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About the Cover: Lioness at the Wild Animal Sanctuary, see story page 5. Photography & story by Diane Bergstrom.

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Happy Endings At The Wild Animal Sanctuary

Article and Photographs by
Diane Bergstrom

Head east or west? Turn right or left? My Saturday plans were cancelled and I had the urge to go somewhere, feeling mesmerized by the tranquility of the fog settled along the Front Range. East, I decided. I rolled by pastures where dense fog blurred the snowy ground line; only detectable by the ghostly horses standing motionless. Calm, quiet, stillness was salve for the soul. The annoyed drivers



alpacas, napping tigers, strolling lions, and here's Tip 2: Keep driving, don't linger. Read and follow the signs for the animals' consideration and your safety. When I got out of my car, the first sense I experienced was sound through the songs of a multitude of wild birds. They were in the bushes and trees, on the ground, in the pens, on the fences, and snacking on tiger meal leftovers. For the past two months, fully-grown and immature bald eagles have been migrating through with long



behind me moved me onward and by the time I hit I-25, I knew my destination. I needed to be outside, with animals, and on the plains. **Wild Animal Sanctuary.** Within 45 minutes, I turned off of Highway 52 on to County Road 53 outside of Keenesburg, and quickly stopped for two white tailed deer that jumped the fence from a cornfield, bounded across the gravel road, and disappeared as black dots on the white western field. Tip 1: Go SLOW on the approach road because the deer crossing signage really means just that. Three miles down the road; I turned into the entrance and spied a mature bald eagle glide above my car. This I had not seen there before. I drove past fluffy cream-colored

layovers because the accommodations are outstanding. There are posts for roosting (*big cat exercise structures*), lots of bunnies and prairies dogs, wide open acreage, and easy pickin's of lion leftovers, or meals just not ready to be eaten. All meals made with USDA-approved ingredients and preparation guidelines are followed. If I were an eagle, I'd think about staying.

It's not a zoo. It's a sanctuary. It's not entertainment. It's a rescue mission. 720 acres supporting over 400 animals in a softer natural environment than these animals have ever known. There was a bit of controversy last year when they changed their entrance fees, and they were not portrayed in the best light during the interviews by the news media. *(Not the first time I've followed a story in the wake of news media damage. Sensationalized* (Continued next page.)

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wildlife crisis in the U.S., using the sanctuary as a vehicle for education. Last year's fee for adults was \$15. During the years 2012, 2013, and 2014, the visitors averaged 200,000 per year. Many people treated it as an entertainment venue, even complaining when some of the animals weren't viewable on hot summer afternoons. They had chosen to retreat into their underground dens, where a comfortable 60 degree temperature is maintained year round.



negativity doesn't serve anyone.) The staff and volunteers, who are easily identified by their bright orange sweatshirts, are very well-informed, friendly, approachable, and are lionhearted with compassion for the lions, tigers, bears, wolves, emus, alpacas, and numerous carnivores in their safe haven. I spoke with Kent Drotar, Director of the Sanctuary Animal Ambassador program, about the background information leading up to the change. He explained that for the first 22 years, the sanctuary was not open to the public and any support was garnered through in-kind or monetary donations from private animal supporters. In 2003, Pat Craig, Executive Director and Founder, wanted to help people understand the captive

(I've heard similar complaints in Rocky Mountain National Park when the elk choose to be in the woods instead meadows on 90-degree days. When I liken them to wearing heavy fur coats in the sun, visitors usually understand.)

After bouts of vandalism, trash being dropped into the pens, and soda being poured on the animals from the elevated walkways, decisions had to be made. For more information on this, go to www.wildanimalsanctuary.org, MENU, HOME, ABOUT, Newsletters, and then scroll to the cover of the Fall/Winter 2015 Special Edition. Kent explained that while zoos and museums garner millions of dollars in subsidies, sanctuaries do not. The cost to provide services for the public was outweighing the collected fees and not ultimately supporting the animals' best interest. Entrance fees were raised to \$50 per adult, **now dropped to \$30**, and redefined as a fee for being a "**prospective donor/supporter.**" For kids 3-12 years, the fee is \$15, and supporters **under 3 and over 70 enter for free.** You will also be asked if you'd like to make a donation for the animals. The fees help fund the infrastructure, the donations help treat and feed the animals. The **best support role** is to become an **Active Supporter**, by donating \$200 for unlimited visits in a year, which allows up to five people at a time to enter. They will even split the payments to a monthly cost of \$17. The demographic of their supporters has been refined to true rescue animal supporters, and the staff and volunteers can now focus less on being spin doctors, and more on animal care and being rescue interpreters.

Winter and spring are great times to visit the sanctuary. The winter temperatures in Keenesburg run cooler than


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clips loop continuously, concurrently at several stations. They range from news footage to interviews to individual animal's stories to historical documentation. The *60 Minutes Australia* segment was very well done, as well as the

Denver, and often hotter in the summer. Tip 3: Dress in layers for temperature and wind. Walking on the elevated walkways, anywhere between 30' to 50' above the animals, exposes you to the elements, while the animals below are undisturbed by your presence. The tigers seemed quite comfortable resting in the snow. Staffer Austin informed me they love to skate across their frozen pond and volunteer Charlie said they are as excited as skiers after a fresh powder snowfall. Informative signs line the walkway, along with commemorative plaques dedicated to the animals. Someone paid for a memorial to Cecil, the 13-year-old lion lured from a Zimbabwe National Park so that a Minnesotan dentist could shoot him with a bow and arrow, and then eventually kill him with a rifle, in search of another trophy. Each species sign offers a few background scenarios that precipitated necessary rescues, private surrenders or ordered confiscations. Some of the two-line entries are so potently unbelievable; it's hard to shake them. The staff and volunteers I spoke with each echoed the same sentiment, straight from the heart, about how difficult it was to know the abuse and neglect each animal suffered. And each reflected that knowing where the animals are now, receiving good medical attention, proper nutrition, in a natural setting allowing them to live in groups, helps. They will live out a happy ending. Tip 4: Spend time at the education yurt where film



documentary of how the 25 Bolivian lions came to live out the rest of their lives on the Colorado plains. **Animal Defenders International** chose **W.A.S.** for the lions' home and worked with Pat, now known as a leading expert in large carnivore care, his son Casey, and a dream team to ensure their happy

ending (www.ad-international.org). The poignant footage ends with lions tentatively leaving their transport cages, taking steps on unfamiliar grass, and within seconds, rolling on their backs, playfully pouncing on each other, and for the first time in their lives, running.

Careful, knowledgeable planning is used to rehabilitate animals, many of which grew up cramped in small cages, back porches, basements, corncribs, or concrete pits. Some had not seen their own species since being removed from their mothers after birth. One tiger was confined to a woman's back porch for seven years, never seeing another tiger. She was scared at the sight of them when arriving at the sanctuary. She needed safe, restricted access for slow introductions, until she could eventually bond with other tigers. Often the animals suffer (Continued next page.)

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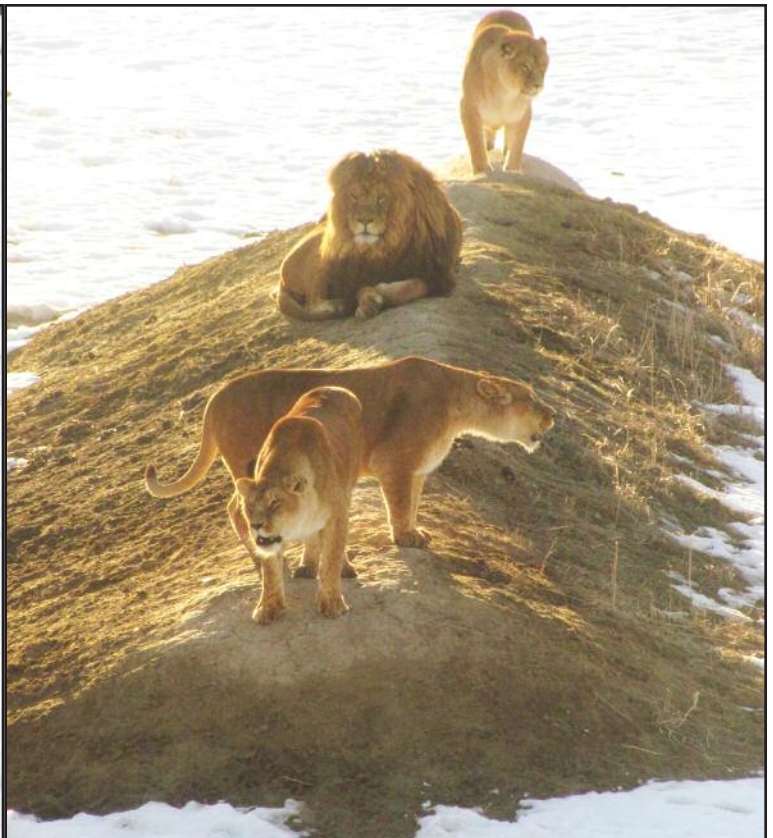
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tendon, muscle and bone deformities due to malnutrition and improper development in restricted cages. Each animal arrives with its own medical, psychological and social issues resulting from human neglect and abuse. When a tiger doesn't know it's a tiger, the learning curve must be gentle. "People underestimate the amount of time needed for emotional recovery," staffer Austin offered.

