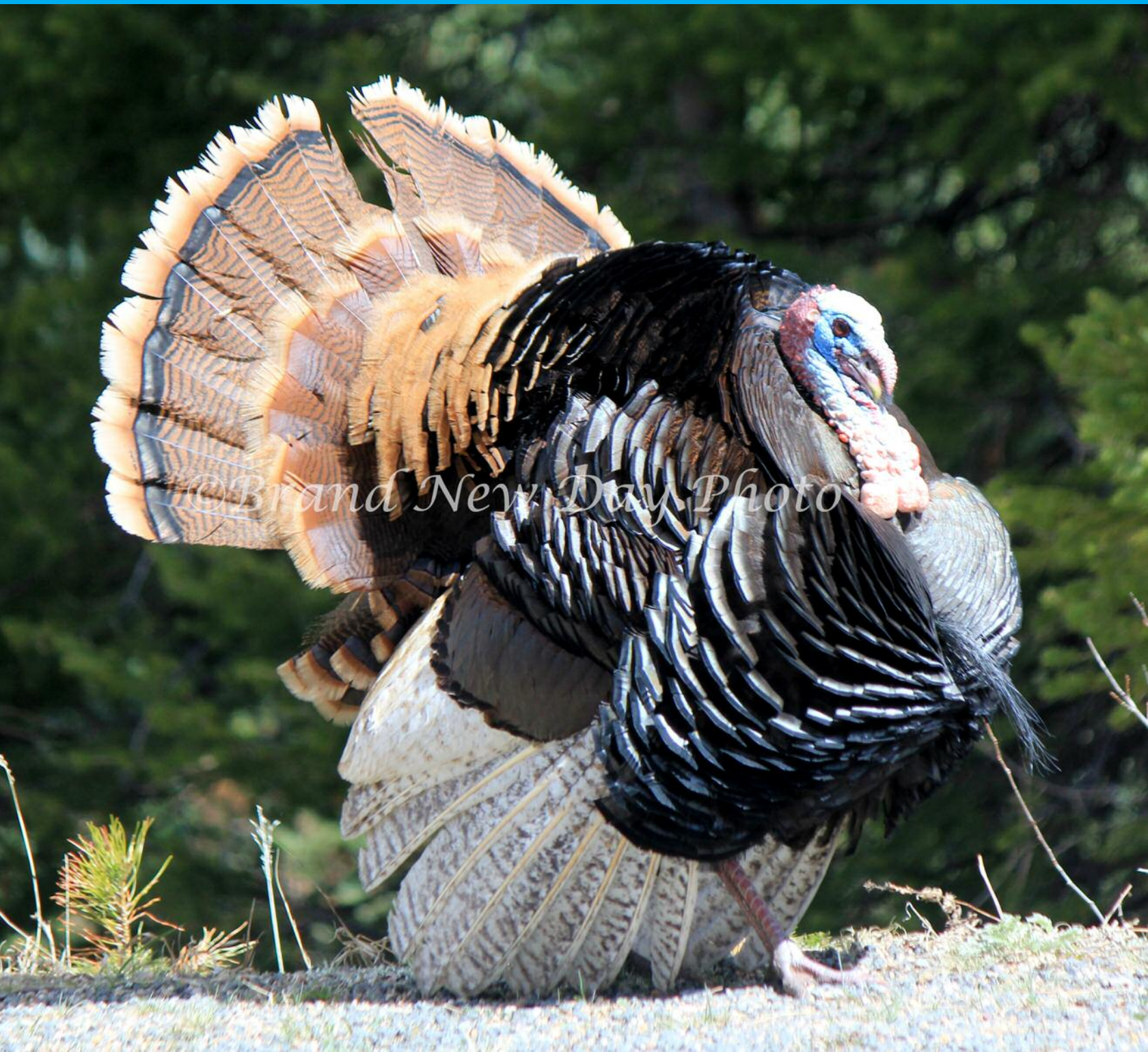


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Wild

By Omayra Acevedo - Nature & Wildlife Photojournalist

I am wild
that's for certain.
Some say I'm needed,
Others think I'm a burden.

I'm large, yet beautiful,
I'm dark with iridescence.
I'm pleasantly plumped
And of the essence.

My legs are long
My neck is thin
My tiny head
Is bald as skin.

I have a tail
Light and round.
I live in forests
And forage on the ground.

I cackle, yelp, cluck and gobble
Sometimes I even purr.
I have hair and feathers
But not any fur.

I have five senses
But use mostly three.
I have been endangered
And I have been freed.

I'm a jenny or a jake
After I'm a chick or a poult.
I grow into a tom or a hen
When I begin to molt.

I flare my tail
To strut my stuff;
To show I'm able
And prove I am tough.

I can be useful
And help take care of your land,
If you saw me less as a thing
And more like a helping hand

I am part of a circle
You call life.
I maintain overcrowding
And help others survive.

I'm not just a bird
I'm full of mystery;
I'm rooted in your traditions,
symbolism and history.

We can co-exist
Without loving one another.
Just give me the respect
You would show any other.

When you kill my forests
I have less places to roam;
nowhere to go
Or a place to call home.

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and can be a little quirky.
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Endangered Species Act - Is In Danger!

By Joshua Zaffos

The delta smelt, a tiny, silvery-blue fish hanging on for survival in California's San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary, is notorious among opponents of the Endangered Species Act. Efforts to help the smelt have contributed to farm closures, and water reductions for households and businesses, letting more water flow towards the smelt's habitat. And yet since 1993, when the fish was listed as threatened, the smelt has only slid further toward extinction, making it an oft-cited example of how the ESA doesn't work for people or fish, wildlife and plants.

Utah Congressman Rob Bishop is one of the House Republicans who has backed a bill to increase water storage in California and weaken protections for the smelt — prioritizing “people over ideology,” Bishop wrote last year. As chair of the House Resources Committee, Bishop has become a leader of a radical, anti-environmental movement in Congress. Their agenda includes transferring public lands from federal management to states and local governments, banning the creation of national monuments, and removing protections for existing monuments.

Bishop is even setting sights on bedrock environmental laws, leading a charge to completely repeal the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Since 1973, the ESA has enabled the federal government to recognize species as “threatened” or “endangered,” and to set rules and

restrictions on human activity to protect and recover at-risk wildlife, fish, insects and plants. The act is considered a global beacon for preventing extinction, and environmentalists insist that the ESA rarely blocks development.

But Bishop and others instead see a law that creates expensive and time-consuming regulations for landowners and industries, with few success stories. For years, they have tried to modify and weaken the law. Bishop went even further and told E&E News the ESA is so dysfunctional that lawmakers may “simply have to start over again,” and “repeal it and replace it.” That might mean giving state wildlife management agencies primary responsibility for species conservation. Protections could vary widely, and since states get their funds from hunting licenses and fees, they might be tempted to prioritize game management over at-risk species.

