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AUGUST 2015 #188



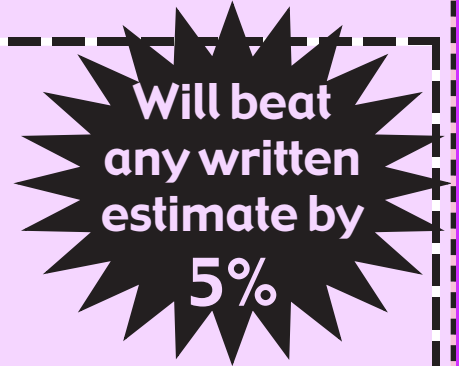
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About the Cover: Highlander Horses Sassy & Rudy

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She Could Be Sassy

She started her life being treated as if she were the family dog, except for sleeping in the barn instead of a house. The family spoiled her, the teenagers taught her the game of tag out in her pasture and her mother lived alongside her except for a brief period of weaning. It wasn't until she was two years old that a reality check came along and she got transported to a mountain home with a new human to care for her.

The cover Highlander Horse, (on left) Sassy, lived with her stable mate Rudy the miniature horse (right side) for more than twenty-five years. They were inseparable, except Sassy could go out without Rudy for trail rides and an occasional trailer trip, but Rudy wasn't allowed out by himself. He got ponyed pretty often, running alongside his mare on a lead rope to enjoy the sights of our mountain trails. They cropped grass together in summertime on their mountain acreage, never losing sight of one another.

Sassy was an Appaloosa without the usual spots. She got a blaze face and four white feet and while mostly the usual even temperament of the breed, she could live up to her name and be headstrong and spirited. It only took her a few months of being ponyed herself to be ready to ride during her first season at her mountain home. Then she took to being a sure-footed trail horse as if naturally born to it.

As with some horses she was always a bit spooky at things that might not cause most horses a second glance, but never ran away with her rider – just a quick jump sideways – similar to a chiropractic neck adjustment. The ongoing joke was her figmentaphobia - scared of that figment of her imagination. She more than made up for that issue with her love to bushwhack off trail: creating many of the single-track trails in her neighborhood. Often referred to as 'poor girl's mountain dressage.'

Camping in the National Forest was a favorite summertime experience and while she would wait for her human to start stirring in early mornings it was also her habit to nicker and whinny for breakfast to be served. There was no guessing about what she wanted, always being more than verbal about her



demands for food or attention. A horse with true spirit and larger than life character she was much loved and will be sorely missed. It is hard to tell who misses her more, her human or the mini – Rudy.

By A.M. Wilks



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Turning A Mustang Into A Willing Partner

By Laura Jean Schneider

What it's like to start a horse who has a fear of ropes and an unhealthy sense of his own strength.

Ranch Diaries is an hcn.org series highlighting the experiences of Laura Jean Schneider, who gives us a peek into daily life during the first year of Triangle P Cattle Company, a new LLC in southcentral New Mexico.

Saddling Toad is a moment I've worked toward since Sam and I picked up this bay BLM mustang early this spring. He's made great progress, but a saddle on his back could bring out whatever anxieties this three-year colt still has.

Toad was adopted out once before – and returned – which made me a little suspicious. The



first time I caught him and asked him to lunge around me, he reared and bolted, running frantically around the corral while the lead rope on his halter “chased” him. Clearly, he'd gotten away from people in the past and developed an unhealthy sense of his own strength. And he definitely had a fear of ropes, something a potential ranch horse must overcome.

I tied my older gelding, Yellowstone, nearby to provide a sense of security as I introduced the saddle. I flipped the blanket on Toad's back and swung the saddle up. Then I intentionally pushed it over the other side and it fell to the ground. He fought the post he was tied to, frightened by the saddle on the

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ground. I retrieved it and repeated the process: if my saddle ever slipped off or underneath him, he needed to stand calmly. When he stood still, I tightened the cinch, trying not to act nervous. Then I turned him and Yellowstone loose in the corral and waited for the rodeo.

I'd worked with Toad diligently for a few weeks after we got him. Then I started to feel defeated, confused about how much I should be asking of him, and frankly, scared. Whenever he was afraid, he'd nearly run me over in his hurry to get to his



safe spot: me. He continued to pull away and run off. He seemed to have two speeds, frozen in place or fear-ridden gallop. I spent hours swinging a rope near him but he still flinched when it touched him. The deal Sam and I made when we adopted Toad was that I'd do the groundwork and Sam would work him under saddle. I've started many colts, but it seemed like there was no way I was going to be able to get this one ready for a rider anytime soon – or at all. I knew I needed some help with this horse if I was going to make headway. I called up my childhood trainer and explained my situation, questioned whether it was worth training a horse with so many undesirable traits. When she asked me how many hours I'd logged with Toad, I was embarrassed. Given the time I'd spent, the mustang had learned – and retained – many new skills. Once I started keeping track of the hours I (Continued on next page.)

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Highlander Horse

spent with Toad, and stopped confusing his genuine fear for stubbornness, we had a series of breakthroughs that stemmed from the conversation from my trainer. The large, rectangular corral I was using to work him gave him too large an area, with four corners ? to stop in whenever he wanted to. I tied Toad to a sturdy post in an area where he could move around in a circle, and I tossed the rope and the saddle blanket on and around him. He learned quickly he couldn't just run off; he had to face his fears instead. Seeing Yellowstone's calm attitude helped convince him he would be all right. And earning that trust led me straight back to the corral, where I watched his reaction to the saddle.

He never bucked, even when I had him and Yellowstone trot and lope around the corral. He stopped and walked up to me when I asked him. I haltered him and lunged him



both directions. He responded better than I could have imagined. I was proud of this little horse, but we have a long way to go. I'm not sure if I have what it takes to make him into a solid ranch horse, or if he'll be willing to accept that job, but I'm going to give us both every opportunity to try. (Pictures: page 6, getting used to cinch & first saddling. page 7-thinking about it and tying a rope halter. this page-working it out.)



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CSU Offers Advanced Clinical Behavioral Health

The behavioral health field needs more practitioners who are equipped to meet the needs of individuals dealing with mental illness and substance abuse, and Colorado State University's new graduate certificate program will offer training to help fill this need.

"CSU's Advanced Behavioral Health Graduate Certificate was developed to address a gap in specialization within the areas of psychopathology, psychopharmacology, and trauma-informed care," said Dorothy Farrel, assistant professor in the School of Social Work. "As our society's needs in behavioral health continue to explode, we need professionals who are able to provide competent services. This certificate will provide the tools, resources, best practices, and knowledge needed to tackle the behavioral health arena," she said.

Learning Outcomes - This certificate will help students:

- Sharpen diagnostic abilities with clinical skills training so they can ultimately create more effective treatment plans
- Understand recent changes to industry diagnosis standards as a result of the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual (DSM) V release
- Utilize practical insights from trauma-informed care training to ensure physical, psychological and emotional safety for clients and providers
- Obtain the necessary knowledge and skills to sit for state clinical exams

In addition, unlike many master's-level programs, CSU's certificate features psychopharmacology courses that train professionals to work with clients who take prescribed medication. The admissions requirement for this program is a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and is ideal for current or aspiring social workers looking to supplement their skill set.

Experienced Faculty - Students have the opportunity to study with CSU faculty who have obtained their clinical social work license and are currently practicing in the field. These expert practitioners share modern theory and research and teach a progressive curriculum designed to adapt to industry trends.

Career Opportunities - This certificate prepares students to step into a variety of roles within clinical practice, as well as pursue a License of Clinical Social Work (LCSW). Career path examples include:

- Clinical therapy • Social work • Counseling • Marriage and family therapy • Occupational therapy • Nursing

In addition, the graduate certificate's coursework in trauma-informed care and psychopharmacology can open doors within two growing areas of the mental health field. "The new certificate will provide invaluable tools and resources that build a competitive edge and an understanding of current best practices within the field," Farrel said.

Registration Open Now - The new graduate certificate in Advanced Clinical Behavioral Health is currently accepting students for the Fall 2015 semester. Those interested in the program should contact the CSU OnlinePlus Student Success Team with any questions, 970-492-4898. More information about the certificate can be found at www.online.colostate.edu/certificates/advanced-clinical-behavioral-health.