Pat and his animal care team exercise tactical rehabilitation coupled with intuitive behavior awareness. While observing female lion Tabitha peacefully sunning on a concrete stand, a far cry from the Ohio horse trailer she had shared with two adult lions and two cubs, I heard the unmistakable huff of a bear. Bear? In winter? Moving

down the walkway, I spotted the source, black bear Sierra, ambling through the snow around her tire swing and water tank. Her mother had been shot in California for breaking into homes to find food for her cubs.

She was six months old when she came to the sanctuary. An active white wolf grabbed my attention next. He had a frozen chicken in his mouth and trotted all over his habitat, eventually deciding to bury his cache along the fence line. He was not providing a free lunch for the eagles. Duke was a house pet found running loose in the woods west of Denver. A nearby enclosure was empty except for wild rabbits and birds. Volunteer Charlie, who was chipping ice off the walkway, was happy to explain that this area was for grizzly cub Eva and her surrogate mother, Marley. Eva is having a little trouble with the whole hibernation schedule and often comes out to chase rabbits and play. Charlie also monetarily sponsors Eva through the *Virtual Adoption* program; a note of tenderness was evident in his voice as he shared this. *More on Eva next month.* Spoiler alert: She has a chance at being the April cover bear!

Charlie was a wealth of information, including the big cats. He shared some eye contact behaviors, including the trusting slow blink, which I knew was true of housecats. If

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they hold a soft gaze with you, slowly blinking, it shows an element of trust. I got the opportunity to try that out in the Bolivian Lion House where a pile of lions from Mexico rested inside. Tara, resting her head on her brother's back,



sanctuary's closing time is at sunset, and the **entrance gates close two hours prior to sunset**. Call them to get the exact time; **(303) 536-0118**. Seven of the Bolivian lions stood on a rise and responded to the lions that preferred to stay inside. It was a loud call-and-response cat chorus. The Vice President of ADI had commented on the lions, "I know we can't give them the world back but it's pretty damn close."



casually studied me from below for a while, and then slowly blinked at me. I slowly blinked back. We continued this exchange for about a minute. Whether she trusted me or not, I was thrilled to be blinking with a lion!

Tip 5: Spend time waiting, reading, watching. The average pause time in front of zoo or aquarium exhibits is 3 seconds. Take your time. Tip 6: Spend time around the Snack Bar in the Bolivian Lion House. Staffer Sherrie is akin to a Snack Bar Bartender. She knows the whereabouts and stories of every animal in the large barn. She can get you a cappuccino, cheeseburger, or granola bar while answering animal questions. She also gave some helpful hints on timing, just as the lions both inside and out started to roar. She noted it often sounds like she works at Jurassic Park. Tip 7: For best lion vocalizations, go later in the day when they tend to roar more as the sun goes down. The

After the chorus had ended, I viewed the phase of the walkway under construction connecting the final leg to the new visitors' center, which will open this summer. A memorial plaque caught my eye; it was dedicated to Kimba, a Bolivian male lion, and purchased by sanctuary employees and volunteers. I remembered his disturbing rescue from the documentary, as the ADI team had to cut bars off his small tomb-like enclosure, and tear down a short brick wall to release him. Blind, frail and undernourished, he was barely able to walk out, and he captured the sanctuary's heart. Casey stated in the film that the animals remember who rescued them; I don't doubt this. The staff successfully introduced him to a female lion rescued from a Mexican circus. Morelia spent 20 years in isolation, taken out for Tarzan re-enactments where a circus performer swung on ropes and threw a club at her head. She sustained repeated head injuries and had the scars to prove it. She has received whole medical attention for her frail state. *(See the before and after photos of her in the Fall Sanctuary 2015 newsletter.)* Kimba and Morelia bonded and enjoyed each other's company, after both had endured torturous conditions for most of their lives. They got to experience a happy ending before he passed a couple years ago. Morelia is comfortably warm in her own straw bale house equipped with heating pad, within the Bolivian Lion House. She has company through the fences but doesn't have to interact with younger lions, as Kent stated, "We won't put an old lady in with a rugby team." She has known the companionship of another lion, continues to receive comfort care in a hospitable environment, able to feel the earth under her paws and the sun on her fur, while the sanctuary provides another happy ending.



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Campaign Finance

By Bob Kropfli

Original version previously published as a Guest Opinion in a local daily newspaper.

The toxic effect of our rigged political campaign finance system seems to be getting more and more attention these days. Even Republican candidates for the Presidency occasionally talk about campaign finance reform. On the Democratic side, campaign finance reform is the main emphasis of the Bernie Sanders campaign, just as I think it should be.

Consider the inability of Congress to pass sensible gun laws because of opposition from vested interests against the wishes of the majority of Americans. An exasperating example of this is the inability of Congress to even consider laws that would prevent those on the terrorist watch list from legally obtaining guns. After all, the second amendment rights of everyone, even terrorists, must be protected according to the well-endowed National Rifle Association. The NRA legally supports the campaigns of politicians who are willing to carry their water and opposes with strongly negative ads the election of those who don't.

I submit that our corrosive campaign finance system is

not only the cause of the rejection of good legislation, like sensible gun laws, but also the enactment of new bad policies against the wishes of the majority. The American Legislative Exchange Council does exactly that. ALEC writes bills strongly supported by wealthy individuals and large corporations. Those bills are then handed over directly to receptive elected officials to be enacted into laws favoring big moneyed interests.

It's not just gun legislation that is being held back by big money through the gun lobby. Global warming, education (e.g., the Jeffco school board recall election funded by moneyed special interest groups on both sides), health care, EPA regulation of greenhouse gases, exorbitant cost of many drugs and excessive student loan debt are all problems that are difficult to correct because of the inhibiting effect of excessive campaign money from a small number of wealthy families, large corporations and Wall Street. Why would you think that the legislation for Medicare Part D forbids the government from negotiating for lower drug prices? Could Big Pharma lobbyists have had a role?

The root cause here is the takeover of our political system by the billionaire class whose campaign contributions and glossy TV ads give them undue influence and access that small donors can only dream about. The point-one-percenters contribute big bucks to insure that common sense, popular legislation is difficult if not impossible to enact. They heavily 'invest' in politicians who enact laws that enhance their wealth at the expense of everyone else. Why else would 158 wealthy families contribute about half of all money given in the first phase of the presidential campaign? As of early October they invested \$176 M in the campaigns of their favorite politicians according to the NYT. The success of Bernie Sanders in raising small donations from millions of concerned people is one notable exception to this trend.

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unless, of course, they happen to be very, very wealthy. Whether you support gun legislation, health insurance reform, smaller government or immigration reform, your point of view is smothered by big money. Regardless of your politics, how much will your elected representative pay attention to your point of view when it conflicts with that of a mega-donor? To describe it differently, how much attention will Denver Water pay to your view if it conflicts with that of a highly influential, well-connected developer in need of more water in Gross Reservoir for expanded housing developments in western Arvada?

Elected officials are also fed up with how campaigns are financed because they must spend so much time on the phone with their benefactors and meet with them to beg for money. That point was made in a recent NYT article by NY Congressman, Steve Israel, who is resigning from Congress for that reason. He has had enough.

This cancer extends its tentacles even into local politics. Few are aware that there are no limits whatsoever on campaign contributions to school board candidates as well as candidates for county commissioner. In the last election an incumbent county commissioner in Jefferson County received a contribution of \$41,000 from a wealthy oil executive along with a few \$10,000 contributions from other well-heeled 'investors.' And of course it's all perfectly legal.

The national antidote for this disease is not an easy pill to swallow. It will require overturning of the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision, a major constitutional mountain to climb, in addition to a total revamping of our campaign finance system to encourage contributions from small donors and to de-emphasize the influence of mega-donors. If that miracle would happen, big money would no longer be able to buy politicians who write favorable new laws, fund slick TV ads (not coordinated with political campaigns, of course) and maintain the status quo in other areas to preserve their unfair advantage. And if that miracle would happen, major problems facing the average citizen would be so much easier to address by a Congress beholden to them and not to a few wealthy families, big corporations and Wall Street.



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Supreme Court Stay Of Clean Power Plan

By Elizabeth Shogren - HCN

Some states stop all work on cutting greenhouse gases but others forge ahead.

Arizona's air pollution agency had planned a full schedule for its meeting recently on President Obama's Clean Power Plan. Environmentalists, electric companies and others were gathering to discuss how the state should reduce greenhouse gases from its electricity sector. But that agenda was jettisoned the evening before, when the Supreme Court made the extraordinary decision to stay the rule. Instead, "the Supreme Court stay (became) the central issue," said Eric Massey, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's air quality division director. "Wow, this was not expected."

