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Support The New Outdoor Store In Nederland

A new business opened last summer in Nederland, an outdoor store. Sasha and John Thompson came up with the idea in the spring and worked hard to get open by July 4th. As Sasha says, "we have the things that people forget" when coming up to the mountains for all kinds of recreation. So, the next time you find yourself in the Nederland area and think, "ah oh – forgot the _____," you can probably get it at Mountain Man Outdoor Store, 20 Lakeview Drive, #111 – between B & F Market and the Carousel.

The Thompson's live in Nederland now but they moved from Coal Creek Canyon and before that California, and for the last ten years John worked as a bike messenger in San Francisco, California, and also owned a video store in Boulder for awhile. Sasha has clothing and flower shop retail management experience. She recently walked dogs in the Denver Metro area. They worked together at the messenger business in San Francisco.



Tourism business during the summer was a pleasant surprise for the fledgling business – up until the flood. So the transition to winter inventory from summer inventory has supplied a store full of great things that out of towners' and locals alike can use for everyday, regular recreation or that special trip to ski/snowboard or snowshoe/hike. Every stop in the Outdoor Store provides new options to get for yourself or gifts for that special someone.



The Thompson's have been married for five years, have two dogs and love to travel and explore new places around the globe whenever they can. John says they got some good advice when working to open the store: "In summer the tourists will support you, but in the winter it is the locals who will keep you in business."

So they've listened to what people want and provided those items when possible. They also sell locally made merchandise and are always

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looking for new providers of locally made crafts/wares. Clothing has done well, especially **Carhartt** – they’ll be expanding on the line all winter long. Next summer in addition to the camping, hiking and backpacking stuff they have plans to sell fishing and climbing gear.

The gently used inventories in the store have been searched for and found by John’s good eye at places in Boulder and surrounding areas. The couple splits up duties running this fairly new retail space by each choosing what they are good at: Sasha being good at ordering clothing and working with numbers: John is good with the people and chatting up the locals to see what they are wanting. They live close to the store so neither one works full days, they can walk to work and are enjoying not having a boss other than each other.

John wanted to say a public thanks to the people next door to the store at the Very Nice Brewery, the folks at B & F Mountain Market and other business owners around town who have been supportive and helpful in getting them up and running.

In the future the Thompson’s want to help their community and one of their ‘pet projects’ is a dog park somewhere, either in town or nearby- they plan to work on initiating that and also a Frisbee Golf Park. They are pretty

sure locals and visitors to Nederland and the surrounding areas will both appreciate and use both types of parks, just as they would.

This new retail store is a prime example of us mountain folks having a place to get things we need or want or both -without having to go down the canyons to town, so support this new local business by going in and checking out their wide selections and collections of new

and gently used items. For flatlanders from downtown it is a great place to count on should you find yourself saying, woops – forgot to bring ____, and my bet is you’ll find it in the Mountain Man Outdoor Store. See their ad on the inside front cover. *Pictured these two pages: Sasha and John Thompson in the entry to their establishment. Another angle of the interior of the store. This page shows their shopping center entrance.*

By A.M. Wilks



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Arctic Climate & Interior West Cold Snap

From Sarah Jane Keller

The recent cold snap has destroyed low temperature records in the West. In parts of Montana it hasn't been this frigid since the '70s, grape growers in California have been anxious about their vines freezing, homeless shelters have been filling up, and in Oregon it's been so cold that even a geothermal bathing pool had to close. That's right, it was too cold even for hot water.

Perhaps now you're wondering: Why has it been so darned bone-chilling? The answer to that question has roots in the Arctic, and points to why people in the Lower 48 have a stake in the climate of the Far North.

The West's recent Arctic stay-cation has come courtesy of the polar jet stream, whose high-altitude winds are responsible for many daily weather conditions. The jet stream often keeps cold air barricaded around Canada and Alaska, but in early December a lobe of the jet stream began dipping south from the Arctic, clearing the way for frigid air to spill into the Western U.S, and pushing warm air into the Arctic. If you imagine the jet stream as a racetrack of wind around the North Pole, lately its had an unusually big, loopy curve that dropped it into the southwest.

In contrast, during the winter of 2012, the jet stream didn't meander as much, keeping cold air penned in up north. That locked Alaskans in an icebox, with temperatures there averaging minus 35 F in late January. (Apparently, the shape of car tires seems to change from round to square — their bottoms flatten out — at minus 45 F.

But now we've been freezing our butts off in the Intermountain West (and now the East Coast), and parts of Alaska are seeing record high temperatures. Last Sunday, it was a balmy 39 F on the north coast's Prudhoe Bay. This flip-flop isn't outside the realm of 'natural' up-and-down swings in climate. But there's also a scientific debate under way about how Arctic warming will alter natural climate circulations, and how that could make severe weather in the Lower 48 more likely. "There will be other scientists who will say we can chalk this up to natural climate variability," says Chuck Greene, a Cornell University earth scientist. Since you can't link any single weather event, like the current cold snap, to climate change, that's valid, he says; but "we are stacking the deck in favor of these kinds of conditions."

That's because the Arctic is heating up twice as fast as the rest of the Northern Hemisphere, and it's hard to imagine all that heat entering the atmosphere won't affect climate cycles, like the Arctic Oscillation. The Arctic Oscillation describes changes in atmospheric pressure at the North Pole, which shape the jet stream's path and determine if it's fast and strong, or meandering and slow like a lazy river. When the circulation is strong, polar air stays trapped up north, turning car tires to squares. When it is weak, the jet stream creeps to the South, letting icy air escape into the Lower 48. The same process was behind the 2011-2012 deadly cold snap in Europe.

Since the Arctic Oscillation is quite unpredictable, and because it can override or complicate other weather-making patterns, it's often called a weather "wild card." Climate change could make it even wilder. The idea is that extra warmth in the Arctic narrows the temperature

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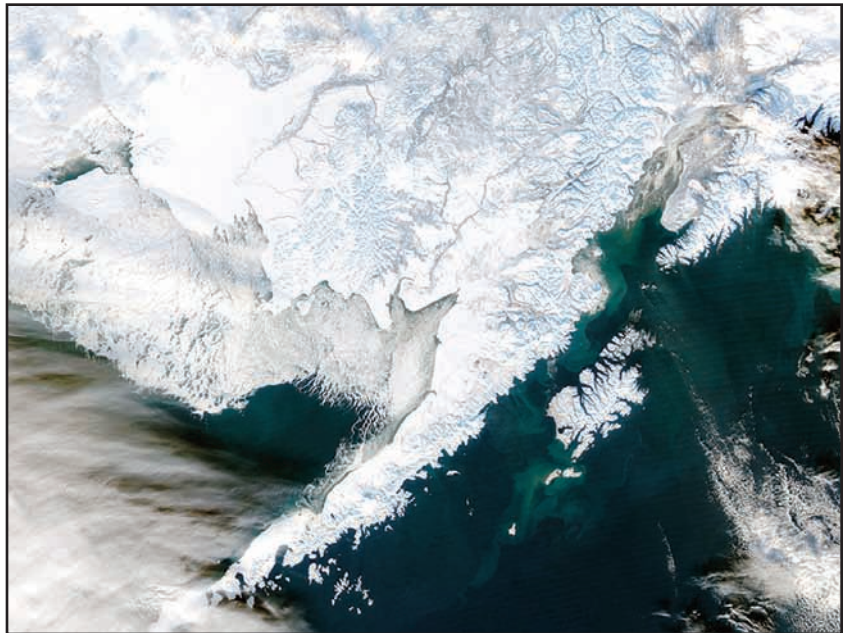
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difference between high and mid-latitudes, which leads to the weaker, wobbly version of the jet stream that lets polar air travel south. Some scientists are starting to link loss of Arctic sea ice to snowy and cold winters in the U.S. and Europe, along with jet stream behaviors that resemble the wobbly version of the Arctic Oscillation.

In 2012, a separate group of researchers also found evidence connecting Arctic warming to a slower-moving and wavier jet stream. That means weather, whether it's drought, heat waves, rain, or cold spells, sticks around longer, stacking the deck in favor of extreme events. Some of the same scientists just published a paper in *Nature Climate Change* linking Arctic warming to extreme summer heat events in North America, Europe, and Asia.

That current cold spell looks consistent with that slowing, says Greene. But as Climate Central reported in mid December, the impacts of Arctic warming outside of the Arctic are still scientifically controversial, in part because the physical connections between Arctic warming and extreme weather haven't been nailed down, some conflicting studies have come out, and some researchers think they need to accumulate more evidence, and more years of data, before drawing conclusions. It's an active field of research, with lots more to learn.

But if the long arm of the jet stream is going to reach down more frequently, that has big implications for the West's weather. As a former under secretary at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Jane Lubchenco,



said in 2011: "What happens in the Arctic doesn't always stay in the Arctic."

NASA MODIS satellite image of a snowy and icy Alaska from January 2012. That winter, the Arctic Oscillation brought colder than average temperatures to the Far North. But that September, the Arctic sea ice minimum was its lowest since record keeping started in 1979.

Sarah Jane Keller is an editorial fellow at High Country News. She tweets @sjanekeller

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Negotiations Speed Up Endangered Species Listings

From Katie Mast

In northern Arizona, a tiny cactus, not more than 3.5 inches tall, lifts a creamy yellow flower above the desert rock each spring. Roughly 1,000 of these rare plants still grow, living 10 to 15 years and rising from the earth to flower each season before sinking back after fruiting. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Fickeisen plains cactus as a candidate for federal protection in 1980, but for 33 years, no decision was made. On Oct. 1 of last year, it became a protected species.