About Colorado State University OnlinePlus

Colorado State University OnlinePlus has more than 45 years of experience delivering online and distance education. We support the University's land-grant mission of expanding access to education by connecting students who cannot, or choose not to, come to campus with Colorado State's renowned faculty, research, and academic curricula.

CSU OnlinePlus is a division of the Office of Engagement, which strengthens CSU's ability to achieve excellence in the areas of teaching and learning, retention and graduation, admissions and access, and engagement and service and assists communities through engagement, scientific discovery, and regional research.

For more information about Colorado State University OnlinePlus, visit www.online.colostate.edu or call (970) 491-5288.

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Horsemanship Clinics & RMNP Anniversary

Dear Readers,

Expert horsemanship clinician Buck Brannaman is conducting clinics in Colorado during August. Locally, two clinics are offered in **Longmont, August 15-18**, Foundation Horsemanship and Horsemanship 1. Spectator seating is open, at \$30 a day, while the limited rider enrollment is full for both sessions. Buck makes sure the spectators are involved, often fielding questions from the audience. He is offering Horsemanship 1 & 2 in **Kiowa from August 7 – 10**. He'll be in **Steamboat Springs from August 21-24** presenting Foundation Horsemanship and Horsemanship 1. He'll offer Horsemanship 2, requiring

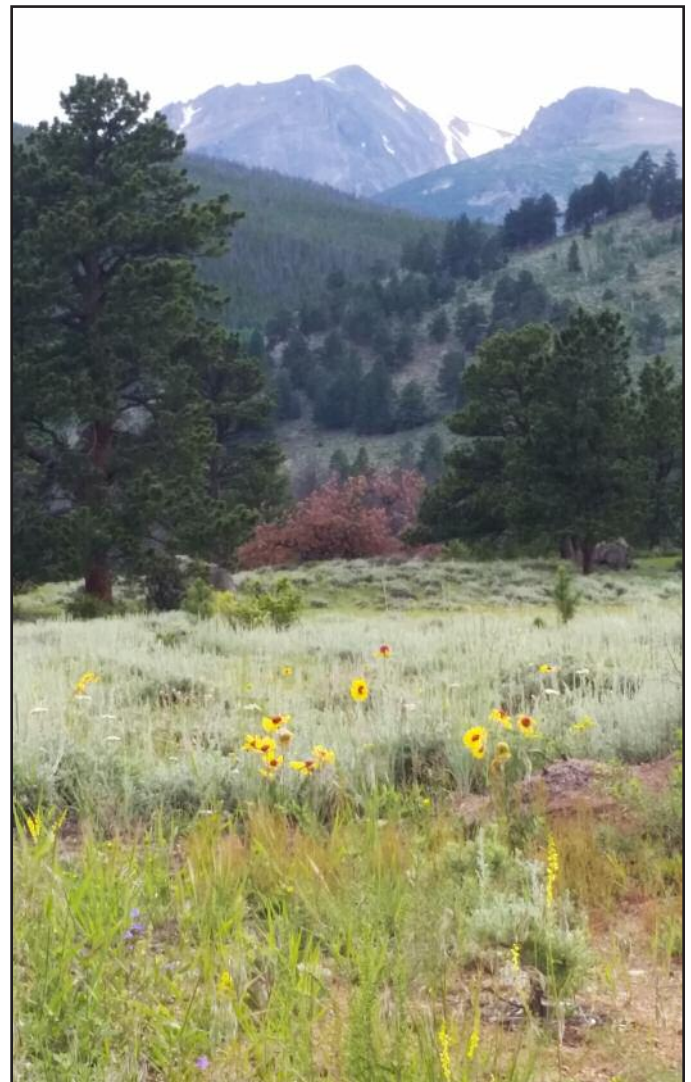


prior roping experience with him, in **Eagle from August 28-30**. Check his website **brannaman.com** for the clinic sponsors' contact information, in addition to full course descriptions. These experiences are not to be missed! Whether you have a horse or not. Happy trails, Diane Bergstrom

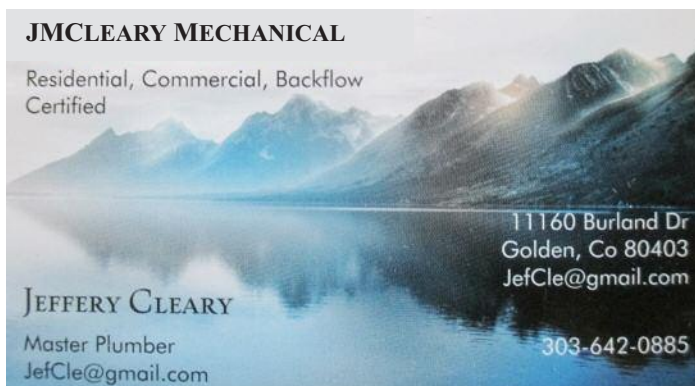
Dear Readers,

Rocky Mountain National Park's centennial summer schedule continues with many opportunities offered inside and outside the park for everyone. They

have jam-packed the final month before the official anniversary date in September. For a **complete schedule**, check **www.nps.gov/romo**, go to the centennial blue bighorn sheep icon and click on the Schedule of Events. Please check out the entire list at the website and go enjoy one of the top 10 National Parks, right here in the front range's backyard! Diane Bergstrom



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Buffalo Field Campaign ~ www.buffalofieldcampaign.org

The summer months are keeping us busy at BFC. Our tabling crew continues to do a stellar job representing the buffalo, running our information table inside Yellowstone National Park and spreading the word about these sacred herds. School groups have been coming through camp to learn about the buffalo, and we just had an amazing visit with students from the Wild Rockies Field Institute, who were deeply inspired by the time they spent in the field with our co-founder Mike Mease. We had an awesome visit with some of our friends from the Nez Perce (Nimiipuu) Tribe as they traveled back from ceremony in North Dakota. We are also busy bringing in wood for our coming field season, and would love your help during Wood Cut Week! Our annual newsletter is now hot off the press and will arrive to your mailboxes next week. We're also going to be participating in the Helena Brewers' Featured Nonprofit Program, where Mike will be throwing the first pitch on July 26, and then during August 7-9 we'll be standing in solidarity with wolves at the second annual Speak for Wolves event, where Mike will give a presentation and Goodshield Aguilar will play music.



On a much more somber note, nineteen of the quarantined Yellowstone buffalo that were transported from the Corwin Springs quarantine prison to the Fort Belknap reservation were found dead last week. This is nearly half of the herd that went to Ft. Belknap barely two years ago. The cause of death is currently unknown. Anthrax was suspected but has so far been ruled out. Fort Belknap is home to the Gros Ventre (Aaniiih) and Assiniboine (Nakoda) tribes, located in north-central Montana, land that was once teeming with buffalo. Buffalo wallows and traces (trails) can still be found on this breathtakingly beautiful open prairie country, and you can feel their ghosts everywhere. The deaths of these buffalo has been a huge blow to the indigenous community. It breaks our hearts to think of all that they suffered, having been captured as wild calves from Yellowstone, torn from their families who were shipped to slaughter, forced to live in a domestication prison where they were abused by scientists, and then shipped like livestock to their human relatives that have so anxiously awaited their return to their shared landscape.

Those that died, and those still living have been forced by U.S. and Montana government regulation to live under quarantine conditions, fenced in on a 1,000 acre pasture. And they are now dying in that enclosure. A reservation within a reservation. The deaths of these buffalo is another glaring example of the profoundly negative consequences of quarantine. We stand in solidarity with the Aaniiih and Nakoda people and all First Nations buffalo cultures. We work towards a day when the fences come down, and buffalo can migrate freely on their own hooves from Yellowstone to the prairies, restoring themselves upon the land and spreading in every direction along the way. That day is going to come. **WILD IS THE WAY!**

Endless Pressure, Endlessly Applied: Repeal MCA 81-2-120 One of the many tools we can and should use to affect change — but certainly not the only one — is pressuring decision-makers to do the right thing, or in this case, undo the wrong thing. Montana Governor Steve Bullock needs to feel the pressure from everyone who cares about wild, migratory buffalo, enough pressure that he has no other choice than to help repeal the law that is driving the nefarious actions against America's last wild buffalo. MCA 81-2-120 is the law that needs to go.