States across the West reacted abruptly to the surprising news that the federal rule was now on hold. While some cancelled efforts to devise state plans, others vowed to keep working. More than a dozen states (including Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana and Colorado) and industries asked for the stay after a lower court had rejected a request to stay the rule and scheduled arguments on it for June. The Clean Power Plan, which seeks to reduce emissions from electricity generation 32% by 2030, is the cornerstone of President Obama's effort to fight climate change. It was

also the centerpiece of the U.S. commitment to reduce greenhouse gases that helped Obama lead the world to a new international climate agreement in Paris in December. The courts' final say on the power plant rule likely will not come until a new president sits in the White House. But in the meantime, states' reactions varied widely. States with Democratic governors were more likely to commit to climate action and continue working on the rule, while states with Republican governors were more apt to ditch their efforts.

In Colorado, the Department of Public Health and Environment announced it would push forward to develop a blueprint for greenhouse gas reduction to "ensure that the state is not left at a disadvantage if the courts uphold all or part of the Clean Power Plan." But Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman opposes the rule and was one of the officials from 29 states that had asked the Supreme Court for the stay. She said the decision shows the high court agrees with her that the "federal government is ignoring the limits on its own power."

In California, Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, tweeted his disapproval of the high court's 5-4 ruling: "As the world gets hotter, these justices appear tone-deaf." California laws compel action, including a 2015 law requiring that half of the state's electricity come from renewable power by 2030. "California will not slow down our drive for clean air, renewable energy, and the good jobs that come from investing in green technologies," said Mary Nichols, who chairs California's Air Resources Board.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, said his state is already suffering from the impacts of climate change, such as reduced snowpack and ocean acidification, and "cannot afford to wait any longer for federal action." And in Oregon, a committee of the state legislature approved a bill that if adopted would double the state's renewable energy supply.

"There's a lot that's happening already outside of the Clean Power Plan," former Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter told High Country News. Ritter has been convening meetings of governors and utilities from across the West to help them



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understand and implement the Clean Power Plan.

But Ritter conceded that the Supreme Court decision takes the wind out of the sails of his multi-state effort that had brought opponents and supporters of the rule together. He expected to cancel a meeting planned for last month. He also predicted that all work on implementing the Clean Power Plan will stop in most Western states, including Montana, Wyoming and Utah.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, a Democrat, announced he was putting the Clean Power Plan on hold because he thinks it's unfair to his state. But Bullock vowed to work to address climate change and shift to cleaner energy "on our own terms." Utah announced it is suspending its sessions with stakeholders and cancelling three meetings planned for this spring. Wyoming said it would focus the energies of its Department of Environmental Quality elsewhere. Idaho, which doesn't have any coal-fired power plants, wasn't required to make big reductions under the rule. But the state imports a lot of electricity from coal-fired power plants in other states, and state officials recently had been busy trying to assess the implication of the Clean Power Plan for that imported power. "This rule is complex. It involves coordination among agencies that haven't had to work together," said Carl Brown, Idaho's air quality rules coordinator. "We'll do our best to go forward, but this is definitely a delay."

At its meeting, the Arizona agency got all kinds of feedback. Some utility representatives pushed the agency to stop all work, while some environmentalists urged it to continue full steam ahead. Although Massey said meetings with stakeholders will continue for now, he predicted the state likely will hold off on making decisions on the shape of its plan until after the lower court and the Supreme Court rule. "We have no long-term strategy at this time," Massey added. Harvard law professor Jody Freeman, who worked in the White House early in the Obama presidency, advised states to keep working on their plans "so they're



Valmont Generating Station Boulder, Colorado. Its last coal-fired unit will be shut down in 2017 as a result of a state law. By Carolannie. CC/Flickr.

not behind the eight ball" if the courts uphold the rule. She said that opponents to the rule are forecasting that the Supreme Court will eventually reject it because it's nearly unprecedented for the court to stay a federal regulation when no court has yet ruled on its legality. But she said that's a premature conclusion, because no court has heard arguments. If the Supreme Court does eventually reject the rule, she said it again will fall to Congress to deal with climate change. "That's why the election is so important; it's not just the president but the Senate and all the rest," she said.

Elizabeth Shogren is HCN's DC Correspondent.



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Dispatch From Blockadia & Update On Moffat

By Sarah Tory - HCN

In early September 2014, a small group of protesters staked out an encampment in the middle of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area west of Vancouver, British Columbia. Less than a year previously, the Texas-based oil company Kinder Morgan had announced plans to build a pipeline underneath Burnaby Mountain, a small patch of urban wild with fine views of the Burrard Inlet and the darkly forested North Shore Mountains.

The proposed pipeline would have expanded Kinder Morgan's existing Trans Mountain pipeline, which carries oil from Alberta's tar sands to Burnaby Harbor, tripling the amount of oil flowing beneath the streets of the city of Burnaby, from 350,000 barrels per day to nearly one million. The project had angered many people, not least because it had proceeded under the *widely criticized* National Energy Board review process, and without the city's permission.

All it took was someone noticing that Kinder Morgan had cut down trees on the mountain for seismic testing, for events to escalate. The city of Burnaby fined the company for downing trees in a public park. The company appealed, and as the case made its way through the courts, a group of twelve or so protesters, including academics and local


climate activists, mobilized. They used Facebook to set up a schedule of rotating watches over the site, ready to stop Kinder Morgan from proceeding.

As the weeks passed, more and more people joined the original protesters, and major media outlets arrived. Kinder Morgan won its case against the city, and announced it would re-start its work at the testing site on Oct. 29. By that point, several hundred people were assembling regularly at the main protest site at the top of the mountain or joining a smaller gathering lower down in the forest. A few camped out in tents and one man slept in a hammock, strung between the branches of a tree more than 20 feet off the ground. Across the clearing, someone spread a large tarpaulin painted with the words: **No pipelines on stolen native land.**


Editor's Note From TEG: This past fall the Army Corps of Engineers, for the 2nd time, postponed the release of its **Record of Decision (ROD)** for the Moffat Collection System Project / Expansion of Gross Reservoir. Currently, they project a release in 2016. But we're (**TEG**) not sitting idly by waiting for them to make up their mind; we've continued to draft and submit white papers further strengthening our arguments against a decision in favor of the project, and we are increasingly advantageously poised for success in a legal case against the Corps, should they decide in favor of the project.

US Forest Service trying to clear the way for Moffat... with their proposed Forsythe II Forest Project in Boulder County. The United States **Forest Service** is planning to significantly degrade the Magnolia Drive corridor in Boulder County by doing **extensive cutting of healthy, mature trees** on Forest Service lands on both sides of Magnolia Drive. **The plan also calls for removal of trees on the west shore of Gross Dam Reservoir (with funding from Denver Water).**

Be sure to go to TEG's website TEGColorado.org and utilize their letter comment abilities to further help fight this ill conceived proposed project. You can also donate to the cause in their combined fight against the proposed expansion of Gross Reservoir by giving whatever you can.



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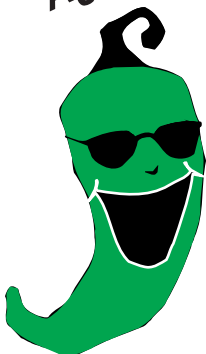
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Watershed - Teen Job Fair - Enclave Clause

Dear Editor,

My name is Jackie Daoust. I am the Watershed Program Assistant for Coal Creek Canyon Watershed Partnership (CCCWP). CCCWP is a citizen-based nonprofit group working with residents and partners to work on stream restoration, flood recovery, and resilience-building projects in Coal Creek Canyon. We want to make sure the Highlander readers are aware of our group and updated about how things have developed after the September 2013 floods.

Staff at CCCWP includes David Kamin, the Watershed Coordinator and myself. Our positions are tasked with coordinating the implementation of projects related to flood recovery and restoration in our watershed. We are funded through a Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). As you know, Coal Creek Canyon sustained a great deal of damage resulting from the September 2013 flood. Since that time, many residents have made necessary repairs to properties and rebuilt the creek in order to avoid damage from future floods. Much has been accomplished since the flood, but much remains to be done. CCCWP is here to help in this process.

The CDBG-DR Watershed Resilience Pilot Program has approximately \$32 million in competitive grant funding available to watershed coalitions and their stakeholders, with approximately 80 percent of the funds being allocated to the hardest hit counties of Boulder, Larimer, and Weld. This is a chance to be part of a new kind of disaster-relief funding. Normally after an emergency situation, federal

money is spent to rebuild a structure or to put things back exactly the way they were before the emergency. The new approach we are advocating is to start from the ground up, getting landowners involved to voice what they want done and plan preemptively for future events. When floods come again, the canyon will be better prepared and money will not be wasted by quick fixes and poorly-designed restorations.

Please check out our website at WWW.CCCWP.org to find out more about our projects. **Our upcoming events are a Public Workshop on Water Quality and Well Testing, March 15th @ 7PM in the CCCIA Hall, and on World Water Day, March 22nd we will be collecting water samples for all CCC residents at our office from 8AM-12PM.** Our office is at 30509 Highway 72, in the same building as Coal Creek Coffee. Our office hours are Tuesday 10AM-3PM and Thursday 3PM-7PM. Please swing by or call if you want more detail about anything mentioned or any questions.