This cactus is just one of many plants and animals moved off the Endangered Species Act candidate list last year as the FWS worked through the process of evaluation and peer review, narrowing the waitlist to 146 species, down from 192 in 2012. It's the first time in decades that the number of species awaiting designation has fallen so low. "We are moving a volume that we haven't in a number of years," says Gary Frazer, assistant director for Ecological

Services at the FWS.

Agreements from 2011 that the FWS signed with WildEarth Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity are the reason the candidate list is getting so much attention. Before the agreements, starting in the early 2000s, petitions to protect rare species were piling up on FWS desks, sometimes in batches of hundreds, Frazer says. It became impossible to deal with the influx, and the agency was soon stymied by lawsuits over missed deadlines. The agreements set deadlines for the FWS to work through the petitions as well as a backlog of candidate species that were deemed worthy of a closer look, but still in "purgatory," as Tierra Curry, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, calls it. In return, the agency gets some respite from lawsuits and new petitions. Curry says that most of the 252 candidate species listed in the agreements will likely get ESA protection. Candidates that make it this far in the petition process don't often get turned down. "That's why our agreement is so exciting," Curry says. The FWS is now obligated to make a decision on all 252 candidates by 2016, as well as work through the petitions.

From all accounts, the agreements seem to be working out well so far. Threatened species are finally seeing protection, and others that the FWS says don't need protection are at least getting a decision. And the environmental groups have been suing the FWS less since the agreements, leaving federal employees more time to carry out the actual protection. The Center for Biological Diversity did challenge a negative decision on the Alabama shad in 2011, and WildEarth Guardians recently announced

they will file suit against FWS for a negative decision on the Gunnison's prairie dog. But other than those and a small handful of other cases, Curry says there hasn't been much need to challenge the agency's decisions. "If the best available science finds that (a species doesn't) warrant protection, we're not going to challenge that."

Frazer says that despite the pressure the agreements put on the agency to plow through the backlog, and the added challenges of sequestration and the government shutdown last fall, the agency is deliberate with each protection decision. "We are still cognizant that decisions are based on the best available science," he says. Since the agreements were signed, 87 candidates have been added to the list as endangered or threatened, while 19

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others did not warrant protection. The service has also made final decisions on 49 species that were not candidates at the time of the agreements.

Over the next few years, several controversial species, like the wolverine, will receive a final decision. The immediate results from the agreements may be great for now, yet even when a species is listed, funding for carrying out the protection is limited. "We are always harping on the fact that the Fish and Wildlife Service is woefully underfunded to do their jobs," says Taylor Jones, endangered species advocate for WildEarth Guardians. And questions remain over how much it's truly improving the relationship between the agency and the two advocacy groups. Will another backlog pile up after this one is cleared? Jones is optimistic. "This agreement has already changed our relationship," she says. "I'm hoping that after 2016, we'll



continue as we are now, which is much more amicable than before."

Katie Mast is an editorial intern at High Country News. "Cross-posted from High Country News, hcn.org. The author is solely responsible for the content." Image of wolverine by Steve Kroschel / USFWS, courtesy Center for Biological Diversity.



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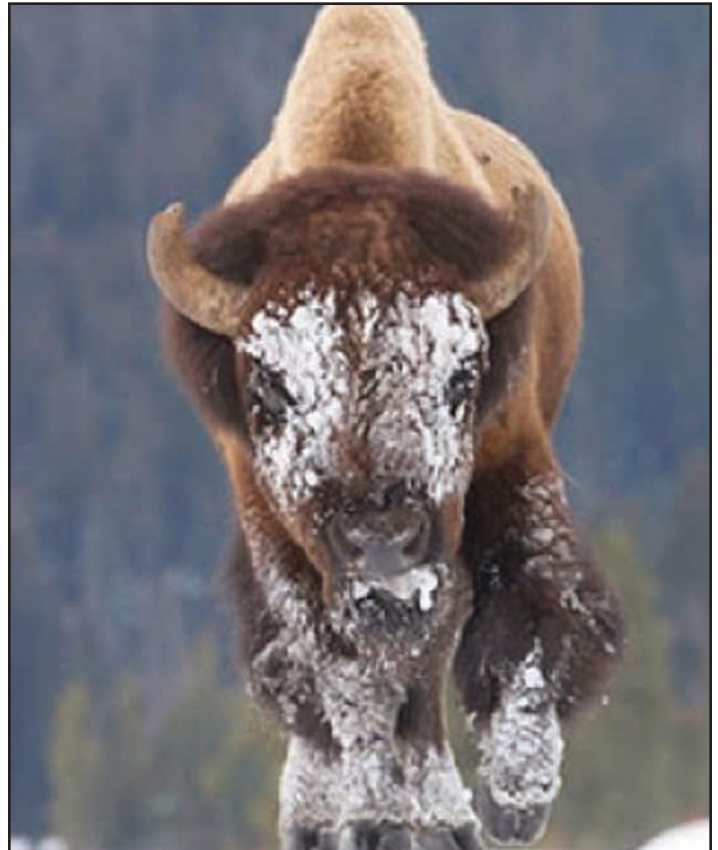
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Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) is convinced that protecting wild buffalo via the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is the only way to save them. We need your help to list and protect America's last wild buffalo under the ESA. More than 40,000,000 wild buffalo once lived in North America. Today only 4,500 remain. Yet the livestock industry and the governments of Montana and the United States think that's still too many. Even the National Park Service, an agency you'd expect to safeguard such an imperiled species living in the world's first national park, has captured and sent thousands of wild Yellowstone buffalo to slaughter in recent years.

That is why an ESA listing is so important—and urgent! We, the people, must unite and force the agencies of our government to fulfill their responsibilities. They obviously refuse to do so on their own...but we shall prevail. The wild buffalo we protect—the animals you and I will defend together this winter—are the last American buffalo families to continuously occupy their native habitat. These massive mammals are the only living link to the great herds of their ancestors that once roamed freely from New York to California, and from Northern Canada to Northern Mexico.



BFC is the only group solely dedicated to protection of these animals, and you are a crucial part of our team. Please join us in protecting the buffalo by sending your tax-deductible contribution today!

The ESA process begins with the drafting of a petition, a legal document making the strongest possible scientific argument for buffalo protection. The process, fueled by BFC's extensive knowledge from nearly 17 years in the field with the buffalo, will be expensive.

The buffalo require attorneys as well as professional ecologists, conservation biologists, and geneticists. To rally this group of specialists and be successful, this requires a concerted effort from our volunteers, staff, board of directors, and supporters—and will likely involve protracted legal battles. We are ready to do our part, but we

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need your support to do it.

This process may take a number of years from the time the petition is filed to when the buffalo families become protected under the act. When all is said and done—and the buffalo are finally afforded the protection they so desperately need and deserve—the price of this achievement may be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. We have already begun assembling our team, and intend to create and file the strongest listing petition possible in 2014. Will you help? We and the buffalo need you by our side.

Since 1997, we have spent every winter and spring in the field with the buffalo, protecting them on their chosen ground and working to change the laws and rules under which they are managed. We promised back then to “stand our ground” with the buffalo until they are protected.

Today, with a much greater understanding of what that promise actually means we still stand by it. Our field patrols and grassroots organizing remain essential aspects of BFC; these tactics allow us to witness, document, and share. The result is an informed and passionate citizen advocacy built around every action that endangers buffalo—and you are a part.

BFC remains committed to our field actions, but it is increasingly obvious that it will take endless pressure, endlessly applied from every angle, to save the buffalo. We are committed to working through the avenues of science, policy, legislation, and legal action. Our effort to protect buffalo under the Endangered Species Act is the ultimate expression of our

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Boulder County Subdivision Paving LID

Press Release From Boulder County

LID will go into effect in January 2014 to begin road improvements in unincorporated Boulder County subdivisions.

For the past several years, Boulder County has been working on a solution to rehabilitate the approximately 150 miles of paved roads in 118 unincorporated subdivisions. More than 40% of the paved roads in these subdivisions are in poor condition because they have not been resurfaced or repaved in many years.

When roads were first constructed within unincorporated subdivisions, Boulder County accepted the roads for "maintenance," which includes basic services such as snow removal, pothole patching and crack filling. Routine maintenance does not include significant capital repair projects such as reconstruction or repaving of roads.

Boulder County has been working for more than four years with subdivision residents and property owners to identify and evaluate ways to develop approaches for the reconstruction of these deteriorating roads in a timely, cost-effective, affordable, efficient and fair manner.

After numerous meetings with subdivision residents and neighborhood associations, and an extensive series of

public workshops and public hearings in 2012 and 2013, Boulder County identified two options to fund reconstruction work to begin in 2014: creation of a Public Improvement District (PID) or a Local Improvement District (LID). The PID failed to pass in the Nov. 5 election.

The second option was an LID, which would pay for the repair of all subdivision roads on a one-time basis over 15-year project duration. In late November, the Board of County Commissioners finalized the details of a Local Improvement District to pay for the rehabilitation of paved roads in unincorporated Boulder County subdivisions.

The improvement district will be funded in part by an assessment to be paid by each property owner in the District. (See Assessment Resolution 2013-16 assessing properties in the LID to pay a portion of the cost of the road improvements in unincorporated county subdivisions that benefit those properties.) Boulder County is paying 20% of the total costs.

