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About the Cover: A Fox enjoys live music at Nederland's Ecology Center. Photo by Joseph Werne - manipulated by Graphics Galore.



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Lessons From The 2016 Presidential Race

By Joseph Werne

After a little processing and reflecting, here's my take on lessons from an election that surprised me.

First, as Abraham Maslow taught us, when basic needs aren't being addressed, loftier ideals may just feel like irrelevant luxuries. So if that rust-belt middle-class job you had sailed overseas on the globalization freighter, gay marriage, transgender bathrooms, ideological economic policy and health-care bickering may all seem like out-of-touch elitist claptrap that minimize your real-world challenges. Furthermore, you may be willing to forgive misogynistic, racist, and insulting language when your candidate promises to bring back the dignity of your factory-job paycheck while punishing the Washington elites who've been ignoring you.

Second, it's about class, stupid. In this campaign both the left and the right offered rock-star candidates who articulated the disenfranchisement we felt by an establishment class that's been primarily serving corporate interests. We respected them for speaking the truth without carefully qualified parsing of their messages, and so we admired Bernie Sanders for boldly identifying himself with "Democratic Socialism," and we gave Donald Trump a pass and some of us even winked at his "smart business practices" that cheated the system that we feel has been cheating us. While the corporate media succeeded in minimizing Sanders and did its part to help ensure his replacement with an establishment elite, it was outfoxed by Trump, who successfully used it as his free campaign megaphone.

Blinded by their self-importance and lazy polling, election night exposed the elite media as embarrassingly out of touch. As a result, nearly 10 million voters of the disenfranchised left who cast ballots in 2008 were insufficiently inspired to even show up for the Democratic National Committee's chosen nominee, while the right eagerly turned out to poke Democratic and Republican elites in the eye with a vote for Trump. Both the USC/LA

Times poll and Michael Moore did the careful work required to correctly predict this election in advance, but both were summarily dismissed by a media machine that deluded itself into believing its preconceived biases.

Third, both the left and the right expressed sentiments of a collapsing middle-class in this campaign, inviting unity through aligned (and in some cases identical) motives. However, fear and anger and even hate-mongering remain effective tools for our chosen propaganda/media sources, which all work to minimize the humanity we see in the other side and keep us fighting each other by exaggerating our differences. How long will we blindly let this work? In the end I think the state machine got the candidate it deserved, on the left by insisting on their chosen establishment replacement for the populist who truly inspired us, and on the right by offering only lip service and ideology while American middle-class needs remain unmet by globalized overseas jobs and trickle-down mumbo-jumbo nonsense.

We are living and breathing class conflict, and it appears we are slowly figuring this out. The question is will we be able to recognize our similarities and the manipulation game being played by the establishment-corporate-political-media machine, or will we allow it to continue to distract us into fighting each other while the foxes go on raiding the national hen house? This election suggests we might be starting to get this, albeit in as embarrassingly awkward and clumsy a way as any of us could have imagined.

Joseph Werne lives in Lafayette. His lessons from this election, were also printed in a local daily newspaper.

Editor's Note: While I don't disagree with the protestors rights regarding the results of the election, I do not see the point of protesting now. Maybe a hard pill to swallow, but working to change the process for the next election is the only reasonable course of action. All their efforts are a bit late in the big picture and voter apathy is our real enemy.



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2016

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Court Rules In Favor Of Endangered Species Act

By Anna V. Smith

Endangered, with climate change to blame.

Climate projections are reason enough for Endangered Species Act protection, court rules.

A court decision on Oct. 24 was a win for species threatened by climate change. The case centered on National Marine Fisheries Service findings that estimate a Pacific bearded seal subspecies will lose so much sea ice habitat, they will become endangered by 2095.

In 2012, the seals had been federally listed as threatened based on climate change predictions, but a lawsuit brought by oil and gas companies, indigenous tribes and the state of Alaska challenged the classification. The courts at the time ruled in the dissenters' favor, saying that the listing was "arbitrary and capricious." The latest ruling in the appeals court overturns those findings, reinstating protection.

The case echoes a number of Endangered Species Act tussles over the impacts of climate change on sensitive species. In September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to list the temperature-sensitive American pika for a second time, claiming it could adapt to new regions as the climate changes. Since April, the agency has been reconsidering listing wolverines in the mountainous West. Scientists say that over the next three decades, a shrinking snowpack will expose wolverine kits to predators, affecting their ability to store food and their overall reproduction rates, among other issues. *Wolverine photo next page courtesy Jarkko Järvinen/Flickr user*

Despite the urgency of climate change, the ESA bureaucracy moves slowly. Even if the pika and wolverines were found to merit protection, they would join the backlog of other candidates, some of which have languished for decades before actually receiving critical habitat and other protections. The most recent court decision sets a unique precedent for the protecting of threatened and endangered species based on climate projections, and could open the door for more species to be listed.

Anna V. Smith is an editorial intern at High Country News.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species triage - Buried in petitions to list new species, the Fish and Wildlife Service proposes a system for prioritizing who gets help first.



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By Cally Carswell-HCN

Right now, in the Black River south of Carlsbad, New Mexico, rare Texas hornshell mussels are trying to multiply. It's a bizarre and complicated process: Male mussels spit sperm into the river, where the females catch it. After brooding fertilized eggs for about a month, they chuck the larvae into the water, too. There, the would-be mussels hope to be eaten by certain kinds of fish, attaching to their gills

and forming parasitic cysts. Then they develop into juveniles before cutting loose from the fish and wriggling to the river bottom, where they can live for up to 20 years.

Texas hornshells are native to the Pecos and Rio Grande basins of southern New Mexico and Texas, where they help maintain water quality by filtering out sediment and other



particulates. They're the only surviving species of New Mexico's eight native mussels, and the stretch of river near Carlsbad is one of their last strongholds.

Their troubles are nothing new, though. In 1989, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service classified the Texas hornshell as a candidate for the endangered species list, but it had too little information about them to support

listing. In 2001, after studies showed that the mollusks were being harmed by low flows in rivers and water pollution, the agency decided protection was justified. But it still couldn't list them because too many other, higher-priority species also needed protection. Now, the mussel's time may have finally (Continued next page.)

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Highlander Wildlife

come: In August, the agency proposed listing it as endangered.

Most species that have landed on the endangered species list in recent years got there when they did as a result of litigation by green groups, and the Texas hornshell mussel is no exception. Almost no one is happy with this pattern, though. “(If) the Service is simply responding to lawsuits, it’s not being very strategic,” or necessarily focusing on the plants and animals in greatest need, says Ya-Wei Li, an endangered species expert with Defenders of Wildlife. So Fish and Wildlife is now working to reform its process for listing species.

It has proposed prohibiting so-called “mega-petitions,” where environmental groups ask the agency to protect up to hundreds of species at a time, and it recently finalized a new five-tier system for prioritizing decisions on petitions. First in line are species that data clearly show are critically imperiled. Lower down are species for which states are already developing conservation plans, as well as species the agency lacks data on.

The agency simply can’t keep up with all the petitions it gets to list species, says Fish and Wildlife spokesman Brian Hires. Environmentalists filed petitions on behalf of 1,230 species between 2007 and 2010, enough to almost double the number protected by the Endangered Species Act over the previous 30 years. The overwhelmed agency rarely meets its own deadlines for responding, and so environmentalists often sue in response.

The mussel is one of 757 species included in a 2011 legal settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity, in which the agency agreed to deadlines for clearing its considerable backlog. “The states have been frustrated, because we feel like litigation shouldn’t drive conservation,” says Nick Wiley, vice president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Wiley says states — the feds’ main partners in endangered species work — are generally pleased with the planned reforms, which they hope will help them prioritize their own data collection and conservation work.

Some environmental groups are also supportive. “This is a very good move for the Service to take control of its own destiny,” says Li. But others argue that the reforms could consign at-risk wildlife to bureaucratic purgatory. “It creates excuses for ongoing delays in decisions on whether species should be protected,” says Tierra Curry, senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity. She fears that lower-priority species will slip closer to extinction while they wait for conservation plans or studies that could bump them up in line.

The system also “biases decisions towards popular and well-studied species,” she says, mainly birds and mammals. But some of the most imperiled groups are also the least studied — freshwater mollusks, for instance. The fact that we understand the outlines of the Texas hornshell’s lifecycle makes it fairly unusual among mollusks, Curry notes: For many of the creatures, basic population data doesn’t even exist.

Mussels, snails and insects may well get shortchanged under the new system, Li says. In a perfect world, Fish and Wildlife would be flush with funding, and wouldn’t need to prioritize. “Nobody likes to make those judgment calls,” he says. But relative to the number of species it’s charged with saving, the agency’s funding is decreasing, not increasing, he points out. One way or another, “there are going to be species that come out ahead, and some that fall behind.”