Jackie Daoust
Jackie@cccwp.org 303-586-1491

Dear Readers,

Employers Invited to Register for Teen & Young Adult Job and Career Fair Boulder County, Colo. - Employers seeking to promote job openings or to discuss future career opportunities with young people ages 14-21 are encouraged to register for Workforce Boulder County's 11th annual Teen & Young Adult Job and Career Fair. What: Teen & Young Adult Job and Career Fair - **When: Thursday, March 10, 3-6 p.m.** Where: Boulder County

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Last year more than 700 highly-motivated teen and young adult attendees were introduced to roughly 50 hiring employers with job openings in a variety of industries including: Agriculture, Arts and Entertainment, Forestry, Government, Health Care, Retail, Service, Recreation, Restaurants, and more. In addition, more than 40 career and resource booths provided young people the opportunity to speak with professionals about career exploration, meet advisors from local colleges, have resumes critiqued, participate in mock interviews, and receive assistance with completing applications for immediate job openings.

Employers with job openings or with interest in providing career advice can register online, at <http://goo.gl/forms/3fzNtO8gMr>. For more details or information, contact Jason Tiner, at 720-864-6679 or jtiner@bouldercounty.org

Dear Readers,

No, federal land transfers are not in the Constitution - Legal scholars debunk arguments about how founding documents support local control of all lands.

At the heart of *age-old* disagreements about who should own and manage public lands in Western states — the federal government, states, or local communities — is one key document: the U.S. Constitution. Supporters of transferring federal lands to state or local control, including the armed occupiers of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, often cite the Constitution, along with original statehood documents, to justify their cause. Here are three of their main arguments, and what mainstream legal scholars have to say about them.

Enclave Clause

In a Fox News interview two days after the Malheur occupation began in early January, a reporter asked ringleader Ammon Bundy, “How is what you’re doing not lawlessness?” He replied: “I think that we have to go to the supreme law of the land to answer that question. And that is that the federal government does not have authority to come down into the states and to control its land and resources. That is for the people to do, and that is clearly

stated in Article 1, (Section) 8, (Clause) 17 of the Constitution.”

That article, also known as the Enclave Clause, grants the federal government the following power:

“To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings...”

Scholars I spoke with for this information said it was unclear how Bundy would interpret the Enclave Clause to mean the federal government shouldn’t control public land. Perhaps he interprets the phrase regarding consent of state legislatures to imply that states can decline federal management. But either way, constitutional scholars say Bundy’s interpretation is flat-out wrong. The Supreme Court has consistently interpreted the Enclave Clause not as curtailing federal control of public land, but protecting it. There is a bargaining process between the feds and states to obtain exclusive jurisdiction over an area of public land.

Bryce Gray



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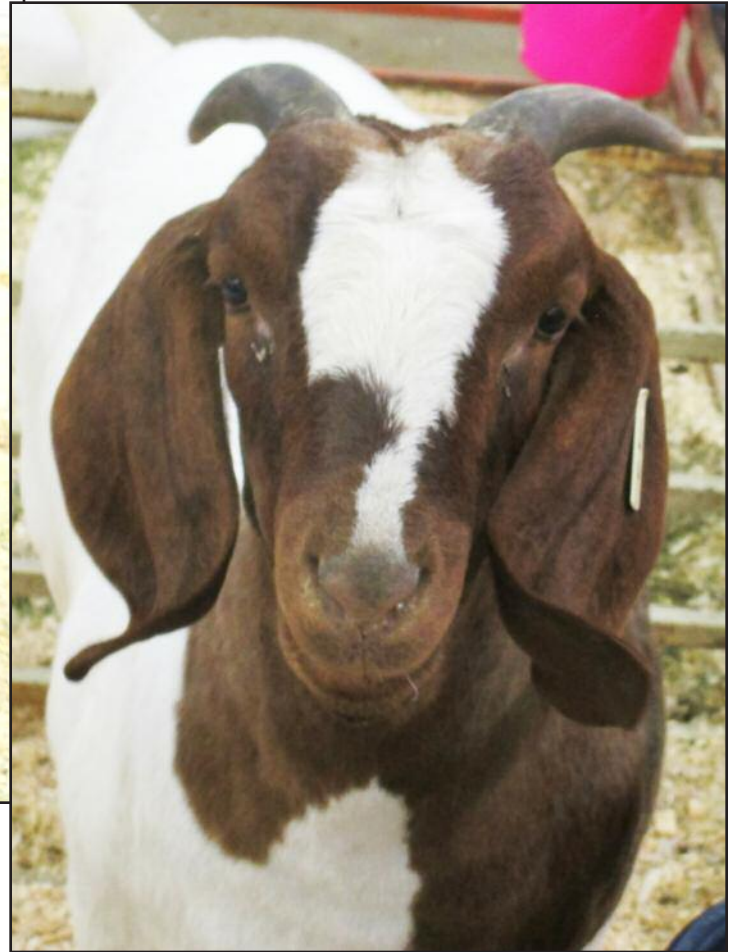
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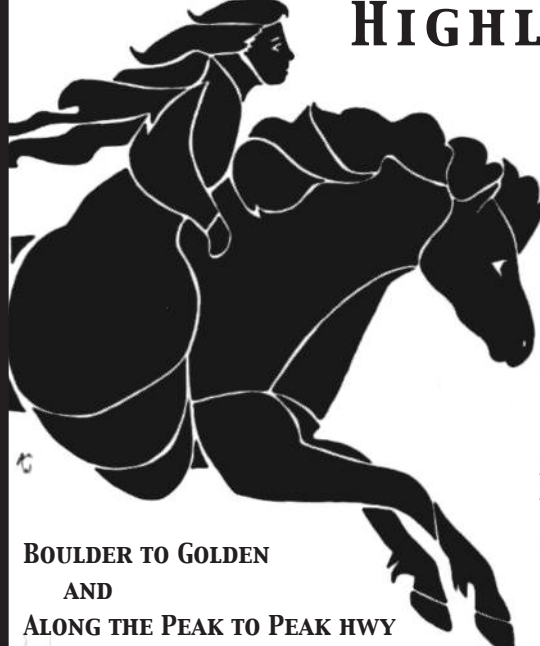


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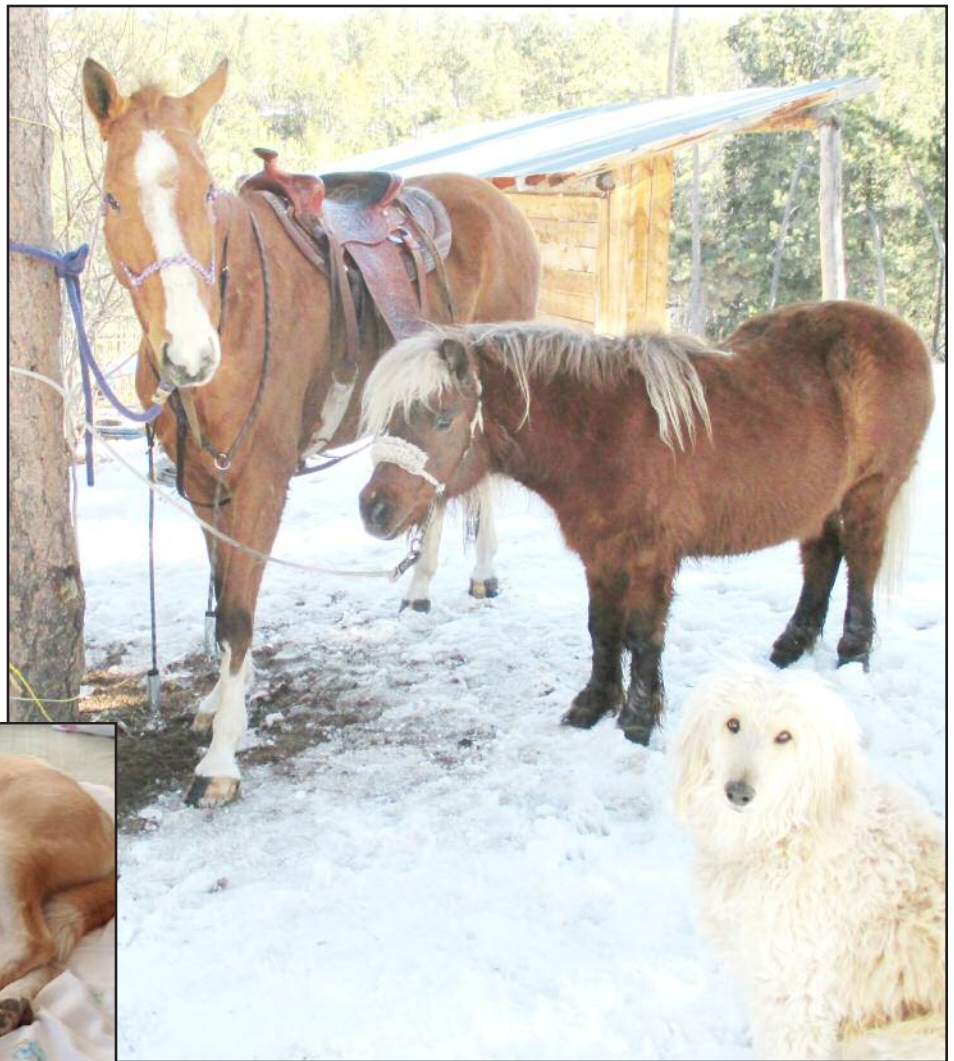
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Summary of ColoradoCare – Amendment 69

ColoradoCare is a resident-owned, non-governmental health care financing system designed to ensure comprehensive, quality, accessible, lifetime health care for every Colorado resident. The benefit package will enhance the comprehensive health care services required by Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Premiums will be collected from Coloradans based on income, securing health care regardless of financial circumstance. This efficient, universal system will operate in the interests of Coloradans. By eliminating layers of bureaucracy and reducing administrative and other nonmedical costs, ColoradoCare will cover all residents and still cost less than the current system.

