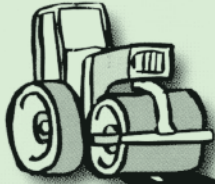




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About the Cover: Bear awakens from hibernation!

Photo from Elk Valley

Bear Aware-WordPress.com

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Check the online issue to see

the pictures in color!



CONTENTS Pages

PUBLISHER, EDITOR, ADVERTISING SALES,
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Anita M. Wilks
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US Fish & Wildlife
Anita Wilks
www.eyeonmiami.com
www.constructionphotography.com
www.coastalcare.org
www.webecoist.com

Wildlife -PREVENTING Contact with Bears is best	5, 6
Seven Feet in Front of Me	7
Letters - Watershed - RMNP - 9Health Fair Sites	8, 9
Wildlife - Buffalo Field Campaign - Take Action	10
Pioneer - Overcoming obstacles for a Dream	11,12,13
Nature -Brown's Canyon A National Monument	14, 15
Wildlife -Watch Award Winning Video EXPOSED	16, 17
Horse - A bit of good news for Wild Horses	20, 21
Issues - ROD & EIS Re: Eldora Ski Area	22
Observation - Liberal's Guide to a Chainsaw	23, 24
Finance - Myth's & Truth's about Credit Score	25
Wildlife - Wolverines Face an Uncertain Future	26, 27
Worldview - Part 6 - Overpopulation	28,29,30
Animals - Prevent Parasites In or On Your Pets	31
History - A Circle of Ancient Power	32, 33

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REGULAR FEATURES

Animals & Their Companions	18, 19
Ad Index & Telephone #'s	34

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Gilpin County Sheriff.....	303-582-5500
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Golden PO Bulk Mail.....	303-278-9235
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Jeffco Animal Control.....	303-271-5070
Boulder Animal Control.....	303-441-4444

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Nederland Elementary.....	303-258-7092
Nederland Jr & Sr High.....	303-258-3212
Gilpin County.....	303-582-3444
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Preventing Contact With Bears Is Best Solution

From PredatorDefense.org

Preventing Contact at Home: We Can Help

When bears come out of their winter sleep they are serious about quickly consuming calories. This is often the time when conflict occurs between people and bears. Every spring and summer PredatorDefense.org receives calls from people who live in bear country who have inadvertently created food sources such as birdseed, garden compost, pet food left outdoors, and unsecured garbage containers.

In most situations we can direct people over the phone how to eliminate the food source and help people by telling them how to make their residence less inviting to bears. On occasion they have driven bears off by using loud noises. Once food sources are not available, bears almost always move on.

How to Avoid Encounters - Trips through Bear Country

For helpful hints on how to avoid encounters while in bear country—including planning for a trip, setting up camp, storing food, and handling encounters should they happen: our handy guide - How to Avoid Bear Encounters:

Respect Bears in Their Home

Bears and You - Seeing a bear is a memorable experience. But remember, you are a visitor to their home. The future of bears and the safety of others depend on you! Bears are intelligent and learn very quickly. Take the time to learn about bears and how to avoid confrontations. If a bear gets

food or garbage from you, it's more likely to be a nuisance or even aggressive to the next person it meets.

Plan Your Trip - Bring the proper equipment to avoid confrontations with bears. Avoid packing smelly or greasy food like bacon and fish. Bring 100 feet of rope and storage bags for hanging food and other attractants. Small pulleys and carabineers are helpful.

Bear Resistant Containers - Bear resistant storage containers are a good method for storing food and other attractants. They can be purchased at many outdoor shops or in some cases can be rented from outdoor shops. Check with the local Forest Service or Game & Fish Office for availability.

COOLERS, BACKPACKS, WOODEN BOXES AND TENTS ARE NOT BEAR RESISTANT! Do not leave food or other bear attractants in open vehicles at trailheads, campgrounds or along forest roads. While in Bear Country View and photograph all wildlife from a distance and do not approach a bear even if it looks calm. Be careful! Learn to recognize bear sign – tracks, diggings and scat. Avoid camping in these areas. Hike in groups rather than alone. Bears are most active at night. Hiking after dark or at dawn or dusk may increase your chances *(Continued next page.)* of meeting a bear.


Highlander Wildlife

Bears don't like surprises! Use extra caution in places where visibility or hearing is limited such as bushy areas near streams. Talking, singing, or wearing bells will reduce your chances of surprising a bear.

Properly Store All Food - The most important part of visiting bear country is keeping ALL food and attractants, pop, beer, canned goods, toothpaste, lip balm, game meat, garbage, dog food, livestock feed, etc., unavailable to bears!

Remember, bears learn very quickly. Bears which associate food with people may become aggressive and dangerous – this may lead to personal injury, property damage and dead bears. Attractants must be hung 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet out from any vertical support, or in a bear resistant container.

Camping in Bear Country - Choose a campsite free of fresh bear signs. **Keep a clean camp!** Food and odors attract bears. Store your food, garbage and other bear attractants well away (100 yards) from your sleeping area. Cook well away (100 yards) from sleeping area. **Do not bury garbage. Bears will dig it up!**



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If You Encounter a Bear: First, try to slowly back out of the situation. Keep calm, avoid direct eye contact, back up slowly and speak in a soft monotone voice. Never turn your back to the bear and never kneel down. Most encounters end with the bear leaving the area. Stay close together if in a group. **NEVER RUN**, and do not try to climb a tree unless you are sure you can climb to at least 100 feet before the bear reaches you. **Remember, you cannot out run a bear!** If a bear charges, stand your ground. Bears often “bluff charge” or run past you. The bear may charge several times before leaving the area. Climbing a tree may not work for black bears as they are agile climbers. As a last resort, play dead. Curl into a ball or lie flat, covering your neck and head with your hands and arms. If you have a backpack, leave it on as it will help protect your back. If the bear swats at you, roll with it. Stay face down and do not look at the bear until you are sure it is gone. Many people have survived bear attacks using this method.

Bear repellent pepper spray has proven very effective in warding off charging bears. It is available at many sporting goods stores. *Excerpted from brochure by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, courtesy PredatorDefense.org*
Editor's Note: Unscented ammonia in a spray bottle can be helpful to mark around your campsite.



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Seven Feet In Front Of Me

By Omayra Acevedo www.brandnewdayphoto.com

There it was, seven feet in front of me, surreal as a dream. So close I could smell it - like something you might smell at a zoo. The story of my encounter with a black bear began early on a hike up the Dream Lake trail off the Bear Lake trailhead at Rocky Mountain National Park. It was six in the morning on August 10th. The smell of pine and sounds of nature waking in the morning was a beautiful and overwhelming sensation. With packs on our backs and my camera on my hip, a friend and I embarked on a short journey to Dream Lake. Half way up the trail we stopped beside a small creek for a snack. We took off our shoes and looked around. The rippling water, the trees lightly swaying, even the rock underneath us brought to our minds the John Denver song "Rocky Mountain High."

Refreshed, we resumed our hike. My mom always taught me that you never walk with your gaze down - good advice since I grew up in the Bronx. Here in the mountains, hoping to keep my footing and not fall on my face, I ignored my mother's advice. But I didn't need to see the bear; I smelled him. I looked around, but didn't see him. I continued up the path and around a switchback when I found the bear in the middle of the trail still as a statue. It had to be over 500 pounds. As the bear and I made eye contact, my heart raced, and adrenaline rushed through my entire body. I remembered the warning posted at the ranger station, "If confronted by a bear, stand your ground and seem bigger, if a bear attacks FIGHT BACK!"

I stood my ground and started talking to the bear in an assertive yet respectful manner. I jiggled my bear bell and prepared the bear spray. I knew that as long as I acknowledged this was his home, and showed it respect, I would be okay. At least I hoped I would be. After what seemed like an eternity, the bear turned away and ran through the bushes. As a photographer it was extremely difficult to not capture an amazing photo, but my safety as well as the bear's safety is always more important to me. I still have the memory of his face and even the way he

smelled. Things I will forever treasure.