Contributing editor for High Country News, Cally Carswell writes from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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Buy-Smart Vehicle & Child Passenger Safety

From Jim Plane - State Farm Insurance

Shopping around for a new or new-to-you used vehicle can be exciting. But before you step on the lot, be mindful of a few sales tactics and how to ensure you stay in control. Doing some homework ahead of time can help you buy in confidence.

Mixed Negotiations - Also known as the “four square” method, this sales tactic combines multiple, unrelated factors into a single transaction. The sales manager writes the price of the car, the down payment, trade-in value and the desired monthly payment into four boxes. If you want a certain trade-in price or a set monthly payment, other numbers may increase to compensate.

How to prepare: Shop your trade-in around multiple dealerships to get an estimate of its true value, and know not to negotiate based on your desired monthly payment.

Inflated Interest Rates - Some car dealerships may advertise a certain interest rate, then make a last-minute change to financing. **How to prepare:** Secure a car loan through a bank or other outside party and come to the dealership with pre-approval in hand. Know your credit score beforehand so you’re confident about what you can afford, and triple-check all numbers in your paperwork.

Spot Delivery - Some car buyers have driven a car off the lot without securing financing. This means that a few weeks later, the car dealership could call to say the loan application was rejected and that they need new paperwork—with a higher interest rate or down payment.

How to prepare: Never sign a deal or drive away in your new car if you don’t see your interest rate written down.

Child Passenger Safety

Nothing’s more important than the safety of your children. Considering at least 80% of all car seats are installed and used improperly, there are some things you should keep in mind to keep your kids safe in the car. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) suggests the following:

Do make sure to restrain your child appropriately for his

or her age and size (see here for more).

Do follow directions that come with the car seat and in the vehicle owner’s manual.

Do find a Safety Seat Inspection Station near you if you’re having any trouble installing the car seat.

Don’t allow your child under 13 years old to sit in the front seat.

Don’t allow a child to sit in front of an active airbag, especially rear-facing infants. **Birth – 12 Months**

All infants under age 1 should ride rear-facing.

Infant-only seats typically must be used in the rear-facing position. Most convertible seats and 3-in-1 seats can be used rear-facing and usually have higher weight and height limits.

1 – 3 Years

Children ages 1-3 years should ride rear-facing as long as possible, within the weight and height limits of the seat.

Once your child outgrows his or her rear-facing seat, a forward-facing car seat with a harness should be used.

4 – 7 Years

Children ages 4-7 years should remain in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the weight and height limits of the seat.

Once your child outgrows his or her forward-facing seat with a harness, a belt-positioning booster seat should be used in conjunction with the vehicle’s lap and shoulder seat belt.

8 – 12 Years

Your child should continue using a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle’s lap and shoulder seat belt fits properly.

The shoulder strap should fit snugly over the shoulder and across the chest. Make sure it’s never across the neck, face, or arm.

The lap belt should fit low and tight on your child’s hips, not over his or her stomach.



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New Gabrielle Louise CD

**GABRIELLE LOUISE's *IF THE STATIC CLEARS*
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“Gabrielle Louise is eclectic, eccentric, seductive, flexible, literate and a plethora of other descriptive adjectives that pertain to music and creativity and yet there is no pinning down this woman, no way to sum her up in one word. She manages to blend seemingly disparate styles of music and lyrics into a captivating blend...a homogenous mix of folk, bluegrass, and jazz...Her voice is going to make time stand still in that it is full, rich and has great nuance in it...A beautifully crafted disc in every possible way.” —NO DEPRESSION/Bob Gottlieb

Sandalwood Records proudly announces the release of Colorado based singer-songwriter GABRIELLE LOUISE's *IF THE STATIC CLEARS*.

Gabrielle Louise celebrates with a concert to be held at Etown Hall in Boulder, Colorado on Saturday, December 17th, 2016. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are available online at the Etown's website. Doors will open at 7:00 pm, with the concert beginning at 7:30 pm. For this very special concert, Gabrielle will be joined by multi-instrumentalist Greg Schochet, upright bassist Jon McMillan, and harmony singers Brodie Kinder and Melanie Jean.

Colorado-based singer-songwriter, Gabrielle Louise is a nationally touring troubadour noted for her poignant lyrics and lush voice. The daughter of two vagabond musicians, she inherited a predisposition to wanderlust and song. Her musical voice has been described as “anchored deeply in folk and Americana, but drawn to rich harmonies and melodic adventurism.” Her sound has the earthy feel of early Joni Mitchell while also veering into the spirited delivery of fellow genre-hopping artist Eva Cassidy.

Louise studied at Michigan's prestigious Interlochen Center for the Arts, and soon after earned her degree in songwriting at Berklee College of Music in Boston, at which time she also began touring as a solo artist. She has rarely been off the road since and has released a handful of acclaimed independent albums, including *The Bird in My Chest* (2013) and this fall's *If the Static Clears*, for which this concert is a CD release celebration.

Louise has shared stages over the past decade with such iconic performers as Richie Havens, Guy Clark and Eliza Gilkyson. Stephen Betts, Music Critic and contributor to Rolling Stone Country, has recently written of Gabrielle's new record “Eccentric, charismatic, thoughtful, literate and eclectic are just a few of the myriad words that can be used to describe GABRIELLE LOUISE. Words fail, however, to fully capture the wide-ranging emotional and musical landscape covered by the artist within her latest collection, *IF THE STATIC CLEARS*, a blend of

styles from hardy bluegrass and folk to slinky, seductive jazz. Accompanied by a dazzling collection of lyrics that run the gamut from sweetly intimate to boldly revealing, ***IF THE STATIC CLEARS*** is nothing less than a revelation, an essential Americana, folk-roots album.” ***IF THE STATIC CLEARS*** was recorded in four live sessions at Kaleidoscope Studios in Union City, NJ. “Almost everything that you hear happened just as it did live in the studio,” she says of the 11 songs on ***IF THE STATIC CLEARS***. “I really love performances, just the way they occur.

It creates a musical sound that is akin to handwriting as opposed to typography. It’s got some really specific character in it. It’s going to look and sound like me as a human being, flaws and all.”

Among the most striking elements of ***IF THE STATIC CLEARS*** is the plethora of source material and personal experiences that inspired and informed its distinctive list of songs. Summers spent in Buenos Aires are recalled in the gentle ***Someone Else’s Life***, while ***The Graveyard Ballet***, a hypnotic ballad, finds the artist collaborating with a physicist, mirroring the patterns of a 13-foot pendulum wave. She also explores the turbulent and passionate love affair of pioneering Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera in the spellbinding ***No Moon at All***, recalling the literal sparks that accompanied the couple’s first passionate kiss. In addition to the nuanced observations of love throughout its many stages, there are tunes such as the delightfully woozy ***Another Round on Me***, which adds an air of witty sophistication to the tradition of crowd-pleasing drinking songs, and serves as a testament to Gabrielle’s compelling live performances.


A poet, prose writer, and seasoned orator, Gabrielle has presented a talk on autobiographical writing at TEDx, an independently organized TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) event. Her talk, **The Breath of Experience**, stresses the importance of making time to both “inhale” what others tell us and mindfully “exhale” our own creative impressions of those stories. From meditative start to breathtaking finish, the 11 songs on ***If the Static Clears*** offer ample opportunity to do just that. (TEDx link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkG54fKSLUK>)

An ethereal, esoteric songwriter and perfectly imperfect performer, with ***IF THE STATIC CLEARS***, GABRIELLE LOUISE has created an album that is elegant, earthy and accessible, a portrait not only of her most trusted musical collaborators but



of her own evolution as an artist.

**For more information on the show,
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Plan To End Clear Cuts Of Old Stands In Alaska

By Elizabeth Shogren - HCN

An end to old-growth logging in Alaska's Tongass? Does a Forest Service plan go far enough?


Twenty years ago on a beautiful November day, Robert Bonnie and Dominick DellaSala got an unexpected and unforgettable opportunity to play hooky. Both were working for environmental groups, Bonnie for the Environmental Defense Fund and DellaSala for the World Wildlife Fund. But when they arrived at Yellowstone National Park for a meeting about large carnivores, they learned that the park was closed and their meeting had been cancelled: The federal government had just shut down over a budget battle between President Bill Clinton and Congress. Somehow, they talked their way into the park anyway and hiked through Lamar Valley, peering through binoculars at newly reintroduced gray wolves and distant grizzlies and watching a peregrine falcon circle overhead.