Each property owner in the District will receive their regular annual property tax bill from the Treasurer's Office in mid-January that includes the annual assessment for the LID. (A word-searchable tax roll list is available on



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Place: CCCIA Hall

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Cost: No Entry fee for those entering the challenge

Non-Entrants to Taste & Judge: \$5 Kids (12&U), \$6 Members, \$7 non-Members

Visit CCCIA Web site or Facebook page for Italian Entrée Challenge details

http://www.coalcreek.com/cccia/CCCIA_Site/CCCIA_Home.html

Register, information, or question Contact: John Stevens 303-642-0842

Save the Date
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www.bouldercounty.org/subdivisionpaving for property owners wishing to view their assessment amount prior to receiving their tax bill.)

As is typical for special assessments and outlined in the state statutes applicable to Local Improvement Districts, the annual payments for assessments will be included in the property owner's property tax bill. Half of the payment will be due Feb. 28 with the other half due June 16, or, if property owner chooses to make a single annual payment, it will be due by April 30.

Like all special assessments, state law requires that a lien be placed on the property for the full amount of assessment, which can be removed at any time upon the full payment of the assessment.

There is no requirement that the property owner pay the full amount, however if the property owner wishes to pay the full amount of the assessment, they can review the assessment roll on the county website to determine the full amount of the assessment due and remit payment to the County Treasurer. Because the county is not charging interest, paying up front does not reduce the overall cost. If property owners ever overpay on their taxes or assessments, the county always refunds the amount of overpayment.

In addition the statute provides that property owners have 30 days from the effective date of the Assessment Resolution to pay in full if they wish to challenge the LID. Since the resolution was adopted on Nov. 21, property owners only had until Dec. 23 to pay in full to preserve these rights. (Note: Property owners wishing to file a legal challenge to the LID should consult with private counsel regarding their rights and responsibilities. The county believes that the outcome of the lawsuit filed in Boulder District Court on Nov. 20 by several plaintiffs who own property in the District will likely impact all property owners in the LID, not just those who filed the lawsuit. Thus, if the court finds the LID is invalid, it will be invalid for all properties.)

Anyone wishing to pay the assessment in full can mail a check (preferably with the memo line "Subdivision Paving LID" reference on it) to: Boulder County Treasurer-Attn:

Subdivision Paving LID Payoff, P.O. Box 471, Boulder CO 80306 Anyone choosing to pay in installments will receive their LID installment notice as part of their regular tax bill around Jan. 24, 2014.

For more information, call 720-564-2644 or visit www.bouldercounty.org/subdivisionpaving. Boulder-County.org/SubdivisionPaving?

Background: Boulder County does not receive sufficient funding through tax collections or other revenue sources to pay for the rehabilitation of unincorporated subdivision roads. Taxes collected from property owners and other revenue sources go towards keeping all primary county roads and bridges in good condition as well as providing routine maintenance, such as snow removal, pothole patching and crack filling, on subdivision roads.

Most paved subdivisions have not implemented improvement districts. Therefore, their roads have not been resurfaced since they were first built 15 to 20 years ago.

Editor's Note: Research into the Assessment Role shows that it was done poorly, charging the same for small properties as large, this blatant lack of proper assessment is only one of many flaws in this LID. Many fixed income property owners will have serious trouble funding this increase to their taxes and no known hardship waivers have been offered to seniors or folks who may fail to be able to pay - please notify the Highlander if you know of any.

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Public Lands With No Access

From Jodi Peterson

What do the Troublesome Wilderness Study Area in Colorado, the Sabinoso Wilderness and Cowboy Springs WSA in New Mexico, and the Fortification Creek WSA in Wyoming have in common? They're all public lands – and the public can reach none of them.

Western lands have long had a patchwork of owners: federal, state, local, tribal and private. In the late 1800s, the federal government gave railroad companies every other square mile along rail corridors, creating a public-private checkerboard. But because it's illegal to even step across a corner from one public parcel to another, many of those pieces of land remain inaccessible. Others are marooned in a sea of private property with no right of way. Some landowners even illegally close public roads across their holdings.

In the Rocky Mountain West, more than 4 million acres of federal public land are effectively off-limits, because there's no permanent, legal way to access them. The nonpartisan Center for Western Priorities, a Denver-based group focusing on public-land protection, recently used GIS mapping to quantify such "shuttered" lands, mostly managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land

Management. Their analysis, which the Center describes as "conservative," came up with the acreage figures shown in the map.

Federal land managers often can't get access to those parcels either, as the Bozeman Daily Chronicle notes. So those lands effectively become part of the private domain of adjoining landowners. "We have no authority over private land, so unless we have permission, we cannot access that," BLM spokesman Brad Purdy said. "These little pieces are not only difficult for the public to access but they're difficult for us to manage."

But private-property rights advocates defend the ability of landowners to close roads across their property. Reports the Great Falls Tribune: PERC President Anderson, a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, says a well-organized effort is underway by access groups that believe public access to public and even private resources is "somehow a God-given, Constitution-given, somehow-given right." In his view, the public and public agencies are becoming more aggressive in seeking public access through private property.

HCN has been covering public-lands access issues for decades. Back in 1998, we published a feature story called "Private rights vs. public lands," describing the problem. We wrote in 2000 about corporate ranchers blocking access, in 2005 about the increasing problem of private owners locking out the public, and in 2011 about owners

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who put “No Trespassing” signs on public land.

“There is no direct public access to the North Fork Wilderness Study Area” in Wyoming, according to the BLM website. But, if you can get permission to cross the surrounding private lands, “The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for the user to experience primitive recreation.”

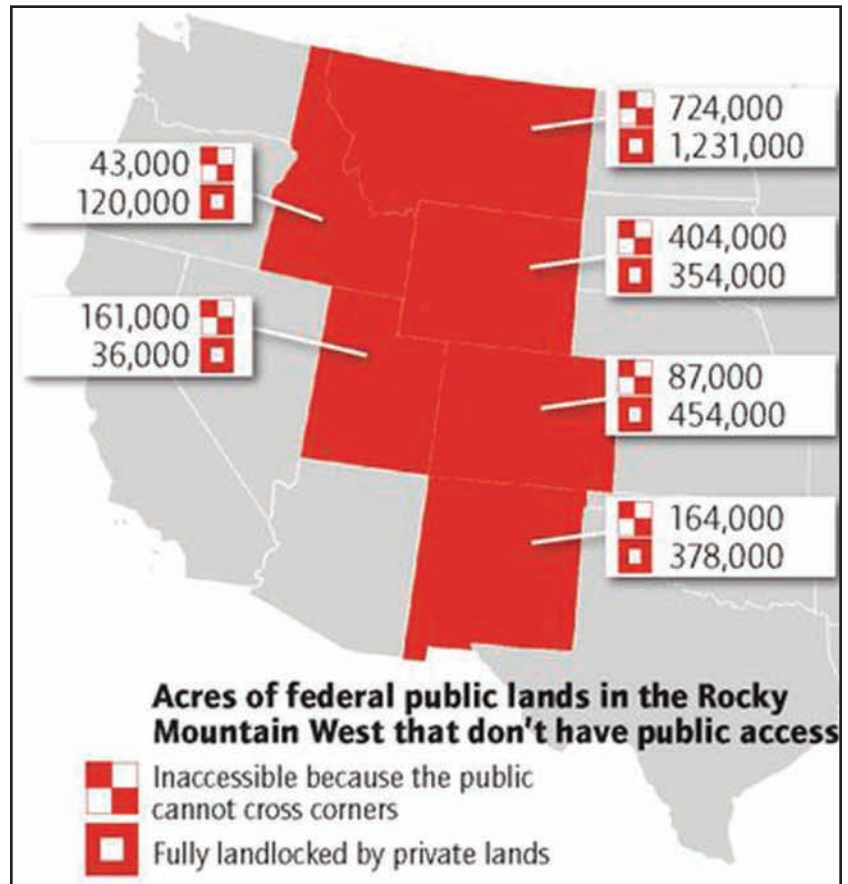
The new Center for Western Priorities report, as you’d expect, covers the many reasons why access is important. Public lands contribute to the economies of local communities and provide great recreation and hunting opportunities: Researchers have found that access to protected public lands promotes jobs and produces higher incomes. A recent study found that job growth over the last four decades in Western counties with significant protected public lands—like parks, monuments and wilderness—is four times higher than in counties without protected lands.

Ensuring access is critical to supporting and promoting America’s growing outdoor recreation industry. ... In Western states, outdoor recreation brings billions into the economy each year: consumers spend \$13.2 billion annually in Colorado on outdoor recreation; \$6.1 billion in New Mexico, and \$5.8 billion in Montana. Open and accessible public lands are an essential element of outdoor recreation in the Rocky Mountain West. For example, 89% of hunters in New Mexico hunt on public lands. In Utah and Wyoming, 83% of hunters use public lands to hunt.

Congress has tried to tackle these problems. In 2011 Senators Jon Tester, D-Mont., Jim Risch, R-Idaho, and Rob Portman, R-Ohio, introduced the “Making Public Lands Public Act,” but it failed to pass. The HUNT Act, introduced by Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., last September, would improve hunting and recreation access.

One of the easiest ways to resolve access problems is by paying landowners for easements across their property. The nation’s main source of funding for buying easements and other private land is the Land and Water Conservation Fund – but Congress usually gives it considerably less than half of the \$900 million in energy royalties it’s allocated.

Jodi Peterson is the managing editor of High Country News. “Cross-posted from High Country News, hcn.org. The author is solely responsible for the content.”



Nearly 4 million acres of federal land in the Rocky Mountain West have no legal access. Image from the Center for Western Priorities. Data Analysis: Josh Gage, Gage Cartographics.

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Forest Service Rd 105.1 & Boulder Ranger Dist.