Last year I was privileged to see five Colorado Black Bears in their natural habitat. All a few weeks before or after their hibernation. If I had to offer anyone advice it would be this. Please follow the rules to coexisting with our amazing wildlife. It will keep you and them safe. Don't leave food anywhere they can find it. Keep it inside. Lock your doors, shut your windows and lecture your company when they come visit our incredible mountains.

Remember, the wildlife are the ones that pay the ultimate price when an encounter goes sour. Respect them and appreciate them from a safe distance. I don't know about anyone else, but they are the reason I moved here. I would love to see them for as long as I shall live. Please do your part to help keep our wildlife wild. In the end we will all benefit from it.

To learn more about living with Colorado Black Bears please visit the CPW link below.

<http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeBears1.aspx>

Editor's Note: There is much discussion among wildlife professionals in parks and National Forest as to whether playing dead or fighting back is 'what to do' - hopefully you will never have to decide if your prevention works!



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Watershed - RMNP Centennial - 9HealthFair

Dear Editor,

I have been having my teenage son email you since January when we first noticed the lack of advertising for the CCCIA events. You were kind enough to reply and asked us to be patient while you were trying to remedy the situation. You explained that an email from you about deadlines was mistaken as nasty by the hall manager and you planned to attend a board meeting.

We missed the Italian Challenge and had planned to compete, my son could not find a website back then to get details about the event. I called a friend in Coal Creek finally, who gets the local newsletter and she said there was a full-page ad soliciting members in March.

You have been clear in not wanting to malign certain individuals but it is clear some favoritism is happening as the new president writes and runs an ad in the newsletter that is running CCCIA ads. I even saw one in the little newspaper that promotes recreational pot (that I take away from my son).

At first we blamed the Highlander and then we realized the ads are paid for and submitted by the CCCIA board, so began to understand they only want Messenger readers as members. Now we can find their website again but are planning to boycott their events and not join as members until the favoritism stops. The McGregor Family

Editor's Note: To readers who would like to see the

CCCIA Ad return to the Highlander you can send your requests to Vice President of the Board Tom Mulvany tmulvany@live.com and President Tami Waltemath tamra@waltemathlawoffice.com

Dear Readers,

COAL CREEK CANYON WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP TO HIRE FULL TIME COORDINATOR:

The recently formed Coal Creek Canyon Watershed Partnership (CCCWP) is currently recruiting for a Full Time position of Watershed Coordinator. The CCCWP was formed last fall after The Environment Group (TEG) spearheaded an effort to create a watershed restoration master plan to help the entire canyon community recover from the devastating floods of September 2013.

Funding for the 18-month position has been granted by a U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant. The CCCWP board of directors is made up of nine local canyon residents and will regularly seek input from local stakeholders, property owners and organizations.

The Upper Coal Creek Canyon Watershed stretches from the Wondervu area down the canyon to the area below the railroad underpass near the Plainview Road, and includes the side canyons along Twin Spruce Road and Ranch Elsie.

The full Master Plan can be viewed from our web site, <https://www.uppercoalcreek.com>, along with updates and events. We have a Facebook presence also, <https://www.facebook.com/CCCWP>. Meeting schedules are posted there.

The Watershed Coordinator Job Description can be found at our WEBSITE and on the Facebook page. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but those received by March 31, 2015 will receive priority consideration.

We look forward to having a Coordinator to implement the Master Plan and start the stream stabilization and restoration to help protect property and provide public safety in the event of a future flood. By Tom Mulvany, CCCWP Board Member



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Dear Readers,

This year, Rocky Mountain National Park is celebrating its 100th anniversary and is sponsoring Centennial events, as are local organizations, up to its dedication date in September. There are ongoing events, hikes, climbs and exhibits. Check nps.gov/romo for an extensive listing.

April 25th is Earth Day and National Junior Ranger Day. An event will be held at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. Time to be determined. **On April 27th, Pioneers of the Peaks Local Climbers** exhibit at the Estes Park Museum, 200 Fourth Street, will be presenting, *A Ranger's Mountain Rescue* with Keith Lober at 7 pm.

On **May 1st**, the event *Wild Inspirations* will bring together local artists to speak about how RMNP inspires their art. It will be held from 5 to 7 pm in Estes Park at the Aspen & Evergreen Gallery, 356 E. Elkhorn Ave. To close the talk, one piece of art will be put up for auction and 40% of the proceeds will be donated to RMNP. It's a beautiful time to come to the park! Diane Bergstrom

Dear Readers,

Please consider attending the **Fourth Annual Benefit Concert for Legacy of Learning on Saturday April 25** – 5:30 to 9 pm at Boulder Mennonite Church – 3910 Table Mesa Dr. All proceeds to go to this non-profit empowering youth of promise through education. Concert featuring Kutandara, a Boulder based school celebrating Zimbabwean music. Also experience culinary creations – a unique spin on world classic cuisine – including kid friendly meals by, Butcher & The Blonde. Choose from hundreds of Silent Auction items. Suggested donation is only \$10 individual or \$20 per family. DreamCatcher Instruction Centers – Iris Lee

Your health is everything. April is a great time to attend a **9Health Fair** Site to take advantage of their very affordable screenings. You can even register online at www.9HealthFair.org/FindAFair, select your location, then look for the Online Registration link. Listed here are only some of the nearby sites for Highlander readers: dates in April – **all times are 7:00 am to Noon.**

Friday April 17: Westminster, Front Range Comm. College, 3645 W. 112th Ave.

Sunday April 19: Westminster, St Anthony North@84th, 2551 W. 84th Ave. –Arvada, Susan M Duncan YMCA, 6350 Eldridge St.

Monday April 20: Boulder, Covidien, 5920 Longbow Dr. Arvada, Arvada Covenant Church, 5555 Ward Road

Tuesday April 21: Boulder, Covidien, 5920 Longbow Dr. Arvada, Spirit of Christ Cath. Church, 7400 W. 80th Ave.

Wednesday April 22: Arvada, Spirit of Christ Catholic Church, 7400 W. 80th Ave.

Saturday April 25: Nederland Comm. Ctr, 750 Hwy 72 N. Boulder, YMCA/Mapleton Ctr, 2850 Mapleton Ave.

Golden, Rockland Comm. Church, 17 S Mt Vernon CC Rd. Golden, Pan. Ortho. & Spine Ctr, 660 Golden Ridge Rd, Ste 250 – Arvada, King of Glory Lutheran Church, 10001 W. 58th Ave.

Sunday April 26: Arvada, APEX Ctr, 13150 W 72nd Ave. **Thursday April 30:** Boulder Jewish Comm. Ctr, 3800

Kalmia Ave. Based on the most current research findings, the 9Health Fair Medical Advisory Committee has determined that fasting is not required (*optional*) for blood screenings. People with diabetes should not fast. You are encouraged to drink plenty of water and continue to take prescription medications. You can call 1-800-332-3078 for more information. 9Health Fair is a non-profit organization. OWN YOUR HEALTH and stay informed by having a blood panel done, results will be mailed to you along with a copy for your physician.