It was crafted by cattle interests for cattle interests, and places the Montana Department of Livestock in charge of the lives of wild, migratory bison when they leave the man-made boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. This industry-driven law set the stage for hazing, capture, slaughter, quarantine, etc., and for draconian plans like the Interagency Bison Management Plan. MCA 81-2-120 must be repealed if bison are to restore themselves on their native landscape.

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A Hunting

By Antoinette Rose

Hunting season had just begun and the Peaceful Valley Boys Club members were gearing up. The boys had been on hunting trips together for fifteen years. Each year was exciting, fun filled and usually produced an elk or two for them to divvy and devour. This year didn't look any different. They packed themselves into the same two pick-up trucks and headed for the same spot in Hot Sulphur Springs. The motley crew motored and poked fun back and forth along the bumpy back roads, ignoring the familiar picturesque vistas. They whizzed through Poncha Pass, never once acknowledging the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountain range with its steep snowy peaks and lush green valleys sprinkled with wildlife scampering about in the tall grass on the plains.

When they finally arrived they parked always, as close to the campsite as possible. The boys had decided during the ride to settle down early for the night in preparation for a daybreak start in the morning. So, after a few beers and laughs the fire died to an ember and all was quiet.

Rowley crawled into a borrowed sleeping bag and scooted himself to the bottom. Soon the soft goose down had warmed his body and he relaxed. "What a relief," he thought, "I'm finally getting to hunt." He had known most of the boys for a long time. They liked Rowley and had invited him before to join up; he hadn't. But, when one of the boys couldn't go hunting this time, Rowley asked if he could fill the vacancy. The whole gang agreed that it was O.K. for Rowley to tag along. He thanked them and got ready in a hurry. It didn't matter that he was almost broke. He had enough money to buy some shells and a little food.

This was a chance he couldn't miss.

The next morning one of the guys started coffee, which was the signal that began the trips. Everybody was gung-ho and before long camp was empty except for Rowley, who without a horse was forced to hunt on foot close by and solo. Rowley was holding his rifle and wishing for a six point elk to happen by. He had been sitting under a skinny spruce for what seemed like hours but he was good at waiting. As he sat Sacket's advice was ringing in his ears, "Stay in this area, south of the Dry Creek and west of Rabbit Ear Mountain." Rowley had met Sacket two hours ago when he heard shots nearby and followed the sound. Rowley walked up on Sacket just after he felled a five pointer and was beginning to gut his prize. The two hunters introduced themselves cordially. Rowley explained that this was his first hunting trip ever and that he was with a party of guys from Peaceful Valley. After a short visit the two men went their separate ways.

When Rowley was a foot soldier, he was taught how to survive in the woods without getting lost; a skill he still remembered. As he sat relaxed and wondering how the boys were doing, he heard a twig snap. His flesh goose bumped. He turned slowly towards the snap and good god, bigger than life itself, there stood an elk. He leveled the gun towards its chest and fired. He needed the meat. The huge animal lunged deeper into the woods. Rowley jumped to his feet and chased after his first elk. He could hear branches breaking like thunder ahead of him. Keeping a safe distance but close enough not to lose track seemed like the right thing to do. He wasn't sure. Tracking an injured animal was not what he knew. He wished the boys were with him this minute; he could have used their help. He ran and ran.

The hooves had stopped breaking branches and twigs, so he had to follow the blood drops. As he ran he reviewed the instructions in his mind. Slit him open take out the windpipe first. Gut it. Be sure to preserve the liver and heart. Don't forget the testicles. Rowley's heart was pounding so hard he thought that it would break. He pushed on, his long strides keeping time with the rhythmic clang of the knives hitting together in the knapsack that was slung over his shoulder. Soon he saw the back of his kill waiting. This hunter's chest was heaving up and down, he was out of breath but he had never stood taller than right now, as he stood looking down at this magnificent (Continued on page 14.)

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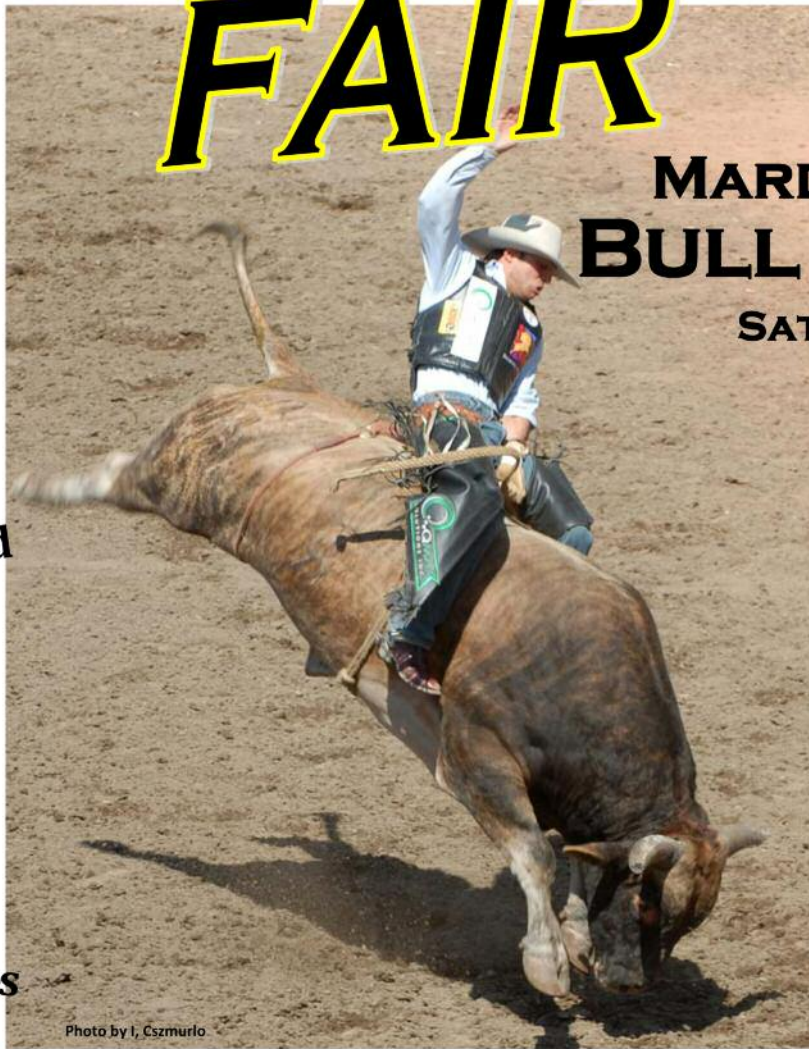


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Highlander Fiction

beast. He let his knapsack drop to the ground and he walked around the animal a couple of times. Then it all hit him. Yahoo! He first jumped up high and then he slapped the elk's rump with his cap; finally, he knelt down beside the carcass and put his hand on its warm body. He rested there a moment. After placing the organs in his knapsack he headed back to camp. It was almost dark.

Noise and laughter could be heard coming from around the fire when Rowley slowly walked into camp. Everybody stopped for a second and started up again talking at once.

Oliver yelled, "Where've you been? We were getting worried!"

"Hunting." Rowley replied and squatted near the blazing pit. He didn't want to show these boys how happy he was for fear they would find something else funny to laugh about. Using him, again, as the butt of their jokes.

"Whacha got'n yer sack?" Somebody asked.

"Liver."

"Didcha' get something?"

"Yep."

"You did? What was it?" Somebody laughed.

"Elk, I think."

"You think." Smirked, yet another voice at the fire.

"Never saw one before, except in a picture."

With a smile, Oliver passed Rowley a cold beer and a roast beef sandwich and said, "Good for you. Where did you get him?"

"Right around here, not too far."

"Around here? Naw. No way!" A voice butts in.

"Did you boys have any luck?" Rowley asked timidly.

"None, not even a chance."

"Maybe you should have stayed around here."

"Are you going to show us your liver?" One teased.

Rowley picked up the blood stained sack and brought it into the light given by the fire. He couldn't stop the grin from growing across his face when he displayed his liver. "Here it is, big, huh?" Rowley said.

"He got something, alright." "Hey Rowley, how many points?"