Many years later, Bonnie recalled that adventure when he and DellaSala met at the Agriculture Department's Washington, D.C., headquarters to discuss the fate of the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska, the nation's largest national forest and the last where large-scale clear-cutting of old-growth trees is permitted. Bonnie, now the undersecretary of Agriculture who oversees the Forest Service, said that day had been one of the best of his life. DellaSala challenged Bonnie to top it by saving the Tongass. "That would be a conservation legacy," DellaSala, 59, recalls. Now, however, three years later, Bonnie and DellaSala are on opposite sides of a battle over climate change and the Tongass.

By the end of the year, the Forest Service expects to finalize an amendment to the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan that would phase out large old-growth clear-cuts over 16 years. "We are being very forward-leaning here," Bonnie, 48, says. DellaSala vehemently disagrees. He's now the chief scientist of Geos Institute, a small Oregon-based group of scientists and policy wonks who work with land and water managers and communities on climate change. DellaSala believes the Forest Service and Bonnie in particular should end old-growth logging across the 17 million-acre forest much faster — not just for the sake of the ancient sitka spruce, cedar and hemlock, but for the planet.

The Tongass' rainforests cover an archipelago of islands replete with waterfalls and glaciers, and DellaSala fell in love with the area while doing field research in the 1990s on the impacts of logging on wolves, Sitka black-tailed deer and songbirds. DellaSala now is promoting a plan — supported by many environmental groups and former Forest Service leaders — to phase out clear-cutting in five years. "It's disappointing that we have a president who is so engaged on climate change and an agency that is so unsavvy," DellaSala says. "It's not in step with the rest of the administration's global leadership on climate change." A quicker end to clear-cutting old growth would also protect vital habitat for wildlife, including five species of salmon that are key to the region's economy.

Logging in the Tongass is already down to about one-tenth of what it was when Bonnie and DellaSala played hooky in the mid-1990s. And climate change may prove to be the force that ends wide-scale old-growth logging there permanently. "Although the



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transition timeframe is too long, when you look at the long and twisting timeline of Tongass management, the fact we are now talking openly and clearly about the end of old-growth logging and roadbuilding is a significant, positive event,” says Tim Bristol, a long-time environmental advocate in southeastern Alaska. The turning point came in November 2009, when world leaders gathered in Copenhagen to negotiate a new international climate treaty. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack highlighted the “vital role” forests must play in combating climate change, singling out the Tongass, which may hold as much as 8% of all the carbon contained in America’s forests. Bonnie, as Vilsack’s climate change advisor, was listening just off-stage and felt tremendous pride: His work had long focused on the ability of forests to store immense quantities of carbon and blunt the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. (Wood products store only a fraction of the carbon of live trees.)



Recent clear-cuts and clear-cut regrowth stand beside swaths of older trees in the Tongass National Forest. Alan Wu/CC Flickr

Four years later, Vilsack directed agency staff to speed the transition away from old-growth logging in the Tongass while sustaining timber industry jobs. The Forest Service convened an advisory committee of representatives from industry, local tribes and regional environmental groups to come up with a consensus plan, no easy task given that logging there has been roiled for decades in court battles and high-stakes politics. Alaskan politicians led by Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, head of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee, which provides the Forest Service’s budget, constantly pressure the agency to increase the availability of massive old-growth logs, most of which are shipped to China, South Korea and Japan. But environmentalists regularly challenge such timber sales. The agency believed that a plan produced with strong local input could survive political attacks and changes in leadership in Washington. DellaSala’s quicker phase-out was rejected as too risky for industry. Bonnie says it also would be risky politically; it assumes that a possible future Republican administration wouldn’t reject it and that the formidable Murkowski wouldn’t block it.

Last year, the committee voted unanimously to support a transition from logging old-growth to second-growth timber over 10 to 15 years. Second-growth areas support less wildlife, and since they already have been cut, logging them again doesn’t require building new roads. Despite the

vote, the timber industry, state government and the tribal timber organization attacked the plan, saying it wouldn’t allow enough old-growth logging to keep them in business. The market for second-growth trees is uncertain, too. The proposal “will result in the bankruptcy and the closing of all major timber operators on the Tongass,” Eric Nichols, a partner of Evergreen Timber and Alcan Forest Products, wrote to the Forest Service.

Meanwhile, DellaSala and other scientists, environmentalists and former Forest Service leaders harshly criticized the plan, saying the agency failed to consider a more rapid transition from old-growth clear-cuts or to calculate the emissions from the logging and their impact on the warming planet. They *(Continued next page.)*



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charge that continuing clear-cutting in the Tongass runs counter to the objective the U.S. embraced in the Paris Agreement on climate change last year. Using federal methods, DellaSala calculated that the greenhouse gas emissions would be equivalent to adding at least 2 million vehicles to Alaska's roads annually. (Currently, there are only a half-million vehicles registered in the state.)

The Forest Service didn't do its own calculations, despite guidance from the White House Council on Environmental Quality that agencies should do so. In its environmental impact statement on the proposed plan, the agency downplays the impact of logging in the Tongass. "Emissions from harvests in the Tongass are very, very small relative to other sources," Bonnie says, such as deforestation in the Lower 48 & emissions from automobiles and power plants.

Jim Furnish, a former Forest Service deputy chief, knows that transitioning away from old-growth logging is hard but doable. He oversaw the end of large-scale clear-cutting in the Pacific Northwest after the courts ordered the agency to save habitat for the northern spotted owl. He and DellaSala have told Bonnie and others at the Forest Service that the reasons for saving the Tongass could not be more compelling or more consistent with the Obama administration's principles. Furnish keeps telling them it's "a huge carbon treasure chest. But we're not getting any traction with that." Bonnie deflected repeated questions

from High Country News about why his agency failed to assess its Tongass plan's emissions or the projected costs of that carbon pollution for current and future societies from fiercer storms, rising seas, more destructive forest fires and the other negative effects of climate change. The White House's guidelines, first released as a draft in 2010 and finalized in August, don't require agencies to quantify the greenhouse gas impacts of their actions, but recommend that they do. Bonnie stresses that while the Forest Service has prioritized climate change in this and many other decisions, by law it also has to consider impacts on rural communities and jobs.

The agency's push for the industry to switch to second-growth timber comes after two decades of forest policy from Washington that dramatically shrank the local timber economy. Companies now cut about 40 million board-feet, down from a peak of nearly 600 million, and timber jobs are down 80%. Under the Forest Service's proposal, the Tongass would support about 200 direct timber jobs, an increase from current levels. During a tense hearing on Capitol Hill in March, Murkowski asked the agency to delay the transition from old growth to save jobs. But Forest Service Chief Tidwell believes the phase-out will ultimately reduce opposition to logging and help the beleaguered industry sustain itself. There's already been, he said, "two decades of controversy and litigation around old-growth harvest and roadless (rules), and that's gotten us nowhere." He promised new markets for the smaller second-growth trees that would be logged instead. Murkowski shot back: "New markets are good, chief, but you still have to have trees that are mature enough to harvest." Now, Murkowski is pushing a bill to derail the proposed transition from old growth.

The Forest Service held meetings in Ketchikan and Juneau in October to consider objections from all sides. Bonnie says he feels confident that the agency's blueprint will weather the criticism because the phase-out makes sense for the ancient trees, the community and the climate.

Correspondent Elizabeth Shogren writes HCN's DC Dispatches from Washington.

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Our Treasure Of Public Lands

By Martin Nie

America has spent the last year celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service. Given that the agency protects 85 million acres - 3.6% of the United States - this is a birthday well worth celebrating. But two other important birthdays passed almost unnoticed: October marked the 40th anniversary of both the Federal Land Policy Management Act, or FLPMA (usually pronounced 'flipma'), which covers the Bureau of Land Management's holdings, and the National Forest Management Act, which embraces our national forests. The combined acreage overseen by the two laws amounts to an astounding 20% of our 50 states.

Of course, the very notion of publicly managed lands, which are mostly concentrated in the West, has its adversaries. Most spectacularly, the Bundy Clan occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon after decades of flouting the grazing regulations promulgated under FLPMA. More quietly, but much more effectively, several Western states, led by Utah and the Koch Brothers' American Legislative Exchange Council, aka ALEC, have sought to wrest control of our lands from the federal government.

Why have these two almost unknown laws inspired such resistance? Because each in its own way transformed the federal lands into law-abiding areas that could be managed for our collective good.

The two laws have very different histories. The National Forest Management Act emerged as a response to the clear-cutting and timber harvest controversies of the 1960s and '70s. To this day, people differ as to whether it provided much-needed course correction for the Forest Service or instead was a solution to a 'nonexistent' problem. What the law does, essentially, is require the agency to prepare management plans for every forest. It also places significant environmental constraints on the Forest Service and gives it a mandate to manage for wildlife diversity.