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Buffalo Field Campaign ~ www.buffalofieldcampaign.org

Both the Hebgen and Gardiner Basins, west and north of Yellowstone, have been relatively quiet. This will be the last week our Gardiner camp will be open (*March*), and our focus will then fully turn to the coming spring migration here in the Hebgen Basin. Patrols are out every day, all day, monitoring the buffalo's migration corridors, keeping an eye on the highways, and getting ready for any harassment of these gentle giants. As many of you have heard, the current Interagency Bison Management Plan is set to expire this year and an announcement of the start of the process to draft a new plan was released recently. The state of Montana and Yellowstone National Park are seeking public input on the plan, with a 90-day scoping comment period open until June 15. As always, Buffalo Field Campaign will be a strong voice for wild buffalo throughout this process, and we will need everyone to participate. As soon as we have formulated our

comments, we will craft a Take Action Alert on our website. Please learn as much as you can in the meantime and then send in your comments with ours or both. There will also be opportunity to attend public meetings and we'll let you know as soon as they are scheduled. Thank you all



so much for making it possible for us to be on the ground and in the field with America's last wild buffalo. This important first-hand perspective gives BFC the unique ability to be the strongest voice for our friends the buffalo and we are grateful to each of you for allowing us the honor to stand in their defense. **Wild IS THE WAY!**



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Overcoming Obstacles For A Dream

A long-time resident of Coal Creek Canyon, Marj Rust, recently agreed to be interviewed for this article about her life in Blue Mountain. She lived in Golden in the 1960's but was looking for mountain property and by accident found her acreage on a day she and some friends were up sledding in the foothills. The weather was foggy: off and on snowy, but since there was no place to turn around on the single-track buckboard road they kept going up. She had seen a sign and later followed up on that information. But the real sign was that when a moment of clearing in the fog allowed for a brief view out over the plains 'so you could see forever' from what is now the top of West Ridge Road, she thought at that time "this is it" and the rest is her history.

At that time the land had only been divided into four sections, not subdivided for home sites. Besides the fact that no electric poles were there and no real improved road existed, her first obstacle was just being a thirty year old woman. They didn't want to sell even land to a woman in those days. Two acres was the minimum and Marj ended up with

her pie shaped piece that is 2.5 acres, mainly because she had cash in hand.

She visualized an A-frame home to be in keeping with the natural mountain terrain. Her first architect gave her a costly education, was young and had his own ideas, but didn't pull off the end result. As a graduate student at CU in Boulder, Marj often drove up in the area near NCAR to see what was being built on the hillsides and when she stopped to ask, found out their architect (of the homes being built) was a female student at CU's school of architecture doing an internship.

That student met Marj at her newly purchased property on a (actually a clause she was forced to sign made her wait a year to build since her land was up out of the valley) day that would have given many pause, as it was throwing all the elements of

nature at them at once. So on one of the coldest, rainiest, windiest days Coal Creek Canyon can provide – she met the architect that would help (along with a college mentor) convince her to amend her A-frame idea to a flat-topped version of it. It turned out to have *(Continued next page.)*



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provided her with the dream home that has housed her ever since. Of course Marj knew what her property was really like as she had camped in her station wagon on the acreage many times before her home was started or finished.

Marj Rust studied at CU Boulder to get a Master Degree in Personal Services, MPS – which cuts across five of the behavioral sciences. She got the first graduate degree in learning disabilities in the state of Colorado. Her career field ended up being psychology including child psychology but prides herself in working as little as possible – she says with a chuckle. *(Pictured with Alex)*

The beautiful rock fireplace in her home was only one of three main things Marj had to have in her personally designed mountain house. The other two being a two-car garage and

sliding glass doors for direct access to the great outdoors. The rocks for the fireplace ended up being brought from

Lyons (which is as close to being indigenous as possible) because to take them from the property would have scarred the small acreage too much. *(See photo next page)*

Arrow Drilling took on the arduous job of drilling a water well that high up and got great results as they usually do. Marj had it witched first and has only had issues when a nearby new home drilled too close one time. Over time Blue Mountain formed a water district for a back-up water source for the existing individual wells.

Horizon Builders built her home, starting in November. Marj shared that she thought she would have a paved road to her home because as the concrete company tried many times to bring the concrete for her foundation, they had to drop their load because they couldn't make it



Kids 'n Canvas Paint Party

Kids Ages 6 and up

Saturday April 4 – 2:30 to 4 pm *(after Easter Eggstravaganza)*
at the Coal Creek Canyon Community Center

Cost: \$17/per painter (Space limited to 20 painters)

To register: www.GalleryOnTheGo.com/register *(select CCC Easter Kids)*
under Colorado Public Venues

We will paint
Peeper Cottontail



Paint 'N Sip Party is scheduled for May 15 - 6:30 to 8:30 pm
at the Coal Creek Canyon Community Center. Cost is \$26/painter.

We will paint MIDNIGHT SWING.

Want to host your own in home paint party? Just invite your guests & I will provide the supplies & simple step-by-step instructions to create a masterpiece *(you choose the painting)*! No artistic skills are required, just be willing to have fun! These are social events! \$26/per painter *(free for host/hostess)*.

Kids Birthday Parties - \$150 for up to 11 kids!

Questions or to Schedule your own Paint Party: Whitney Horton - Independent Gallery Guide/Coal Creek Canyon Resident - www.facebook.com/GalleryOnTheGoWithWhitney
whitney@GalleryOnTheGo.com 360-461-7615



to the acreage. At least they smoothed it as they did until they got enough traction to navigate. Between the electric power company and telephone company at the time, they split the cost of bringing electricity and telephone because they knew there would be more homes up near Marj's eventually.


Marj primarily enjoys the quiet of her mountain home. She appreciates the wildlife and remarks on the 'wild turkey's galore' in amazement of their numbers. Seeing fox, mountain lions, black bears, coyotes, mule deer and a multitude of wild birds only adds to her overall experience in mountain living. She's grateful for the neighbors that have become lifelong friends, knowing mountain friends are special in their ability to respect each other's privacy and still be friendly. Only coming up the canyon to eat out at the Wonderuv Café and Westfalen Hof (especially enjoying live music from John's piano and organ at the same time – in days past).

She is grateful to our volunteer fire fighters and EMT's as they have helped her on occasion when she has fallen and hurt herself. Knowing they have their expertise gives her comfort and confidence to continue living in her mountain foothills home, hopefully for the rest of her life.

Thank you to Elizabeth Harris for introducing me to Marj and recommending this article. Best wishes always to Marj and her continuing to be that pioneer she's always been, now it is to forge ahead and live out her life in the comfort of the home she fought so hard to have and enjoy, may we all be so blessed in our efforts. *By A.M. Wilks*


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Brown's Canyon - A National Monument

Alex Carr Johnson

On Feb. 19, President Obama invoked the Antiquities Act, naming his 16th national monument: Browns Canyon. The 22,000 acres of rugged granite cliffs in central Colorado boasts a long list of natural resources with 10,000-year-old archeological sites, high biodiversity due to the canyon's mid-elevation slopes, iconic wildlife species including bighorn sheep and golden eagles, and a unique geology at the northern end of the Rio Grande Rift System. The Arkansas River, which flows through the canyon, is also one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country, bringing in over \$60 million to the region in 2014.


A coalition of local supporters ultimately swayed Obama to take action, nearly four decades after the area was first studied for potential wilderness designation. After several legislative attempts failed to bring greater protections to the area, 2014 proved a turning point for the canyon. Local rafting companies, conservation groups and local officials—including the mayors of the nearby towns of Buena Vista and Salida—called directly on the president to designate the area a national monument. By the end of last

year, then-Senator Mark Udall, D-Colo., Senator Michael Bennet, D-Colo., and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper had joined in the cause, publicly requesting the president to invoke the Antiquities Act, a mechanism that allows the executive branch to designate national monuments.



The new designation withdraws Browns Canyon from all future mineral lease sales and sets in place strict conservation priorities that supercede the multiple-use mandates by which the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management manage lands that don't have special-status designations. Proponents of the designation had feared recently proposed mineral development and road building would hurt the area's wilderness quality, fish and game habitat and river recreation economy.

"They wanted to put a star on the map," said Meghan Kissell, a spokesperson for nonprofit Conservation Lands Foundation, who worked closely with local groups on the national monument effort.