"No points, but he was big." The whole gang laughed.

"Well, whatever it is, it beats us all to hell," said an honest face. "Can you find it in the morning, Mr. Rowley,

sir?" a buddy teased.

"Oh yeah, I know exactly where it is."

"Give him another beer." The hunters' fruitless hunt had been tiring and one by one they bedded down.

In the middle of the night the coyote choral harmonized an eerie a cappella tune, to the moon's delight. At daybreak, before the sky turned pink, three shots rang out. Oliver jarred awake, sat up in his sleeping bag. Rowley was startled and sat up too, he rubbed his face. "What was that?" he asked through his fingers.

"S.O.S." "Damn, you're right."

The two hunters jumped into action. They quickly saddled two horses and rode toward the shot sounds. There were more gunshots, the second S.O.S. Rowley and Oliver came upon two men and a quartered elk, partially in game bags. One man was on the ground; the other was leaning over him. Rowley and Oliver ran to the man on the ground. Oliver shouted, "This man has had a heart attack, we've got to get him to the hospital, right away!" Rowley immediately recognized the fallen man as Sacket and he did everything he could to make him comfortable while Oliver rode back to camp for a truck. The horse was rested and strong, the ride back to camp was quick. As he swung off the horse, he told the boys, who were standing around a fire drinking coffee, what had happened and where the horses and Sacket's elk could be found.

While the awe-struck men waited for Oliver to return they couldn't help becoming acquainted with Farr, who was Sacket's friend. Farr explained to Rowley that, "Sacket had shot the elk alone but he needed help to pack it out and get home. So, he'd left it in the forest last night and the two of them came back this morning. Sacket was straining trying to put the back end of the elk on his pack mule when it happened." Farr had moved him away from the mule when he signaled for help.

Oliver returned in a pick-up. They placed Sacket in the bed of the truck with Rowley holding him close like a baby in his arms. Rowley talked to the older man, hoping to keep him conscious. Rowley told Sacket how he had also shot an elk and chased it and that he planned to hunt in this area again and again and maybe even share the location with his friends. Sacket's eyes were closed, his jaw relaxed, his



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mouth hung open. Farr directed Oliver to the nearest hospital where Sacket was pronounced dead on arrival. Dammit.

Oliver and Rowley were shaken but they were anxious to be back in camp. The boys were drinking beer when the dutiful duo returned from their mission. Then they all sat around a while longer drinking beer before rounding up Rowley's elk. They had already gotten Sacket's horse and mules into a makeshift holding corral. And they had re-bagged his kill.

"O.K. Rowley, let's get your meat."

"I'm ready."

"You lead then, it's your kill."

"It's this way."

"You sure?"

"Yeah."

"It can't be that way."

"Well then, what do you think?"

"This way looks better."

"O.K. but, I've never seen any of this."

"Well, you didn't get no elk over there, everybody knows that!"

"But..."

"Don't forget this is your first time."

"O.K. we can do it your way." Thirty minutes passed

with still no sign of an elk and Rowley didn't recognize anything. "Dammit Rowley, where'd you say it was?"

"I'm pretty sure it's THIS way," he picked up the pace, and gazed up toward the sky, checking for the treetops and mountain peaks he had used for landmarks. Rowley cheered and the boys followed. "I've seen this part before. This is the right way." Rowley said. "Umgh." Grunted one of the hunters trying to keep-up. They walked in silence, until Rowley cried out, "It's over there!" The walk became a trot.

"Whew, it is an elk." "How did HE get one?"

"Beginner's luck." "Look at the size of that joker." "He did have six points, just shed them." "Nice kill, Rowley."

Rowley beamed with pleasure, his heart was swollen with pride. It was the first time he felt like he was one of the boys, instead of a tolerated tag-along. In no time at all the huge elk was butchered and bagged. The hunters headed back, ready to break camp and go home.

When they arrived at camp a strange truck was waiting. It was Farr. He told Rowley that Mrs. Sacket did not want her husband's last elk and she would be pleased if he would take it and eat it. Two elk were plenty of meat for six people to split and they did so quite happily. On the ride home they noticed the scenic wilderness, but no one mentioned it.



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Before Co-Signing

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

Your friend or family member wants to take out a loan — but they don't qualify. They could, however, if someone co-signs, so they ask you. Before you jump in to help, understand how the decision potentially impacts your credit. Consider the following carefully.

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There are potential risks when co-signing a loan. You are 100% responsible for the debt. When you co-sign, you

agree to pay the loan back in full — plus any late fees or collection costs — if the primary borrower defaults or misses just one payment. If you can't pay, the lender could sue you or garnish your wages. It can lower your credit score. The primary borrower's late or missed payments can prevent you from qualifying for personal loans or other lines of credit in the future.

Before Co-signing:

Factors to Consider Think about the following before agreeing to co-sign a loan. Is the borrower able to make payments on time? If the primary borrower doesn't have a steady source of income, making on-time payments may become an issue. How can you protect your credit? Ask the borrower to make any missed payments within 30 days to ensure your credit score (theirs, too) doesn't take a hit.

Your Investment Is Key

If you're comfortable co-signing a loan, treat the debt like it's your own. Set a timeline. Agree on a specific date to get your name off the account. To do this, the primary borrower must refinance the loan or close the credit card. Monitor the account. Review online statements to make sure the primary borrower is regularly making payments.

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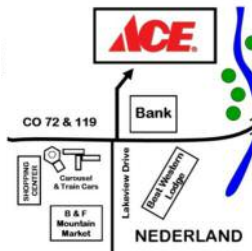
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Lake Mead Watch

From Sarah Tory

When the Hoover Dam was built in 1936, it was the largest concrete structure – and the largest hydropower plant — in the world, a massive plug in the Colorado River, as high as a 60-story building. For nearly 80 years, the dam has been producing dependable, cheap electricity for millions of people in the Southwest, but as water levels in Lake Mead continue to drop, the future of “the greatest dam in the world” is more precarious than it ever has been, and utilities across the desert are taking notice.

Last month, Lake Mead, the 112-mile reservoir created by the dam, is projected to hit 1,074.73 feet above sea level, the lowest it has been since it was filled in 1937. Thanks to a 16-year drought and serious over-allocation, Lake Mead is now just 37 percent full. Although a “miracle May” of rain means the water level will rise again, the longer term prognosis is more worrisome: If water levels

continue their downward trend, the amount of energy generated by the Hoover Dam will fall, leading to higher electricity costs for 29 million people in the desert Southwest. That’s because a shallower reservoir means less water pressure against the turbines, generating less electricity. A recent report by graduate students at the University of California, Santa Barbara in conjunction with the Western Water Policy Program, examines the economic and physical impacts as Lake Mead’s elevation falls: With each 25-foot drop, total energy costs increase by roughly 100 percent, compared to a full reservoir. The costs paid by contractors for hydropower double at 1,075 feet, triple at 1,050 feet, quadruple at 1,025 feet. At 895 feet, the turbines won’t run, a level they call “dead-pool.”

Dead pool is still a ways off and in the short term, less generation at Hoover won’t translate into soaring electrical bills, says Frank Wolak, an economics professor at Stanford. That’s because utilities buy “futures” contracts for energy, which guarantee a certain price for a period of time. It’s like buying a plane ticket in advance: The price is significantly less than one bought on the same day as a flight. In the case of Hoover, many of those contracts span up to 10 years and were negotiated before low water levels became a significant concern.

Still, Hoover’s power capacity has dropped nearly 25 percent since 2000, and the 53 hydropower facilities run by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation across the West are producing 10 percent less power than a few years ago, despite rising demand. So when those futures contracts run out and continued low water levels appear likely, bottom-barrel prices for hydropower will likely be a thing of the past.

That means that utilities currently relying on Hoover’s power, such as the Overton Power District No. 5, which serves 15,000 people in Nevada on the southern end of Lake Mead, are wary. Overton buys 20 percent of its power from the Hoover Dam, 5 percent from other hydro projects, and 75 percent on the spot market (where energy is traded on day-by-day basis). The utility anticipates having to replace 5 percent of its hydropower with another, more expensive, energy source, says Mendis Cooper, Overton’s general manager. That switch won’t translate into sky-high energy bills, likely just a 1 to 2 percent increase. But if Lake Mead continues to fall and shortages become routine,

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his customers could see more dramatic increases in their electricity bills.