Process: By a Citizens' Initiative process, Coloradans collected enough signatures to successfully qualify **ColoradoCare for the November 2016 ballot as Amendment 69.**

Establishment: Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act allows Colorado to obtain waivers to create her own health care system. ColoradoCare will not be an agency of the state nor be controlled by any state executive, department, commission, board, bureau or agency.

Interim Board: A 15-member Interim Board appointed by legislative leaders and the governor will oversee all operations until residents elect the Board of Trustees. The Interim Board will work with state and federal agencies; apply for Section 1332 waivers; coordinate with providers; develop a non-partisan, fair election process for Board elections in seven local Colorado districts; and establish rules to ensure that meetings, records and operations are public and transparent.

Board of Trustees: Within three years, residents from each of the seven Colorado districts will elect three Trustees. These 21 Trustees will be responsible for all operations of ColoradoCare; establish a purchasing authority for pharmaceuticals and medical equipment; establish separate ombudsman offices for beneficiaries and providers; establish and fund an office to prevent and investigate fraud; establish rules and procedures to ensure financial sustainability; ensure beneficiary confidentiality while allowing for research of ColoradoCare's database; oversee financial management, transparency of operations, and maintenance of patient privacy; and ensure beneficiaries' access to quality care.

Health Benefits: Comprehensive benefits must include primary and specialty care; hospitalization; prescription drugs and medical equipment; mental health and substance use services, including behavioral health treatment; emergency and urgent care; preventive and wellness services; chronic disease management; rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices;

pediatric care including oral, vision and hearing services; laboratory services; maternity and newborn care; and palliative and end-of-life care. Additional benefits can be provided. ColoradoCare replaces the medical portion of Workers' Compensation. There will be no deductibles. Designated primary and preventive care services have no co-payments. Any other co-payments or cost-sharing must have ColoradoCare's prior approval and can be waived to ensure access to proper care. ColoradoCare will assure statewide access to emergency and trauma services. Beneficiaries will choose their primary care professionals. Beneficiaries temporarily living or traveling in another state will receive coverage.

Delivery of service: ColoradoCare will assume payment for health services in a manner designed to minimize disruptions to current delivery and payment systems; will phase in payment reforms and a billing system; and use payment models that optimize quality, value, and healthy outcomes. Providers may continue to be for-profit, non-profit, public, private, salaried or independent.

Funding

In order to assume responsibility for the financing of health care in Colorado, the Board will seek all necessary waivers, exemptions, and agreements to receive all available state and federal health care funds.

The Colorado Department of Revenue will collect transitional operating fund taxes (TOFT) from residents beginning July 1, 2017 at the following rates: 0.6 % of payroll from employers, 0.3 % of payroll from employees, and 0.9 % from non-payroll income.

The month prior to ColoradoCare's assumption of responsibility for health care payments, the Department of Revenue will cease collecting TOFT and will collect and transfer premium taxes (PT) to ColoradoCare as follows: 6 2/3% of employer payroll; 3 1/3 % of employee payroll; and 10 % non-payroll income. As taxes, the amounts are deductible when filing income tax forms.

For both TOFT and PT much of Social Security and pension income would be exempt as defined by tax law. Income taxable for premiums will be capped at \$350,000 for individuals and \$450,000 for those filing jointly,

with annual adjustments for inflation.

Employers may choose to pay part or all of their employees' share of TOFT or PT. ColoradoCare will serve as a supplemental plan to Medicare and will apply to become a Medicare Advantage Plan. For any other health insurance plans that are in effect, ColoradoCare will be a secondary payer, up to the payment level of ColoradoCare coverage. ColoradoCare must undergo annual independent audits. Additionally, the Board will publicly report on the financial state of ColoradoCare and present options for economies, benefits, refunds, reserves and premium adjustments.

Premium Taxes may not be increased more than once per year and only if the majority of voting Colorado members approve the increase.

Exemption: ColoradoCare is exempt from TABOR.

Enabling Legislation: During the 2017 legislative session the General Assembly will pass legislation to ensure a smooth, lawful transition to ColoradoCare. This includes transferring the resources of the Health Benefit Exchange, and the responsibility for Medicaid, Children's Basic Health Plan, the medical portion of Workers' Compensation; and allowing ColoradoCare to receive funding provided by the Affordable Care Act. **For more information contact: info@ColoradoCareYES.co**



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Ski Resorts Control Water Rights

By Paige Blankenbuehler - HCN

In 2011, the U.S. Forest Service issued a controversial water rights directive that would have required ski areas operating under a special use permit on public land to transfer their water rights to the federal government. In response, the National Ski Areas Association, an industry trade group that represents more than 300 ski areas, sued the agency in January of the following year — and won. A U.S. district judge ruled in 2012 that the Forest Service not only violated its own procedural rules and failed to evaluate the economic impact, but also violated the ski areas' rights.

After that ruling, the Forest Service abandoned a water transfer clause and issued a new directive that will go into effect January 29. It requires ski areas applying for new permits or modifying existing ones to demonstrate that they have sufficient water to sustain operations for the permit's duration and allows them to remain at the helm of their water management. In 2011, the agency's culture leaned toward federal transfer, or co-ownership, of water, says Joe Meade, director of recreation for the U.S. Forest Service based in Washington D.C. "That way we knew the water would always be available in the National Forest Service System."

But ski areas consider water rights as assets, and collectively, the industry has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in them, says Geraldine Link, director of public policy for the NSAA. "That's something ski areas don't want interference on," she says. "We're really good at water management and we know best what we need and how best to achieve that."

Those high-dollar investments have long drawn the attention of the U.S. Forest Service, which worried that as water rights become more valuable, ski areas might decide to sell them to developers. The 2011 rule addressed the resulting concern that future ski operations wouldn't have the water they needed for snowmaking and for running base area amenities like lodges and restaurants. There is no history of any ski area selling their water to third parties, but under the new directive, a ski area will need approval from the agency to sell them. "The new clause is a huge improvement," Link says.

Ultimately, after the court ruled against the agency, Forest Service officials realized that it didn't matter so much who owned the water as how sustainably water was being used on public lands. "We're asking now that water needs be documented," Meade says. "If we issue a permit, we want to know that the operations under that permit can be sustained."

The change between the 2011 clause and the new Ski Area Water Rights Directive seems drastic on paper, but in practice, it won't change the way ski areas do business, because states have authority over allocation even when water originates on federal land. The Forest Service can't provide more water for operations that show they don't have enough, and it also can't tighten the belt on resorts that demonstrate a plentiful supply.

What it does do, though, is confirm that a ski area controls its water rights and their day-to-day management. What results is a missed opportunity that could have eased uncertainty surrounding public land management as the climate warms and winter precipitation and water storage become more unpredictable. In June last year, the Forest

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Copper Mountain in Summit County, Colorado, began snowmaking operation early October 2015. A snowgun typically costs \$30,000 and uses anywhere from 15 to 80 gallons of water per minute.

Jimmy Thomas, Flickr.

Service withdrew a similar proposal that would have changed groundwater management for oil and gas leases. Much like their ski industry counterparts, opponents of the oil and gas water directive said it would have “infringed on state authorities’ allocation of water.”

Under the new ski area directive, the agency doesn’t have control over how much water resorts use, how much they buy on the open market or lease from local municipalities. It also means the agency doesn’t have the power to take water from a ski area and use it for the broader Forest Service system during a climate crisis or prolonged drought periods.

As winter recreation faces a more uncertain climate future, the 2015 directive will ensure that while the industry owns water, they will be entitled to their allocation. When it comes to winter recreation on public lands, climate change becomes more of a technological problem, than a regulatory one, says David Corbin, vice president of planning and development for Aspen Skiing Company. As winter conditions become more erratic, Corbin says

snowmaking will need to be more efficient and operations will need access to larger on-site reservoirs. “Warming impacts our ability to make snow,” he says. “We need to adapt water storage so we can act quickly when temperatures are ideal for making snow.”

In the previous (and controversial) water directive, the Forest Service took the long view on water management — will public lands have the water it needs 100 years into the future? The new directive gives the ski resorts a bigger role in defining that future, which is not without the risk of industry interests infringing on the agency’s responsibility to long-term management of the resource. “I believe we’ve found a place in policy that’s good for industry, good for the skier and upholds our responsibility to public lands,” Meade says. “As the climate changes, we know we’re all in this together.”