Many conservationists in Western states see the Browns Canyon designation as an indication of Obama's willingness to declare new monuments. Here are a few of the communities hoping to put their own stars on the map during the remainder of Obama's 23 months in office (not surprisingly, almost all are on the list of 14 monuments proposed in 2010, in a "vision" document leaked from the



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Department of Interior):

A coalition of tribal groups, businesses, local governments, conservation groups and local residents in California are pushing to protect the little-known 360,000-acre Berryessa Snow Mountain region north of Napa. The area supports tule elk, black bears and mountain lions a short drive from San Francisco. On Feb. 5, Rep. Mike Thompson and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein introduced legislation to designate the area.

In northern Idaho, conservation groups are working to protect the nearly 600,000-acre roadless area of the Boulder-White Cloud.

Monument proponents say designation will help manage the encroachment of off-highway vehicles and block future mining of molybdenum. In a recent op-ed in *The Hill*, former Idaho Rep. Larry LaRocco called for the area to be “national monument number 17.”

The 200,000-acre Bodie Hills of central-eastern California provides habitat linkage between the Sierras and the Great Basin. Renewed interest in gold mining in the area has local groups like Friends of the Inyo working toward permanent protections.

A coalition, including a Navajo group called Utah Dine Bikeyah, is petitioning for national monument status for 1.9 million acres surrounding Cedar Mesa, collectively known as Bears Ears, in eastern Utah. (Another group, Friends of Cedar Mesa, hopes to protect it through an act of Congress instead, as a National Conservation Area.) The canyon-cut region contains important Navajo traditional sites and more than 100,000 archaeological sites, most of which are Ancestral Pueblo.



Alex Carr Johnson is a contributor to High Country News.

Editor’s Note: If you’ve never rafted down the Arkansas River through Brown’s Canyon - you should. It is a rare and beautiful place, now it will remain that way. There are plenty of commercial rafting companies that can take you.



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Watch Award Winning Video - EXPOSED

Please do yourself and all wildlife a favor and go to **PredatorDefense.org** to watch their award-winning documentary called **Exposed**. If you care about your dog while hiking, biking, camping you should know it could be killed by cyanide just from grabbing a stake out of the ground. Chemicals we thought, and were told by our government as far back as the 70's, are being used illegally by Wyoming's USDA & Wildlife Services – all over our country to kill wildlife. This is not conjecture and the film will attest to Wildlife Services former employees that have come forward (at grave risk to themselves for doing so) to help put a stop to the barbaric practices your tax dollars are funding.

It just so happens that Wyoming's Department of Agriculture is the head office for this criminal federal agency. A heartless, roughshod group of homegrown lying terrorists get paid by you to poison, trap, shoot from airplanes all the predators cattle farmer's say are problems to their livelihood. This agency is beyond reform and the only way we can stop them is for all of us to contact our state and federal representatives (*listed here*) and start emailing the White House daily. Sign my petition <https://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/stop-funding-wildlife-services>

You may think I'm being an alarmist, and while I have my pet projects for nature – this is not just my opinion. Watch the video, a few minutes of your precious time and it will answer your concerns or doubts and you too will be



unable to do nothing.

I've printed articles about our government gunning down wildlife from airplanes for years, in the name of predator control they take our tax dollars and have themselves a joy ride and killing spree to pick up a federal paycheck. We have to stop this senseless illegal operation that prides itself on lying to the public and having no one to answer to.

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How long must our natural resources be slaughtered just for fun and money?

Hunters, NRA members, sportsmen and women should be alarmed and saddened by the truth in **Exposed** by

PredatorDefense.org You can watch it on YouTube and I dare you to not be affected enough to take action. Be very careful in our open public lands where you think you are safe to let your dogs roam while you

mountain bike, four wheel or enjoy camping – you could be the next victim of a poison stake put out (without any warning signs mandated by federal law) by Wildlife Services. People have been severely injured and maimed or killed, many pets have died, even young cattle weighing over 200 pounds have come across them and found dead next to the poison stake meant for a predator.

ALERT, when you watch this video keep young children away – it is too violently graphic for them to see. BUT, all the more reason for all of us to watch, the truth hurts. Until we put an end to this government agency, do your part today – and again everyday until you hear on the news that these criminals will no longer be subsidized by your hard earned tax dollars and many may end up being criminally prosecuted for crimes that endanger not only predators but all of us.

Review by A.M. Wilks

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jessie.danielson.house@state.co.us Office: 303.866.5522
Cell: 720.276.3468 <http://www.jessiedanielson.com/>

Sen. Cheri Jahn (D), District 20 - Jefferson
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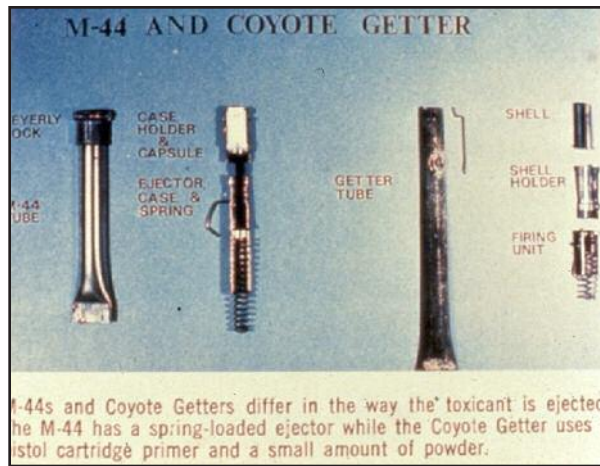
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<http://www.perlmutter.house.gov/index.php>

Senator Michael Bennet (D)
<http://www.bennet.senate.gov>
202-224-5852, (303) 455-7600

Senator Cory Gardner (R)
<http://www.gardner.senate.gov/>
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DETAILS RE: M-44 devices are spring-activated sodium cyanide



ejectors that deliver a deadly dose of this poison when an animal pulls up on it. The animal can die within minutes or linger over a long period of time. To set up an M-44 device, a small pipe is driven into the ground and then loaded with the ejector and a sodium cyanide capsule. The top of the ejector is wrapped with an absorbent material that has been coated with a substance that attracts canines. When an animal pulls on this material, a spring ejects the sodium cyanide into the animal's

mouth and face. The force of the ejector can spray the cyanide granules up to five feet. **Predator Defense** has been pressing for a national ban on the lethal M-44 sodium cyanide ejector (also known as "coyote getters") since 1994 when Amanda Wood-Kingsley contacted **Predator Defense** for help after she and her dog Ruby were poisoned by an M-44. **Predator Defense** is working with Congressman Peter DeFazio's staff to develop a bill to completely ban M-44's. Congressman DeFazio is acutely aware of the threat that M-44's pose to pets, people, and wildlife. We consistently relay personal accounts to him of poisonings that occur across the country. Victims of M-44s support **Predator Defense's** efforts to ban these devices nationwide. A report on a **Predator Defense** field investigation of another dog poisoning provide dramatic testimony of the horrific consequences of M-44 use. **TAKE ACTION TODAY -use this information to tell why WILDLIFE SERVICES must be DEFUNDED & M44's need to be taken away from them now and forever!**

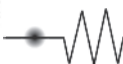


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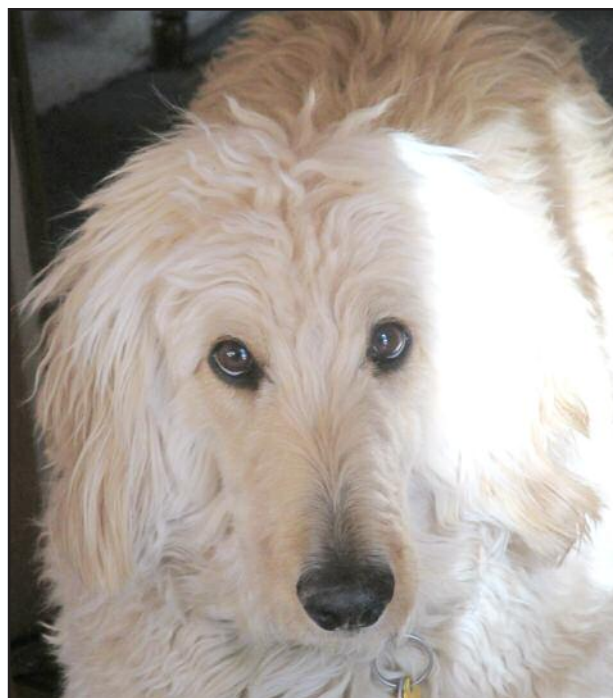


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This page top left: emailed-

Horse watching people inside.

