Poll underscore a growing consensus that our public lands play a key role in promoting mental well-being, yet face threats from overcrowding, climate change, and diminishing resources. My motto, “Nature Heals: Protect the Places That Restore Us,” reflects the urgency to safeguard these landscapes. By prioritizing responsible visitor management, adaptive resource strategies, and climate resilience, we can ensure that Stella Lake remains a restorative haven for generations to come, embodying both environmental conservation and the enduring human need for solace in the natural world.

By Holden Perry, '25





FROM  
**YELLOWSTONE**  
TO YOUR TAP,

**POLICY  
FOR THE  
PLANET**

**WATER IS RUNNING OUT**

## **POLICY for the PLANET**

Yellowstone National Park, spanning Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, is part of the Rocky Mountain Range which contributes 60–80% of the West’s streamflow. Without these mountain’s snowpack that feed streams from Colorado to California, dry conditions could trigger wildfires, agricultural collapse, and drinking water shortages. In fact, we are already experiencing the pain of these climate-induced disasters: Idaho’s 2015 agricultural collapse, the Colorado River Basin Crisis, and the 2025 Los Angeles fires.

Despite these consequences, the three states that are home to Yellowstone have the lowest percentage of residents in the eight-state Rocky Mountain region who consider climate change a “serious problem” linked to “inadequate water supplies,” according to the *Conservation in the West 2024* poll.

Climate activism starts with public action. The goal of this poster is to remind residents of our dependency on water from the Rockies and to advocate for stronger climate policies.

By Alessandra Tornelli, ‘26

## WATER SHAPES WONDERS

The Great Sand Dunes National Park, home of vast shifting sands and surrounding wetlands, represents one of the most extraordinary yet fragile landscapes in the Rocky Mountain West. This delicate ecosystem is under increasing threat from climate change and water scarcity. According to the 2024 *State of the Rockies Conservation in the West Poll*, 68% of respondents are concerned about low water levels in rivers. This directly impacts Medano and Sand Creeks, which sustain the dunes and provide habitats for native and endemic wildlife like the Great Sand Dunes tiger beetle.