“We’ve been having those discussions,” Cooper says, noting that the major topic is moving to more renewables, like solar, as well as improving efficiency.

Luckily, the West has ambitious renewable goals, says Wolak, which will likely make up more of the region’s energy mix and help mitigate the loss of hydropower in the future. Still, renewables aren’t a panacea. Wind and solar are far more volatile and require back-up power sources, such as gas-fired power plants. And though the prices for renewables have come down in recent years, they’re still no match for cheap, federally subsidized hydropower. “They solve the resource issue,” Cooper says, “but not the price issue.”



(Photo: Drought in the southwest is challenging operations at the Hoover Dam, the nation’s largest hydropower plant. Airwolfhound/Flickr)

Sarah Tory is an editorial fellow at HCN.

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Water Rights - Colorado Farmers

From Joshua Zaffos - HCN

**Can leasing irrigation water keep Colorado farms alive?
Farmers try to stop “buy and dry” by pooling
water rights to supply growing cities.**

John Schweizer has spent most of his life raising corn, alfalfa and other crops and about 200 cattle in Otero County, along southeastern Colorado’s Lower Arkansas River. It’s never been easy, but the last 15 years have been particularly tough on the nearly 81-year-old Schweizer and his neighbors. Their corner of the state is drier now than it was during the Dust Bowl. Meanwhile, growing Front Range cities are buying out farms and shifting their irrigation water to residential use — a process called “buy and dry.”

Cities have siphoned more than 100,000 acre-feet of ag water — enough for about 200,000 Colorado homes — from the Arkansas River Basin alone since the 1970s. In neighboring Crowley County, farming has vanished, school-class sizes are half what they were 50 years ago, and tumbleweeds from dried-up fields pile up along fences and block roads. “That’s what they’re stuck with, because there’s no more water,” Schweizer says. “It’s gone forever.” Schweizer is president of the 35-mile-long Catlin Canal, which irrigates about 18,000 acres of farms. He’s hoping that the trial run of something called the Arkansas Valley

Super Ditch will save the basin’s remaining communities and farms. The initiative is not actually a big ditch, but rather a scheme that allows six of the valley’s irrigation canals to pool their water rights and temporarily lease them to cities. Starting in March, five Catlin irrigators “leased” a total of 500 acre-feet of water, which would normally supply their fields, to nearby Fowler and the cities of Fountain and Security, 80 miles away. Under the agreement, communities can use the farm water to supply homes and recharge wells for up to three years out of every decade. During those years, the irrigators will have to fallow, or rest, some fields, yet will still be able to earn money from the water itself and farm the rest of their land. Supporters believe the Super Ditch could eventually enable farms and cities to share up to 10,000 acre-feet of water. “We look at leasing water just like raising a crop,” says Schweizer, who is avoiding any potential conflict of interest by keeping his own farm out of the pilot. “It is a source of income, and anybody who’s doing that can have the water next year if they want to farm with it. And they are still in the valley, so the community stays viable.” Statewide, cities have acquired at least 191,000 acre-feet of agricultural water, eliminating farming and ranching on millions of acres. Water managers estimate Colorado could lose up to 700,000 more acres by (Continued on page 24.)




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Highlander Issues

2050. Like Schweizer, officials consider water leasing, also called lease-fallowing or rotational fallowing, a promising way to slow that loss while satisfying urban thirst, particularly since alternatives like new dams and other big water-development projects face regulatory hurdles and environmentalist opposition. Colorado's draft water plan suggests the state could meet up to 50,000 acre-feet of its future water needs — and avoid more buy-and-dry — through such water-sharing deals.

But it wasn't easy to get anyone to commit to even a trial run of the Super Ditch. Farmers worry that leasing is just the first step toward selling out, and cities are leery of year-by-year arrangements. With the pilot finally in motion, supporters hope it will build enough trust to attract more participants and inspire similar efforts elsewhere. Farmers and cities are watching, says Schweizer, "without a doubt."

Other Western states already tap into lease-fallowing. California has had a major long-term program since 2004, designed to meet urban needs without drying up farms in the Palo Verde and Imperial valleys, while Arizona began its own pilot project in 2014. The combination of drought and urban growth in the early 2000s spurred on Colorado's discussions. In 2004 and 2005, the city of Aurora, facing severe shortages, was able to lease water from farmers along the High Line Canal, another Arkansas Valley ditch. In 2007, the Legislature created a \$4 million grant program to study and support leasing and other ways to avoid buy-and-dry, leading to the establishment of the Super

Ditch Company in 2008.

Previous Super Ditch pilot projects, however, failed to launch. Cities, rural power providers and some farmers and ranchers formally complained in Colorado water court that the project could "injure," or deplete, their own water rights and supplies, or take more water than allowed. Irrigators have also gotten "cold feet," says Jay Winner, general manager of the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, which backs the project. In several years, project farmers feared they wouldn't have enough water to both lease and raise crops, due to drought.

Agricultural water users also worry that temporary transfers will diminish their legal water rights. Under state law, an irrigator who wants to lease water typically has to legally repurpose his water rights in water court to enable municipal or industrial use. Theoretically, a water court could then re-measure and reduce those rights — although that isn't the intent.

Some farmers believe that the deals threaten agriculture, rather than protect it, says MaryLou Smith, policy specialist at Colorado State University's Colorado Water Institute. But Smith says that if they don't become more common, "agricultural water will be bought up and converted to urban use. (Farmers) are going to get run over."

Cities have also balked at leasing, saying it's easier and cheaper to just acquire farmers' water rights and build a "firm" supply than to invest in water that may or may not be available, depending on snowpack and farmers' needs. Some urban water providers argue that having access to water only in relatively wet years, when farmers are more willing to share, isn't that useful, because urban supplies



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State lawmakers have eased some worries with a number of new laws, though. One 2013 bill, backed by Lower Arkansas water managers and others, clarified the rules for long-term water leases, helping to keep irrigators out of water court. Another allowed the Colorado Water Conservation Board to authorize up to 10 pilot projects, giving the state an oversight role. The measures helped finally launch the Super Ditch this spring.

But other projects are still running into opposition — including from some Super Ditch supporters. In northern Colorado, the Colorado Corn Growers Association, Aurora Water and Ducks Unlimited tried to develop a “flex market,” where farmers could have their water rights amended to allow them to be used for other purposes. Then they could auction them off in years when they weren’t planning to use them, and cities, industry or conservation groups could bid for the flows. But the Lower Arkansas Conservancy and others helped defeat a bill that would have authorized the market this spring. Winner says the setup looked like an illegal “speculation” scheme that could allow water to be auctioned off for non-agricultural uses every year — thus actually accelerating buy-and-dry and water diversions from one river system to another.

Andy Jones, a Johnstown, Colorado, water attorney who was involved with the legislation, responds that the flex market is a “narrow, intentional exception” to the state’s anti-speculation rule. But the opposition hasn’t surprised him, considering the water plundering that’s occurred in the Lower Arkansas. “I think the novelty is a concern to them,” Jones says, “but I don’t think it’s justified in the sense that we’re really all on the same page, trying to create incentives for water to stay in agriculture.”

Other approaches to water sharing for agriculture — and the environment — are having more luck. This spring, the

nonprofit Colorado Water Trust and state Water Conservation Board established the state’s first permanent split-season water right, another legal water-sharing option. It allows water from a ranch, recently purchased by the Western Rivers Conservancy to prevent subdivision, to be used for irrigation during the early summer. After that, it will be returned to a once-dry stretch of the Little Cimarron River the rest of the year to benefit fish and improve water quality. “This project shows the environment can have a place, and it’s not a zero-sum game where you take water from one use and it never goes back again,” says Colorado Water Trust attorney Zach Smith.

And following the flex-market setback, a new working group in northern Colorado is discussing a sort of land-and-water bank, where farmers ready to call it quits could sell their resources. The “bank” would then broker conservation easements and land sales, allowing only a limited portion of water to be sold to cities. The rest would go back to farms. “It has gotten people excited,” MaryLou Smith says.