ESA proponents have so far largely succeeded in fending off the attacks. But with Donald Trump in the White House, a conservative Republican Congress, and a conservative-leaning Supreme Court, environmentalists

and legal scholars are taking Bishop's threat seriously. “Any Congressional action that would weaken the Endangered Species Act at all would be pretty dramatic,” says Dan Rohlf, a professor at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. “What Rep. Bishop is talking about



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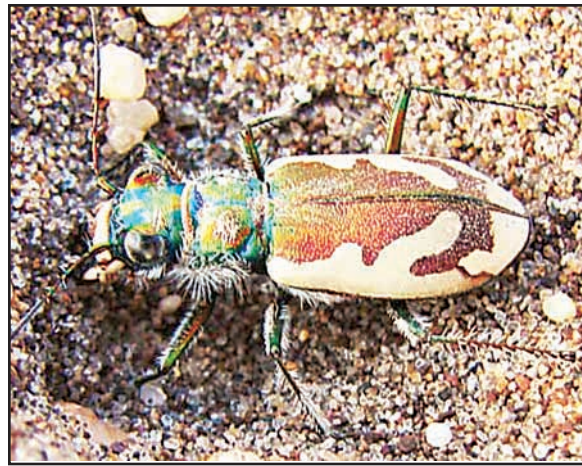
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would be a major decision in the environmental history of this country.”

How did we get here? Antipathy toward the ESA has been building for years. Soon after it passed Congress with bipartisan support, a landmark 1978 Supreme Court case forced the Tennessee Valley Authority to halt construction of a dam to protect another small fish, the snail darter. The case underscored the power of the act — and

rankled some conservatives. Over time, they increasingly saw the ESA as protecting middling species at the expense of economic development and growth. Conflicts often bubbled up during Section 7 consultations, a process that requires any project receiving federal funding or permits to prove it does not jeopardize at-risk species. Reforms followed. Under President Ronald Reagan, two major amendments made the law more flexible. They enabled developers to create plans to mitigate impacts on imperiled species while still moving their projects forward, and added protections for landowners who incidentally harmed or killed listed species.

Still, anti-ESA fury grew. When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Northern spotted owl as threatened in 1990, the agency fingered destruction of old-growth forests as a major cause of the owl’s decline and basically halted logging in the region. Even though timber jobs were already dwindling, locals blamed the owl for the economic death spiral in the region. “That really did lead to a lot of political pressure on the



Sand Dune Beetle




Black Backed Woodpecker

conserve habitat. Then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich somewhat surprisingly blocked the bill’s progress, recognizing the ESA’s nationwide support.

But the attacks on the law haven’t let up since. Pombo, whose district included farming regions affected by delta smelt protections, introduced eight ESA reform bills in 12 years. He tried to strip away critical habitat designations, which can restrict land use in places considered essential for protected species’ survival. A successful 2004 amendment did exempt military installations from critical habitat designations.

The pressure further intensified under President Barack Obama, despite the administration’s restrained approach to listings

that could have had far-reaching economic impacts. In 2015, for instance, the Fish and Wildlife Service decided that the greater sage grouse, with habitat across millions of acres in the West, didn’t need to be listed, in part due to voluntary conservation efforts at the (Continued on page 9.)



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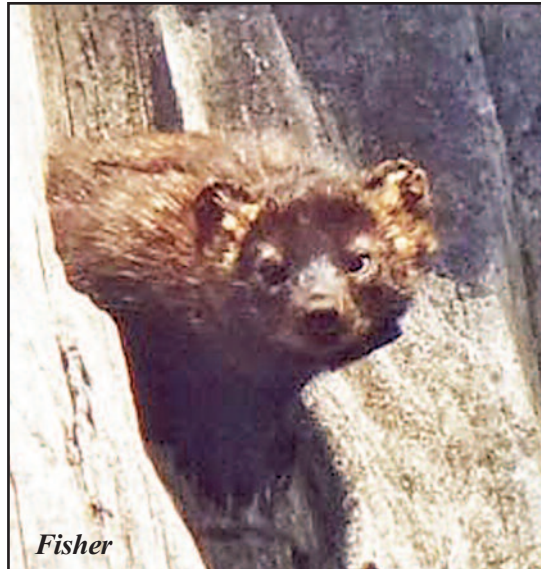
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state and local level. The agency also issued several less restrictive “threatened” listings for controversial species like the lesser prairie chicken and dunes sagebrush lizard. Some environmental groups have questioned the scientific credibility of those decisions, and the results have clearly accommodated rural landowners and industries who are critical of the ESA. Nevertheless, according to Defenders of Wildlife, Republicans have introduced more than 100 amendments and riders to weaken the ESA just since 2015—an unprecedented amount.

“Any attempt to appease the opposition, whether the concerns are legitimate or not, has failed utterly,” says Pat Parenteau, a Vermont Law School professor and former legal adviser to the Fish and Wildlife Service. “The more that the act has been weakened, in my view, the more adamant the opponents have become that it just be



completely eviscerated.”

Meanwhile, environmentalists continue to question the very basis for Bishop and others’ efforts. Last year, Ya-Wei Li of Defenders of Wildlife and a colleague analyzed more than 88,000 Section 7 consultations between 2008 and 2015 to ground-truth the claim that the ESA blocks development. In a peer-reviewed article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Li found that the Fish and Wildlife Service determined in only two cases that development would jeopardize a listed species. No projects were ultimately stopped or extensively changed to protect plants and wildlife.

Industry researchers responded that the study overlooked the high costs of simply going through the consultation process. “The truth is the Endangered Species Act isn’t the pitbull of environmental law,” Parenteau says.

“It’s a poodle.”

Joshua Zaffos is an HCN correspondent in Fort Collins, Colorado. Follow him @jzaffos. Photos: All species on the block if the ESA is repealed, only a few of many.

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Selway

By Andrew W. Smith

We had been up since long before dawn. It was cold and dark and very still as we ambled down the frozen trail to the corral. Glowing, orange coals of cigarettes illuminated drawn faces as we inhaled cold smoke. I looked up at the stars. We were forty-some miles from the nearest road in the heart of the Bitterroot/Selway Wilderness of western Montana and Idaho. We had been here for a little over a month.

The horses and mules heard us coming. They knew what time it was and they were hungry and thirsty, waiting at the near end of the corral. Others tugged on lead ropes tied on highlines strung between trees on the hillside above. Hooves thudded on the frozen earth.