Paige Blankenbuehler is an editorial fellow at High Country News.

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The Road To Better Eating

By Katherine E. Standefer - HCN

The road to better eating, in an era of compromise

A review of Megan Kimble's *Unprocessed: My City-Dwelling Year of Reclaiming Real Food*.

When 26-year-old Megan Kimble became intrigued by the idea of unprocessed eating, she wasn't entirely sure what the term meant. After all, she writes, nearly all food is processed by the time we eat it — chopped, sautéed, fermented or folded into batter — “and often it is the better for it.” But she also knew that some of our food is too processed, organic or not, and so she set out to discover where, exactly, the line should be drawn.

It took her all year. Her debut book, *Unprocessed: My City-Dwelling Year of Reclaiming Real Food*, documents Kimble's shifting definitions, as she grinds wheat berries into flour, brews mead in a bucket, harvests salt from the ocean, and tries her hand at slaughtering sheep. Along the way, she explores all kinds of topics: from the preservatives that give industrially produced food a longer shelf life to the planned obsolescence of our food gadgets, from the tension between convenience and consequences, to the power of dollars spent locally.

What sets *Unprocessed* apart from the last decade's rash of books about the shortcomings of our food system is

Kimble's status as a broke, busy graduate student living in arid Tucson, Arizona, on an income of less than \$20,000 a year. In a cheerful, clear voice, she admits her struggles and compromises. Her garden plot, for example, is largely a failure. Like many of her generation, her social life unfolds largely in restaurants and bars, and the book smartly tackles how to navigate mostly processed menus, what makes alcohol processed (or not), and how a commitment to eating real food can either intersect or clash with the desire to be a part of community. “If I didn't ... engage in the messiness, of eating out and eating with another, then even if I ate perfectly unprocessed, I wouldn't have really lived unprocessed,” Kimble writes. “Abstain though we try, today's world is one of moderation. Of trying and failing, and then trying and half-succeeding.”

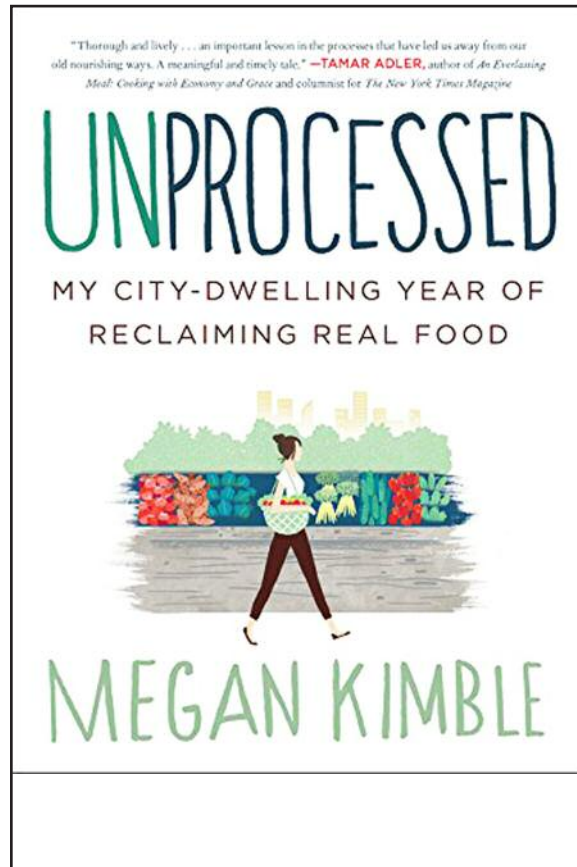
The book is full of fresh insights about the way communities are tied to food systems. Eating processed food, Kimble discovers, is a natural consequence of our move-wherever-the-jobs-exist economy. Yet she questions the tendency to “(outsource) to others those key activities that define the day-to-day. ... What is life if not the day to day? ... The tasks we have decided to label mundane ... are (those that) accumulate into relationships and memories.”

Unprocessed: My City-Dwelling Year of Reclaiming Real Food

Megan Kimble

326 pages, softcover: \$15.99.

William Morrow/ Harper Collins, 2015.



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Are Recycling Programs Effective Management?

By Jack Buffington - EarthTalk.org

Are recycling programs effective in managing damage to the environment? We Need Product Innovation, Not Happy Cup Fallacy.

If you take into account all throwaway containers used in the United States on a daily basis, there are one billion containers that flow through the supply chain — and perhaps only 400-500 million or so of these materials are collected for recycling. Of these 400-500 million containers collected for recycling, perhaps 15-25 percent are thrown away before they are even reused, and of the balance, maybe half are reused for the same or a better purpose. That translates into 180 million of today's beverage containers being reused can for can, bottle for bottle, or cup for cup. The rest are either thrown away or used for a lesser purpose, having to be replaced tomorrow with new natural resources of fossil fuels, paper, silicon, and aluminum. So what's the plan to address this problem of massive packaging waste and its impact to the environment? Most people believe this issue can be addressed simply by consumers doing their part through participation in a recycling program, like exists in the zero waste nations in Europe (Sweden, Germany) — but is this really the case?

From my role as a consumer products leader in the U. S. and an environmental science/supply chain researcher in Sweden, I have found the use of recycling programs to be more of a mitigation technique than a solution to this problem of waste and environmental impact. Why? Not because the consumer shouldn't recycle, but rather due to the scientific and economic evidence that most of our beverage containers were never designed to be recycled, and therefore, are easier and cheaper to throw into a landfill or be downcycled than to be reused like for like, or for a higher purpose. In this model, the collection process of consumer recycling becomes an ineffective means with an end of low reuse, and therefore, high waste and environmental damage. Regardless of what is advertised on the side of your beverage container, the problem of economic waste and environmental damage cannot be resolved in this back-end solution to a front-end problem.

By some estimates, there is six times more plastic in our oceans than plankton, and every day, the situation only grows worse, with no real solution in sight. For a problem of this

magnitude to be addressed, we must address this paradigm that our plastic mess can be solved alone through recycling programs, especially given consumer growth in developing areas of the world with business markets ramping up faster than environmental controls. Recycling programs can only mitigate the damage, and awareness must be raised regarding the need to design new beverage containers that can be safely and effectively recycled and reused, which will not only be good for the environment, but the economy as well. Today's consumers are largely content that they are doing their part as long as they throw their container after use into a bucket with the three chasing arrows logo on it, but this is a lack of awareness of the real problem. Material scientists are on the verge of exciting and new materials that will not just mitigate environmental damage, but erase it. A greater focus must be placed on these innovations rather than happy cup fallacy marketing and environmental programs.

Recycling programs are not ineffective because we shouldn't recycle, but rather because **we should demand more from our consumer products industry and environmental associations in solving the problem.** To save our oceans, we need transformation, not feel-good programs.

*Jack Buffington, Ph.D. is a business leader at MillerCoors, the second largest beer manufacturer in the U.S., and a post-doctoral researcher in supply chain/biotechnology at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. He is also the author of the book, **The Recycling Myth: Disruptive Innovation to Improve the Environment.***



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Public Land Is Good For Rural Areas

By Krista Langlois - HCN

A new study finds that personal income is rising faster in counties with more public land.

For many parts of the rural West — like Oregon’s Harney County, where timber jobs dropped 70% between 1998 and 2013 — large swaths of public land can feel like a burden. Counties rich in public land are often at the mercy of federal land managers, so when logging, mining or ranching dries up — either because of management decisions or shifts in the market — loggers, miners and ranchers can feel powerless. Watching young people flee to cities, it’s easy to conclude that federally managed lands impede economic growth.

But a new study by Montana nonprofit Headwaters Economics shows that’s not necessarily the case. Overall, rural Western counties with more federal land performed noticeably better by four key economic indicators than counties with less public land. Not only that, but counties with land protected as national parks, wilderness, national conservation areas, national monuments or national wildlife refuges — land with little or no extractive resource production — fared best of all for personal and per-capita income growth.

“We’re data-driven, and our reflex to hearing (recent

anti-public lands) rhetoric is to look at the data,” says Megan Lawson, the study’s author. “There are certainly rural places that are struggling, but that’s not the primary story we’re seeing across the West.”

Though economic growth in rural areas is still far surpassed by urban growth, Western rural counties with the highest share of federal lands had on average faster population, employment, personal income and per capita income growth between 1970 and 2014 than those with less public land.

When you take into account federal lands specifically protected for recreation and wildlife, rather than extraction, the differences remain strong.

The study looked at all 276 Western counties without a city of 50,000 or more or with population density below 1,000 people per square mile, designated as “non-metro” by the U.S. Census Bureau. To be fair, the overall gains are thus skewed by a few very wealthy counties, like Colorado’s Summit County (home to ritzy ski resorts) and Teton County, Wyoming (home to Jackson Hole), which had personal income growth of 2,757 and 2,253%, respectively. Lawson says that when she took the top 5% — the Vails and Aspens — out of the equation, the difference in economic growth between counties with the

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highest and lowest protected federal land decreased by about 16%. But the overall gains were still significant. Scrolling through the list of counties, it's clear that most of those with high proportions of federal land have experienced at least moderate economic growth. It's equally clear that those with less public lands have a lot of negative numbers. "I don't want to say that public lands cause economic growth," Lawson cautions. "But what we're seeing is they certainly don't stop it."