The long-awaited Super Ditch pilot project and other efforts are hopeful signs. But as demand grows and water supplies dwindle, preserving farms in Colorado and much of the West will require more than gradual, piecemeal progress. The clock is ticking: This spring, just as Catlin Canal irrigators finally began sending off Super Ditch flows, a developer announced plans to buy 14,600 farmland acres and connected water rights from the nearby Fort Lyon Canal for \$53 million, the latest massive selloff to rock southeastern Colorado.

“Once it’s sold, it will never, ever come back,” says Schweizer. “We’ve had plenty of opportunities to throw our hands up and say, ‘To hell with it,’ but if I’d have done that, I wouldn’t have been farming for the last 50 years either. If what you think you’re doing is the right thing to do, then you work for it.”

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Finding My Way Back To Me

By Grant Wideman

I lived on Padre Island, Texas, during my formative years. I knew the names of all the plants, animals — vertebrates and non — the weather and best fishing and surfing spots. I surfed, ate and lived from the sea.

I served as an Air Force Munitions Specialist Staff Sergeant, with two deployments in service of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and one year in Korea. Afterward, I spent nearly five years stateside under the influence of multiple, doctor-prescribed medications. One after another, I received each and every anti-depressant, anxiety and sleeping aid they offered. By 2012, my personal life had fallen apart, leaving me alone to deal with my moral injury.

This was a term I only learned about last year. My diagnosis of PTSD didn't fit the textbook explanation. My job did not involve boots on the ground, and I never had to shoot or be shot at. All I did was build bombs. None of us

knew what happened when the planes came back empty. None of us even thought about it at the time.

So like many veterans, I finally had to save myself, moving alone to Colorado and finding immediate solace in the mountains. It was quiet there, and so much bigger than my problems. I found myself after so long feeling alive and in the moment; I cried every day and every night while on an eight-day solo camping trip. Responding to a call to from a long-distant home I'd forgotten about, I walked through the woods I'd never seen and wandered like I did as a child, peering up at the stars. I was home alone and fine with it. It was the medication that I wanted and needed.

My experience led me to work closely with organizations dealing with conservation and threats to our lands. For most of us, the war, the fight and the need to serve never leave us. It wasn't long after finding like-minded veterans here in Colorado that I once again found my purpose, my fight and a new sense of mission.

If someone had told me that I would return from my service to face a fight to protect the public land I have relied on for my personal and emotional health, I would have laughed. It is almost comical. Some members of Congress — some of them even veterans themselves — are proposing legislation to sell off America's forests and recreation lands, block the president's ability to designate new monuments, and gut the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the hugely successful program that has preserved the Flight 93 National Memorial, Civil War battlefields, national parks and forests, and local parks and trails in every county and in every state in the nation.

I'm not laughing anymore. In fact, I recently traveled with a delegation of veterans to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress to let them

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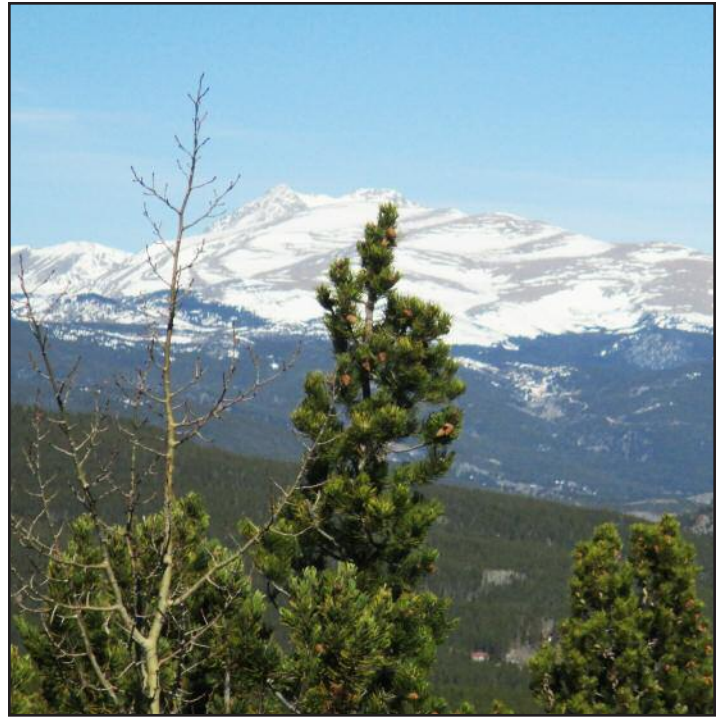
know that I see this as a serious, and offensive, assault on the very land I swore to protect.

During my visit, I emphasized the deep relationship between veterans and America's landscapes - tens of thousands of American veterans visit public lands every year. These are the lands on which service members are able to hunt, fish, camp and most importantly, heal as they transition from active duty. Service members have a unique understanding of the importance of protected public lands as a place for men and women to recreate after returning from strenuous military missions, to recover and reconnect with family and friends. I left Washington, D.C., with a positive feeling; my first experience talking with elected officials was a good one.

America's national forests, wildlife refuges, parks and public lands are part of our national identity. That's why our public lands should be protected and open to everyone to experience and enjoy, not sold off to special interests.

Now, our powerful American idea of preserving our open spaces for current and future generations — defended by generations of bipartisan leaders and American soldiers — is under attack. Powerful special interests are encouraging our congressional leaders to sacrifice our most treasured parks, wilderness and wildlife areas and national monuments for short-term economic gain. Public lands are one of our nation's proudest and most sacred traditions, and a gift that we give to our children and grandchildren. As veterans, the protection of these special places is a promise that we cannot let this Congress walk away from.

Grant Wideman is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column service of High Country News (hcn.org). He lives in Nederland, Colorado, where he is an avid outdoorsman and naturalist. Highlander file photo of Panorama Point.



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Survival = Anger x Imagination

From Annie Dawid - HCN

A review of *Crazy Horse's Girlfriend* by Erika T. Wurth.

Crazy Horse's Girlfriend

Erika T. Wurth

285 pages,

Softcover: \$15.95.

Curbside Splendor, 2014.

“Unless you’re into meth or having sex with people you’re related to, you’ll find shit’s pretty boring here” in Idaho Springs, 16-year-old Margaritte matter-of-factly tells a newcomer, as she introduces the boy to the downtrodden Rocky Mountain town just west of Denver. Margaritte is the protagonist of *Crazy Horse's Girlfriend*, the debut novel by Colorado native Erika Wurth, a poet who teaches creative writing at Western Illinois University.

Funny, tough, realistic and heartbreakingly foolish, Margaritte is a high school drug dealer on the fast track to teenaged motherhood and welfare; her dad, a white man, is drunk and abusive, while her Indian mother ceaselessly forgives and enables him.

Like the author, Margaritte is Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee; her best friend is her adopted cousin, Jake. “He’s Nez Perce, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, and black. And big. ...” Margaritte talks tough and acts superior to the other impoverished residents of her town. “I knew where that kind of thinking led. To a doublewide trailer and miles and miles of cheap macaroni and cheese, ten for a dollar.” However, her knowledge fails to inform her behavior;

again and again, she makes the wrong choices.

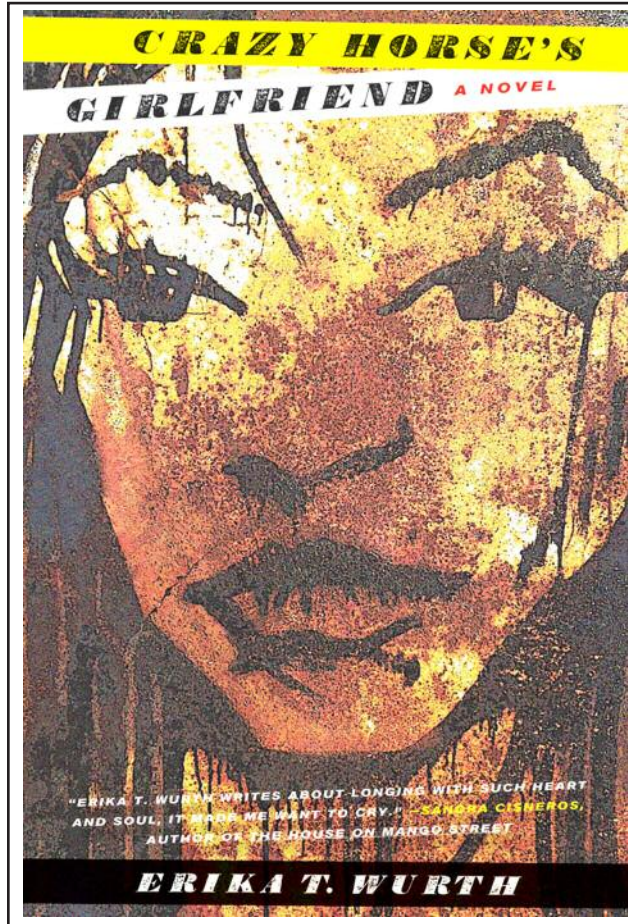
For nearly 300 pages, Margaritte speeds toward impending doom, pausing along the way for multiple pit

stops at the emergency room, a detour to an abortion clinic, various alcohol- and drug-fueled forays, and a flight with her mother and younger twin sisters to a hotel, followed by their drunk, gun-toting father.