We had done this every day for a month and were sort of going through the motions of it automatically. Our eyes had become accustomed to working in the dark and we rarely even used our flashlights anymore. (The artificial light would blind you and then you'd have to wait until your pupils dilated after you turned the light off.) We had the animals fed and watered in an hour. Still clothed in the moist darkness, we made our way back to the cook tent.

Today, the whole crew was heading out. It would be a week until their return. I was the only one staying. It would be my job to take care of the two remaining horses and knock the snow off the tents in a storm so they would not collapse. I had firewood to cut too, but I was not thinking about that as the packstring pulled out. They waved and cast knowing grins. They were all returning to the world of warm beds and showers and waitresses that smiled and called you "Honey" when they brought your coffee. I was staying.

I actually felt relieved as I stood there on the trail and listened until I could hear them no longer. And, it took a lot longer than I thought it would for the sound to die away. It was starting to get lighter now and the Steller's jays were rousing and clamoring back near the cooktent. Coffee would taste good. I had been longing for this taste of solitude for most of my life.

I had been waiting for this opportunity for quite some time; just to be in wilderness alone and away from cars, phones, people. I could be a monk on a mountaintop for a week. The lone sage sits motionless for hours. He finally begins to taste a trace of enlightenment at the back of his throat and manages a subdued giggle. I had grand plans, I can tell you. I was already beginning to worry if a week would be enough time.

I followed an elk trail west of camp to Box Canyon where I knew I could climb a slide of talus and sit overlooking a vast expanse of valleys and ridges and meadows where I had traveled in the weeks past. Battle

Ridge. Goat Heaven. Gateway Camp. I could see for miles over the the forested hills and meadows and streams and snowy peaks. It was very still. Very quiet.

I sat there on my secluded rocky promontory all day that day.

I sat there every day for my entire week alone. In the bright, bright sun with my wool hat pulled over my ears scratching my bearded cheeks, I sat.

I lost all sense of time. Old, old memories flooded in more vivid than dreams, startling me pleasantly. I was outside of time looking in from askew. This became so invigorating and addictive that after the first day I began packing a lunch and coffee and remaining the whole day.

At night, I could build a blistering fire and sleep in the vacant client's tent and read a Kipling book the head packer left for me. I listened for bears and went for walks down to the corral in the dark. The stars and moon told old stories I knew so well. Now, the stories and stars and moon seemed to be walking with me. The rhythm suited me. It had not snowed at all. The nights were as fine as the days. It was difficult to imagine ever leaving this place. Everyone would return tomorrow. Would they even recognize me?

I could hear the packstring approaching for at least



fifteen minutes before they finally pulled in. I was there waiting and smiling and the head outfitter gave me a nod and a grin as he rolled off of his horse. He knew.

I was happy and sad. I wanted to find a place inside where I could hide the week past and know where to find it when I needed it.

Photo courtesy USFS, Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

Welcome to new contributing writer Andrew: previously published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. Currently hand building quality bamboo fly fishing rods.

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Colorado River Reunion With The Sea

By Emily Benson

On Sept. 27, representatives from the U.S. and Mexico approved an update to the 1944 treaty that governs how the two nations manage the Colorado River. The new pact builds upon a 2012 agreement that expires this year.

For many people, the 2014 “pulse flow,” a large release of water from Morelos Dam, on the U.S.-Mexico border, was the defining feature of the 2012 agreement. The agreement also addressed drought, reservoir storage and environmental restoration in the Colorado River Delta. The 2014 release reunited the Colorado River with the Gulf of California for the first time since the late 1990s; it was both a scientific and symbolic success as

communities along the Colorado River saw its dry channel once again fill with water. But the pulse flow also showed that a single release of water may not be the most efficient way to revitalize the Delta. So while the new agreement, called Minute 323, includes environmental water releases, it doesn’t specifically call for another pulse flow.

In 2014, a large “pulse flow” of water was released from Morelos Dam, causing the Colorado River to flow all the way to the sea for the first time in about 15 years.



(Above a volunteer plants willows in the Delta.)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Human demand for the Delta’s defining feature — water — has devastated its ecosystem, leaving much of it desiccated. Historically, “a verdant wall of mesquite and willow separated the channel from the thorny desert beyond,” Aldo Leopold wrote in *The Green Lagoons*, describing a 1922 canoe trip in the Delta. “Fleets of cormorants drove their black prows in quest of skittering mullets; avocets, willets, and yellowlegs dozed one-legged on the bars; mallards, widgeons, and teal sprang skyward in alarm.”

Invasive plants like tamarisk have moved in and farms have replaced most of the wilderness Leopold explored.

Today, only small and disconnected pockets of wetland and riverside habitat remain. Environmental groups hope to protect and further restore those places by keeping water in the Delta.

The 2014 pulse flow was meant to mimic one of the Basin’s historic spring floods. The deluges that swamped the Colorado Basin before Hoover and Glen Canyon dams were built were big enough to erode banks and deposit sediment. That cleared the way for new cottonwood and willow seedlings to take root and left the ground wet enough for them to flourish. The limited amount of

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water set aside for the 2014 pulse flow meant that it was many times smaller than historic spring floods. It didn't create much of the bare ground that native plants need. They thrived only in areas that were cleared before the water arrived. "Water is a scarce and very high-priced commodity to have it be doing stuff that you could do mechanically," says Carlos de la Parra, an environmental policy expert at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana, Mexico.

Changes to the hydrology of the Basin also meant that more than 90 percent of the water released during the pulse flow seeped into underlying aquifers. Where groundwater levels were already low, the extra water did little to support continued plant growth. "(Those water table levels) are so deep that they're beyond the reach of the roots," says Patrick

Shafroth, a plant ecologist at the U.S. Geological Survey.

Timing and size of releases under Minute 323 is still to be determined. The agreement includes 210,000 acre-feet of water over nine years for environmental projects. The 2012 agreement included about 105,000 acre-feet for the pulse flow and more than 50,000 additional acre-feet for smaller releases. Irrigating specific restoration sites with targeted releases is one possibility for the future. That would deliver

water to reaches where it can nurture plants and keep it away from areas with deep aquifers — but it wouldn't have the symbolic heft of a large release that wets the entire length of the Colorado.

Will there be a repeat pulse flow in the next few years? "I wouldn't write that off yet," says Karen Schlatter, who manages ecological monitoring and restoration programs in

the Colorado River Delta for the nonprofit Sonoran Institute. "Connecting the river to the sea is a big achievement." The 2014 release went beyond ecological gains: the flow of long-awaited water highlighted the social benefits of bringing Basin communities together as their residents swam, worked on restoration projects and otherwise



enjoyed the river.

Photo of the release of water in 2014 for the pulse flow.