FLPMA was born after more study and less tumult, but it too requires the preparation of 'resource management plans.' Basically, Congress asked itself the question: How should the two agencies implement their famously open-ended multiple-use mandates and balance resource use and environmental protection? The answer, lawmakers decided, is to figure out the details through planning and public involvement.

Perhaps that is why the two laws get such little love. In celebrating the Park Service, politicians and pundits and Hollywood celebrities can quote scripture from John Muir,

with references to mountain cathedrals and holy temples and 'places to play in and pray in.' But laws governing national forests and BLM lands? How do you properly celebrate sustained yield calculations, timber suitability determinations, land withdrawal procedures and interdisciplinary planning?

But what these laws lack in sex appeal, they make up for in substance and implication. Right now, for example, several national forests are revising their management plans, using a 'new' 2012 planning rule. It's a potentially transformative rule and one of the Obama administration's underappreciated achievements. The rule creates a process for plans to be more adaptive and better informed by science and meaningful public engagement.

There's no doubt that planning carries with it serious baggage. Plans are the platform for the politics, trade-offs and general messiness of multiple-use management. They are subject to congressional meddling and appropriations, not to mention public pressure and the biases of the agencies themselves.

But like it or not, planning is a legal - and necessary - requirement, and it's high time we accepted it. There are big issues coming up in the forthcoming plans, and the stakes can't get much higher. What, for example, will become of the Northwest Forest Plan and our nation's last roadless areas? How much land will continue to be sacrificed to oil and gas development? How will sage grouse and grizzly bears and the hundreds of other less charismatic species that depend on federal lands be safeguarded? There's also the need to plan for climate change and protect our water supply while continuing to work with the remaining timber mills, public-land ranchers and many rural communities. There are important questions involved, and the answers to them will soon be found in an environmental impact statement near you.

These challenges aside, the 40th anniversary provides an opportunity for us to recommit to the idea and national significance of all our public lands, not just the postcard-pretty crown jewels found in the park system. Congress called for our federal lands to be managed in the national public interest, and for planning to be done in an informed and democratic fashion. It is up to us to make sure that the work reflects our values and goals for the West's public lands. *Martin Nie is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). He is the director of the Bolle Center for People and Forests in the College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana.*



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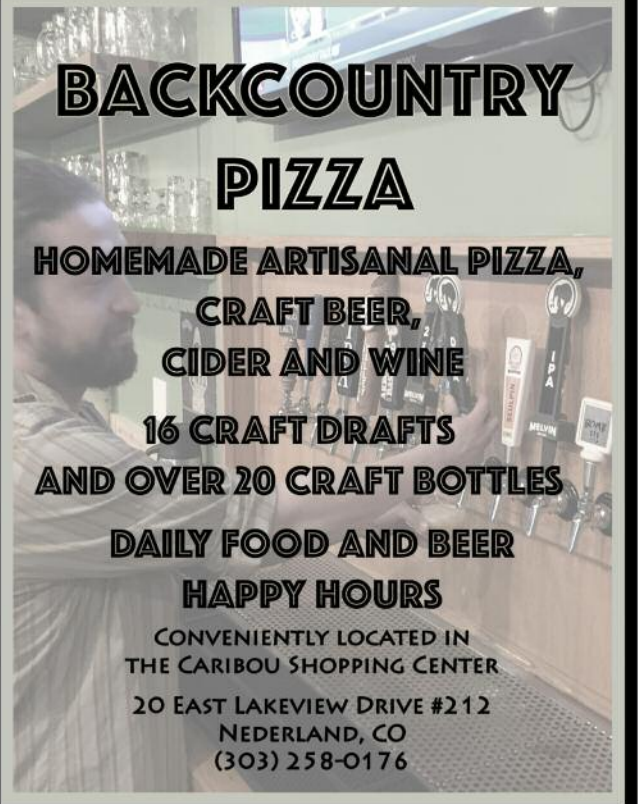
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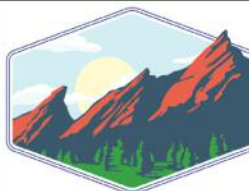


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Researcher Maps DAPL Threats To Water Security

By Lyndsey Gilpin

As protests escalated in North Dakota, Jennifer Veilleux sat in her office at Florida International University in Miami, Florida, reading an environmental assessment of the Dakota Access Pipeline over and over again. The report, prepared by the company developing the pipeline, raised red flags. An international water security and transboundary river post-doctoral researcher, Veilleux was used to vetting assessments. The one in front of her didn't have information about appropriate methods for monitoring what people, waterways, and ecosystems leaks in the pipeline could affect.

She scoured the internet, searching for the major waterways the pipeline would impact, and where Indigenous people lived in relation to those – basic information she couldn't find anywhere. So she decided to map it herself. What resulted was an outline of the major waterways the pipeline would intersect and possibly leak into and the nearby tribal lands.

This map shows the waterways the Dakota Access Pipeline would cross and the nearby tribal lands. What she found is that there are nine major intersections between the proposed pipeline and rivers in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa where oil could possibly meet water. Using census data, the team mapped the number of Indigenous people living on reservations, in cities and on rural land near these waterways in the basin as well, which extends West into Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and Montana.

The pipeline has many risks for those populations and the places they live, Veilleux said. During construction, invasive species, fungus, and microbes can be transported if the equipment is not handled carefully. The drilling fluid used to install the pipeline could leak into groundwater or the river and contaminate it.

Once the pipeline is transporting oil, there are bigger concerns, if it spills. Reservation land flanks lakes and rivers that some residents get drinking water from, and millions of people live downstream, in the watershed. There are many other small tributaries and wetlands off the main waterways, ecosystems that would also be threatened by a leak, and some groundwater aquifers in the region that could be contaminated by oil. There are three endangered species in the basin whose habitats could be affected: two water birds, a piping plover and least tern, and the pallid sturgeon.

The Dakota Access Pipeline, which raises issues of tribal sovereignty, water security, and environmental justice, has mobilized Indigenous people from around the world, as well as spurring protests in cities across the U.S. It's also

motivating academics like Veilleux who find parallels within their research. "I try to elevate voices of people who are being moved for modern development," she says of her other research projects, which have looked at water security for indigenous people living near the Nile River in Ethiopia, the Mara River in Tanzania, and the Mekong River in Laos. She said Standing Rock resonated because she considers the Missouri River a transboundary watershed – it crosses tribal land and various states – and pipeline construction may impact water quality, directly or indirectly. She wanted to supplement that information about the tribes, which she said is missing from the environmental assessment.

Veilleux' research is starting to gain

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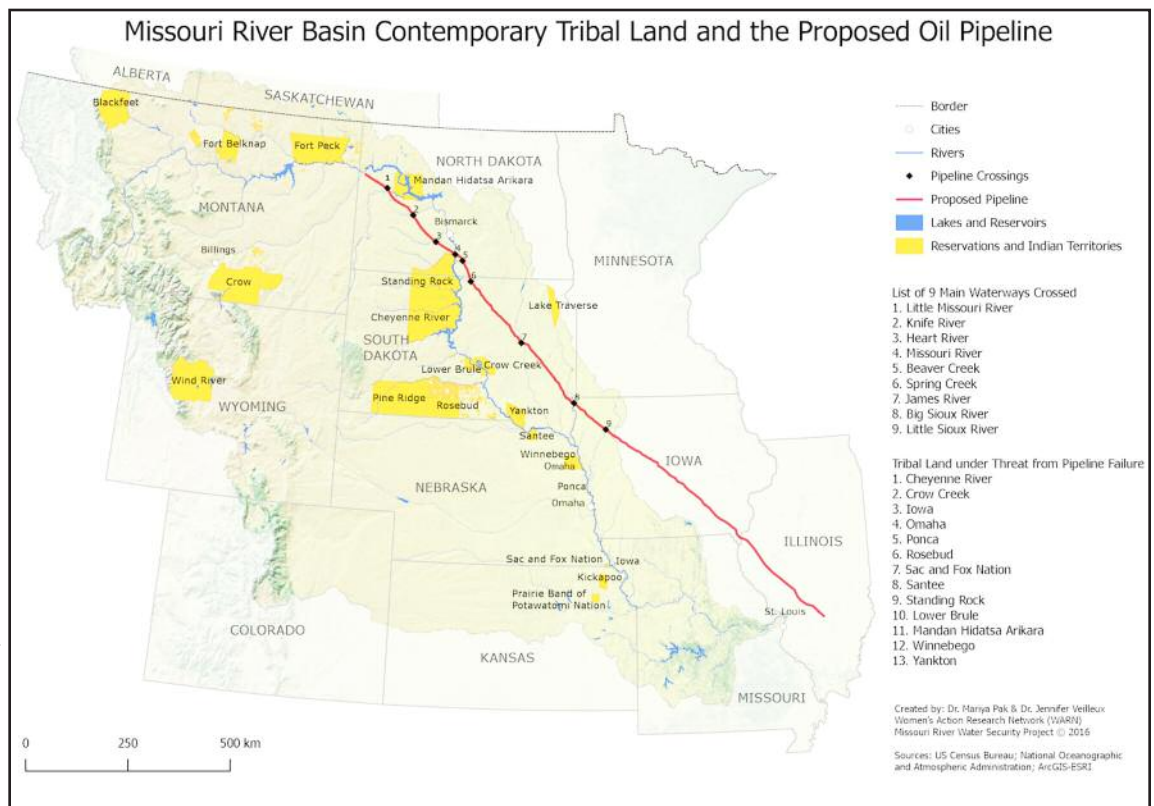
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attention from other researchers and tribal leaders. She is now collaborating with cartographer Carl Sack, who has been creating his own maps, one which shows how the pipeline crosses treaty lands. And last month, Veilleux sold her banjo and bought a plane ticket to Standing Rock, where she shared her map with tribal elders. She wants to use the maps to illustrate the social, cultural, and religious significance of water, and plans to work with tribes to create a series of maps that incorporate oral histories. She will be returning to Standing Rock soon, where she'll take the completed map and a report to the tribes for them to use. *Lyndsey Gilpin is an editorial fellow at High Country News*