Yet, Margaritte’s kindness and compassion prevail. Even after her alcoholic father literally drives the family into a ditch during a thunderstorm, she thinks, “Sometimes my sadness for him overwhelmed my resentment, and that was even worse.” She and the new boy fall in love. His family, wealthy and white, buys him expensive outdoor gear, but he’s never slept outside. Margaritte takes him camping on Mount Evans. Sitting beside the

campfire, she finds bliss. “I felt so content, so beautiful parts of me felt like they were dying off, exploding.”

As Margaritte careens into and out of disaster, her strong fingers grip the reader’s heart from the very first sentence, never letting go. She skids close to the edge of unredeemable stereotype, then screeches decisively to a halt, exploding into brilliant humanity. Exhilarated and terrified, readers of *Crazy Horse's Girlfriend* will be grateful for the ride.



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Part 10 - Overpopulation

By Frosty Wooldridge

We must alert and organize the world's people to pressure world leaders to take specific steps to solve the two root causes of our environmental crises - exploding population growth and wasteful consumption of irreplaceable resources. Over-consumption and overpopulation underlie every environmental problem we face today. Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Oceanographer

Who among us saw as much of the world and our surrounding oceans as the famed Jacques-Yves Cousteau? Look at any video of our oceans both on the surface and in the depths, and you will find yourself mesmerized by Cousteau's epic camera work. He loved the oceans. He helped invent the scuba tank that allowed humans to dive beneath the waves.

Why would he make such a profound statement as you read above if he didn't understand our predicament as to human overpopulation? An even better question: why haven't the leaders of the world responded? How about the religions of the world? How about ordinary citizens of the world already suffering by several billion via the onslaught of overpopulation? Answer: mass denial, illiteracy, stupidity, religious insanity and greed. In 2013, 10 million children faced starvation. Another eight million adults face starvation or related problems leading to death. Total: 18 million people. That occurs every year, year after year, decade after decade. Yet, via mass denial, humans add a total over 137 million new babies to the planet every year. The first 57 million replace those humans that died and the next 80 million humans add, net gain, to the world population now at over 7.1 billion.

With all the intelligence and understanding we possess, not one world leader addresses the starvation rates or the magnitude of the population explosion.

(Africans must trudge three to four miles to pick up water in many areas. They starve to death by the tens of

thousands, yet they continue on course from their current nearly 1 billion people to reach 3.1 billion by the end of this century.) Photography by www.Google.com

Let's discuss water: every 21 seconds, a child dies from water related diseases. More than 3.4 million people die each year from water, sanitation, and hygiene-related causes. Nearly all deaths, 99 percent, occur in the developing world. Lack of access to clean water and sanitation kills children at a rate equivalent of a jumbo jet crashing every four hours. Of the 60 million people added to the world's towns and



cities every year, most move to informal settlements (i.e. slums) with no sanitation facilities. Over 780 million people lack access to an improved water source; approximately one in nine people.

An American taking a five-minute shower uses more water than the average person in a developing country slum uses for an entire day. Over 2.5X more people lack water than live in the United States. *(Continued next page.)*



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(Source: www.water.org) Over 1,000 children in India die every day from diarrhea, dysentery and other water-borne disease. Yet, India adds 12 million more people to its country annually in spite of the misery, suffering, malnutrition, environmental degradation, polluted rivers and outright horrendous living conditions in that country for hundreds of millions all the way to their total of 1.2 billion—and headed for 1.6 billion within 37 years. (Source:

www.populationmedia.org)

(If you cannot water livestock, you can't eat. This scene repeats itself all over the world as humans overrun and overwhelm their



water systems.) Photography by www.Google.com

Religious insanity: let's talk about the Catholic Church, Islam, Hindus and all the other ancient religions that fight against birth control. With all the misery exploding, the Pope refuses to step into the 21st century and advocate for birth control. His mind cannot advance to logical and rational thinking for taking action in the 21st century. He promotes human misery on a scale not seen in all of history. He represents "religious insanity." Same for Islam, Hindus and the rest of the myopic, illiterate religions of the

world!

Illiteracy: let's talk about what drives such fecundity rates. While they starve like flies in Africa, women average 8.2 kids during their fertile years. Muslims, Christians and other tribal people birth more kids than "Toys R Us" can

produce plastic tricycles. Illiteracy begets more children and more children beget more starvation and more starvation creates an endless cycle of human misery not comprehended in the Western world; except for those pointless **Feed the Children** programs that beg for money. The more we feed their numbers, the greater their numbers. Noble, but stupid! Why?

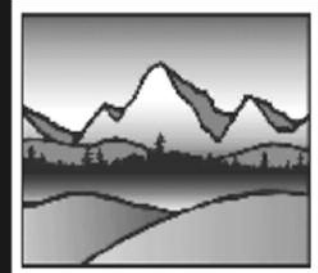
Answer: the more you feed starving people, the more they reproduce beyond their carrying capacity, which means they end up starving in greater numbers.

(Most Westerners lack any comprehension of the human misery facing over two billion humans on this planet that cannot find enough food and water each day.)

Photography by www.Google.com- top next page.

Greed: nothing like capitalism and other forms of endless growth systems that support endless growth on every level. Heads of corporations refuse to deal with

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reality, the facts or anything that denies them more production, more products, more plastic, more money and more power. Pretty sickening, actually. Mother Nature doesn't stand a chance against such human greed. At least, not for the moment—in the end She always bats last, i.e. Katrina, Sandy, earthquakes, deserts, starvation, disease. Cousteau nailed it, but we continue to ignore that wise man. We need to take action to change the underlying cause of most of the planet's exploding environment, chemical, extinction and related problems.



(Lack of water in the United States at some point will become the cause of much conflict as America currently suffers seven states in water shortages and more to come, but we expect to add 137 million more people within 37 years by 2050. This picture will become our picture at some point.) Photography by www.Google.com

Dr. Jack Alpert of www.skil.org said, "There are many experts in the world. Each, from his or her area of expertise (soil, water, energy, biodiversity, waste impacts, food, conflict, minerals, metals) reports degradation, exhaustion and civilization disruption. The collective human needs of 7.1 billion people are bigger than the earth's production. Call this overshoot. Overshoot exists even if human



footprint does not expand. When, for example, fossil energy diminishes overshoot increases. "In the natural world overshoot is followed by collapse. Too many wolves for the available caribou and the wolf population dies back. We humans are little different from wolves. On the upside we have technology that might get more from less. On the downside each human is not equal in his or her consumption. The haves (a billion) consume many times the have nots (6 billion.) As the scarcity continues to increase (because soil is lost, land inundates, weather changes, energy deliveries decrease by half by 2050) the haves will consume the food that fed 6 billion have nots. "The have nots will starve or fight to survive. The social conflict will engulf everyone by 2060. By the end of the century, after we have squandered

our one time bounty of resources, less than 500 million people will be living at subsistence.

"That is not anyone's plan. It is the result of our current course. Our solution is almost like that of the wolves. The strong survive. Or the strong quickly kill off the weak so the existing caribou can support them.

Humans have an additional alternative, we can stop having babies until our population declines enough to be supported by earth."