Previous page: Shortly after the pulse flow in 2014, Daniel Chavez plants a willow seedling in Laguna Grande Restoration Area, which is run by the Sonoran Institute.

Bill Hatcher/Sonoran Institute

Emily Benson is an editorial fellow at High Country News.



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In The Spirit Of Understanding Racism

By Evelyn Red Lodge

During my 13 years in Rapid City, South Dakota, I've learned that racism and ignorance almost always go hand-in-hand. The West was "won," many people learn in school, but what did westward expansion mean for the Native people who were already living on the land?

The lure of gold brought explorers, miners and then homesteaders to South Dakota during the 19th and early 20th centuries. I imagine that most of those "invaders" — from my point of view — didn't think twice about booting the local people out of the way. But that was then. The question today is why racism persists when America prides itself on tolerance and respecting diversity.

Here are examples from my life that reveal the kind of blatant racism I've experienced, as well as some of the unconscious racism that is sometimes almost comical.

I go to a Rapid City council meeting where a white local suggests placing statues of Native Americans in Founders Park, rather than in the proposed First Nations Sculpture Gallery in Halley Park. As Native author Elizabeth Cook-Lynn put it, the suggestion was made "without a hint of irony." After all, who were the original founders if not Native people?

I go to the veterans' parade where the 7th United States Cavalry, formed in 1866 to protect homesteaders and raid Native villages, is still honored. These days, of course, more Natives serve in the military per capita than any other ethnic group, according to the director of the National Museum of the American Indian. But few Natives march

with the veterans in the parade.

I find a Black Hills trail guide listing the 7th Cavalry Trail as if it's fun for people to follow the trail of mass murderers who killed anywhere from 75 to 125 babies, children and women at Wounded Knee in 1890.

I buy a Happy Meal for my daughter only to find a 7th Cavalry Custer doll inside. She gets upset when I try to explain why I think it belongs in the trash.

In a jewelry shop along Mount Rushmore Road, I look at the gold for which my grandparents' territory was invaded and spot a wine-bottle holder depicting a Native chief chugging a bottle of wine. Old stereotypes die hard. According to a recent study in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence, alcohol consumption by Natives is shown to be generally less than that of Caucasians in the United States.

Just walking downtown in Rapid City, the so-called City of Presidents, I spot the stores along the way that used to sport signs saying "No Indians or Dogs Allowed." I go to He Sapa — the Black Mountains — where I look upon the faces of past U.S. presidents who helped wipe out so many Indigenous peoples. I remember that Natives were only declared to be citizens by the United States Congress less than 100 years ago.

In 2015, I feared to go to any sporting event after a drunk beer salesman poured beer on Native students at a hockey game and shouted, "Go back to the reservation!" Within days, dumping beer on Natives had become a common occurrence at other venues.

I picked up the local newspaper four days after the drunk



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hockey fan did his business, and the question was raised on the front page: Had the Native students who were attacked stood for the national anthem? (Not that it should make any difference, but it was reported that the students did stand.)

I feared to walk on the north side of Rapid City in 2009 and 2010, after at least two Native families with children were egged while racial slurs were hurled at them. "Go back to where you came from!" is a laughable favorite. One Native woman, who was disabled, was run off the road while driving her car. Urine in bottles was thrown on other Natives. Some Natives were shot with pellet guns.

At the same time — and I am glad to report this — many of the attackers were held accountable after much public outcry:

The jewelry store owner removed the wine holder featuring a drunken Native from her window after local media asked why she'd given it prominence.

The newspaper removed its victim-blaming story from its Internet site.

Two 21-year-old women were arrested in the incident involving the disabled woman, becoming the first in the state to be charged with its new hate-crime law, "malicious intimidation or harassment."

As for failures in the quest for justice, the drunk hockey fan was eventually acquitted of his one and only charge of disorderly conduct. And I am unaware of any charges brought against anyone for the attacks involving egg and

urine throwing and pellet guns.

Racism persists, I am sorry to report. I still feel it every day.

Evelyn Red Lodge is a contributor to Writers on the Range,



the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org).

A writer in Rapid City, South Dakota, she is a correspondent for Native Sun News Today and member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

Above Photo of the Crazy Horse Monument, courtesy Crazy Horse Memorial, an effort to combat racism by honoring a truly Native American Hero.

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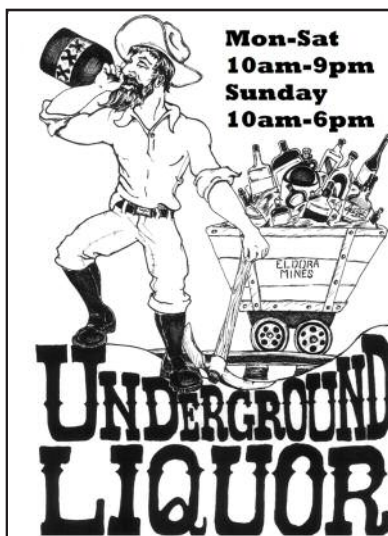


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Healthcare Quandary

From Virginia Gebhart

<https://www.sandersinstitute.com/blog/medicare-for-all-vs-all-the-healthcare-that-each-can-afford>

Have you seen this research paper that was presented to every Member of Congress in July? The Sanders Institute and National Nurses United delivered this research paper, titled **Medicare For All vs All the Healthcare Each Can Afford**, to every Senate and House of Representatives office on Capitol Hill. This report analyzes our current fragmented health care system and suggests a system of health care reflecting the nurses' values of caring, compassion, and community. This report was delivered to Members of Congress to prepare the way for the introduction of Bernie's bill, Medicare for All. Visit the Sanders Institute website to read this report (*see link above*) and find more interesting resources to share with your family and friends as we continue to build excitement and support for Bernie's bill, Medicare for All!

Warren Buffett says: "Medical costs are the tapeworm of American business competitiveness"
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/buffett-medical-costs-tape-worm-american-economic-competitiveness->

220647855.html

There's a compelling documentary, **Big Pharma, Market Failure**, that explains what Warren Buffet is talking about. It was screened Sept. 25 at the BoCo Dems platform committee meeting. Foundation board members Sen. Jeanne Nicholson and Ron Vejrostek led a discussion and Q&A after the screening. The turnout for the screening was modest but allowed for free-flowing and meaningful dialogue on the issue of health care reform.

Plans are in the works to screen **Big Pharma, Market Failure** in collaboration with the Boulder County League of Women Voters and perhaps another group in late October or November. Do you know a civic or social group who would be interested in this film? Contact Virginia (*see her contact info end of this article*) to make arrangements for screening and speakers. The group can be small or large—both are effective in advancing the UHC movement. The documentary is available in a 51-minute or 35-minute format.