Editor's Note: Unity of Boulder is still collecting non-perishable foods and camping supplies that volunteers



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Holidays, Grief & Healing Connection

By Diane Bergstrom

Holidays inherently can go hand in hand with complicated feelings, which are intensified when loved ones have been lost during the year. They can cause a feeling of emotional scabs being ripped off our psyches. The hole left by our loved one's absence feels a little deeper and a little darker when the time of rituals, celebrations, ceremonies or any significant date comes around. Whether you celebrate the Winter Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, Bodhi Day, Mawlid, Pancha Ganapati, Kwanzaa or New Years Eve/Day according to the Gregorian calendar, grief can alter your anticipation, expectations, and color the perspective on upcoming events. Your participation should be strictly up to you. Grief is physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually demanding, simultaneously exhausting and healing. At the website www.grief.com, the first paragraph addresses grief and the holidays, "Rather than avoiding the feelings of grief, lean into them. It is not the grief you want to avoid, it is the pain. Grief is the way out of pain." This is good self-respecting advice, but also a challenge when the public decorations go up, holiday music is blasting in stores, and gatherings are being planned. The demands of the holidays meet the demands of grief. Both require a lot of energy, and

it is up to us to determine where and how we expend it.

I've always thought a myriad of emotionals is found under the grief umbrella: love, sadness, joy, anger, confusion, clarity, happiness, resentment, gratitude, guilt, etc. There can be room for both grief and celebration, together under the same umbrella, even during the holidays. If you choose. This is the time to allow you to do something different if needed. To participate or not. To show up if you want, however you can, with all gentleness towards self. Choose to be around people who can let you do that and support you. If you need direction, there are many online resources. Google "grief and the holidays" and you'll get suggestions, tips, do's and don'ts, rituals and lists, i.e. *64 Tips for Coping with Grief at the Holidays* came up at www.whatsyourgrief.com. Pick and choose what's appropriate for you. Would you prefer to chat online or physically be with others? Or both? TRU Hospice is offering a ceremony on **December 3, Lights of Life Holiday Remembrance, 5:00 pm, at 2593 Park Lane in Lafayette**. Call them for further support services at 303-442-0961 or online at www.trucare.org. Boulder Jewish Family Service is offering an eight week grief support group starting in January. Contact Cathy at 720-749-3401 for more information. You can find more resources at www.jewishfamilyservice.org. The Jefferson County website suggests people get referrals from their clergy or physician, and can also contact the Mental Health Division at 303-425-0300. Death Cafés are informal gatherings at coffee shops where anyone can join an unstructured group to discuss death in any way you want. Speak or not. The goal is to provide a safe environment to keep the topic of death from being the elephant in the room. Google "death cafes" to find one in your area. They are an international concept and spreading. Whatever you do, remember grief is highly personalized. Don't "should" on yourself or allow others to. Rituals will be more meaningful if they come from your heart. Friends, who lost a relative this year, displayed a happy photo of him on a table, next to a small vase of fresh flowers, lit by a flameless tea light. They kept

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it up for two months. I got into the habit of greeting his photo when I walked into the room, because I believe he's not too far away to hear me.

Years ago, I went to hear broadcast journalist and syndicated columnist Amy Goodman speak at the Unity Church in Boulder. We all anticipated an update on her latest brilliant investigative reporting, but she opened with what was pressing on her heart. The recent loss of her mother. She commended the hospice organization they worked with, and extolled the helpfulness of a practice they shared, that I have now shared with many. They are five statements to contemplate or say to your departing loved one. They are somewhat based on the purported Hawaiian practice of forgiveness, Ho'oponopono, which was used for mental cleansing in a statement to the Divine. The hospice had expanded it. The statements, which can be detailed by adding "for" at the end of each, are: thank you; I forgive you; please forgive me; I love you; goodbye. I have encouraged others to go through these, even if a departing one is not conscious, to help everyone with completion and closure. I believe they are effective post-death too. I haven't experienced a death loss without regrets, either of things I wished I'd said or done. Regret is only useful if I use it as a springboard for change. Relationship healing can occur whether someone is still here in body or not. The distance between us is much thinner than we know. Whenever I have repeated these statements to my departed person or pet, I have felt shifts. I use them when I feel residual regret, or if I just want to remind them how much they were loved. I know they feel it, and we continue to heal together. It's never too late to say goodbye or thank you or I love you.

The last time I experienced numerous losses, I couldn't

wait for the holidays to be over. My younger self wanted to be on the other side of them, so life could go on. Now that I have experienced four losses in 16 months, my older, more seasoned self, has thanked each person, forgiven each person, asked for forgiveness from each of them, loved each person and wished them a good journey. I have had these conversations both before the death and after the death. It doesn't mean I won't miss them these holidays. I will cry for their physical absence and celebrate the gifts they shared: Aunt BLT's limitless enthusiasm; Mike's cheerful New Year's Day call; Karl's unconditional loving holiday messages; Polly's razor wit and spot-on perceptions. I hope the gift exchange has been mutual. Those are the gifts that matter. Simultaneously I can be saddened they are no longer physically here, a phone call or a visit away, and I am deeply grateful for their presence in my life. The holidays can, and should, be healing. It is never too late to say what you need to say, and to heal. I wish you all blessed healing holidays. Be gentle with yourself.

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An Unfortunate Legacy

By Ben Long

Imagine running a business - say a bank or gas station - and every now and then a band of disgruntled customers barges in with guns, takes over your office and spouts nonsense about how you have no right to exist in the first place. How could you continue to conduct your business? How could you recruit new employees? How could you ensure the safety of your customers?

That is exactly the kinds of questions that leaders of our land management agencies - the folks who take care of our national parks, forests and wildlife refuges - now must face.

Because that is exactly what six men and one woman got away with at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in rural Oregon. Under the guidance of the Bundy family of Nevada, they took over the refuge headquarters last January, claiming that it was illegitimate, and causing

havoc for employees and the local residents for 41 days. One militant was killed in a confrontation with police. After a tense, negotiated end to the standoff, seven militants were charged with federal conspiracy and weapons charges. Now, 10 months later, an Oregon jury has acquitted them. By choosing the more difficult path of proving conspiracy rather than criminal trespass or some lesser charge, the government lawyers aimed too high and lost it all. The verdicts stunned even the defense attorneys who have no option of appealing.

Without second-guessing the jury, it's clear that the repercussions of this case will play out for years to come. But I fear that the greatest and most lasting damage caused by the thugs who took over Malheur will prove to be the way they vandalized something essential to every functioning society: Trust. If America doesn't get its act together, this verdict may prove to be the beginning of the end of one of our greatest experiments in democracy: our public lands.

Make no mistake. There are plenty of people who would like to shoot Smokey Bear, stuff him and relegate him to some mothballed museum. The Bundy brothers who spearheaded the Oregon standoff insist that the federal government is not allowed to control any land beyond Washington, D.C., and military bases. They simply hate the idea of Yellowstone National Park and consider any other national nature reserve unconstitutional.

The Bundys' Oregon acquittal doesn't make their absurd reading of the Constitution any more viable. But it does embolden those who share their misguided fervor in the political sphere. Don't take my word for it; consider the words of elation uttered by those who supported the Bundys. Montana state Rep. Theresa Manzella, R-Darby, responded to the news with a Facebook post that read: 'BEST NEWS IN A LONG TIME!!! Doin' a happy dance! Didn't expect the verdict today!!! Hurray!'