Top Right: Artemis & Kiyomi.

Bottom Left: Sugar eyes Chanel.

Bottom Right: Chanel.

Next page: Top Left- Kiyomi.

Top Right: Romeo.

Bottom Left: Helo.

Bottom Right: Belle shows ears back to Romeo in background.

Thanks for sending your favorite photos!

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A Bit Of Good News For Wild Horses

Painting of *First Horse* (American mustang) by Barbara Wright. Mustangs live in each of our hearts. Help keep them safe forever by supporting their cause, however you can - writing to the BLM to stop displacing them, marching in rallies, and supporting nonprofits who work on their behalf.

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Upcoming Events at Harmony HorseWorks

Mid-April to Mid-May Spring PEAT Workshop
April 17, 2015 K.A.T.S. teen group volunteer day 9 to noon
April 23, 2015 Summit Ridge Middle School Volunteer day 9 to noon All volunteers welcome beginning April 1 when our volunteer days start up again.

Harmony HorseWorks Volunteer Orientation

If you want to visit the horses, please call (303) 816-0766. Orientations will begin again beginning April 1, 2015. Thank you for your understanding.

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or contact BARBARA SUNBLADES at her email: sunblades@msn.com

With constant news of inhumane helicopter roundups, endless months spent in holding pens before being sold to slaughter through “middlemen” paid by the BLM, and ever-shrinking rangelands and herd numbers due to the extermination policy practiced by the BLM under pressure from ranching interests supported by politicians, at last a bit of good news and a bit of mixed news. For more info on both subjects, go to www.wildhorsepreservation.org, but here are recaps:

1. Federal Court Rules BLM Violated Law In WY Wild Horse Roundup. In early March, the US District Court in WY issued a ruling in the American Wild Horse Preservation Organization’s lawsuit against the BLM in WY. Judge Nancy Freudenthal found that the BLM had violated federal law by proceeding with the removal of 1,236 wild horses from the WY Checkerboard range without conducting an analysis of the environmental impacts or alternatives to the proposed action.

Unfortunately, this was only one of the non-profits three claims, and the court ruled against the plaintiffs on the fact that the BLM is illegally managing these wild horse populations below the agency’s own mandated management levels. The court also allowed the BLM to wrongly manage public lands in the Checkerboard area as though they were private lands. The ruling came less than 24 hours after a hearing at the U. of WY in Laramie in which the non-profit’s attorney, William Eubanks of Meyer, Glitzenstein & Crystal expertly outlined for the court the BLM’s numerous violations. The non-profit has

Highlander Horse

been battling for the wild horses of the WY Checkerboard for more than two years and intends to continue the fight. Again, more info at:

www.wildhorsepreservation.org.

2. Nevada Board of Agriculture Approves Historic Wild Horse Agreement. This is huge! After more than two years of working to secure a humane management agreement for the state-managed horses of the Virginia Range in NV, the NV Board of Agriculture approve the largest ever public/private partnership that will benefit wild horses! The management agreement with Return to Freedom/AWHPC will enable local participating wild horse advocacy organizations to take measures to prevent the capture and removal of horses from the wild while at the same time protecting public safety. Keeping wild horses out of neighborhoods and roadways is key to keeping these historic equines in the wild. To donate to help the cause to get this program going, go to www.wildhorsepreservation.org.

Editor’s Note: Harmony Horse sometimes has horses that need good homes, check out their site for more information at www.harmonyhorseworks.com ask to be on their mailing list.

Jerry Baker **SOLD**

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Record Of Decision & EIS Re: Eldora Ski Area

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Pawnee National Grassland
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Contact: K. Reid Armstrong, 303-541-2532

Date: March 17, 2015

U.S. Forest Service releases Eldora ski area projects draft decision

BOULDER, Colo. – The U.S. Forest Service is releasing its draft Record of Decision and final Environmental Impact Statement today for the Eldora Mountain Resort Ski Area Projects. The draft decision proposes allowing the ski area to expand its terrain and facilities on National Forest System lands. Eldora Mountain Resort is located on the Roosevelt National Forest in Boulder and Gilpin counties. The ski area consists of 615 acres on National Forest System lands and approximately 410 acres of private lands. This decision only applies to improvements on the National Forest.

Three alternatives were considered during the environmental analysis. After reviewing numerous comments from the public and input from natural resource specialists, the draft decision incorporates components from both Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. This decision enables Eldora Mountain Resort to expand to the north and south and includes 66 acres of new skiable trails; 119 acres of new and improved tree and gladed skiing; 185 acres of added terrain in intermediate, advanced intermediate and expert ability levels; two new chairlifts; two chairlift replacements; 65 acres of added snowmaking coverage; a new 20,000-square-foot restaurant facility at the top of Indian Peaks Lift, which could serve up to 850 people; and renovations at the Lookout restaurant to serve an additional 300 people.

“For more than half a century, Eldora ski area has been part of Boulder County’s recreation tradition,” said Forest

Supervisor Glenn Casamassa. “This decision will provide enhanced opportunities for the skiing public to enjoy a downhill ski area within an hour of Denver.”

Casamassa noted that this decision will improve the safety and reliability of the ski area’s chairlifts and terrain, particularly during wind events.

“The expanded, more natural terrain and improved on-mountain guest services will help Eldora Mountain Resort provide the alpine ski experience expected by clients,” he said. “While there will be impacts from construction of the new lifts and the terrain expansion, these will be limited in scope and duration and can be minimized through strict mitigations and design criteria.” The draft decision is subject to a 45-day objection period, beginning the day the legal notice is published in the newspaper of record (in this case the Coloradoan). While the public is always welcome to provide comments and feedback at any point in this process, objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunities for public comment.

The decision to expand permit boundary to the north and the south also requires an amendment to the Forest Plan, which would allow all National Forest System lands within the special use permit boundary to be managed as part of the ski area. This amendment is subject to a 60-day objection period, beginning the day the legal notice is published.

The legal notice with more details about the objection process, the draft decision, the final Environmental Impact Statement and all natural resource specialist reports will also be available online at

**www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/eldora
or www.eldoraeis.com.**

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The Liberal's Guide To A Chainsaw

By Jourdan Arenson

Fifteen years ago, I moved my young family from the San Francisco Bay Area to Eugene, Oregon, into a small house with a woodstove. I was excited about heating with wood, and resolved to do it safely. I built a woodshed in the backyard, close to a Doug-fir chopping block. I learned to send split logs flying by swinging the maul with all my might, without ever whacking my shin. My kids played around the stove while it popped and roared, without anybody ever getting burned.

But I refused to buy a chainsaw. Chainsaws seemed too loud, too deadly, too much like guns.