Do You Push Elected Officials and Candidates to Support Medicare for All?

Have you been getting endless emails and phone calls soliciting support for political parties and candidates for office? Do you push candidates who ask for your support to support single payer universal health care, Medicare for All? Do you thank elected officials for working hard to protect the historic gains of the ACA against the attacks by Paul Ryan, Mitch McConnell, Tom Price and the President?

Do you tell party representatives that you demand they support single payer universal health care, Medicare for All? Do you tell party officials, candidates, elected officials, and their staffers that you believe single payer universal health care is the most important economic and social justice issue of our time? Do you tell elected officials and candidates that the current state of our health care system is killing American business, killing American jobs and killing Americans? Do you urge them to get on the right side of history and support single payer universal

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health care, Medicare for All? If we don't do it, who will?

Keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Song, is an oncologist, practicing in California. He was a spokesperson for the Sanders campaign. His power-point presentation is part of the material available for your use. Second keynote speaker, Amy Viela, is a young woman running for Congress in Nevada. She shares her powerful personal story which drives her to work for single payer universal health care. Michael Lighty of National Nurses United speaks on "Preparing for Opposition, From Our Enemies and Our Friends."

The hundreds of people victimized by the mass shooting in Las Vegas, their families, their communities will struggle for years to recover from this tragedy. Wouldn't it be great if they did not have to worry about their medical expenses? Wouldn't it be great if we all knew that they would get all of the care they need and could put their energy and resources into their physical and emotional recovery? Wouldn't it be great if we had guaranteed health care for all for life?

United Nations Universal Health Coverage Day 12.12.17

Universal Health Coverage Day, commemorated each December 12th, is the anniversary of the first unanimous United Nations resolution calling for countries to provide affordable, quality health care to every person, everywhere.

United Nations World Health Organization: Every year 100 million people are pushed into poverty and 150 million people suffer financial catastrophe because of out-of-pocket expenditure on health services.

Learn more: <http://www.who.int/life-course/news/events/uhc-day-2016/en/>
Thanks, Virginia Gebhart, Community Organizer
Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care
303.880.3570 / vgebhartk@gmail.com

About the Foundation: A 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit, the Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care works to achieve guaranteed quality health care for all for life. The Foundation champions a universal health care system, the simplest most cost-effective way to pay for health care.

Editor's Note:

For regular readers it is no surprise I am a proponent of Health Care for All, single payer being the choice however that comes about.

Shockingly I was aghast when President Donald Trump said he was against the subsidies in the ACA because all it does is give Corporate giant Health Insurance Companies profits they don't deserve, paid by tax payers. Of course another law must take its place before stopping the existing subsidies so folks aren't left dying in the streets.

The shock was that this is something I've been saying ever since the ACA started doing it. Granted it is an avenue to allow low income and poverty level families and folks a way to get healthcare and medical treatment. But that does NOT justify sky high profits for Insurance Companies and it is truly a crime against our government.

I'm not sure what the cure is for this capitalistic strategy health insurance companies are criminally committing against us and our federal budget, but I do know it needs to stop. If it takes regulating them then let's hope our Congress will take those steps. I'm not normally in favor of regulations but when an industry won't monitor itself, well then we MUST do it for them and now is well past the time to reel in the greed of the unethical medical insurance industry.

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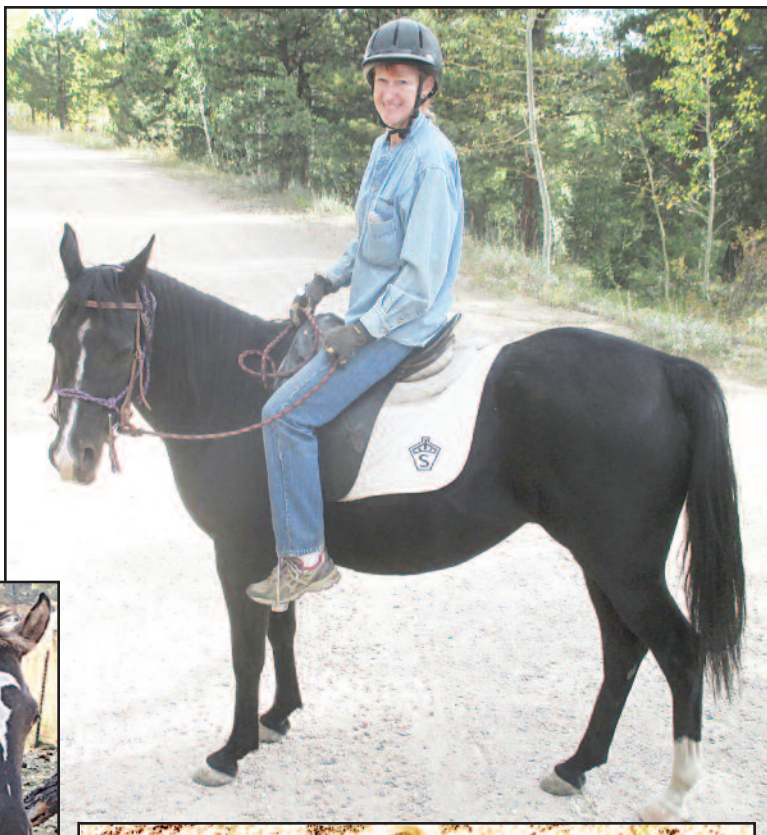

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Previous Page left: Jezebel the Mastiff.
top right: Cat defends HER ball.
bottom: Phoenix & Ayla.
This page: top left, America a Mini horse.
top right: Starlite and Shelly.
bottom left: Quinn the Spanish Mustang Colt.
bottom right: Hall & Oats with Jackie.



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Reinforce Safe Driving Habits For Teens

From Jim Plane - State Farm Insurance

Statistics show that teen crashes are most likely to occur in the first six months after teens receiving their license. That's why it's smart to increase driving privileges gradually.

Set clear house rules for teen driving without adult supervision. Discuss how your teen can demonstrate experience and maturity to earn new privileges. Let him or her know the consequences of not following the rules.

Facts About Teen Fatalities

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death among teens in the U.S.

In the United States, the fatal crash rate per mile driven for 16-19 year-olds is nearly 3 times the rate for drivers ages 20 and over.

The teen crash fatality rate (per 100,000 population) is highest for 16 and 17- year-olds within the first six months after getting their license - and remains high through age 24.

Distraction was a key factor in 58 percent of crashes involving drivers ages 16 to 19.

Set Permanent Driving Safety Rules

Use seat belts on every trip, both driver and passengers.

