

ECOLOGICAL BILL OF RIGHTS

As residents of the City of Aspen and of Pitkin County, and stewards of our natural heritage and resources, we see the integrity of our valley ecosystem increasingly challenged and violated by human activity. Population growth and the accompanying sprawl are seriously damaging and threatening to destroy the ecological carrying capacity (environmental sustainability) of this valley. This bill provides the right to:

1. Breathe clean air and enjoy clear vistas.
2. Preservation of remaining natural riparian areas and wetlands.
3. Permanently protected minimum stream flows in rivers and creeks.
4. Preservation and restoration of native wildlife and plant diversity by preservation of sufficient habitat.
5. Protection of designated wilderness through management of adjoining land in a way that preserves the integrity of the wilderness areas.
6. A landscape kept free of noxious and invasive weeds.
7. Appropriate access to public lands on roads and trails historically open to the public consistent with the nature and designation of the public lands.
8. Dedicated open space protected from urbanization and development.
9. Efficient and renewable use of energy.
10. Be free from excessive noise.
11. See the night sky without the interference of unnecessary artificial light from growth, urbanization and highway development.
12. Absolute minimum involuntary exposure to toxic chemicals, radioactive substances and energy forms that are hazardous to health.
13. Maintain and not exceed the carrying capacity (sustainability) of the land and water, and including protecting water quality.
14. Expect from our government legislation and active enforcement of land use and development regulations consistent with this Ecological Bill of Rights.