To my liberal, big-city mind, the chainsaw evoked the worst of anti-environment redneck life. It was the source of cheap destructive thrills, like a monster truck tearing up a creek bed. It was the icon of an out-of-control timber industry. When the chainsaw replaced the hand-pushed crosscut saw - and the motorized truck replaced the steam railroad - the logging industry finally converted the forest into a factory for extracting timber. In the logger versus tree-hugger culture wars that followed, the chainsaw was cast as the home-wrecker of spotted-owls. And it was the weapon wielded by the deranged yahoo who butchered a van full of road-tripping hippies in the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

So, for 14 seasons, I split, stacked and, when necessary, pushed a handsaw to put up our year's heating supply. I never thought of touching a chainsaw.

Then, last winter, a violent ice storm hit Eugene and knocked down power lines, limbs and whole trees. When it was over, my neighborhood was covered with free firewood. The following week, I dragged five pickup loads of fallen limbs into my backyard. The prospect of hand-sawing all that wood to stove length made my elbow ache. Laziness overcame liberal bias. I bought a chainsaw.

I didn't like chainsaws as long as only other people owned them, but once I owned one myself, I discovered

they embody some of the best rural values. For example, it was nature herself that inspired the premier innovation of the modern chainsaw: the "chipper chain." The idea for the chipper chain came to an Oregon logger named Joseph Cox on an autumn day in 1946, while he was watching a timber worm chew through dense sapwood. Timber worms chew by deftly coordinating two sickle-shaped mandibles in an alternating measure-cut pattern. One mandible acts as a gauge to set the proper cutting depth for the other mandible, ensuring that it won't get stuck by digging in too deeply. As soon as the cutting mandible finishes its slice, it becomes the depth gauge for the other mandible's cut.

Cox's simulated this right-left, measure-cut action by designing a saw tooth shape that combined a cutter with a depth gauge. He attached these dual-function teeth to alternating positions on the right and left sides of a wide bicycle-style chain. When powered around by a small gas engine, the chipper chain cleanly opened a groove through wood fiber without grabbing or overloading.

Further innovations transformed the chainsaw into a beloved tool that fostered a rural *(Continued next page.)*

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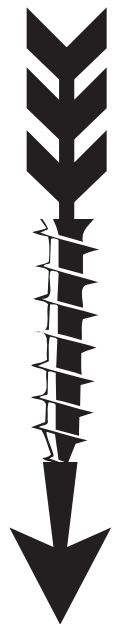







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guy's pride in self-reliance. Lighter, more durable designs meant that a man could trust his chainsaw to guide him through timber in all kinds of territory, all day long. A man could bond with his chainsaw and, when he grew too old to work, pass it down to his kids and grandkids. And yes, some women love their chainsaws, too.

Today, in the Oregon rain forest, a trusty chainsaw can still get you out of a pinch. Mushroomers keep one in the pickup while they gather shiitake on windy days, in case they have to cut their way through a blown-down Douglas fir on the drive home. Some fly fishermen carry one in the bow of their drift boat, in case they round a bend and run into a tree across the river that wasn't there the last time they floated by.

I've never used my chainsaw outside my backyard. But I think that owning, caring for and working with my chainsaw let me taste the same pride and pleasure that responsible gun owners must feel in living safely and skillfully with a dangerous object. When I bucked up all that free firewood, I enjoyed the physical exertion and relaxed concentration required to keep the saw cutting logs - and not my kneecap.

But I have to confess that the tree-hugger in me was never able to get over the chainsaw's smell and noise. So I ended up with an electric one. Way quieter than gas models, my saw is not much louder than a Prius.

Jourdan Arenson is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column service of High Country News (hcn.org). He lives in Eugene, Oregon.

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From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

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Myth #2:

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The truth:

Pulling your own credit report, also known as a "soft inquiry," doesn't affect your credit score. In fact, regularly checking your credit report is a responsible financial practice. You are entitled by law to one free report from each of the three reporting bureaus every 12 months. Keep in mind: If a lender pulls your score to approve a new line of credit, it is a "hard inquiry" and can lower your credit score. You typically have to authorize this process.

Myth #3: Closing old accounts can boost your credit score.

The truth: Closing an account lowers your available credit — which can raise your debt-to-credit ratio and therefore lower your score, especially if you carry balances on other cards.

Myth #4: Closing old accounts can shorten your credit history.

The truth: Accounts with no negative marks that are paid in full will remain on your report for 10 years after being closed.

Myth #5: Cosigning for a loan or credit card won't affect your credit score.

The truth: You are just as responsible if the borrower misses a payment or exceeds his or her limit — and your credit score will be penalized.

Myth #6: Paying cash is the best thing you can do for your credit score.

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Wolverines Face An Uncertain Future

From Ben Goldfarb

On February 1, in the snow-cloaked reaches of the northern Cascade Range in Washington, John Rohrer and Scott Fitkin cracked open the lid of a log cabin-shaped trap and, with a jabstick, anaesthetized the snarling wolverine within.

Once the animal had fallen unconscious, Rohrer, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service, and Fitkin, a district biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, worked quickly. The two scientists and their crew measured and weighed the wolverine, photographed its teeth and chest markings, and gave it a shot of penicillin to fight infections. They monitored its vitals; if its body grew too hot, they were ready to tuck snow into its armpits. Most importantly, they fitted its neck with a radio-collar containing a satellite transmitter, whose readings would provide crucial information about the animal's movements.

Forty-five minutes later, the wolverine sprang from the trap with a throaty growl. Fitkin, watching the 30-pound mustelid bound into the wilderness, wondered if there was perhaps a new sheriff in town. "It was clear he'd been around for a while, and he had a pretty big frame on him," Fitkin recalls. "We thought, okay, this might be the region's new dominant male."

Even 20 years ago, a flourishing wolverine population would have seemed unlikely in the North Cascades. The creatures were eradicated from Washington by the early 1900s, the victims of trapping and poisoning. In the 1990s, however, tracks and camera traps began testifying to their renewed presence. Keith Aubry, a scientist with the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, became convinced that the recolonization was worth studying. In 2006, Aubry and his team collared a female named Melanie and a male named Rocky — the first two wolverines ever monitored in the Pacific states, and the initial study subjects in what was to become a decade-long, 15-wolverine tracking program.

Aubry's first task was to figure out where the immigrants were coming from. He initially assumed they'd wandered west from the northern Rockies, where a few hundred wolverines roam Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. But DNA testing suggested that the northern Cascade colonists may have had a very different place of origin: the rugged coastal mountains of British Columbia. Washington's wolverines, it appeared, represented the southern vanguard of a Canadian population, which was now recolonizing the species' historic Pacific Northwest range.

In fact, all the western United States' wolverines may come from Canadian stock. Last year, Aubry and colleagues published a continent-wide analysis of wolverine genetics, which suggested that *Gulo gulo* had been completely wiped out from the contiguous United States by the early 20th century. America's wolverines, then, likely descend from British Columbia and Alberta migrants, which began trickling down into the Lower 48 once the persecution ended.

America's wolverines are, therefore, a remarkable wildlife success story, and their dispersal abilities an illustration of why habitat connectivity matters. In 2008, an Idaho native dubbed Buddy rambled 500 miles into California's Sierra Nevada, where the creatures once flourished; the next year, a wolverine trekked from Grand

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Teton to Colorado. Wolverines hadn't been spotted in either place since before the Great Depression.

Though the northern Cascades' twenty-odd wolverines haven't meandered quite that far, at least five different animals have wandered south of State Highway 2. Only one wolverine has been detected beyond I-90, but biologists hope that a series of wildlife underpasses and bridges — some completed, others planned — will allow the carnivores to someday make the trip. "How this is going to play out, where it's going to end, is still an unknown," says Aubry, whose tracking project is finally concluding this year. "This is essentially a giant regional experiment."