Don't use cell phones or other electronic devices while driving. Set the example: Complete calls before the car is in gear, get directions in advance, check in only after arrival, and safely pull over for urgent calls.

Stay within the posted speed limits and don't speed.

Never drive while impaired (drugged, drowsy, or drunk) or ride as a passenger with an impaired driver. Help by offering your teen other ways to get home.

Don't ride with an unlicensed or inexperienced teen driver.

Make Limits for Driving Privileges

No Peer Passengers

Start: Adult passengers only.

Include siblings as passengers after the first six months of driving, with proper restraints.

No Nighttime Driving

Start: Only in daylight.

Gradually increase driving curfew after practicing driving at night with your teen, obeying your state's time requirement.

No Teenage Speeding

Start: Low-volume, low-speed, familiar roads only.

Gradually add more difficult roads after practicing together.

No Driving in Bad Weather

Start: Fair-weather driving conditions only

Gradually allow driving in more difficult conditions, such as light rain or snow, after practicing with your teen.

Control the Keys

Start: Teen needs to ask for the keys (even for own vehicle).

Gradually increase amount teen can drive after first six months of driving responsibly.

Other Tips

Pay attention, keep the lines of communication open, and know where they're going and why.

It's about safety, not control. Make sure your teens understand that these rules come from love and because you want to keep them safe.

Lead by example. Always wear a seat belt. Don't use a cell phone while driving. Don't speed. Don't drive while impaired. Follow the rules of the road.

Editor's Note: There is now a great way to control all cell phones in a vehicle. At Cellcontrol.com you can get an app that will prevent texting, calling, emailing, surfing the web and more - check it out for your teens or even to keep the temptation away for yourself. **911 is always enabled.**



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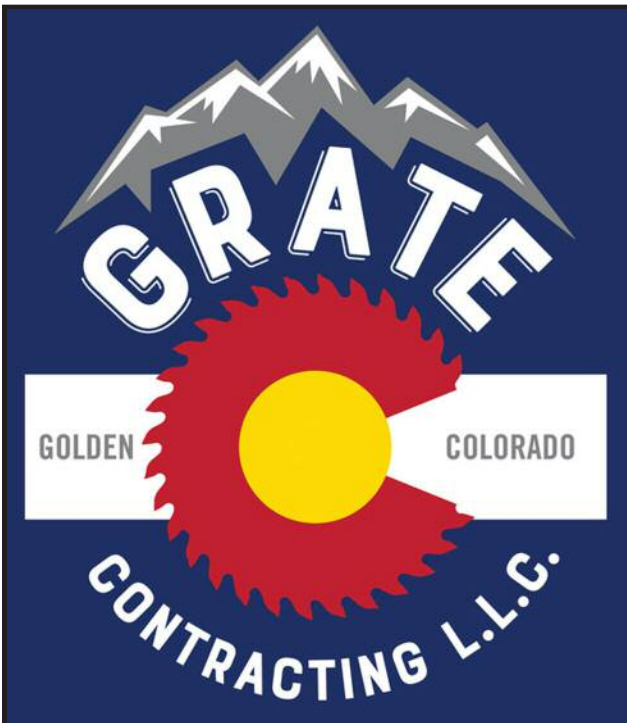
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Misty Morning At the Lake

By Ingrid Winter

An apparition-
 a gleaming white shape
 with perfectly lovely
 and graceful curve
 now enveloped
 in mist
 dissolving and
 appearing again
 in another place
 A fleeting form
 that merges
 with the water
 exposed for a moment
 then shrouded again
 A movement
 through the mist
 slow
 serene
 unhurried



As the fog
 closes in
 engulfing
 the ephemeral figure
 and letting it
 re-emerge
 concealing
 and revealing
 ever new aspects
 of beauty
 created
 by
 water and air

Then slowly
 evaporating
 and melting away
 in the sun

Allowing the evanescent
 phantom
 to solidify
 and become-
 a bird

A western grebe
 now floating
 between
 water and air.

Photo Courtesy Alexa Boyes. Greenwood Wildlife
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Fishing For Sensible Gun Laws

By Marty Jones

As the West's elected officials wrestle with how to protect us from gun violence in the aftermath of the Las Vegas nightmare, two things come to mind. First, these leaders are not actually wrestling with the issue of how to protect us from gun violence. If they were, the solution would be as clear as a mountain stream: Treat people more like fish.

Because here in the West, fish get far more protection than people. If you're an adult, you need a license to fish. Here in Colorado and other states, that license limits you to two fishing rods at a time. Keeping fish is often forbidden, and barbless hooks are often required to boost the odds that your catch-and-release gem lives to see another day.

Live bait is frequently illegal, and hook size and the fishing season itself are often limited. There are restrictions on the size of kept fish and "bag limits" on how many a caster can keep. All of these rules are in place for one true-West reason: "Fish deserve a fighting chance."

The safeguards don't stop there. Heard of the zebra mussel? Our states spend a fortune to squash the threat a tiny invasive mollusk presents to the safety of our finned friends. In California, you can't possess a gaffe, a spear or even a long-handled net within 100 yards of a body of water.

To prove they're serious about enforcing piscine protections, hard-working government employees walk the shore to make sure you and I are giving brookies and bluegills their fair shot. Good things, these measures. They're very reasonable and welcomed by sportsmen and women across the West. Even our political leaders praise these common-sense policies that "protect a valuable resource" and wisely maintain a treasured part of life.

Better still, any U.S. senators who give a crap about crappies are unlikely to face a political backlash or high-dollar effort to drive them from office. No politicians have lost their seats for being pro-Power Bait or anti-night-crawler. We don't rant on Twitter about jackboots and slippery slopes caused by fishing licenses. No well-funded politically charged campaign declares "Spinning Rods

Don't Kill Fish. People Do."

More astounding: Westerners don't fear these restrictions, even when their right to bear fishing poles isn't secured for eternity in the Constitution. But when it comes to the right to bear arms, the reasonable limitations of fishing are swept downstream with sanity. Uncle Sam doesn't require a license to buy a deadly weapon. At some gun stores, he's fine with you buying a 500-rounds-a-minute semi-automatic weapon.

In the West, you can possess a militia-sized arsenal well within 100 yards of a body of people, along with the deadliest ammunition in any size and amount. Many politicians refuse to limit this dangerous status quo "in any fashion" while holding anglers to just two rods and artificial bait.

Meanwhile, it's open season on humans, and there's no effort to reduce the bag limit or places where our loved ones get taken out. We stop large-caliber hooks but do nothing about large-caliber weapons. Schools of fish get hearty government backup. Schools of children and teachers do not.