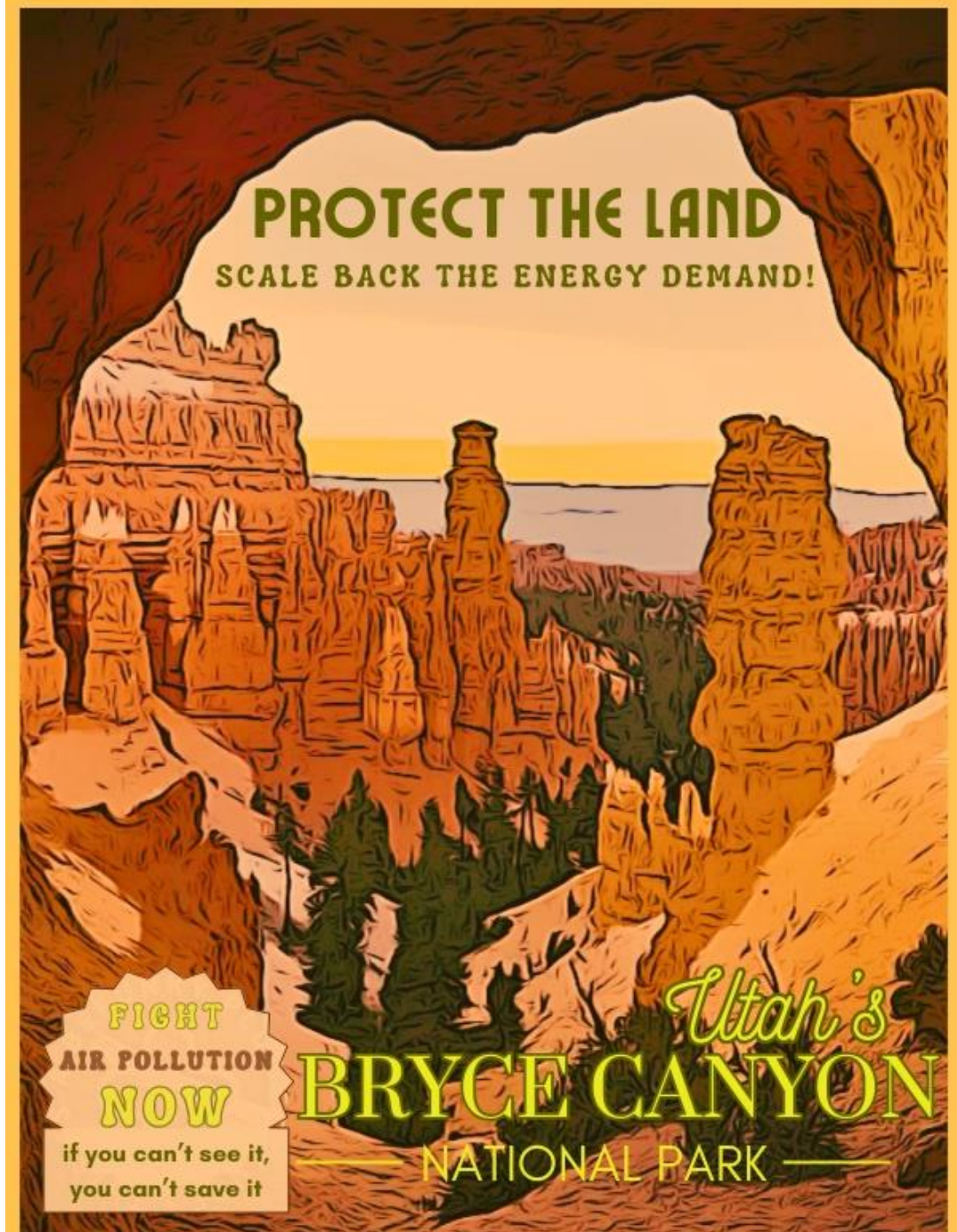
Rising temperatures and prolonged droughts strain these water sources, challenging the dependent health of the dunes and their surrounding wetlands. I chose the Great Sand Dunes because they represent the urgent need for water conservation and climate action. Protecting this iconic landscape ensures the survival of its unique habitats and preserves a natural wonder that inspires millions.

By Jevon Lipsey, '26

## SCALE BACK ENERGY DEMAND

Bryce Canyon National Park is a stunning landscape of red rock spires that rise from the valley floor. Despite the remote and tranquil location, air pollution from power plants and mines that exploit Utah's natural resources often choke this canyon and its wildlife. The toxic haze damages the local vegetation and wildlife and poisons the air and water. The 2024 Conservation in the West Poll found that 70% of Utahns are asking their state to focus on protecting water, air, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities over maximizing the amount of land available for drilling and mining. "Protect the Land: Scale back the Energy Demand" is a call to preserve the pristine nature of Utah and to provide clean air to the Rocky Mountain West. Fighting air pollution and minimizing drilling and mining will restore the quality of Bryce Canyon, paving the way for a fresh future for all protected lands.

By Maya Green, '28





## BE AWARE to TAKE CARE

Grand Teton National Park was listed as the sixth most-mentioned and loved natural area in the Conservation in the West 2024 poll. It is renowned as one of the last nearly intact northern temperate ecosystems on Earth, however, climactic pressures have caused needed intervention for preservation. 66% of Westerners state that the effects of climate change are more significant, many of these issues being at their highest levels of concern in 14 years. Worries about declining fish and wildlife populations are at 86%, and climate change at 75%. Grand Teton has faced issues with its native fish, like the Fine-Spotted Cutthroat Trout, and grassland populations due to rising temperatures, invasive species, and human activity, impacting available food sources for all wildlife. I chose this park due to its increasing conservation efforts by educating the public on how they can get involved and help, which is our gateway for real change.