No wildlife management story would be complete, however, without an ironic twist. Even as wolverines' immediate prospects look bright, their long-term prognosis remains worrisome. The mustelids famously raise their kits in snow dens, selecting sites where snowpack lingers well into spring; such sites will almost certainly become more scarce as the climate warms. One 2011 study, also co-

authored by Aubry, suggested that suitable wolverine habitat "will likely be greatly reduced and isolated" by the end of the century.

Despite the alarming forecast, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently declined to list the species as threatened, citing scientific uncertainty about whether the disappearance of snowpack will truly limit the animals' population. A consortium of environmental groups filed a lawsuit challenging the decision in November 2014.



Ultimately, the wolverine's greatest foe may be our cognitive dissonance around global warming. "A lot of people say that it doesn't make sense: 'You're saying climate change is a big threat, yet they're currently expanding their range?'" Aubry says. "But these processes are happening on completely different temporal scales." For all his success, the North Cascades' new dominant male — and the rest of the country's wolverines — may still be waiting for the other climatic shoe to drop. *(A video of them releasing the collared one can be see at HCN.org under Wildlife)* Ben Goldfarb is a Seattle-based correspondent for High Country News.

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Part 6 - Overpopulation

By Frosty Wooldridge

Lester Brown, author of Plan B 4.0 Saving Civilization said, "The world has set in motion environmental trends that are threatening civilization itself. We are crossing environmental thresholds and violating deadlines set by nature. Nature is the timekeeper, but we cannot see the clock." www.EarthPolicy.org

We human beings prove to be the most aberrant species ever evolved on planet Earth. Within 100 years, we transformed this green, ecologically balanced and thriving globe into an environmental nightmare. We created the **Six Extinction Session** whereby 80 to 100 species suffer extinction every single day of the year. We pump our fossil fuel carbon exhaust into the biosphere at such a rate of speed that our pollution acidifies the soils and oceans of the world.

Our poisoning of the biosphere's air creates acid rain that falls upon forests, lakes and streams—wiping out their PH balance that subsequently kills other creatures, both plant and animal, indiscriminately. Our deadly, filthy injection of 80,000 human-made chemicals into the air, land and water 24/7 unwinds the very foundation of life-based DNA on this planet. Our Genetically Modified Organisms create an insurmountable and growing nightmare for Mother Nature.

(Exhausting some of the 80,000 chemicals into our oceans 24/7. We poisoned the foundation of our marine food supply with radioactive waste like Fukushima reactors exploding and pouring millions of gallons of deadly waste into the Pacific. Virtually all rivers such as the Mississippi, Yangtze, Ganges, Seine and others dump trillions of gallons of chemical waste 24/7.) Photography by www.eyeonmiami.com



As clever as we prove ourselves to be, we cannot imagine the catastrophic trends we set in motion by tinkering with Nature's internal systems. To think that our actions will not be met with responses—proves the height of narcissistic arrogance for our species.

Already, massive die-off in our oceans as to sharks, whales, reefs and other marine life threaten the delicate balance of life on Earth. Our carbon footprint, www.350.org , usurps our weather patterns to create "Katabatic" hurricanes like Katrina and Sandy.

The ugly as well as deadly 100 million ton floating island of plastic debris the size of Texas out in the Pacific Ocean called the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" sickens the toughest mind. Add the 46,000 pieces of plastic floating on every square mile of our oceans surrounding the planet—provides ample proof that our species fails drastically in its responsibilities to fellow creatures and ultimately to

ourselves. Once discovered, we know the full impact of "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" and its continued existence as it kills millions upon millions of other creatures, but we have done nothing to stop adding to it. In fact, we continue adding billions of pieces of plastic junk month after month.

Journalist Lindsey Hoshaw said, "Light bulbs, bottle caps, toothbrushes, popsicle sticks, soda pop plastic bottles, water bottles and tiny pieces of plastic, each the size of a grain of rice, inhabit the Pacific garbage patch, an area of widely dispersed trash that doubles in size every decade and is now believed to be roughly twice the size of Texas. But one research organization estimates that the garbage now actually pervades the Pacific, though most of it is caught in what oceanographers call a gyre like this one — an area of heavy currents and slack winds that keep the

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these individuals are being added in countries where soils are eroding, water tables are falling and irrigation wells are going dry. If we cannot get the brakes on population growth, we may not be able to eradicate hunger.”

That understatement provides the horror of 10 million



trash swirling in a giant whirlpool.”

(Pipes like this drain chemicals into the oceans from countries all over the world. Poisoning of our oceans means poisoning of our marine life, plant and ultimately all of us. Today, a pregnant woman is advised NOT to eat more than one helping of tuna or salmon per month due to ill effects upon her fetus. With massive buildup of human population worldwide as we grow by 1 billion every 12 years, we can expect more intensified poisoning of our oceans.) Photography by

www.constructionphotography.com

In this book, *Plan B 4.0 Saving Civilization*, Lester Brown said, “The thinking that got us into this mess is not likely to get us out. We need a new mindset. Let me paraphrase a comment by environmentalist Paul Hawken, “In recognizing the enormity of the challenge facing us, he said: ‘First we need to decide what needs to be done. Then, we do it. And then we ask if it is possible.’”

Having scuba dived all over the planet in the past 50 years, I can attest that the oceans enjoyed pristine beauty up until 1960 before plastics, but today, our oceans roll in junk, plastic, metal cans, glass and trash from countless military, luxury cruise ships and pleasure crafts tossing their trash without end. Our military forces around the world use the oceans for a final toilet of chemicals. Mustard gas, radioactive wastes and the 80,000 chemicals we have created flow for a final resting place into our oceans.

(A peak at what the bottom of our oceans look like in 2013 and will get worse as the human race continues to add billions of itself in the decades to come. We need to install a 25 cent deposit-return international law to give economic incentives for people to pick up their plastic trash rather than toss it.) Photography by

www.coastalcare.org

Brown speaks about the enormous consequences of adding population, “The first trend of concern is population growth. Each year there are 79 million more people at the dinner table. Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of

children and 8 million adults starving to death annually in 2013. Imagine the starvation rates with the projected addition of 3.1 billion people by 2050. As human population explodes, arable land (Continued next page.)

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and water diminish. At some point, as Brown describes in his book, our numbers collide with the lack of water and food scarcity.

And yet, with that knowledge, India grows by 11 million, net gain, annually. Even China, with one child per woman mandates, via “population momentum” grows by 8 million annually. The USA third fastest growing country in the world, suffering water, energy and resource exhaustion, via mass immigration, adds 3.1 million annually.

No one wants, seems or cares to understand our predicaments. The science stares directly into our faces. The evidence crushes us with 18 million humans already dying off annually. The extinction rates of other creatures intensifies.

But we continue our prolific fecundity without reason, without comprehension, without thought. We grow beyond carrying capacity, beyond water supplies, beyond food supplies.

As Brown addresses in his book, he makes the point that world militaries spend \$1 trillion annually. Why not spend \$187 billion on his **Plan B 4.0 Saving Civilization?**

(Think of millions of pipes like this one discharging human waste and chemicals into our oceans 24/7. It's more than sickening. It's disgusting, ugly, stupid, insane,



irreverent and totally normal human behavior.)

Photography by www.webecoist.com

He said, “The choice is ours—yours and mine. We can stay with business as usual and preside over an economy that continues to destroy its natural support systems until it destroys itself, or we can adopt Plan B and be the generations that changes direction, moving the world onto a path of sustained progress.”

Fellow humans that care about the future; we need to start thinking like a planet. We can stop plastic debris by creating 25 cent deposit-return international laws on all plastic leaving commercial stores. We can stop injecting 80,000 chemicals 24/7 by mandating laws to stop producing them. We can stop human overpopulation by educating for birth control. We can form international conferences to address human population overload and how to stop it. We can change course by using our brains, actions and ideas. Otherwise, Mother Nature bats last and she doesn't give a crap how many humans she takes out as she romps around the bases.