Come on, folks. Let's act rationally and fix this. Please, no more talk of prying guns out of people's "cold, dead hands" there were 58 pairs of those hands in Las Vegas. They belonged to brave cops, EMTs, security guards and everyday heroes who risked their lives to help bleeding strangers. They belonged to fathers, mothers, siblings, sons, daughters and friends who paid the worst price for simply going out to have a good time.

Those people and their families "and the 500-plus others who took bullets and the thousands who escaped them but live with terrible memories of the trauma they experienced" deserved way more protection than we provided. In a real game of war, on people, the odds were stacked against them. Isn't a human life as valuable as a trout's?

Marty Jones is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). He writes in Denver, Colorado.



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Yellowstone Causes Tragic Shift in Bison Behavior; IBMP Plans Large Kill for Coming Winter

Yellowstone National Park has just released their 2017 “Status Report on the Yellowstone Bison Population,” and it reveals what we feared: the Central Herd, that migrates west into the Hebgen Basin, and also north, into the Gardiner Basin has declined by nearly half. BFC patrols in the past few springs had noticed that we were seeing about half the number of buffalo coming to their calving grounds on and around Horse Butte. We looked for them inside the Park, but found very few. We contacted Yellowstone’s bison biologist, Rick Wallen, who suggested we look in the places we already had. Where had they gone? Well, the harsh reality is that, the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) is causing a fundamental and tragic shift in the buffalo’s behavior and migration patterns. Of course, Yellowstone will never admit this, heck they don’t even want to acknowledge that the Central and Northern herd have different genetic structures, much less what they are doing to the buffalos’ genetics as they arbitrarily slaughter them. Agency science is nothing but a tool for politics.

Whom does Yellowstone serve?

Managers know that buffalo from the Central Herd migrate west into the Hebgen Basin and also north into the Gardiner Basin, and are doubly exposed and impacted by capture for slaughter operations and hunting. After the winter slaughters of 2005–2006 and 2007–2008 the Central Herd was decimated, their numbers stagnated, and declined by nearly half in the last year. The Central herd is in dire straights. Yellowstone biologists don’t have anything to

differentiate Central from Northern buffalo except for a handful of radio collared females — they have no clue where the other family members who are captured and killed in the Gardiner basin come from. They do not know, nor do they seem to care what the significantly damaging cumulative impacts of their management schemes are doing to our country’s last wild, migratory buffalo populations.

During 2011 more than 600 buffalo were captured and held for nearly five months. Buffalo from both the Northern and Central herds were captured and lived in confinement for so long that buffalo from different family groups — and even different herds — formed strong bonds. It is likely that when they were released, these buffalo stayed together, some leaving their home ranges and families to stay with the new friends.

They may be loath to admit it, or not willing to consider it, but Yellowstone National Park’s capture program at Stephens Creek may have altered the population structure, behavior, and social bonds of around 600 buffalo held in captivity and released during the spring of 2011. Social bonds are a uniting force in a herd animal like the buffalo, and extended family ties spanning several generations of buffalo can be seen among matriarch led groups. It is altogether possible that when this cohort of buffalo were finally released after months in captivity, the bonds formed between the Central and Northern herds were so strong that they stayed together on the Northern range. Based on Yellowstone’s report of radio-collared females, there is some evidence indicating Central herd buffalo are now spending their summer in the Northern range, a dramatic

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shift away from the Central herd's rutting territory.

The entire Yellowstone population declined by 12%, reduced - through slaughter, hunting, and quarantine — to just 4,800 animals. The outcome for buffalo is tragic. Managers tell us and want us to believe everything is fine. But the fact is Yellowstone National Park's and the state of Montana's unnecessary and intensive management scheme has altered the buffalo's population structure for the worse. As a consequence, we are witnessing the Central herd rapidly disappear. With more buffalo on the Northern Range, more will be killed when they migrate into the Gardiner Basin killing zone.

With the very structure of the buffalo's population being artificially manipulated and altered, threats outside of management – extended drought, winter range freezing under ice – make the whole population much more vulnerable to extinction. It is utter negligence on the part of Yellowstone National Park and the state of Montana, who are crushing the future of the sacred buffalo, our country's national mammal.

So what do the Park biologists have to say to managers in the face of evident human mismanagement? Among other things, they recommended that "some captured bison may need to be held at the Stephens Creek facility through winter and released in spring to meet these removal composition objectives." Ho-hum off we go to manage another man made disaster...

Their recommendations:

About 600 bison would need to be removed from the population during winter 2017-2018 to stabilize population growth... We do not recommend removing more than 1,250 bison, which would be greater than 25% of the current population.

When possible, bison should be removed in proportion to their occurrence in the population (73% adults, 12% yearlings, and 15% calves; 46% females and 56% males). Some captured bison may need to be held at the Stephens Creek facility through winter and released in spring to meet these removal composition objectives.

Population management actions during winter 2017-2018 should focus on bison breeding in northern Yellowstone (i.e., the northern herd) by using telemetry data to inform the timing and magnitude of removals.

We recommend using harvests in Montana and culling at Stephens Creek to meet population management objectives...

We do not recommend management

removals or state and tribal harvests of bison in the western management area in Montana. Bison migrating west of the park during winter are almost entirely from the central breeding herd, which has decreased substantially in abundance during recent years.

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Oracle Of The Soul - Gems Of Understanding

By Frosty Wooldridge

As you grew up, you experienced different lessons along your life-path. You discovered a hot stove hurt when you touched it. A candle flame caused pain when you passed your finger over it. A rosebush thorn made your finger bleed. A bee sting caused you terrible agony.

(Delicate Arch offers a "gem" of understanding to those who seek it out in the desert. You must climb to reach it. You must experience heat, altitude and struggle to attain your goal.) Photo by Frosty Wooldridge

From those experiences, you avoided the obvious in your daily meanderings. Marching into your teens, you discovered friendship, jealousy and betrayal. A bully beat you up. A girlfriend undermined you in your pursuit of a boyfriend.

In nature, you learned to run for cover during a lightning storm. When a dog gave chase, you picked up a stick to



protect yourself.

You learned life-lessons either by your parents advising you or you learned the hard way by direct experience.

As you grew into your twenties, relationships grew more complicated: you worked a job with acerbic bosses and cantankerous fellow employees. You discovered many different aspects to how people operate in the world.

Along the way, you picked up new understandings and created game plans on how to deal with your circumstances.

All the while, you became a better you. But sometimes, you wondered about your choices or predicaments.

I'm reminded of the ancient king who held court each day. He beckoned the local sage for words of wisdom. Each day for a year, the sage brought

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the king an overly ripe piece of fruit along with a witty statement. When the sage left, the king tossed the fruit into a hole in a pillar where it fell to the basement, untouched.