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Memories-Gear Shed

By Mary Emerick

I could put it off no longer. The gear shed had long been an object of contention in my marriage. “You don’t use half this stuff,” my husband observed, more than once. “You need to go through it and make more room.” Defiantly, he rolled his fat-tired bike into the living room and left it there.

He met my gaze. “Why is that bike in here? That bike is in here because there’s no room in the shed! Because the shed is full of your stuff!”

I surrendered. “OK, I’m going in,” I said, and steeled myself for the task ahead.

For decades, I was a gypsy; everything I owned fit in the back of a Chevette. A seasonal park ranger, I followed summer, ranging from Washington to Idaho to California, making a long loop through Florida and New Mexico, fighting fires and leading interpretive talks. More recently, I moved from Oregon to Alaska and back again, stripping down to the basics. I pared down everything - except for my outdoor gear.

I kept it all because I suspected that it would be hard to let anything go. And I was right. This was like an archaeological dig: I was finding my way down through the layers of the person I used to be.

Each item I added to the to-go pile felt like letting go of a memory. Here were the water-bottle packs from my pre-knee surgery days, when I could still run 26 miles in four hours and change. Sorting through them, I remembered my intrepid running partner, Ken, just outside of Sitka, Alaska, the two of us dodging salmon guts freshly dragged by brown bears onto a fish-hatchery road. I could hear us singing, “I’ve lost that lo-o-ving fee-ee-ling,” bellowing soulfully at the top of our lungs to scare away the bears.

That Coleman backpacking stove, the first one I bought with my own money, was a behemoth by today’s standards. The upgrade, the finicky MSR Whisperlite, had a bad habit of exploding in a ball of flame in the Idaho backcountry as a result of over-priming. I remembered nights at high lakes camped with long-gone companions encased in down jackets, the darkness giving us the courage to talk about our dreams.

A dozen backpacks lay piled on a shelf. They reminded me of old boyfriends: The good-looking ones that were too good to be true, the ones that worked until the relationship became uncomfortable, the ones that turned out to be unexpectedly fragile. A few of them - the backpacks, not boyfriends - ended up getting chewed by marmots.

In one corner lurked the Xtra Tuf rubber boots and kayak paddle from my Southeast Alaska days: In this

land-locked, sun-drenched corner of northeast Oregon, would I ever need them again? Would I ever fix fence again with these leather gloves, feel the full-body shudder of a rock bar hitting immovable earth, or hold one end of a misery whip, slicing through a downed tree that blocked a trail? I had once had the latest in firefighting gear: high-heeled logger boots that slid like butter onto my feet, a fancy lumbar pack that hung just right around my hips. Now that was old school; there was newer, better gear.

By the end of the day, I had accumulated a large pile to bring to my town's gear swap - sleeping bags I'd forgotten I owned, a kayak cart, tents that could house a small family. Piling everything in the truck, I felt both relief and sorrow. Why was it so hard to let the past go? I had a great life now, no longer subject to the whims of the weather, no longer beaten down by a \$5-an-hour wage and the hefting of a heavy chainsaw in the freezing bitter rain. Those were the times it was easy to forget when reminiscing.

The truth, I knew, was this: It's hard getting older when you're still in love with the outdoors. As much as you fight aging tooth and nail, as much as you work to keep up the pace, you will never be 20 again, scrambling fearlessly up a talus slope, knowing everything will turn out all right because it always has so far.

But how many more years, months, days did I have? When would 20-mile days become 15, 10, five, zero?

I knew I was luckier than others who had succumbed to random falls, lightning strikes, illness. It was unfair to complain. But I did. I wanted it all - the freedom to follow the seasons, plus the security of steady work, the sense of being footloose yet firmly anchored - a thousand more sunsets and mountains, and a life with no end in sight.

Mary Emerick is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column service of High Country News (hcn.org). She declutters and writes in Oregon. Her novel, The Geography of Water, will be published in November.



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Mtn Community pg 7 303.665.5235

AUGUST
2015

POWER UPDATE



Your Small Change Makes a Big Difference

When you round up your monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar, you provide assistance to worthy organizations and needy families in your community.

Sign up today: check the box on your next United Power statement, click on 'your Community' online at www.unitedpower.com, or call a Member Services Representative at 303-637-1300.

**UNITED
POWER**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Giving Money Back to Members

It's August, and for United Power members it heralds another capital credit retirement! Cooperatives are "not for profit" operations, which means we don't work to make margins for shareholders, we work for you, our members. Every year

the United Power board of directors assesses the cooperative's financial condition, and determines if and how much the cooperative can afford to return to our members. **This year, United Power will be returning a record \$5 million dollars in capital credits to our members.**

Anyone who had service in 2014 or earlier will receive a refund as part of this year's capital credit retirement. Any member who has a retirement of \$10 or more will receive a check in the mail. Refunds under \$10 will be issued as a bill credit and will appear on bills in August or September. Watch for your refunds, coming soon!

We'll Pay if You Have That Old Fridge Hauled Away

When an old refrigerator is moved to a garage or basement, it takes twice as much energy to keep your food cold and can cost over \$130 a year to operate.

United Power members qualify for rebates on new Energy Star® refrigerators and a \$75 refrigerator/freezer recycling credit is available for members who send their old refrigerator or freezer away for proper disposal by a reputable appliance recycler. Reselling or donating a refrigerator does not qualify as proper disposal.

Visit www.unitedpower.com for the rebate application and details on refrigerator recycling. Proof of haul away by a retailer or a receipt from a reputable appliance recycler is required with the rebate application.

UNWANTED Appliances offers curb-side pick-up of refrigerators and freezers and is willing to pick-up from select areas in the United Power mountain territory. Contact UNWANTED Appliances at 1-888-8-UNWANT (1-888-886-9268) to schedule an appliance pick-up, or to get details on the closest facility available for drop-off. Request a receipt from UNWANTED to submit with your rebate application as proof of recycling.

Don't move that old refrigerator to the garage, recycle it to save energy and money!



Customer Service: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

Mtn Folk Fest CCCP & R - Sat, Aug 8th 10-4



11746 Coal Creek Heights Drive
Stunning Views
3 BD/ 2 BA 3,180 sq.ft. **\$344,900**



11760 Lillis Drive
Lovingly Remodeled
4 BD/ 3 BA 2,796 sq.ft. **\$429,000**



221 Jennie Lane
Beautiful Log Home
3 BD/ 3 BA 1,908 sq.ft. **\$380,000**



33811 Skyline Drive
Contemporary Mountain Home
4 BD/ 4 BA 3,171 sq.ft. **\$445,000**



1208 Hess Road
Sweet Cabin on 1.5 Ac.
1 BD 480 sq.ft. **\$84,000**



11851 Spruce Canyon Circle
Immaculate Ranch Home
3 BD/ 3 BA Remodeled **\$484,500**



1068 Indian Peaks
Opportunity Knocks!
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,736 sq.ft. **\$359,000**



11673 Hillcrest Road
Great Getaway Cabin
1 BD/ 1 BA 846 sq.ft. **\$179,000**



11561 Inspiration Road
Located in peaceful setting.
4 BD/ 4 BA 3,148 sq.ft. **\$269,000**



102 Rowena Place
Perfect Parkside Location!
3 BD/ 3 BA 1,588 sq.ft. **\$364,000**



33382 Sidney Road East
Complete Remodel
3 BD/ 2 BA **\$359,000**



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19 Ronnie
Well & Septic already Installed!
.07 Ac. **\$74,000**



34685 Stanton Drive
Home Sweet Home
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,008 sq.ft. **\$274,900**



126 Lichen Lane
Flat 1.46 acre, gorgeous Horse Property!
5 BD/ 3 BA 3,116 sq.ft. **\$398,000**

LAND FOR SALE

- TBD Rudi Lane W-.73 Ac. **\$40K**
- 33966 Nadm - 1.08 Ac. **\$75K**
- 0 Damascus - 1.86 Ac. **\$44,900**
- 11547 Shimley - 1.15 Ac. **\$29K**



0 Lillis Lane
Two building sites and much more!
5.04 Acres **\$79,000**



2126 Apex Valley Road
Majestic Setting on Upper N. Clear Creek
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,406 sq.ft. **\$284,900**



601 Camp Eden Road
Amazing City & Mountain Views!
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,013 sq.ft. **\$374,000**



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