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effective collective action you can take:**

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www.TheSocialContract.com ;

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Frosty Wooldridge has bicycled across six continents - from the Arctic to the South Pole - as well as ten times across the USA. In 2014, he bicycled coast to coast across America. He presents

The Coming Population Crisis facing America: what to do about it. www.frostywooldridge.com . His latest book is: ***How to Live a Life of Adventure: The Art of Exploring the World by***

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Prevent Parasites In Or On Your Pets

By Dr. Rebecca Ruch-Gallie - CSU

Parasites come in two main varieties, external and internal, but all are bad for your pet's health. In some cases, they endanger human health as well. With the potential for parasites to harm both animal and human health, veterinarians at Colorado State University consider parasite control a cornerstone of preventive veterinary care. Got a pot-bellied puppy? A cat that vomits regularly? These are signs of gastrointestinal parasite infestation. These parasites are often called gut worms, although not all are truly worms. **Common internal parasites** - Parasites that commonly infest the gut include roundworms (*Toxocara* species), hookworms (*Ancylostoma* species and *Uncinaria stenocephala*), whipworms (*Trichuris* species), *Giardia* and *Coccidia* (*Cystoisospora* species). Signs vary with the parasite, though common symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, large belly, lack of appetite, pale gum color and failure to gain weight.

Puppies and kittens are most often affected: Nearly one-third of puppies and one-fourth of kittens less than 6 months of age are infested, and they shed roundworm eggs in their feces. Roundworms and hookworms can also affect people, particularly children and those who are immune-compromised. Another common internal parasite is heartworm, or *Dirofilaria immitis*. This parasite is transmitted to dogs and cats through mosquito bites, putting it in the category of vector-borne diseases. A few cases have been reported in people as well. Despite the name, adult worms live in the blood vessels of the heart and lungs. This causes coughing, difficulty breathing or exercising, weight loss and vomiting in cats. A large number of worms can cause weakness and physical collapse. Got a cat losing hair? An itchy dog? Bald spots and scratching may be signs of external, or ectoparasite, infestation. Common ectoparasites include fleas (*Ctenocephalides* and *Pulex* species), ticks (multiple species types), mites (*Sarcoptes* and *Demodex* mange mites) and lice (multiple species). Mites and lice are species specific, meaning they affect only one species; people are not at risk. Fleas and ticks can affect multiple types of mammals in the house, including humans. There are several infectious organisms that cause disease and are transmitted by ticks – again, vector-borne diseases. These may also infect people and include:

Ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis are blood diseases that are transmitted by

ticks and cause inflammation in the body. Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is transmitted by infected ticks. Clinical signs in dogs and people include fever and muscle and joint pain. Rocky Mountain spotted fever is rare in the Rocky Mountain region but occurs in the southern Atlantic and south central states. The bacterium that causes Rocky Mountain spotted fever, *Rickettsia rickettsia*, also is transmitted through the bites of infected ticks. Initial signs are fever and pain, but inflammation of the blood vessels, called vasculitis, occurs and is potentially fatal.

Scared yet? No need. However, it's important to talk to your veterinarian about minimizing the health risks of parasites to your pet and your family – and to get your pet on a recommended schedule for routine de-worming and heartworm preventives. All puppies and kittens should be screened for intestinal parasites and re-tested until no parasites are detected. Adult animals should be screened at least annually. Tests for heartworm are recommended annually and can be started when your pet is 7 months of age. Parasite preventives have minimal side effects and are very effective when given on time. The Companion Animal Parasite Council (www.capcvet.org) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) are excellent resources for additional information.

Dr. Rebecca Ruch-Gallie is a veterinarian with the Community Practice service at CSU's James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Community Practice provides general care, wellness services, and treatment of minor injuries and illnesses for pets. Read about vaccinations, health insurance, exercise, spay/neuter and screening tests in our Pet Health series, Cornerstones of Preventive Care.



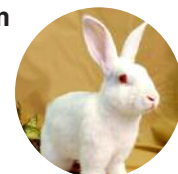
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A Circle Of Ancient Power

By Alan Kesselheim

“Walk left,” the sign says, at the entrance to the roped-off site.

It’s a place that hammers me in the chest. The world spills away, down into the Bighorn Basin, across Wyoming and north into Montana, a huge gallop of space. Brown miles stretch out veined with river courses, serrated with ridges and mountain ranges. Gray clouds bulk up on the horizon.

The Medicine Wheel is made of stones and rests close to 10,000 feet on the exposed northern end of the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming. It is the end of a lingering fall, but it feels like storm. Wind tugs across the bare ridge through tufts of brittle grass. A skiff of snow sticks to the ground, blowing in hard pellets. I fight the urge to return to safety, to get to lower ground, to pavement and the warm car.

I’ve been instructed to walk left. So I do.


I edge around the roped circle, looking in, wondering how to be here. Hundreds of offerings flap in the wind: Knotted scraps of red fabric, intricate bows, medicine bags, beaded necklaces, a pottery bowl, a buffalo skull, a hawk feather, a jaw bone. They are the artifacts of prayers and stories, gratitude and pleas, all gathered to this airy perch so starkly moving yet mysterious.

The wheel is nearly 100 feet across, a ring of stones seamed with 28 spokes, which some think might represent the lunar cycle. Stone markers sit at the four directions, including the points where the sun rises and sets on summer solstice. All laid out in this most remote, most wind-bitten, most grand perch. What it means, no one knows, or is saying, any more than anyone knows what Stonehenge in England means. What the Forest Service says is that circles like this one reflect the 7,000-year-old occupancy of Native Americans on the continent.

The Crow Tribe has a legend of a young man with a burned face who traveled here on a vision quest, and who first laid out this wheel. It has been noted that this site forms one point of an equidistant triangle, the other points being Devils Tower and Hell’s Half Acre, near Casper, Wyoming.

There are a great many stone sites scattered across the Great Plains - sacred hoops, altars, animal designs - some added to over many generations. Few are preserved. Most are unrecognized. Many have been plowed up or paved over or otherwise destroyed — another part of the legacy of oppression. Some are kept secret. The Medicine Wheel has been recognized and made a national historic landmark, for better or worse.

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I walk left all the way around, looking in, then out across the sweep of distance, and close up, into the mountain valleys. The wind hammers my face, and then my back.

I contemplate the offerings, imagine the people and lives they signify. I pull out my bandana and knot it around the rope, thinking about Mother Earth. It flaps in the wind. I imagine it fraying and fading along with the rest of these tattered prayer flags. It is inadequate, I know, not properly considered. It is also an impulse I can't deny.

We make one more lap, lingering, our faces cold, the wind rising. It had been an effort to come here, up the winding miles of 10 percent grade, out the snow-crusted dirt road and slippery track to the ridge. I think of the ancients walking up the long river valleys, climbing

past the last tongues of trees, emerging into the exposed high country.

Why did they come? To sit? To fast? To sing? To pray?

To dance and celebrate?
To be grateful? To find solace?

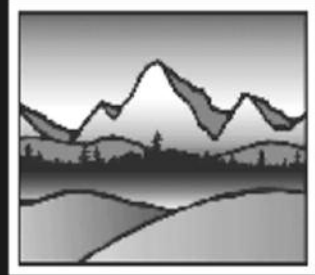
To understand?

It isn't the impulse to be of that culture that I feel, standing here in this raw wind. Nor is it the voyeuristic urge to peek at forbidden sanctuary. All I have is the abrupt command to walk left, and to make what I might of this lonely circle of stone humming with power on the lip of the earth.



Alan Kesselheim is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column service of High Country News (hcn.org). He writes in Montana.

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Charming Mountain Cabin!
1 BD/ 1 BA VIEWS! **\$129,000**



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Lot! 1.08 Acres **\$75,000**



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