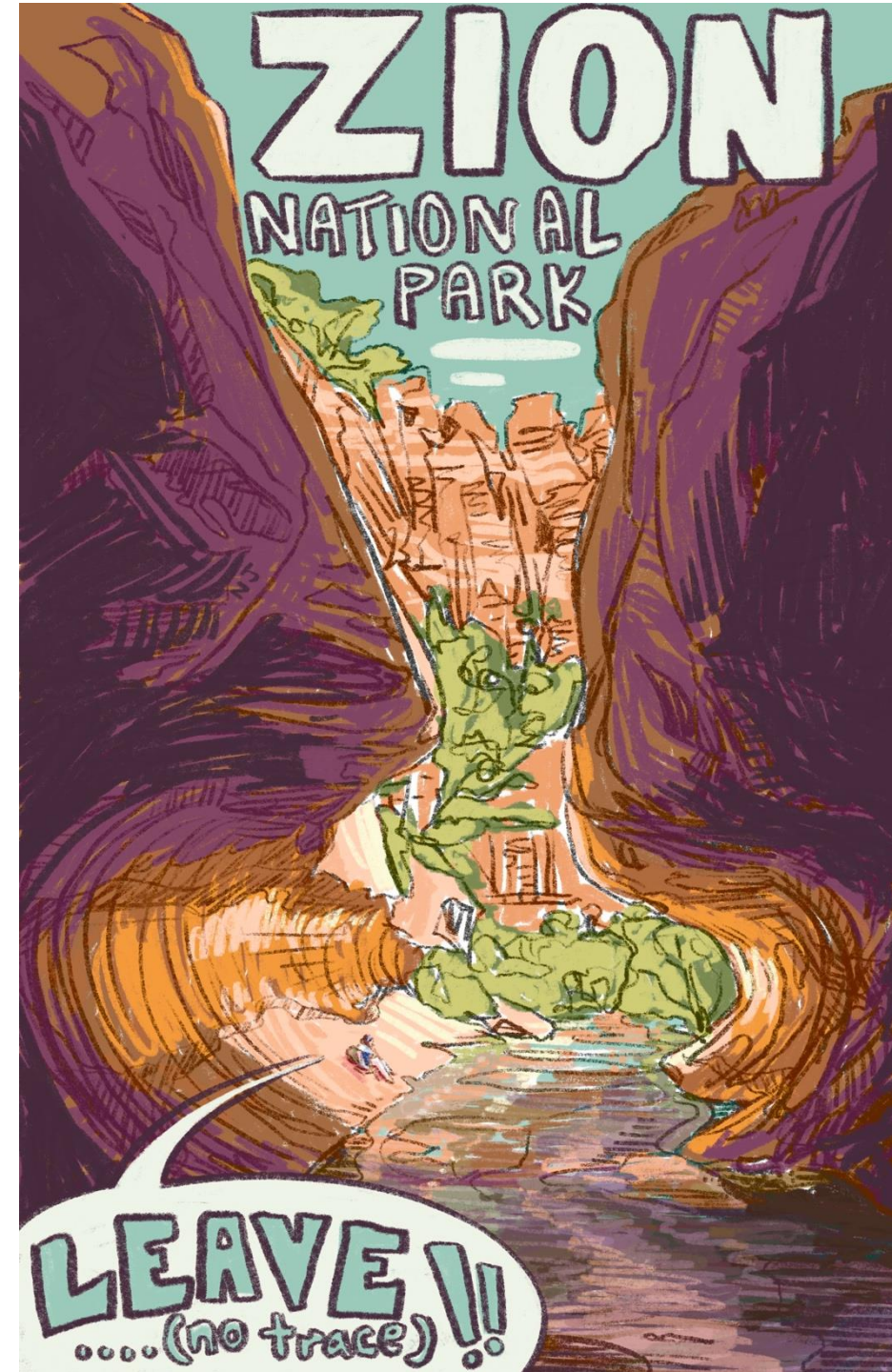
By Melissa Torres, '26



## LEAVE NO TRACE

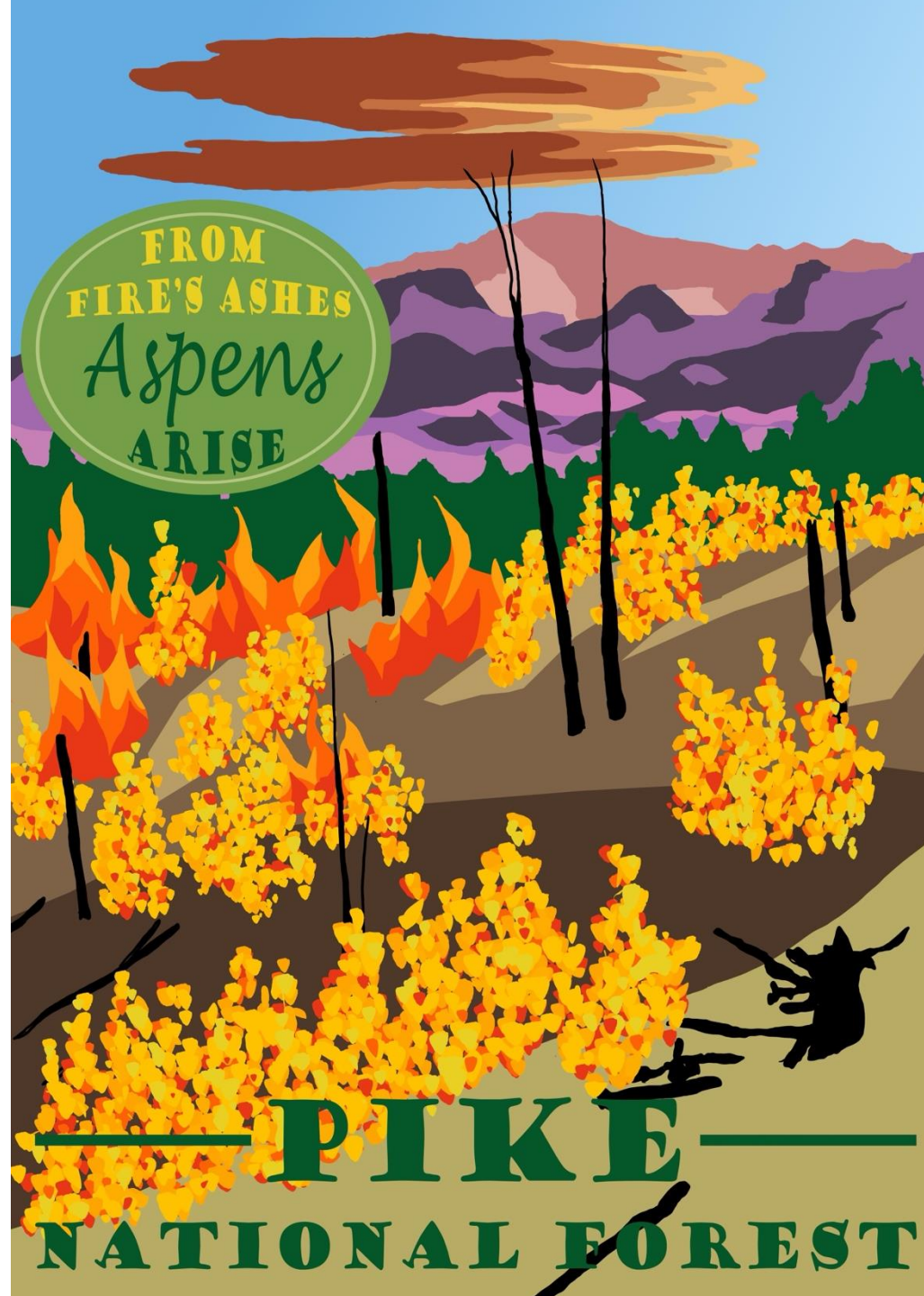
Although I grew up thirty minutes from Rocky Mountain National Park, going to Zion National Park as a child was unlike anything I had ever experienced. The scale and beauty of the landscape awed me, but unfortunately one of my strongest memories from that trip was the overwhelming crowds. While it's great to see people connecting with nature, it quickly became clear to my young mind why Zion's "leave no trace" motto existed; many visitors seemed more focused on showing off their trip on social media than actually appreciating the park's beauty. Despite traveling from afar, they treated the park carelessly, contributing to the very destruction they were supposedly there to admire. For this reason, I chose Zion as the subject of my poster and left its motto intact, but aimed (with an emphasis on "leave") to highlight the frustration many of us feel about visitors who harm the very places they claim to love. Respecting and protecting these spaces is crucial, and that message must be shared

By Nora Johnson, '28



## PROLIFIC QUAKING ASPEN

Quaking Aspens are often some of the first trees to return and thrive post-fire – particularly following high-intensity fires. 13 years later, the higher elevation stretches of the Waldo Canyon burn scar are perhaps some of the best examples of this. Last fall, I traversed this region in search of fall colors, and I was rewarded with vast stands of golden juvenile aspens. The charred forest almost looked as if it were on fire – inspiring this poster.