Dear Readers,

US Forest Service Sells Former Work Site

The Boulder Ranger District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland has sold its former work center site west of Rollinsville, Colorado. The 36-acre parcel and improvements sold in a GSA online auction for \$420,420. The property included several aging structures that required maintenance although they were no longer needed for operational purposes.

Forest Service Road 105.1 will remain a public access onto the National Forest.

Boulder District Ranger Sylvia Clark said, "We were really pleased with the outcome of this sale. It will provide funding for facility improvements where we need them and reduce spending for maintenance of outdated facilities." Funds from the sale of this excess property will be used to support needs for other National Forest facilities. The

Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 established federal authority for the real estate sale.

Dear Readers,

Boulder Ranger District Winter Recreation Update;

The Boulder Ranger District (BRD) of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) reminds visitors to check on snow conditions and closures before heading out for winter fun. Mountain areas are loading up with snow, creating the perfect conditions for enjoying our winter wonderland. At the same time, many roads and recreation facilities have closed for the season, and closures resulting from the 2013 flood are still in effect for many areas.

A solid base of snow is already accumulating in the high country, with one to two feet of snow blanketing most elevations above 9,000 feet. The BRD is a great place for skiing and snowshoeing, whether you are a seasoned veteran or a beginner. Here are a few options:

The Brainard Lake Recreation Area, two miles west of Ward offers access to more than 30 miles of non-motorized winter trails. Most trails head to Brainard Lake with a five mile round trip or less. Overachievers can push on to the backcountry bowls in the adjacent Indian Peaks Wilderness.

The East Portal Trailhead is located seven miles west of Rollinsville, and offers access to the James Peak Wilderness. Follow South Boulder Creek Trail to reach one of the frozen lakes perched below the Continental Divide. Allow for a six to eight mile round trip on these trails that

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start out easy and grow gradually steeper.

Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) cabins make a great destination for day use or for an overnight outing. The CMC Boulder group operates two cabins under a Special Use Permit on the BRD. The CMC Brainard Cabin is north of Brainard Lake, near the South Saint Vrain Trail; the Arestua Hut is on Guinn Mountain west of Eldora. Contact the CMC Boulder Group to find out more about these opportunities: <http://www.cmcboulder.org/cabins.html>.

There are a lot of good opportunities for snowmobiling as well. Snowmobiles are prohibited in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area and in all Wilderness Areas. Visit the ARP's website for more winter recreation information: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/arp/recreation/wintersports>.

Winter recreation requires extra planning and preparation. Some things to consider are avalanches, hypothermia, falling trees, changing weather conditions, and hydration to name just a few. Check the U.S. Forest Service website for winter safety tips and links to other helpful websites: http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/home/?cid=FSM91_058203.

Many forest roads close for the winter season on or before December 1 to protect winter cover habitat for wildlife or to protect roads from damage when they are wet and soft. Seasonally closed roads are open to foot travel. Check our website for updates to forest road status: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/recreation/?cid=stel->

prdb5339508.

Some roads, areas, and trails remain closed due to the 2013 flood. The ARP has updated its closure to address changing conditions or incorporate new information. The Bunce School Road Area (Bunce) has been reopened, while several picnic areas and pullouts for fishing access along Highway 7 in the South Saint Vrain have been closed (including sites two through six on the Forest Visitor Map). Boulder District Ranger Sylvia Clark said, "We were able to complete repairs on some of the worst damage at Bunce, allowing us to reopen this popular area. We appreciate the public's cooperation with closures that remain in effect." Check the ARP's website for updates, safety and other information at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/flood2013.



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*Top Left: Bulldog puppies
at Homeward Bound
Animal Hospital.*

Top right:

Lilly luxuriates in sun.

*Left: Chanel with
foster kittens.*

*Bottom Right:
Evening Grosbeak
eats from Kathy Gale's
bird feeder.*

Readers, please send your
favorite photos to see
them on these pages - to
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*Top Left: Sarauna, Tulula & Aspen-
with Lightning. Right: Puppy Tinka.*

Bottom: Lightning dressed up!

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The Fight For Browns Canyon

From Krista Langlois

The struggle to protect Browns Canyon, a rugged stretch of the Arkansas River in central Colorado, has been waxing and waning since the area was first studied for wilderness designation in the 1970s. Several attempts to create a new federal wilderness have been floated since then, and though they've come tantalizingly close, none have yet passed.

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., wants to change that. A former Outward Bound director, wilderness proponent and mountaineer (he's climbed Denali, Aconcagua and 26,000 feet of Everest), Udall announced in December the culmination of a project he's been working on for 18 months: a bill to create a brand new, 22,000-acre National Monument in Browns Canyon, including 10,500 acres of wilderness. After soliciting thousands of comments and holding several public meetings, Udall seems to have found a recipe for success – the support of local businesses, national monument designation (which offers more flexible management than pure wilderness), and unchanged access for hunters, ranchers, off-roaders and human-powered recreation such as rafting.

"There's tremendous support on the ground," says Matt Keller, the national monument campaign director for

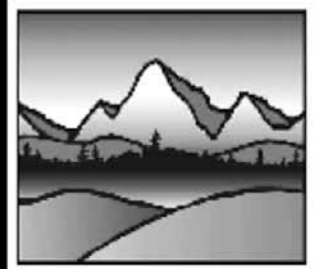
advocacy group The Wilderness Society. "Senator Udall and his staff have done a tremendous job listening to people's concerns and addressing them."

But noticeably absent from the discussion has been Rep. Doug Lamborn, the Republican who represents Chaffee County, where the Canyon is. Though he has yet to make an official statement, Lamborn's spokesman told High Country News recently that the Congressman does not support Udall's bill, and still has "concerns over the lack of consensus ... from certain residents."

Lamborn's disapproval presents a fairly significant hurdle, because while most national monuments are created by presidential decree under the Antiquities Act, Udall wants to take a different route: Congressional approval, for which he'll likely need Lamborn's support. Without it, the bill – which proponents have heralded as a groundbreaking step in the 40-year battle to protect Browns Canyon from drilling and development – may suffer the same fate as past attempts, like a 2006 push for wilderness designation that once seemed destined for success.

That bill, written by Republican Senator Wayne Allard and Rep. Joel Hefley, was co-sponsored by every member of the Colorado delegation. Passage seemed imminent until,

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Highlander Wilderness

called a place that's "quintessential Colorado." The area would also be one of the few low-elevation regions protected in the state, offering prime winter wildlife

habitat.

If Udall succeeds, Browns Canyon could become the first piece of wilderness protected by either this or the previous Congress – the first Congresses since the 1960s to not protect a single acre of wilderness. Udall spokesman Mike Saccone says the senator is now focusing on building Congressional support and is working directly with Lamborn's office: "We're

hopeful when he sees the community support he'll come around." *(Photo courtesy of Senator Mark Udall.)*

Krista Langlois is an editorial intern at High Country News. She tweets @KristaLanglois2. "Cross-posted from High Country News, hcn.org. The author is solely responsible for the content."

in the 11th hour, the National Rifle Association got involved. Amid concerns that limitations on road building would prevent some hunters from hauling out big game, progress ground to a halt.

Or as longtime contributor Ed Quillen wrote in his final High Country News column before his death last year: "Even though big-game hunting would still be permitted, wilderness would infringe on the Second Amendment rights of geriatric ATV-driver hunters who were too cheap to rent pack horses and mules."

Udall hopes that compromises in his legislation – such as protecting existing uses and adjusting the boundary to exclude cattle watering tanks – are enough to garner a wide net of supporters, including skeptics like Lamborn. Proponents of the designation cite the financial boon of national monuments (though as the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the U.S., Browns hardly needs additional promotion), the relatively inexpensive cost of adding new protections to existing federal land, and the need to protect what former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar



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Helping Desert Soil Could Save Snow

From Sarah Jane Keller

It's the start of snow season, which means that everyone who cares about water is keeping an eye on the mountains, anticipating how long we'll ride the wave of snowmelt into next summer. The runoff season is never as predictable as anyone would like, but in the last decade or so there's been a new wild card that makes the snowpack's bounty seem even more capricious – spring dust storms.

Southwest Colorado's snowpack is the West's hardest-hit when spring winds carrying tiny dust particles slam into the mountains. That cinnamon layer coating the snow means that it absorbs more of the sun's radiation, heats up, and melts faster than clean snow (it's the black t-shirt versus white t-shirt effect). As water managers in the Colorado Basin plan for the region's impending water crunch, and more dust is blowing around the West, they are starting to realize that dust is a hydrological game-changer.

The Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies, in Silverton, Colo., began tracking dust on snow in the San Juan Mountains in 2003, but dust has been worse in recent years, including 2013. In a recent study looking at the combined impact of climate warming and dust on the Upper Colorado River Basin's snowpack, researchers found that "extreme" dust years like 2009 and 2010

advance spring runoff timing by three weeks, compared to moderate dust years. That's a total of six weeks earlier than runoff from clean snow.

That doesn't bode well for water users or for ecosystems. Normally, snow doles out water gradually over the spring and early summer, but when dust spurs snow into early melt-out, that gives soils a head start on drying out in the summer and irrigators are more likely to end up water-short later in the season.

That result adds more detail to what earlier research has shown – that at least in the short term, dust has a bigger impact on the speed of mountain snow melt than increasing temperatures do. While the new study was based on a model covering the Upper Colorado River Basin, at a snow monitoring site on Red Mountain Pass near Telluride, dust from the 2009 and 2010 storms advanced melt by 50 and 43 days compared to a clean snowpack. "It's as if somehow you had magically added two to four degrees Celsius to the temperatures we experienced during those years," says Chris Landry, the executive director of the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies.