She elaborated to a newspaper reporter: "I think it will be very empowering. It indicates that American citizens are waking up and we don't want to be kept under the thumb of the federal government."



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The mood at the Bundy family ranch in Nevada was also jubilant: "We are partying it up," Arden Bundy told another reporter. "This is a big step, not just up there, but for the people down here in Nevada. Knowing that they let them go scot-free, it's going to ... be a big influence on the people down here."

The bullies who want to rule the playground just got a pat on the head by the principal and were sent back outside to play the same old game. Managing public lands is a messy, difficult and often thankless job. But in no way do these public servants deserve the kind of verbal abuse and physical intimidation reflected at Malheur. I am thankful for these hard-working people, and I marvel at how they remain true to their mission despite taking constant verbal jabs from all sides.

They deserve better. This issue reflects some larger illness in the American psyche. We have replaced civil discourse with kneejerk tribalism.

It's much harder to restore trust than to lose it. But all of us who appreciate public lands - whether we want to log a particular place or preserve it, whether we want to hunt or watch birds, whether we enjoy riding motorcycles or horses or just walking around - need to be together on one thing. We can disagree on how we manage our lands, but we need to do so with respect. We all deserve to be heard, but we also need to listen. What happened at the Malheur National Wildlife Preserve wasn't a revolution, it was mob rule, and it's unfortunate for all of us that a jury failed to understand that.

Ben Long is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the

Editor's Note:

No matter how you feel about the Malheur verdict or their actions, it is a historical fact that once public lands are given over to states - they most often get sold to the highest bidder and those are usually developers that only have profits in mind.

Whether you are a person that benefits from public lands by using them as your playgrounds or not, it is in the best interest of all Americans to value and conserve as much public land as possible.

Higher density in already populated areas rather than urban sprawl is conservation at its best: infrastructure is not spread too thin, air pollution is kept at a minimum and most all resources are conserved. Don't believe the hype about keeping the Feds from controlling our lands when we are in control of them now.

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Threat Of Water Battles

By Matt Jenkins - HCN

urbanites who depend on the Colorado River. He highlights several irrigation districts and cities that have substantially

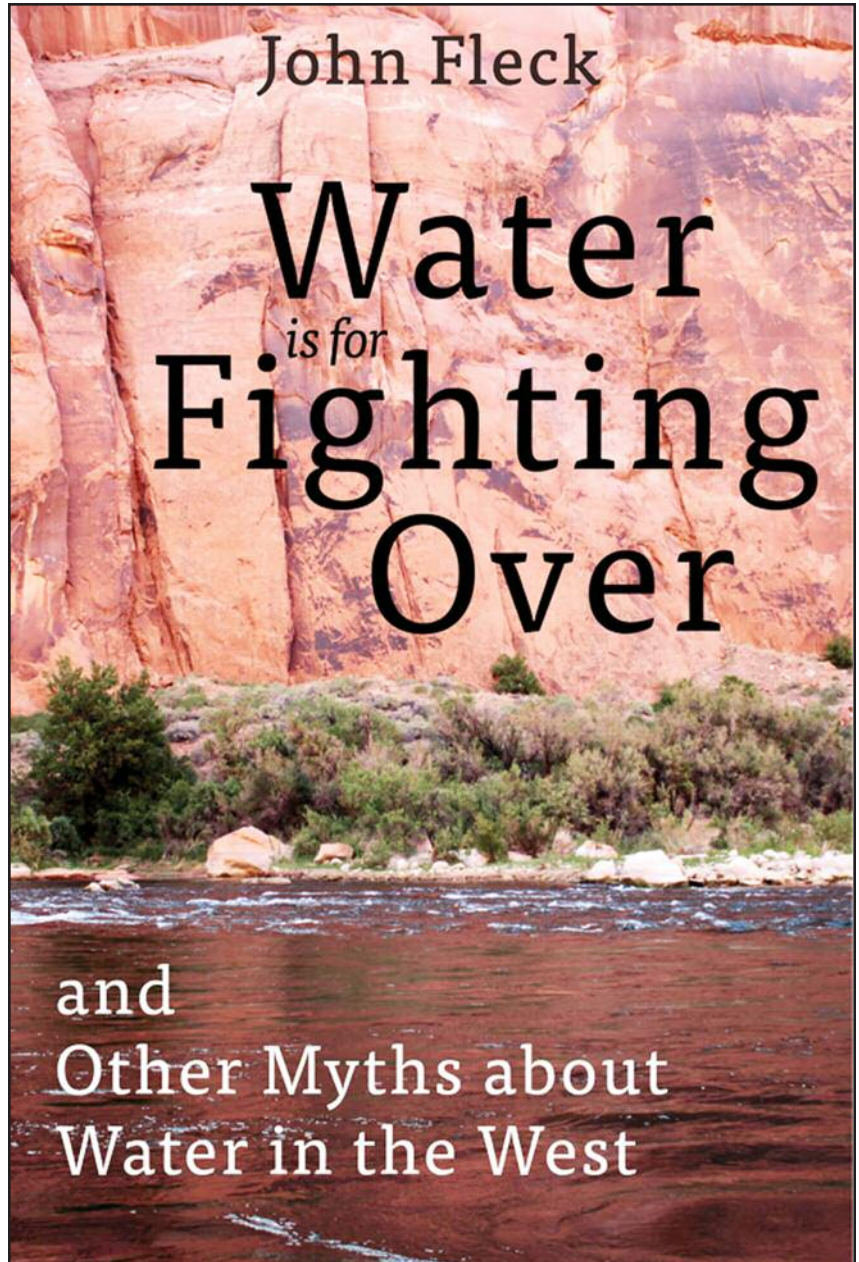
War and peace on the Colorado River


A new book makes a case for optimism in the basin, but the threat of water battles will always be around.

It's been 30 years since Marc Reisner's landmark history of Western water, *Cadillac Desert*, was first published. The book's dire tone set the pattern for much subsequent water writing. Longtime Albuquerque Journal reporter John Fleck calls it the "narrative of crisis" — an apocalyptic storyline about the West perpetually teetering on the brink of running dry.

When the book's second edition was released in 1993, on the heels of a particularly dry string of years in California, Reisner saw fit to characterize the drought as a "punishment meted out to an impudent culture by an indignant God." Thanks to books like *Cadillac Desert*, Fleck writes, "I grew up with the expectation of catastrophe." Yet in his own reporting, Fleck, who recently became director of the University of New Mexico's Water Resources Program, discovered a very different story. "Far from the punishment of an indignant God," he writes, "I found instead a remarkable adaptability."

Fleck's new book, *Water is for Fighting Over ... and Other Myths about Water in the West*, chronicles the remarkable and often-overlooked adaptive capacity of the farmers and millions of





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reduced water use while enjoying higher farm incomes and supporting bigger populations, despite more than a decade and a half of serious drought.

The most fascinating parts of the book focus on river politics. One of Fleck’s great insights is that the Colorado is essentially a decentralized system where “no one has their hand on the tap.” The fundamental challenge is “problem solving in a river basin where water crosses borders, where it must be shared, but where no one is in charge.”

The book draws its title from the old saw — often misattributed to Mark Twain and endlessly reiterated — that whiskey is for drinking but water is for fighting over. This is the primary “myth” Fleck takes on. The ferocity of Colorado River politics has been likened to the Middle East conflict, but Fleck notes that over the last two decades, a surprising spirit of collaboration has arisen on the Colorado.

Rather than fighting, he writes, the river’s water bosses have crafted a series of agreements that have increased water-use flexibility and buffered some of the effects of extreme drought. The members of the “network,” as Fleck puts it, are able to do that because they have a deeply

rooted distrust of the vagaries of court, and have “come to the shared conclusion that arguing over legal interpretation is the wrong path.”



Indeed, the network’s members haven’t taken each other to court since 1952. But in arguing that collaboration is the great untold story, Fleck overlooks one of the most fascinating aspects of the Colorado’s recent history: the aggressive brinkmanship that also drives its politics.

Far from being averse to fighting, some members of the network — most famously Pat Mulroy, the former head of the Southern Nevada Water Authority — have actively used the threat of litigation to force their counterparts to compromise and cooperate. That coercive pressure is the antagonistic yang to the cooperative yin. And therein lies the great paradox of the 21st century Colorado River: The credible threat of legal assault, artfully deployed, has provided the anvil against which many of these cooperative agreements have been hammered out.