Sixty-six percent of respondents across the Rocky Mountain West now recognize climate change as a significant threat towards our shared Earth. Change – solutions – must be enacted now to adapt to our warming world. Maybe we all should take like aspens and find a way to rise from the ashes.

By Ollie Beland, '25

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

## STOP the SPREAD

Among the other conservation challenges, invasive exotic species are a struggle for land managers. With changing climates, native plants are forced to migrate towards higher elevations and places that suit their biology, and so non-native invasive species are likely to take over the deserted spaces. Additionally, since they are non-native and invasive, they don't have predators, diseases, or any real competitors in the ecosystem and so they take over. While there are many non-native plants present within Rocky Mountain National Park, I felt the need to highlight the most prevalent species to inform about this relatively unfamiliar issue. Highlighting the idea that one can clean their shoes before entering Rocky Mountain National Park can help to contribute to conservation, and place responsibility on park-goers to help protect the park. It is a simple process that can help protect animals, forests, and ecosystems as shown in the poster.

By Peter Renwick, '27

*Clean Your Gear!*

### INVASIVE SPECIES:

**Cheatgrass • Canada  
Thistle • Woolly Mullein**

*As easy as*

WIPING YOUR BOOTS AT THE  
BRUSHING STATIONS

# Stop The Spread!

CLEAN • CONTRIBUTE • CONSERVE

## PROTECT OUR ROOTS

The Indian Peaks Wilderness is part of Arapaho National Forest and in the fall, the Indian Peaks Wilderness holds groves of golden aspen trees and hillsides of verdant pine trees. However, just like many other parts of Colorado, there are also gashes of dead aspen and pine trees due to pine beetles and sudden aspen decline. While these plights are natural, climate change is exponentially increasing their destructive properties. Both pine beetle kill and sudden aspen decline are often caused by warm droughts which have significantly increased due to climate change. While sixty-six percent of voters say the effects of climate change are significant, many don't realize that climate change impacts more than the weather. I chose Indian Peaks Wilderness to educate people on the impact that climate change has on beetle kill and sudden aspen decline. If we protect our roots, we can keep our forests green and gold.

By Sam Daley, '26



# COLORADO RIVER

THE KEY TO SOUTHWESTERN ECONOMICS

ENSURE  
OUR STABILITY.  
PROTECT  
OUR WATER.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

## ENSURE OUR STABILITY

The Colorado River has always been looked at with great importance in the American Southwest, admired not only for its aesthetics but also its practicality. The lowering of its water affects those living in the seven states it runs through. Majority voters in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah argue that the River is critical to their state's economy, serving to explain a key reason many are so interested in protecting it.

Those voters also say that the river is "in need of urgent action," 77% in Colorado. With extreme draughts on top of already dry climates, water conservation becomes increasingly crucial in order to protect wildlife, the broader environment, and even the economy. These waters are not only actual lifelines but metaphorical ones, ensuring the stability of our society and our planet.

By Rebekah Vaisman Spear, '28

## PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE

According to State of the Rockies 2022 survey results, 79% of New Mexicans are concerned about more frequent and severe wildfires. This concern is validated as New Mexicans have witnessed wildfires becoming progressively more severe. Since the 2011 Las Conchas Fire in Santa Fe National Forest, the largest in New Mexico's history at the time, three other wildfires have surpassed Las Conchas Fire in severity. This poster calls attention to the wildlife threatened by wildfires. For New Mexico bighorn sheep, wildfires are not the first time they have been vulnerable in their native habitat. After nearly being eradicated in the 1960s due to unregulated hunting and disease transmitted from domestic sheep and goats, protective efforts toward bighorn sheep are essential. My intention with this poster is to highlight bighorn sheep as a symbol of the ongoing threat to all New Mexico wildlife due to wildfires.

By Sophie Addison, '26