Dirty snow also impacts the amount of water the mountains provide, because it leaves soil and plants exposed longer, allowing water more time to evaporate. Even without dust hastening the snow's departure, climate and population growth projections for the Colorado River, which serves 40 million people in 7 states and Mexico, are



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startling. The amount of water promised to users already exceeds what's available, and the region is staring down climate projections that point to runoff declines of 5 to 20% by the mid-21st century.

Cleaning up the snowpack could be an immediate way to buffer the region's water supplies against climate impacts, and reintroduce some predictability back into the runoff season. Returning snowpack to pre-mid 1800s dust conditions would more than mitigate the changes in runoff timing expected from climate warming by 2050, according to the recent study. Keeping dust at a "moderate" level would offset the earlier runoff by 10 days by 2050 and 20 days by 2100, under a moderate to extreme greenhouse gas emissions scenario.

But that raises the next question: How do you knock dust levels back to what they were before we started tearing up Western soils? First you have to know where it's coming from. There have been massive dust storms around Phoenix and Tucson in recent years, like the haboob that swallowed Phoenix in 2011. Abandoned cotton fields have taken a lot of blame – but those aren't the main culprits soiling Colorado's mountains.

By using satellite images and matching the chemical signatures of dust on snow back to its original landscape, dust gurus have figured out that winds are picking soil up from disturbed desert areas in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico (and increasing aridity isn't helping). Most of that is coming from the Colorado Plateau, and Milford Flat – the site of Utah's largest wildfire – is a chronic contributor, according to Jayne Belnap, an ecologist with the U.S. Geologic Survey in Moab, who was involved in the recent study.

The problem with tracking dust sources is that the big contributors like Milford Flat are easy enough to see in satellite imagery, but the small and medium ones, like dusty dirt roads, abandoned housing developments, or overgrazing, are harder to pinpoint. It takes many years of data, which Belnap doesn't have yet, to say "grazing does this, and roads do that."

But she thinks they do know enough about certain areas to start restoring loose soil now. People think of deserts as dust and sand, but when they are healthy, they are stable, and their soils don't tend to blow away. Beating back dust ultimately comes down to the slogan found on National Park signs around the Southwest: "Don't Bust the Crust." That refers to the cryptobiotic soil crust that Belknap studies and that anchors the desert ecosystem, and its

soil, in place. "The obvious thing is to stop disturbing it, of course, but we have the problem of the West being the bull's-eye for energy, wind, solar, and everything else," she says.

But if an area has become too desertified, it needs fencing or wind breaks to help hold the sand in place. Even though federal land agencies, like the Bureau of Land Management, are aware of these issues, the funding isn't there to help get the work done.

It's hard to quantify how much it would reduce the overall dust problem, but since it will lock out soil-disrupting motorized use and energy development, a massive, contentious wilderness deal being negotiated in Utah right now could have "huge implications" for minimizing dust," Belnap says. But the deal won't solve all of our dust problems. And regardless of the policy for managing arid landscapes, she says, "we just need to take dust seriously."

Sarah Jane Keller is an editorial fellow at High Country News. She tweets @sjanekeller. "Cross-posted from High Country News, hcn.org. The author is solely responsible for the content."

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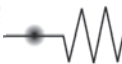


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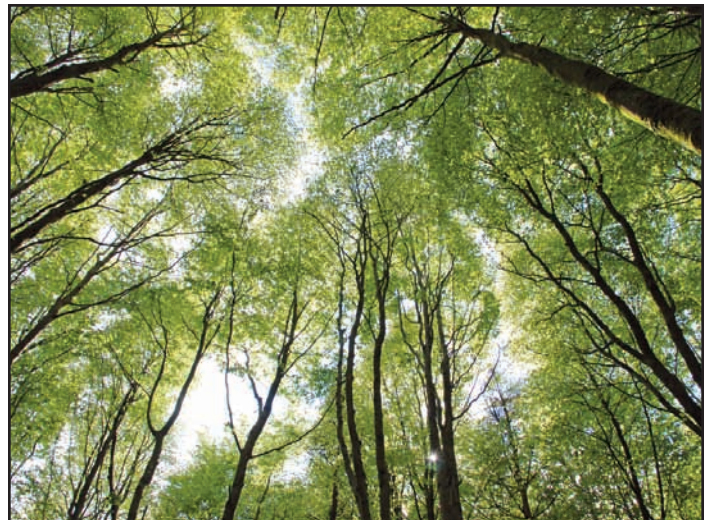
Stepping Into The Future

By Melissa Johnson

*The future is something which everyone reaches
at the rate of sixty minutes an hour,
whatever he does,
whoever he is.*

~C.S. Lewis

People speak of “putting the past behind us.” But where else can the past be put? It has only one place it belongs and, once there, can only be a reference point for the future. Yet we make it a part of our present by clinging so tightly to our experience. We go round and round in our heads, remembering some conversation, slight or injustice, real or imagined, and we stay stuck in that feedback loop reliving it again and again, often exaggerated and out of context because now we’re focused on some isolated aspect of our otherwise fading memory, giving it life, meaning and a whole host of expressions that perhaps



never were. Imagine what we miss while running around the same tired circles! Can you see it? How clinging to an aspect of our past might prevent us from seizing something wonderful that is available to us in the here and now?

Consider this: A new form of clinical psychology known as *acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT)* stems from the understanding that a great deal of our psychological pain comes not so much from the experience itself, but from the words we use over and over to describe our experience. Instead of getting stuck in our heads and avoiding any real forward movement, *ACT* encourages acceptance of the situation, conscious choice of direction and action, bringing more meaning and psychological flexibility into our lives in the process.

In his book *Get Out of Your Mind and Into Your Life*,



setting it right, so too can it provide a ready excuse for not living our best life.

Is there something that you're ready to put down, let go of, and leave behind? Are you ready to reach for something new and make it real in your life? As you move into a great new year, now is a perfectly fine opportunity to trade what torments for something more solid and real so

author and *ACT* co-founder, Steven Hayes, suggests that we can actually repeat a troubling word or concept over and over until it loses meaning and power in our lives. Take the word grass, for instance. Hayes recommends repeating the word over and over for 49 seconds. Grass, grass, grass, grass, grass, grass; The theory is that at some point, your mind will stop associating 'grass' with the luscious green stuff and observe it as a meaningless noise. This disconnect between words and reality will allow us to drop those mind movies that have been tormenting us.

Why not give it a go, beginning with 'grass' or some other word of your choosing and then moving on to the more emotionally charged descriptors that unnerve you, like 'rejection' or 'failure' or 'fat ass' or 'broke,' or any other parade of horrible that you can conjure. The idea is to rub out the sting these words carry so that you can deal with life free from the fear created by your internal dialogue from the past. Sound feasible?

Diagnosis, they say, is half the cure. But we're best careful with how we use our diagnosis lest it becomes the story we tell about our life, the reason for why we can't have or be or do what we want. For just as understanding the root of our problem paves the way for

that it becomes part of your future.

Wishing you all the best in 2014!

Melissa is a writer, photographer, artist and lawyer. Read more on her blog at www.HeartLaw.blogspot.com.

Photos caption:

Mooghaun Hillfort Forest, established in the Bronze Age, Dromoland, Ireland. ©2013 Melissa Johnson

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A Survivor, Searching For Soul

By Melissa Hart

The Old Man's Love Story

Rudolfo Anaya

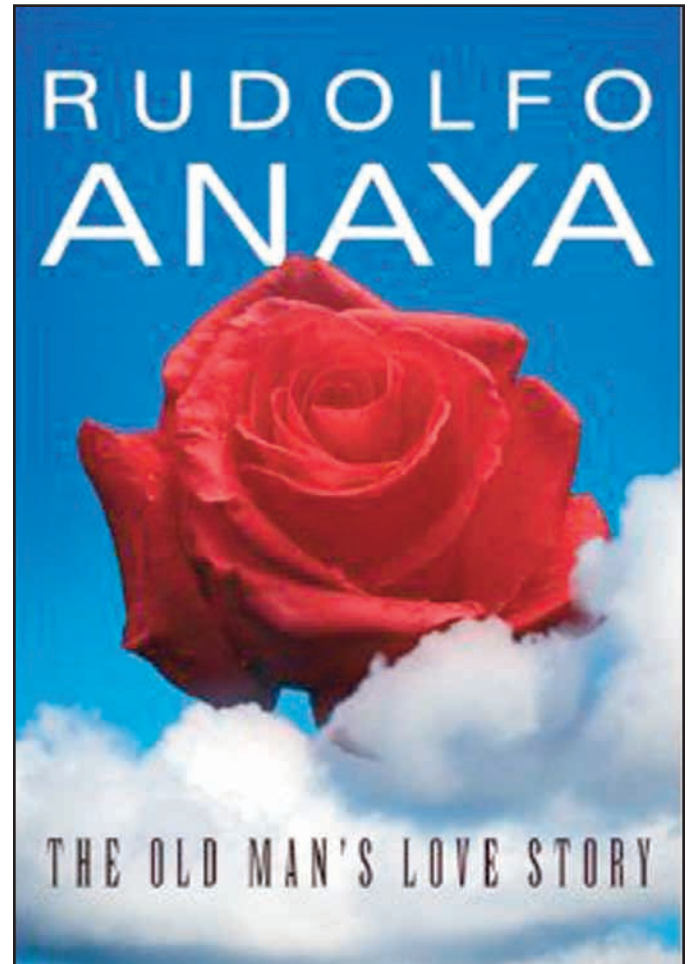
176 pages, hardcover: \$19.95.