In fact, it was just such a provocation that ultimately catalyzed the agreements that Fleck lauds. In 2004, as the drought worsened, some water managers began telegraphing meticulously coded threats to each other over disputed interpretations of critical *(Continued next page.)*

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Highlander Book Review

parts of the law of the river. The network effectively stood at the brink of legal war.

Not long ago, John Entsminger, who worked as a lawyer for Mulroy at the time and is a prominent figure in Fleck's story, told me: "It was unclear at that point whether we were going to negotiate, or whether we were headed toward the U.S. Supreme Court."

It wasn't a fight, but the plausible prospect of a fight, that forced water managers out of their entrenched positions to begin developing the series of agreements that, they hope, will keep us one step ahead of climate change and the still-deepening drought.

These days, the network's members are loath to talk about this coercive element in river politics. That's largely because after their acrimony in 2004 spilled into public, they made a pact to keep their differences out of the media. But in spite of the apparent outbreak of peace, the water bosses continue to prepare for the possibility of war. The story that Fleck tells is a hopeful one, and a very important one. But it's not quite the whole story. Two and a half years ago, Entsminger replaced Pat Mulroy as the head of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Entsminger is far

more conciliatory than Mulroy. Yet in a candid moment not long after he took charge, he acknowledged to me that, sometimes, water really is for fighting over. Those who think otherwise do so at their own peril.

"We don't want to fight," Entsminger said. "But if we fight, we want to win."

Water is for Fighting Over ... and Other Myths about Water in the West

John Fleck - 264 pages, hardcover: \$30. Island Press, 2016.

Editor's Note: The other notable fight Jenkin's fails to acknowledge is the one over the PROPOSED Expansion of Gross Reservoir and Dam. While many players are being all conciliatory, Denver Water has shown no such signs and is in complete denial about the devastating effects their plan to pull more water off the Colorado River will have: not only to the most endangered river in the U.S. but also to the residents and wildlife living closest to the proposed project. Even Boulder city/county is in denial about how it will be adversely affected should litigation fail to stop the project, thinking only of mitigating effects that cannot possibly be. An EIS as fatally flawed as Moffat's does not reflect the true ramifications of allowing the devastation that will surely happen if the worst project around begins.

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Hunting Pressures Increase Along Western Edge of Yellowstone National Park

In addition to treaty hunting currently underway, Montana's state-run buffalo hunt opened on November 15th and we quickly lost three more of the last wild buffalo. On this particular day, a herd of approximately forty buffalo, as well as a mama moose and her calf, were seen fleeing across the highway from the direction of Yellowstone National Park, on to Gallatin National Forest land, where hunters parked along the road quickly made their move. BFC patrols reported that an unknown force — whether human, wolf, or grizzly we don't know — spooked the moose and buffalo, causing them to flee from safety. The moose and her calf were almost hit by a vehicle, and two adult female buffalo - one who was pregnant — and a young bull were killed by the hunters.

Some of the buffalo attempted to approach and mourn one of the adults, and the hunters chucked sticks and rocks at them. The rest of the herd fled down the Madison River corridor and we feared once word got out they would all be destined for the freezer. After all, hunters only have to call Montana's "buffalo hunt hotline" to find out if there are buffalo to kill. But buffalo are wise elders, and they no longer stand around waiting for people to shoot them.

The next morning's patrols couldn't find them anywhere. We were even approached by two tribal game wardens and accused of hazing the buffalo back into Yellowstone. The afternoon patrol found the tracks of this herd heading into the Park along the Madison's eastern bluffs. While we would like to be able to take credit for saving the lives of these buffalo, it is the buffalo who are saving themselves. Yet the hunters and game wardens refuse to give the buffalo this much credit, and find it easier to blame BFC. Every year this happens here along the western boundary: buffalo migrate into Montana, hunters immediately show up to shoot them, and the buffalo leave, often not to be seen again until the spring. Similar situations occur along the north boundary, where hunting occurs at Beattie Gulch. Hunters literally line up along the park boundary waiting for buffalo to come across; when they do they're fired upon, and many flee back into the Park. It is not BFC hazing them; the buffalo are wise, they know where they are safe, and when danger comes, they go. We appeal to the hunters and their game wardens to have the courage — and respect for the buffalo — to stand up to the governments who are responsible for creating this situation on the land. The state of Montana, the National Park Service, and the

Interagency Bison Management Plan are all guilty of carrying out the livestock industry's wishes at the expense of our National Mammal, the last wild buffalo. With buffalo having access to such a small fraction of the vast lands we call Montana, all of it being right along the boundary of Yellowstone National Park, and hunting being completely dependent on whether buffalo migrate into Montana or not, these situations will continue, and these buffalo hunts will never amount to anything but an extermination plan applauded by cattle interests.

The solution is so simple: more buffalo on a larger landscape. To achieve this, we must do at least three things:



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1. Repeal or amend Montana law MCA 81-2-120 and remove the Montana Department of Livestock's authority over wild buffalo, go to our website for the Action Alert links.
2. Gain endangered species protection for this extremely vulnerable population.
3. Demand that Montana have the same relationship with wild buffalo that they do with wild elk. NOTE: this is the same alert for repealing MCA 81-2-120) in this state.

We must remove livestock industry authority over our last wild bison, allow the herds to flourish and restore themselves on the landscape, and enter into a meaningful, reciprocal relationship (some call it "management") where the people take care of the buffalo, and the buffalo take care of the people and the land. These great beings who have endured ice ages, who have given everything of themselves, who created the lands where the tens of millions roamed, who can by their very presence restore the prairies and grasslands which are some of the most endangered habitats in the world, who ask only that in return, we take care of them in their time of need — which is now. The buffalo deserve at least this much from us.

BFC is in need of volunteers to join us on the front lines. All you have to do is get here. BFC will take care of the rest. Have you ever wanted to see Yellowstone in winter, dreamed about looking into the eyes of a wild buffalo, or have a hunger to challenge the governments who harass and kill our National Mammal?

The Creative Dynamo In You

By Frosty Wooldridge

Six decades ago, a Swiss hiker named George de Mestral hiked through autumn colors with his dog. He crossed fields covered in milkweed, purple thistles, burrs, thorny branches and floating dandelion parachutes.

In the autumn, all plants release their seeds to the winds. Others attach to animals for transport to other locations to begin anew.

When Mestral returned home, he noticed dozens of burr balls with hooks attached to his socks and his dog's fur. It took him 30 minutes to dislodge them from his clothing and the dog.

While pulling them off, he noticed each spine featured a hook at the end that embedded itself into anything passing near the plant. Anything with fur picked up the seed and transported it to new fields. His wool sock picked up the most "hooked" burrs.

He put two and two together! Voila, he created Velcro cloth fasteners. Today, we use Velcro to secure our bicycle shoes, coats, fasten our backpacks and a thousand other uses. He became a millionaire through his "creative dynamo" spinning around in his mind.

You can look throughout history to see innovations and inventions that popped up out of nowhere by average men and women who discovered an idea "out of the blue."

By what process does an invention occur? How can you apply it to your life? What can you do with inventions you create?

Remember that everything must come from an "idea" before it can move into form.

Ideas fly around the universe waiting for someone to grab them and bring them to form. Your mind constitutes a "net" that captures ideas. You may remember that tiny, gold, winged ball in the Harry Potter books that flew around the stadium while students chased it on their broomsticks.

When that winged ball flies by your head, grab it! Write down the idea. Process it. Play with it. Move it into form. It might be an idea for a magazine article if you are a writer. It might become a book. If you make jewelry, you may create a stunning ring or necklace. If you create macramé, you may discover a new design. You may create a new painting, poem or sculpture. You might design a new bicycle, airplane, car or boat.

In whatever realm you play, those ideas buzz around your head. Capture them like Harry Potter captured the tiny, gold winged ball.

Never allow anyone to deter you or rain on your parade!


Years ago, a man attempted to make a "cooler" beach shoe that stayed on peoples' feet. He made it out of rubber with a cinch on the back. He offered it in many colors.

Naysayers said, "That's so ugly; it's a crock!"



So, he named it a "Croc" and you know the rest of the story: billions of people wear his beach Crocs!

In order to engage your own creative dynamo, stay open to ideas via your open consciousness. Realize that "form" emerges out of the invisible field of the universe. It's the playground of your mind. It's spontaneous and self-generating energy.

It's known as the "Law of Mind." It's the "emerging creative energy of the universe" and it flows through you.



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work on turning them from thoughts to form.

- Reframe your sense of self.
- Understand and relish in the fact that you represent an endless fountain of ideas.
- Open to the magic.

The creative dynamo thrives in you by your receptivity. As a writer, I look for new ideas daily. Above my computer on the corkboard for the past 40 years, a small card reads:

“The Idea Fairy may strike at any time—so be alert and write her idea down, so she will feel appreciated and come back often.”