Given the time scale covered, the findings don't represent a short-term boom and bust or the influence of a single industry. Instead, they suggest that as the Western economy has shifted from a resource-driven economy to a service-based economy over the past four decades, the role of public lands has changed. Today, recreation and scenic views often bring more economic benefit than resource production.

That's not to say that resource production isn't vital. For many counties — and the overall economy — it is. But today, real estate, health care and tech and investment jobs, including those that allow employees to work remotely, are the biggest drivers of economic growth. Entrepreneurs and creative types are drawn to scenic places with easy recreational access, which might explain the rise in places like Port Townsend, Washington, or Durango, Colorado. Other places, like Chaffee County, Colorado — where

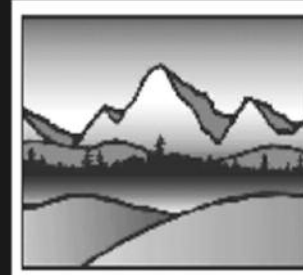
commercial rafting on the Arkansas River has exploded in popularity — are likely driven by the outdoor service industry itself.

So why are outliers like Harney County, Oregon, lagging behind? Lawson suggests it's because tourism, tech and healthcare are faster-growing or more stable than agriculture, timber, or oil and gas. Counties struggling to maintain their workforce tend to have stuck with the latter — either intentionally or not. Every region and county has a unique "economic potential," and places that are particularly isolated, far from markets and airports, typically have a harder time diversifying their economies beyond traditional extractive industries. For places like Harney County, there are no easy solutions.

Yet snowballing economic gains can have their own downsides. With growth can come unaffordable real estate, unoccupied second homes and hordes of tourists, not to mention overstressed natural resources. "If it's an attractive place to live... working class people can get pushed out," Lawson says. But as a county transitions to a more diverse economy, it also becomes better able to weather the loss of a big employer or a national recession, which benefits the working class. "It's a double-edged sword. You have a higher cost of living, but also also greater resiliency. It's a real struggle."

Krista Langlois is a correspondent at High Country News.

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Part 17 - Overpopulation

By Frosty Wooldridge

(Americans throw 251 million tons of trash annually into landfills, onto the land, into our lakes, rivers and into the oceans.) Photo D'arcy Norman

The writer John Steinbeck said, *American cities are like badger holes, ringed with trash — all of them — surrounded by piles of wrecked and rusting automobiles, and smothered with rubbish. Everything we use comes in boxes, cartons, bins, the so-called packaging we love so much. The mountains of things we throw away are much greater than the things we use. In this, if no other way, we can see the wild and reckless exuberance of our production, and waste seems to be the index. I wonder whether there will come a time when we can no longer afford our wastefulness — chemical wastes in the rivers, metal wastes everywhere, and atomic wastes buried deep in the earth or sunk in the sea. When an Indian village became too deep in its own filth, the inhabitants moved. And we have no place to which to move.* —

John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*

With a population of 319 million people in 2014, the U. S. generates 4.5 pounds of trash per person 24/7.



We throw more trash than most of the rest of the world, but they catch up annually as they grow their populations by 80 million each year. China adds 27 million cars, net gain, to their highways annually, but as those autos age, their dead carcasses litter the landscape. China expects to use and toss over 900 to 1,200 million tires annually as they continue their quest to be more like Americans. The U.S. tosses 250 million tires annually. *Plastic bags 60,000—Number of plastic bags consumed in the U.S. every 5 seconds (Sierra Club) 240,000—Number of plastic bags consumed worldwide every 10 seconds (Sierra Club) 1 billion—Number of plastic bags Americans use every year (Clean Air Council)*

30,000 tons—Landfill waste created from plastic bags each year (*Clean Air Council*) Less than 1% Amount of plastic bags that are recycled (*Clean Air Council*)

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The amount of garbage we discard numbs a thinking person's mind and stupefies anyone who thinks about the ramifications of our future.

Paper - 15 million—Sheets of office paper used in the U.S. every 5 minutes. The average American uses roughly the equivalent of one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products each year. (EPA)

100 million—Number of trees cut down in the U.S. annually to make the paper for junk mail (Clean Air Council).

9,960—Pieces of junk mail that are printed, shipped, delivered and disposed of in the U.S. every 3 seconds. (Chris Jordan)

(Part of the 100 million tons of plastic floating in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch the size of Texas just 1,000 miles west of San Francisco and growing as billions of humans toss their plastics into our oceans.) Photo by Mother Nature Network

2.4 million pounds - Amount of plastic pollution that enters the world's oceans every hour (Clean Air Council)

1 million - Number of plastic cups that are consumed on airline flights in the U.S. every 6 hours (Chris Jordan)

2 million - Number of plastic beverage bottles that are used in the U.S. every 5 minutes. The number of plastic water bottles discarded in the U.S. every week could circle the Earth five times. (Plastic Pollution Coalition)

The more I dive into the research of this series, the more I am sickened at what I discover. When you pile up the numbers for the USA, it's overwhelming. When you pile up the numbers for India, China and other overpopulated countries, it's down right frightening. We add 1 billion humans every 12 years—so the trash numbers will



Highlander Worldview

continue to climb. Our oceans will continue to be destroyed. But no one will address it; not one single world leader.

(People living in their own trash in Africa, India, Mexico and many places around the world.)

Photo by www.Lightingthe-way.com

E-waste - 20 to 50 million metric tons—Amount of electronics the world throws away annually. That's the

equivalent of trashing 45,500 to 125,000 fully loaded 747s each year. (Ewasteguide.info)

10-18 percent—Amount of electronics that are recycled. (Ewasteguide.info)

304 million—Electronics disposed of from U.S. households in 2005 — two-

thirds of them still worked.

(Continued next page.)



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Highlander Worldview

(Clean Air Council)

18,500—Number of homes that could be powered for a year if we recycled all of the cellphones retired annually. (Clean Air Council)

All totaled, the USA discards 251 million tons of trash annually. How do you compare that number?

The United States discards more than 4,837 Titanic's filled with trash in a normal calendar year.

(People living in the utter nightmare of their own waste around the world.) Photo by www.lightingtheway.com

Unfortunately, it drips, drains, funnels and wafts into the land, air and water. We face "payback" in the coming years on a scale unheard of in human history.

Worldwide, humans produce 1.2 kg per person per day or 1.3 billion tons per year). By 2025 this will likely increase to 4.3 billion urban residents generating about



1.42 kg/capita/day of municipal solid waste
2.2 billion tons per year.

Finally, Americans waste or cause to be wasted nearly 1 million pounds of materials per person every year. This figure includes 3.5 billion pounds of carpet landfilled, 3.3 trillion pounds of CO2 gas emitted into the atmosphere, 19 billion pounds of



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polystyrene peanuts, 28 billion pounds of food discarded, 360 billion pounds of organic and inorganic chemicals used for manufacturing, 710 billion pounds of hazardous waste and 3.7 trillion pounds of construction debris.

- If wastewater is factored in, the total annual flow of waste in the American Industrial system is 250 trillion pounds.
- Less than 2% of the total waste stream in the United States is recycled.
- For all the world to live as an American we would need two more Earths; three more if the

population should double and twelve Earth's altogether if worldwide standards of living doubled in the next forty years. *(Our trash reaches the Arctic Ocean where polar bears, whales, seagulls and seals must contend with our accelerating nightmare.)*

And to think that America will add another 138 million people by 2050—a scant 34 years from now. The world will add another 3.1 billion in that time. Somewhere down the line, Mother Nature will kick our rear-ends back to the Stone Age. *If you would like*

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25 Tribes Unite - Make Bears Ears Nat'l Monument

By Stephen Trimble

Native peoples in the Southwest take the long view. They have lived in the redrock canyons of the Colorado Plateau for 12,000 years and have shown astonishing resilience in the face of devastating change in the last 500 years. Now, they bring this ancestral perspective to the management of public lands in the canyons and mesas of southern Utah.

For the first time in conservation history, the primary advocates for a new national monument are the tribes themselves. This historic Native coalition is trying to protect the wildlands that sweep southward from Canyonlands National Park toward the Navajo Nation.

The tribes' allies include travelers, hikers, and river-runners who don't want to see oil rigs and endless networks of off-road vehicle tracks here. But the visitors who gaze awestruck across the buttes of Greater Canyonlands, who boat through the canyons of the San Juan River, and who stand enthralled by rock art and cliff dwellings on Cedar Mesa, may not realize how deeply all of these lands matter in the daily lives of Native people.

The tribes worked for six years with Utah congressmen to find common ground. Native people sought joint stewardship of this landscape. In January, however, when Rep. Rob Bishop, Republican of Utah, revealed the details of a Public Lands Initiative he touted as a grand compromise, the tribes found his draft "woefully inadequate in addressing our needs in the areas of collaborative management and land preservation."