University of Oklahoma Press, 2013.

"Letting go of one's soul mate is not easy." So writes award-winning author and retired University of New Mexico professor Rudolfo Anaya in his latest novel, *The Old Man's Love Story*. Inspired by the death of his beloved wife, Patricia, in 2010, the book is so poignant, so powerful in its intimate exploration of grief that readers may find themselves pausing after each chapter to sit quietly with their own experience of loss.

They may also find themselves chuckling at the narrator's wry observations on the persistence of lust, and at his foil 'Ernesto' an oversexed jock who struts about in a Speedo at the pool where the elderly narrator does aerobics "in the water, returning to my fish nature."

The best books on grief - whether fiction or nonfiction - examine death and the concerns of the survivors with uncompromising candor. Anaya's "old man" can't stop asking questions after his wife dies. "Could one live as pure spirit?" he wonders. "Is she lost? Or am I the lost one?"



Perhaps most heart-wrenchingly, he asks the unanswerable: "Why?"

But the author reaches beyond the story of an old man losing his soul mate. Within this lyrical volume, there's a romantic love story with a beginning ("She Anglo and he a nuevo mexicano. Will the marriage last, family wondered?) and a middle (Both taught school, so summers were for traveling), as well as the inevitable end. Set against the landscapes of Mexico and New Mexico, the book delves into Chicano history, Mexican folktales, philosophical discourse on homelessness, hedge funds, the war in Afghanistan. "The old man bowed his head and prayed," Anaya writes. "He lived in reality, and reality smelled really bad."

The Old Man's Love Story offers an alternative to grief and nihilism, though. By its conclusion, a second romance emerges in the narrator's unquenchable passion for life. Salvation comes not in the form of an awkward rendezvous with a new "lady friend," but in his realization that he is still very much alive, nourished by both current events and his joyful memories.

This review originally appeared in an issue of High Country News (hcn.org).



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Home Made Quesadilla

This recipe is best when whole wheat flour tortillas are used, same size as your cast iron skillet usually. Ingredients can be personalized and portions doubled for two people. This can be a lunch or dinner but never needs to be the only course, the more ingredients - the more it can suffice as a full meal.

Start with a hot skillet containing a quarter size pour of canola oil: add a half cup of diced red, white or yellow onions. Plus a full cup of those mini peppers you see in the produce section or regular green/any color/type of peppers diced up-mushrooms are good too!

Let simmer on medium heat until onions go transparent and peppers are softer.

Add whatever protein you like: a pre-cooked chicken tenderloin/breast chopped into bite-size cubes, browned tofu, cooked steak, pork or even a scrambled egg. Then continue cooking just enough to make this ingredient warm (as your protein should be pre-cooked/browned).

Once this has come to temperature, move to one side of skillet as you slide the tortilla onto the pan while pushing

your onion-pepper-protein concoction onto the same tortilla to take the place onto the bottom of the pan.

Once you have your tortilla on the bottom of the pan with the onion/pepper/protein mixture on top - add a scant handful (1/2 cup of shredded cheese - can be Mexican mixture/pepper jack/ or simply mozzarella) onto the toppings on your tortilla. Turn heat down to low/medium and/or put your heat diffuser under the pan with a lid on top.

Add any hot sauce you want: green chili, red salsa, green salsa or your favorite chip dip - about one quarter cup distributed evenly over the tortilla toppings.

Keep covered and let heat until the cheese melts. Be sure to check the bottom of tortilla for over browning, but not so often you keep the cheese from melting.

The more you open the lid,

the lower the temperature for your cheese melting on the quesadilla. Cut in half if you've doubled the ingredients and pull with a spatula onto your plate. Enjoy!

This is a great way to use up all those holiday leftover meats: turkey, prime rib and even ham can be great!



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Feeding Elk & Spreading Chronic Wasting Disease

From Jodi Peterson

Imagine taking a horse-drawn sleigh ride among an elk herd numbering in the thousands. At the National Elk Refuge, such an adventure is available to winter visitors from mid-December through early April. (These) rides are the most popular winter activity, allowing riders a unique wildlife viewing experience and an incredible opportunity for photography

That's how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website touts the National Elk Refuge outside Jackson, Wyo. Up to 7,000 elk spend winters on the refuge, munching alfalfa pellets and thrilling visitors, who come within yards of the majestic creatures during sleigh rides.

In four dozen other feedgrounds scattered across five Western states, roughly 32,000 elk get free winter rations, courtesy of taxpayers. But crowding that many ungulates into a relatively small area provides opportunities not only for amazing photos, but also for the spread of all sorts of diseases.

Conservationists have been warning of the danger for decades. Back in 1994, the Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee reported, "The evidence is overwhelming that winter feeding of elk has proven to perpetuate and enhance the spread of diseases, especially brucellosis. Once certain contagious diseases become endemic within a population of elk, bison, or other wildlife,

they become very difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate." A 2002 HCN story noted that, "Brucellosis (a disease that causes ungulates to abort) is virtually non-existent in Wyoming elk that have never used feedgrounds. In fact, the farther elk are from feedgrounds, the better their rate of calf survival."

Now, Bruce Smith, a retired FWS biologist who's studied



the artificial-feeding issue for many years, has published a peer-reviewed paper in *The Wildlife Professional* looking at the potential of a deadly, highly contagious neurological disorder, chronic wasting disease (CWD), to spread through elk populations in feedgrounds. His conclusion is clear: "Dismantling feedgrounds will limit prevalences, mortality, and the costs of managing CWD—and the next emerging disease."

But "dismantling feedgrounds" is unlikely to happen, as Smith notes, no matter how beneficial such a move might be. Authorities aren't currently considering phasing out any of the artificial-feeding programs. Smith describes the complex factors that keep them open:

"Habituating elk to feedgrounds can be viewed as a means of conflict resolution spawned by public pressure rather than decision-making seated in scientific principle and sustainable resource management policy. Administrators may see winter feeding as the least painful remedy producing immediate results to appease agricultural interests that desire rapid resolution to crop damage, and pro-wildlife constituencies that oppose reductions in elk densities despite dwindling habitat and human-wildlife conflict."

When feedgrounds were first

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established, many in the early part of the 20th century, they seemed like a logical response to an increasing human population. In Wyoming, as ranchers and settlers moved in, they claimed prime elk habitat for their horses and cattle. Elk returning to winter range found haystacks instead of meadows, and stayed to eat. A 2002 HCN story reported: “Ranchers were screaming. Elk were starving,” Bernie Holz, the state’s wildlife supervisor for the region, says. Since elk are managed by the state, ranchers pushed for a law requiring the state to reimburse them for lost hay. The state decided it would be cheaper and simpler to take direct responsibility for feeding, and over time, says Holz, “We had to keep feeding more and more.”

The Jackson feedground, established in 1912, has cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars over the years. It’s had some beneficial effects – elk have done so well there that they’ve been used to restock other herds in the U.S. and Canada, ranchers lose much less hay now, and the refuge shelters a host of other wildlife species, such as moose, bighorn sheep, trumpeter swans and osprey.

But as many as one-third of the elk on the National Elk Refuge carry brucellosis, which spreads readily to cattle and causes major economic loss to ranchers. Other states that rely on natural habitat for elk have almost no incidence of brucellosis. Feedground elk have shown evidence of scabies, lice and hoof rot as well. Observers also worry about the threat of bovine tuberculosis, a deadly disease that afflicts many species of mammals.

And then there’s the specter of chronic wasting disease, which has been spreading relentlessly through the West’s deer, elk and moose populations since the 1980s. Earlier last fall, we reported on this “slow motion” epidemic: “... It has spread to 19 states and in Wyoming close to 40% of deer in the eastern half of the state are infected, up from 15% in 1997. ... (Researchers) say they’re finally getting to a point where they can document how CWD slowly destroys an entire population, not just individuals. The preliminary findings aren’t good: (one) herd’s size has been cut in half in the past 12 years, and the drop seems to be related to CWD-induced deaths, says Melia DeVivo, a PhD student at University of Wyoming.”

There are no vaccines for CWD, and no cure. It spreads

through urine, feces, saliva and carcass tissues, and binds to clay particles, accumulating in the soil. That’s a scary prospect at a feedground, where animals congregate in large numbers. The disease has already infected up to 60% of the elk on some game farms.

As Smith wrote in an editorial in HCN last year, “Of the alternatives for safeguarding the elk and all the ecological, economic, and social benefits they provide, the most realistic choice is allowing an unfed, free-ranging herd to sustain itself on range that is 98% in public ownership. While a smaller elk herd may be unacceptable to some people, I’ve concluded that this is far preferable to an overstocked range riddled with diseased and dying animals.” Ditching feedgrounds, Smith says, “will not only diminish disease threats, but remedy other problems that are the consequences of an overstocked range, including damaged wildlife habitats, declining biodiversity, controversial elk hunts and citizen-financed feeding programs.”

Yeah, it might be fun to see a five-point bull elk up close from a horsedrawn sleigh as it chomps on feed pellets. But personally, I’d rather train my binoculars on a healthy one out browsing in the wild.

*Jodi Peterson is the managing editor of High Country News.
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The Promise Of Open Ocean Fish Farms

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Innovative submersible fish pens and new developments in fish food may change the way “fish farming” is conducted throughout the world. Sustainable aquaculture is possible, say some innovative practitioners — and open ocean fish farms may be the solution to a whole range of environmental problems.