Frosty Wooldridge has bicycled across six continents - from the Arctic to the South Pole - as well as eight times across the USA, coast to coast and border to border. In 2005, he bicycled from the Arctic Circle, Norway to Athens,

Greece. 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

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Living Life In A Bubble

By Maddy Butcher

In my small town in southwestern Colorado, those who did not vote for Donald Trump seemed numbed and stunned by the result. Mostly college-educated and originally from away, they grouped in their usual places to commiserate.

Maybe it was a shocking result. But if these folks had visited outside their circles, if they'd tried to get a fix on what makes the longtime locals tick, they might have had a better sense of what was to come.

Mancos, Colorado, population about 1,300, is mostly white, with folks here mostly ranching and farming and some doing outdoor recreational and nonprofit work. It is also a Colorado Creative District, and because of its growing diversity, Mancos was named one of the 'Top 20 Small Towns' by Smithsonian Magazine.

But in my experience, pockets of people here act more like species in the wilderness. They clump together and interact with other groups only when they must. That's too bad, since reaching beyond a comfortable circle has mostly positive consequences. Researchers at Stanford and Harvard universities say so. Yet I see plenty of

miscommunication and even disdain between community groups here.

An example: Mancos' motto is 'Where the West Still Lives' and sure enough, cattle drives are regular deals. Recently, I helped friends move 50 pairs along a few miles of back road. Most cars stopped to let us pass, but one local driver in a new Subaru tried to pass a stopped car and push through the herd. Now, side-by-side vehicles blocked the cattle, and the frustration was palpable.

The driver, in his ignorance and impatience, had made matters worse. Maybe it's a scene that plays out across other small Western towns.

Another example: Colorado is a fence-out state, so gates and fences are nothing new. But more and more transplants to our area lock their gates. Inevitably, cattle get through their fencing. So how do the new people drive them off their lawns?

(Ranchers) "either have to cut the fence or cut the lock. Things could go smoothly but don't because of that," said Wyatt Cox, a local rancher.

Perry Lewis served on the town board from 2004-2012. Born and raised here, Lewis lived in California, Illinois, Massachusetts and elsewhere before returning home.

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“I wanted my three sons to be able to grab their horse and their dog and go up into the mountains,” he said.

I asked Lewis about diversity, newcomers and old-timers. “I love the diversity. But the thing that drives me batty? They want paved roads or don’t want their neighbor to have chickens. - But that’s why they moved to Mancos.”

You might think differences could be worked out over a cup of coffee. But even coffee reveals divisiveness. Most ranchers grab their morning cup at the Conoco station or at the P & D, which for decades has served as the town’s grocery store. A quarter-mile away, Fahrenheit Coffee Roasters charges the same price but hosts a different clientele, who tote laptops and smartphones. Some sit for hours at the metal tables, working online.

Matt Lauer, who owns Fahrenheit with his wife, Linda James, smiles at how old-timers label his customers. “It’s ‘yuppie, new age,’ ‘expensive,” he said. “There are folks who grew up on Folgers and who think this coffee sucks.” One rancher told me that cowboy hats don’t fit through Fahrenheit’s doorway and that Lauer’s customers “need to get a job.”

You might assume that transplants are better at embracing a town’s diversity. But sandal wearers with messenger bags are just as rutted in their routines as the cowhands dipping Copenhagen. Lewis and others said they do not see the

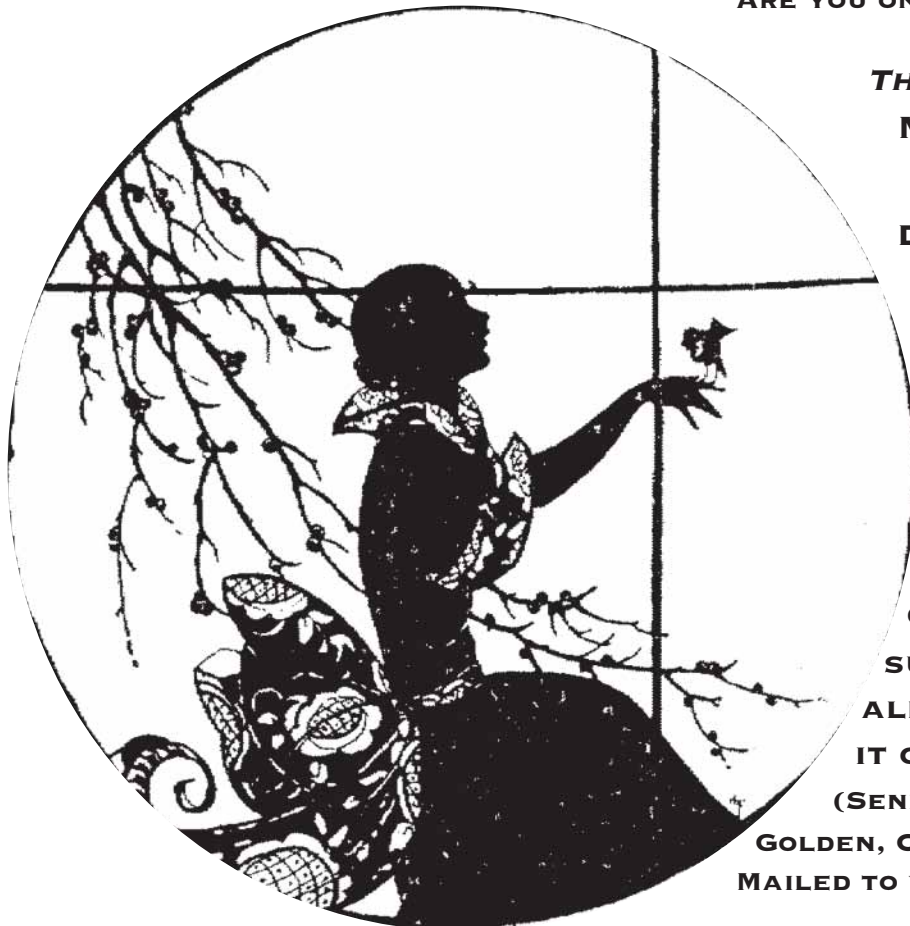
new, young farmers reaching beyond their circle to get to know farmers who have lived in Mancos for generations.

It makes me think that diversity takes work. Books help. My favorite is *The Good Neighbor Guidebook for Colorado*, edited by Nancy S. Greif and Erin J. Johnson. The driver stuck in cows would do well to read it: “New neighbors must be prepared to assume responsibility for the impact that their presence can have on working farms and ranches. - Living next door to a farm or ranch involves - a commitment to open communication, hard work, and constant learning.”

Great Work, a business practices book by David Sturt, points to the need to reach outside usual circles. When people do that, “it makes communities interesting, welcoming, vibrant,” Sturt writes. “It’s actually a disadvantage to only talk with people “who like us, care about us, and believe in us.”

I mentioned the cattle drive snafu to Sturt. He laughed and offered the driver some advice: “Get out of your little bubble. Roll down your window. Smell the cattle. Listen to them. Get off autopilot. It takes more effort. And it’s a delight.”

Maddy Butcher is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She writes in Mancos, Colorado.



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POWER UPDATE


Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp Steamboat Springs, Colo. July 15-20, 2017

United Power is now accepting applications for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to be held July 15-20, 2017 just north of Steamboat Springs, Colo. The primary objective of this camp is to provide an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. Interested students must complete an application, be 16 years of age or older, and have their primary residence in United Power's service territory.

Applications can be found at www.unitedpower.com under the 'My Community' tab.

Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2017.

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Bundle Up for Winter Storms

Are you ready for winter's cold grasp? Snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms, but being prepared can make a world of difference. United Power recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintry blasts.

Winterize Your Home

Winter storms wreak havoc on your home. By winterizing your living space, you'll be prepared for extreme cold and hazardous conditions.

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation, or cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.



Prepare a Winter Survival Kit

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. United Power crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- Food: Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person.
- Medication: Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- Identification: Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- Other items: First Aid Kit, blankets, warm clothing for every family member, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

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694 Lost Angel
Solar Home on 9+ Acres
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11760 Spruce Canyon Circle
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31779 Hilltop Road
Fully Fenced Foothills Paradise
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,518 sq.ft. **\$424,000**



33966 Nadm Drive
City Lights Twinkle Below
1.08 Acres **\$75,000**



0 Hollings Way - Land
Gorgeous Gently Sloping Lot
17.2 Acres **\$189,500**



0 Tiber Road - Land
Two Adjacent Lots
1.88 Acres **\$68,000**



11662 Hillcrest Road
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2126 Apex Valley Road
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118 Gap Road
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