For the Bears Ears Coalition, the unacceptable language in Bishop's proposal confirmed the "inequitable treatment of tribes over the past three years and our need to seek other means of protecting the living cultural landscape we call Bears Ears." The development proposals in Bishop's Initiative have led coalition members to focus on President Obama, who could use the Antiquities Act to proclaim a Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah.

Led by the Navajo, Ute Mountain, Hopi, Zuni, and Uintah and Ouray Ute nations, a coalition of 25 tribes has asked the president to preserve 1.9 million acres of public lands surrounding the Bears Ears buttes. The Intertribal Coalition proposes co-management of this monument through an eight-member commission. One person would come from each tribe, and one representative could come from each federal agency that manages land within the boundaries - the National Park Service, Forest Service and the BLM.

The Native leaders emphasize community over commodity. As Eric Descheenie, Navajo co-chair of the Bears Ears Coalition, says, this land is a "who," not a "what" or a "that." It is a living land that Native people "relate to in a religious way," loving the Bears Ears no differently than they would a family member. He emphasizes this "indigenous truth" as the foundation for all discussions about "healing, a people's movement, and collaborative management."

Hopi Tribal Vice Chairman Alfred Lomahquahu Jr. calls this new approach a breakthrough for Native Americans. He sees it as a return to the original intent of the Antiquities Act and an approach that could serve as a template for national monuments elsewhere in the country. Co-management creates a new "tool of self-determination and sovereignty to benefit the tribes," he said.

This extraordinary landscape deserves protection for all the reasons that we typically think of as imperatives - its ecological and wilderness values, all of which are threatened by destructive oil and gas development. Cedar Mesa, in the heart of the Bears Ears proposal, shelters more than 56,000 cultural sites that reach more than 12,000 years into the past. This unbroken cultural record makes this remote corner of southeastern Utah among the richest archaeological districts in the United States. Yet Bears Ears, the nation's most significant unprotected cultural resource, is also starkly threatened today by vandals who ransack prehistoric graves.

For all of these reasons, the Bears Ear coalition has urged the president to act. By elevating these lands to national monument status, we protect canyons actively consecrated and blessed by Native prayers and preserve living libraries of indigenous traditional knowledge. All of us, Indian and non-Indian, would benefit as we come to know and participate in these sacred landscapes.

As Willie Grayeyes of the Bears Ears Coalition puts it, the new monument would help us "come to the table of equality." This historic Native vision of reconciliation and healing nourishes us all, and I hope the president acts boldly in response.

Stephen Trimble is a contributor to Writers on the Range, an opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). He teaches writing at the University of Utah Honors College and is the author and photographer of The People: Indians of the American Southwest.

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About The White Stuff Piling Up Outside

By Rob Pudim

Few people - at least few grownups - really enjoy snow. I live in Colorado where we're drowning in it day after day, and though it's great for the high mountain watersheds, it's not so fun for daily life. You have to clear it from windshields and crawl around in it chaining up tires.

Supposedly, the Inuit have hundreds of words for snow. For example, upsik is igloo-building snow, and they probably have words for snowball-making snow or snow that crunches, making it hard to sneak up on a seal.

There are a few warped humans who like to dress up cute to play in the snow but I am sure they are a minority. All that said, though, there are moments when snow can be astonishingly beautiful. I am talking about when you look out the window and see a blanket of undisturbed snow covering the yard and streets. The pleasure from that is that you are inside and the snow is out there.


Snow isn't magic. Somewhere high in the sky a speck of dust or a bacteria bumbles into a mass of super-cooled air and three water molecules grab it, forming a ring of six atoms. More water joins that, producing a honeycomb ice crystal. When the temperature hits minus 13 degrees

Fahrenheit, the crystals become razor-sharp prisms. At 5 degrees Fahrenheit, they become frilly stars, and at 17 degrees they fold up, making hollow six-sided columns. Prisms, stars, columns along with plates, sinters and needles tumble around and become snow. It's science.

Earlier this year, a concatenation of humidity, temperature and absolutely still air - rare in the West - created a mixture of hoarfrost and rime that coated every blade of grass and the twigs and branches on the trees to make a delicate crystalline wonderland. It was as if the world were made of glass. The moment was brief as tears; a few heartbeats later, the sun broke through and the crystal shield disappeared as quickly as a coin in a magician's hand. That was magic.

Another time, years ago, every branch and small trunk on the trees featured white spikes or icy thorns. They had formed on the lee side of the branches opposite where the wind was hitting. Snow magic.

What about cold smoke? Sometimes it's called white air or champagne snow, more common in the West than in the soggy East. It is the lightest and fluffiest snow on earth. It occurs at about 5 degrees Fahrenheit, which permits stellar crystals to form but lacks the humidity to coat the flakes with frost. When the wind blows, it floats in the air, and sunshine makes the blue sky above sparkle like a blanket of flashing diamonds. It feels as though you're inside one of those glass balls you shake to make it "snow."

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More snow magic.

I was in the high country of Indian Peaks Wilderness when I saw what's called "praying monks." It is more common in the Andes and was called nieve penitente or penitent snow by early Spanish explorers. Praying monks are formed after intense, high-country sunlight melts deep pits in the snow pack, leaving spikey towers, some 10-foot high, standing in the snow. The tall drooping snow cones look like a congregation of hooded monks at prayer.

When I stood among some of these monks, the only sound was the shush of a high wind sounding like the muffled sound of prayer, and the hair on the back of my neck rose. It was strange and beautiful.

There's another phenomenon I've never seen that happens in the Alps after a thin layer of clear ice covers the snowpack. At sunrise or sunset a red sky is reflected back from the ice to seemingly set the mountain on fire. It's called Firnspiegel, or glacier mirror, and, when you walk on it, it sounds as though you are stepping on fine china.

Then there's sugar snow, sometimes called depth hoar, which causes many dangerous avalanches. It occurs deep in the snowpack when water molecules go from warmer layers to colder layers and reform into ribbed crystals. The water lands on the hoar crystal itself, and there are no bonds between the crystals to link up the grains of snow.

You can pour the snow from hand to hand like sugar from a bowl. Weird.

The Inuit probably have words covering all the regular stuff and the magic part of snow, too. Today, the news says it's going to keep snowing. I doubt that it will be magical, just wet and cold, and I'll need to be out there shoveling - again.



Rob Pudim is a contributor to Writers on the Range, an opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). He writes and draws editorial cartoons in Colorado.

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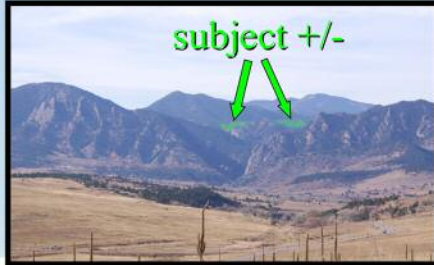
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MARCH
2016

POWER UPDATE

Meet the Candidates


For members who wish to hear from each candidate in person, United Power will hold a candidate forum. All United Power members are welcome to attend the Meet the Candidates forum to learn more about each director candidate, hear from your cooperative leadership and tell us how we're doing.

Meet the Candidates

Tuesday, March 15, 2016
7:30 a.m.
Coal Creek Canyon Community
Center, CCCIA Hall
31528 Highway 72
Golden, CO 80403

The Meet the Candidates event is free and light refreshments will be served. RSVPs are not required.

**UNITED
POWER**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MAKING LIFE BETTER THE COOPERATIVE WAY



DIRECTOR ELECTION & **ANNUAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY
April 13, 2016**

4:30 p.m. Registration & Dinner
6:30 p.m. Meeting & Prizes

ADAMS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
9755 HENDERSON ROAD, BRIGHTON
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9Health Fair coming to Coal Creek Canyon!

Now recruiting medical & non-medical volunteers
to work the Coal Creek Canyon 9Health Fair.
Sign up to volunteer at :
canyoncares.org@gmail.com or visit
www.9healthfair.org/volunteer

Basic Blood Chemistry Screen
Ask a Medical Question – Get a Referral

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Saturday, April 9th
7:00am to 12:00noon
Coal Creek Canyon Community Hall
31528 Hwy. 72

Blood Pressure Screen
Body Mass Index Screen
...and MORE!

Follow Coal Creek Canyon 9Health Fair on Facebook for exciting updates!



CANYON CARES



242 Black Bear Trail
Complete Remodel - Stunning Views!
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,556 sq.ft. **\$449,000**



TBD Rudi Lane West
.73 Ac. **\$30,000**



11944 Vonnie Claire Road
Complete Remodel!
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,872 sq.ft. **\$339,900**



33566 Coal Creek Canyon Drive
Beautiful Updated Log Home + Cabin
4 BD/ 4 BA 4,236 sq.ft. **\$389,000**



11568 Overlook Road
Beautiful Updates
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,258 sq.ft. **\$287,500**



33901 Skyline Drive
Private Wooded Lot
3 BD/ 2.5 BA 3,174 sq.ft. **\$510,000**



33189 Janelle Circle
Beautifully designed & crafted
3 BD/ 2 BA 3 car Garage **\$374,900**



805 Lodge Pole Drive
Beautifully maintained ranch-style home
3 BD/ 3 BA 3,526 sq. ft. **\$389,900**



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