These are not the crowded, close-to-shore pens where fish are trapped like caged chickens, requiring doses of antibiotics that leak, along with the concentrated wastes, into surrounding waters. They are submersible net pens, more than 150 feet apart, where ocean currents disperse waste, and fish swim and live in the closest possible approximation to their natural habitat. In a word: free-range fish.

And the food the fish can be fed - developed from soy and microalgae instead of feeder fish like the Peruvian anchovy that underwent a major collapse in the 1970s - has potential for removing fish altogether from the meal equation.

The Problem with Commercial Fishing - The majority of commercial fishing operations today rely not on fish farming at all but on trawling for their catches - dragging a massive net, up to a football field in length along the sea floor or midway between the floor and surface. Not only do these nets sweep up desired species such as pollock, cod, flounder and shrimp, but a significant amount of unsought species - known as bycatch - that die but then get thrown back as waste. Greenpeace International reports that bycatch - which can include whales, dolphins, sharks, porpoises and turtles - could comprise anywhere from 8% to 25% of global catches,

These destructive operations, along with pollution, ocean acidification and global warming, have sent wild fish on a dangerous downward spiral, with no signs of recovery. Predator fish - including sharks, swordfish and cod — are already 90% gone. The U.N. reported in 2010 that 30% of the world’s fish stocks were similarly wiped out and said that, if current fishing rates continue, the world’s oceans could be fishless by 2050.

But conventional, large-scale fish farming operations - particularly those on shorelines where fish and their waste are confined - come with serious environmental concerns, too, largely for concentrating pollution in coastal waters. Also, when farmed fish escape they can quickly upset the ecological balance, such as happened with the blue tilapia, which is now a major threat to freshwater species in the southern Gulf States. Its population explosion has led to mussel declines and tends to wipe out vegetation and all other fish in streams where it becomes established. Farmed salmon, too, have for years escaped their pens in British Columbia and Washington State, finding their way to Alaska in recent years and presenting a concern that they’ll begin to push out the native Pacific salmon.

New Approaches -The answer may lie in fish farming using a submersible fish pen called the Aquapod by Ocean Farm Technologies. It can be lowered into deep water hundreds of feet from shore, below the wave action, allowing fish to live in their natural habitat and providing a means for fish waste to disperse naturally. Fish are fed by a barge boat that pumps a mixture of food and water from hoses into the cages. The technology is continually evolving to incorporate more automation, allowing for faster cleaning and servicing and enabling them to be pulled by a cable and boat.

In Hawaii, Neil Sims ran a company that was putting the Aquapods to use growing kampachi - sashimi-grade yellowtail. After a trial-and-error period with various species he found that farming kampachi in the Aquapod is as straightforward as sheep farming.



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The fish thrive in the enclosures and take readily to food pellets that are being increasingly developed with minimal fish meal.

The hope of sustainable aquaculture advocates, including Sims, as well as Robert Orr, whose Cuna del Mar firm supports Ocean Farm, is that these submersible pens will present a new vision of 21st century farming - raising fish in a way that leaves minimal impact or even enhances the natural marine environment while allowing wild fish stocks to recover.

But the U.S. is not poised to launch a new sustainable aquaculture industry using submersible net pens. According to Michael Rubino, director of the Aquaculture Office at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there have been "10 years worth of legislative proposals in Congress trying to do it" under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which governs catch limits, requires the government to work with regional councils on upholding environmental standards and authorizes councils to establish zones to protect corals. A regulatory framework for deepwater fish farms will have to be incorporated into this act, and it's something that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is working on.

Feeding a Growing, Hungry World - The world's population will grow to nine billion people by 2050, with an appetite to match. Even just to maintain today's level of fish consumption will require another 23 million tons of farmed fish by 2020, according to the Worldwatch Institute. By 2030, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says we'll need an additional 40 million tons. In 2011, a record 154 million tons of fish were raised and caught - by 2020, 60% of the world's fish is expected to come from aquaculture.

People in the U.S. like to eat seafood, but the country produces very little of it. Ninety percent of seafood eaten in the U.S. is imported, Rubino says, and about half of that is farm-raised. Shellfish make up 80% of what fish farming there is in the U.S. The other big industry is salmon farming with operations in Maine and Washington State, although aquaculture in some form can be found in all 50 states, including catfish farms in Mississippi and trout farms in Idaho.

"Seafood is by far the most efficient protein to grow but you've got to be able to do that in a way that honors the rest of the environment," says Orr. "Doctors and nutritionists are asking us to eat more seafood," agrees Rubino. "And where's that going to come from?"


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Pioneering Guidebook Author

By Devon Fredricksen

A natural and human histories expert of the West reflects on her work.

"I'm intellectually greedy," Ruth Kirk once said during an interview, describing her insatiable curiosity about natural history, anthropology and archaeology. Kirk has spent a lifetime learning the language of Western wilderness and ancient cultures - mapping their history and learning how to "idle back to nature's pace." Now, at age 88, she says she is "about to put the pencil down" for good. Yet even as Parkinson's disease increasingly compromises her motor skills, Kirk is pushing to complete one final project: *Ozette: Excavating a Makah Whaling Village*.

"I am well-equipped to write the book," she says. It's a beloved subject for her, the Ozette Archaeology Project on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Excavation at the site began in 1966, led by Richard Daugherty, archaeologist and now emeritus professor at Washington State University. Together, she and Daugherty wrote

Hunters of the Whale, chronicling the first stages of the dig through 1974. A Makah Indian village buried by an ancient mudflow, the site was a "Pompeii in mud instead of volcanic ash," Kirk says, a phenomenon that permitted recovery of 55,000 intact wooden artifacts by the project's close in 1981. Six years ago, Kirk married Daugherty - her friend of 40 years - in a Makah longhouse at Neah Bay, Wash.

Kirk is a petite, soft-spoken woman, humble about her accomplishments. "When you have hair as gray as this, you've had time to do things," she says. Yet her age hasn't dulled the light in her eyes, or her zest for research and exploration. She began writing at age 24, when she moved with her first husband, Louis Kirk, a park ranger, and their two sons to Death Valley National Park. There she noticed how visitors looked at the valley without really "seeing" it, "because they didn't know what they were looking at." With only two rangers covering the entire park, information was not easily disseminated. Kirk thought a "paper ranger, a book" might help. After a chance encounter, Ansel Adams asked Kirk to write a brief guide section for his photo book on the valley. That eventually led her to write her own book, *Exploring Death Valley*.

Later, as the family moved from park to park, she wrote guidebooks on Death Valley, Mount Rainier National Park, the Olympic Peninsula, Crater Lake and Yellowstone, along with other books on topics as varied as desert ecology, snow and Northwest Coast Indian culture. Her accolades include the John Burroughs Medal for Natural History Writing, recognition by the New York Academy of Sciences and the American Library Association, and a National Book Award nomination.

I learned of Kirk two years ago, when I began writing a hiking guidebook for the Eastern Sierra, and a former neighbor told me, "You have to meet Ruth Kirk. She's an inspiration." Recently, at Kirk's home in Lacey, Wash., we exchanged stories over cups of tea. Her house is filled with souvenirs from all the time she's spent immersed in Indian culture. She showed me two Hopi pots she bought in her childhood. She paid a dime for one and a nickel for the other - her entire week's allowance.

As she talks, I notice parallels between our lives: Both of us were published authors by our mid-20s, both women entranced by the outdoors. The difference is she forged the path for my generation of female guidebook



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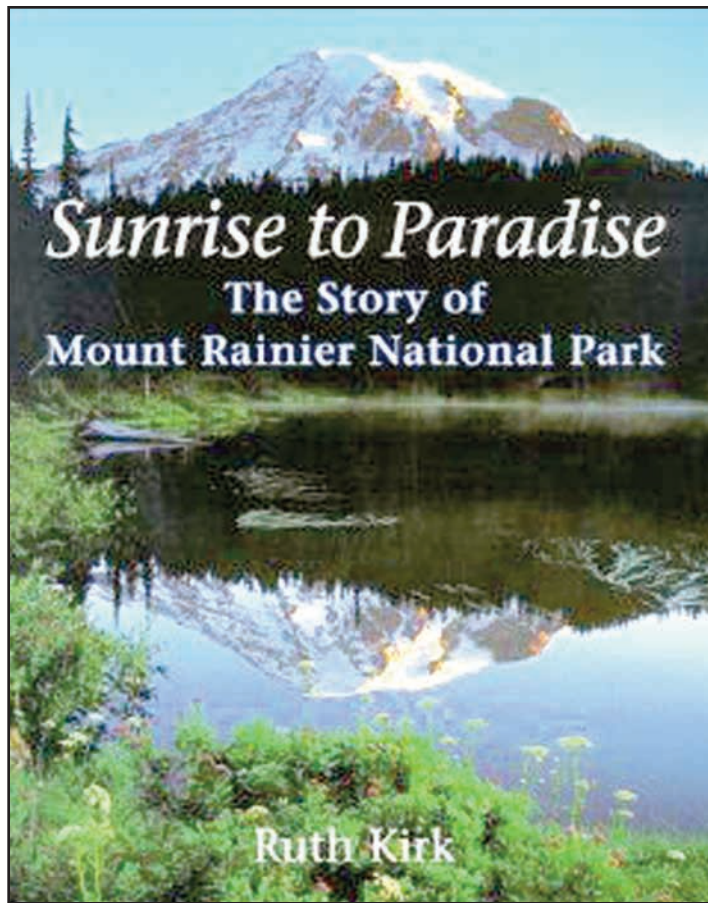
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authors, logging miles with minimal navigation tools, fewer research resources, and much heavier equipment.

Kirk spent most of her career lugging three heavy film cameras slung from her neck and a “gosh-awful” Trapper Nelson pack on her back that she describes as “a couple wooden sticks on each side with a bag lashed onto it.” She once hauled a pack of cement to the summit of Mount Rainier for a new survey marker.

When she wasn't on a trail filling journals with notes, Kirk could be found poring over Ph.D. dissertations, field reports and oral recordings. She believes in “researching deeply,” a skill that has helped her to paint thoughtful portraits of the



Highlander Personality

West with a style akin to Mary Austin's. While Kirk's subjects lend themselves to objective description - geology, anthropology, and archaeology — her sense of wonder leaves its mark on every page. “If love could shine through ink, these pages would glow,” she writes in *Sunrise to Paradise: The Story of Mount Rainier National Park*.

While Kirk doesn't travel much anymore, she feels at home wherever she is. “You look at Death Valley and you think, who wants a Douglas fir anyway? Then you hike through the Hoh Rain Forest here and think, who needs a saguaro cactus? I'm fickle. Whatever place I'm in, that's the place I love.”

This article originally appeared in an issue of High Country News.

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Homeward Bound Hosp. pg 11 303.981.4663
Vet Tech Pet Sitting pg 18 303.642.0477

APPLIANCE

Hi-Tech Appliance pg 23 303.665.0951
ProTech Appliance pg 14 303.642.7223

ART

The Silver Horse - pg 29 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 29 303.258.3225

AUTOMOBILE

Carl's Corner pg 11 303.642.7144
Kysar's Place Inc. pg 4 303.582.3566
Mountain Muffler pg 31 303.278.2043

BANK

Mutual of Omaha Bank -pg 32 303.216.9999

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Alpine Engineering - pg 21 303.642.7438
Arrow Drilling-pg 24 303.421.8766
Custom Advantage Int. pg 5 303.642.0665
Keating Pipeworks, Inc. pg 14 720.974.0023
Meyer Hardware inside cover 303.279.3393
Paramount Roofing pg 31 303.718.2371
Peter Palombo, Surveyor-pg 21 720.849.7509
RedPoint Construction pg 19 303.642.3691
Summit Up Prop. Maint/Rep. pg 31 303.582.5456
Trademark Const. & Design pg 21 303.596.6984
WCD Inc. -Mitch Heuer pg 10 970.948.9492

BUSINESS SERVICES

APT Accounting pg 6 303.642.1040
Graphics Galore pg 32 303.642.0362
Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 23 303.642.7371
Mountain Broadband pg 8 303.642.3858
Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 20 303.642.0433

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

Indian Peaks Stove/Chimney pg 5 303.258.3474

CLOTHING

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The Rustic Moose - pg 29 303.258.3225

COMPUTER SERVICE & REPAIR

Mike's Mobile Comp. Serv.pg 16 303.642.8306
Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 20 303.642.0433

ELECTRIC

United Power - Inside Back Cover 303.642.7921

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CCCIA pg 12 303.642.0842
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EXCAVATING

Driveway Doctor pg 28 303.642.0606
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WCD Inc. -Mitch Heuer pg 5 970.948.9492

FARRIER

Forbes Farrier Service pg 31 303.725.8471

FIREWOOD & FOREST MANAGEMENT

Lumber Jacks-pg 30 303.642.0953

FURNITURE

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GIFTS

The Silver Horse - pg 29 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 29 303.258.3225

GROCERIES

B & F Mountain Market pg 7 303.258.3105

HEATING

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Peak to Peak Propane pg 13 1.877.888.4788

HEALTH & FITNESS

Hands, Hoofs & Paws pg 30 303.503.6068
Massage Envy Spa inside front cov 303.423.3689
Naturally Chiropractic - pg 33 303.420.4270
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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Canyon Colors-Painting pg 6 303.301.4298
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Colorado Water Wizard pg 15 303.447.0789
Free Scrap Metal Hauling pg 22 303.642.0531
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Mountain Broadband pg 27 303.642.3858
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Summit Up Prop. Maint/Rep. pg 31 303.582.5456
Trademark Const. & Design pg 21 303.596.6984

HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 8 303.582.5230

INTERNET

Mountain Broadband pg 8 303.642.3858

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Town Center Liquors pg 16 303.940.5735

PLUMBING

ACME Septic, Inc. pg 29 303.459.1106
Keating Pipeworks, Inc. pg 14 720.974.0023
Morgan Rooter Service pg 13 303.642.3166

PROPANE

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Peak to Peak Propane pg 13 1.877.888.4788

REAL ESTATE

Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 17 303.642.7951
Gail Kirby-Keller Williams pg 9 303.475.9370
Mock Realty-Kathy Keating -Back cov 303.642.1133
Summit Up Property Mgt. pg 22 303.618.8266

RENTALS

Arvada Rent-Alls - pg 10 303.422.1212

RESTAURANTS

Malones Clubhouse Grill pg 26 303.940.1800
Ralston Road Cafe pg 17 303.420.6650
Sundance Cafe pg 22 303.258.0804
Westfalen Hof - pg 14 303.642.3180

RETAIL

Arvada Rent-Alls-pg 10 303.422.1212
Golden Mill pg 27 303.279.1151
HiTech Appliance pg 10 303.665.0951
Meyer Hardware inside cover 303.279.3393
Mountain Man Store ins cov 303.258.3295
The Silver Horse - pg 29 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 29 303.258.3225

STOVES/SERVICE

HiTech Appliance pg 23 303.665.0951
Indian Peaks Stove/Chimney pg 5 303.258.3474

TAXES

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Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 23 303.642.7371

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 24 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 15 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well - pg 4 303.438.6669

JANUARY
2014

POWER UPDATE



Important Safety Message from United Power

When access to your electric meter is blocked, cluttered, or otherwise restricted, our meter readers safety is at risk and their accurate and timely reading of your meter is affected. Please help by providing a clear and safe pathway to your electric meter.

Free Trip to D.C. for Local High School Students

Apply now for United Power's 2014 Washington D.C. Youth Tour – it's easy and it's a fun opportunity. The tour is scheduled for June 12-19, 2014. Three students will be selected to represent United Power on this all expense paid trip to our nation's capital. Students must complete an application and submit an essay to be considered. The deadline for applications is January 10, 2014. The tour is open to high school students 16 years of age or older entering 11th or 12th grade, and whose primary residence is in United Power's service territory.



Cooperative Youth Tour
Washington, D.C.
June 12-19, 2014

Applications and more information can be found online at www.unitedpower.com, through your local high school counselor, or by calling United Power's External Affairs department at 303-659-0551.

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® refrigerator and a substantial refrigerator/freezer recycling credit is available for members who properly dispose of their old refrigerator or freezer.

Visit www.unitedpower.com for the rebate application and details on refrigerator recycle. 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. 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

MANGIA BENE! (eat well) The Italian Challenge is 1-25-14 @ 5PM



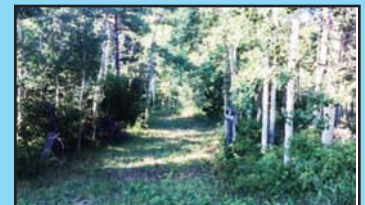
34605 Stanton Drive
Spectacular Custom Home
4 BD/ 4 BA **\$549,500**



1414 Clemson
Large & lovely executive home.
4 BD/ 3 BA / 3-Car **\$358,500**



10653 Twin Spruce
Road improvements complete!
2 BD/ 3 BA 1,896 sq. ft. **\$245,000**



0 Coal Creek Canyon
1.63 Ac Bldg. Site
High End Neighborhood **\$38,500**



102 Black Bear Trail
Privacy in the Pines!
2 BD/ 1 BA 1.39 Ac. **\$210,000**



11883 Lillis Lane
4.62 Ac. Well, Septic, Drive In!
Great Solar Potential **\$164,900**



33966 Nadm
Private, Backs to National Forest
1.08 Acre **\$75,000**



34624 Stanton Drive
Custom Updates Thru-Out!
3 BD/ 2 BA 3-Car **\$319,000**



30945 Burland Road
Updated Ranch on 2.3 Ac.
3 BD/ 2 BA 800SF Barn **\$249,500**



11547 Shimley Road
Dramatic City Views 1.15 Ac
in Coal Creek Heights **\$39,000**



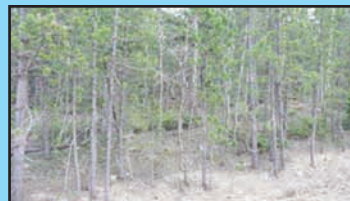
30 Wonder Trail
Historic Wondervu Cabin An
Original Get-Away! 1 BD **\$84,000**



28 Millard
Charming Get-Away!
1 BD/ 1 BA + Shed/Studio **\$144,000**



64 Damascus Road
Beautifully wooded, flat site backs to
Golden Gate St. Pk. 1.87 Ac **\$49,000**



0 Damascus Road
Adj to #64 Damascus Rd. 1.86 Ac site.
Thorn Lake privileges. **\$49,000**



**Buy or Sell a Home With Me
& Use This Truck for FREE!**



0 Circle Drive
Gently sloping 1.89 Ac site.
Great Solar Potential **\$39,000**

It's *Building Season* and we're featuring our land listings this month. Check out the possibilities; we have several options for you to choose from - your dream home can be a reality! Please call for more information. And remember, we love your referrals, too!

For additional information and photos:

www.kathykeating.com

kathykeating@mockrealty.com

susanp@mockrealty.com



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