One day, after the sage gave the king the overly ripe fruit, he turned to exit, but noticed the king tossing the fruit into the pillar.

“What are you doing?” asked the sage. “Did you not know I gifted you with a gem in the middle of each fruit?”

The king made an excuse before the sage exited the throne room. Quickly, the king ordered a knave to recapture the fruit.

The king cut it open to reveal a valuable gem. He said, “I never knew such beauty could be found inside an aged piece of fruit.”

The king ordered his staff to recover the gems from all the fruits in the basement. The gems of knowledge enlightened him, which allowed him greater understanding. He became a better king for all the people of his realm.

The great writer Thomas Moore said that every person faces the deadly turpitudes of living: obsessions, addictions, depression, loss of meaning, judging others, violence, anger, hate and prejudice.

It’s your challenge to connect with the divine in you. You might call it the “spiritual” within you. Choose to identify with your higher self. That quest creates a transformation that leads to your better well-being and better choices.

When bad things happen to you, decode the experience to see the gem. As you discover the synchronicity of the lesson, take advantage of it. Synchronicity coupled with purpose equals “coincidence.”

Once you step into the “flow” of life, those synchronicities multiply because your energies coordinate with the natural vibrations of the universe.

Engage these talents: walk in the light, walk tall, walk with a song, walk strong, walk wise, walk with hope, walk with joy, walk with purpose and walk with passion. People notice your demeanor. You attract them to their own higher self.

Take advantage of a bitter experience, betrayal of a friend, unfair treatment by another or any of the overly ripe experiences of life. You will find a “gem” in the rotten fruit that will enhance your life beyond all ordinary understanding.



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Legal Or Not, A Wall Is Already Being Built

By Maya L. Kapoor

What you need to know about construction currently happening on the border.

On January 25, 2017, five days after being sworn into office, President Donald Trump signed an executive order authorizing the immediate construction of a physical wall on the southern border of the United States. After delays — due in part to contractor battles — preliminary work on construction has begun in California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas, leading to concerns ranging from states' rights to environmental destruction.

A soldier with the Arizona National Guard welds a railroad track to an obstacle along the southern border in 2007.

Construction following

President Donald Trump's 2017 executive order is currently underway. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

Where is the construction happening? As of this writing, the Department of Homeland Security has started border wall projects or is planning to start projects in these locations: the Rio Grande Valley, Texas; El Paso, Texas; Sunland Park, New Mexico; Naco, Arizona; Imperial

County, California; and San Diego County, California. Although Trump campaigned on building a wall along the entire border, approximately 2,000 miles, he recently told reporters that 700 miles might suffice. Contractors' bids, selected earlier this year, were required to describe walls from 18 to 30 feet in height that were aesthetically pleasing on their northern side and would take at least an hour to

penetrate with "sledgehammer, car jack, pick axe, chisel, battery operated impact tools, battery operated cutting tools, Oxy/acetylene torch or other similar hand-held tools." The government has awarded bids for two types of wall: one of concrete, another of materials other than concrete.

In every location, DHS is building on federally protected lands. This has set off alarms for conservation organizations, which worry that irreparable damage may be done to the country's natural resources. The Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, for example, is known as the "jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System" because of the incredible diversity of birds that it harbors.

The refuge's privately owned neighbor, the nonprofit



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National Butterfly Center, found itself in the crosshairs this past summer. The center sits on a former onion farm: land that it rehabilitated by planting native species that attract butterflies from throughout the continent during their migrations. In July, the center's executive director, Marianna Tevino Wright, discovered that Customs and Border Protection had cleared a significant portion of the property and begun preliminary surveys for border wall construction. According to Wright, if a border wall is constructed as indicated, the organization will lose approximately two thirds of its property.

Why are we building a southern border wall? Trump's executive order cites a "recent surge" in undocumented immigrants through the southern border to justify the construction of a border wall. In fact, according to Customs and Border Protection data, apprehensions of undocumented immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border have fallen in the past decade to approximately 400,000, a low not seen since the 1970s.

Nonetheless, under the executive order, federal prosecutors are to give higher priority to cases that involve the southern border. Additionally, the Secretary of Homeland Security is instructed to issue monthly, reader-friendly reports for the public accounting for all undocumented immigrants apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border. This focus on visibility suggests that fulfilling a campaign promise is part of the president's motivation.

How much will construction cost? That depends on whom you ask. The executive order instructs the Secretary of Homeland Security to use all federal funds possible to immediately begin border wall construction. The president's 2017 budget amendment added \$2.6 billion to

the Department of Homeland Security's budget in order to fund the planning, design and construction of a border wall.

According to a Congressional Budget Office report, the border fencing built during the mid-2000s cost up to \$3.9 million per mile, totaling \$823.5 million spent on 288 miles of fencing.

It's hard to accurately estimate the cost of constructing the wall the president has ordered. Many regions that do not yet have any kind of barrier are the places where construction would be hardest to do — such as mountainous terrain. One research firm suggested that the total price tag could range from \$15 to 20 billion, according to the Washington Post.

What will the environmental impacts of construction be? According to the Center for Biological Diversity, the border wall and the activities that would go with it — mainly associated road construction — would threaten vulnerable wildlife. The CBD estimates impacts to at least 93 species that are threatened, endangered, or candidates for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ranging from jaguars to Sonora tiger salamanders to a rare kind of bighorn sheep.

We may never know the full extent of the wall's environmental impacts. Trump's executive order stresses immediate border wall planning, design and construction, explicitly by waiving federal regulations. To that end, among the many laws waived by former DHS Secretary John Kelly — in some cases, more than thirty laws — include NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Clean Water Act: regulations that enforce accountability and awareness for the American public. Without having to perform (Continued next page.)

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environmental impact reviews before initiating construction, DHS will not have a record of what it's erasing from the landscape.

Interestingly, some of the laws listed for wall construction near San Diego — ranging from the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to the Wilderness Act — don't seem to apply to that location. The list as a whole may hint at the regulatory snafus the agency hopes to avoid down the line at other wall locations.

Is border wall construction legal? In his executive order, Trump cites several laws authorizing his order of the construction. The one that comes up the most in discussions of the legality of this executive order is the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

The lawsuit filed recently by California's Attorney General, Xavier Becerra, disputes the legality of the executive order. Perhaps taking a page from the playbook of other Western states, California focuses partly on states' rights. By waiving the Coastal Zone Management Act, which gives California broad powers to regulate how federal projects affect its coastal ecosystems, the state

claims that the federal government is interfering with California's sovereign authority.

Hillary Hoffmann, an environmental law professor at the Vermont Law School, explains that part of California's lawsuit rests on the belief that the president is upsetting the country's system of checks and balances. Federal laws trump state laws, but Congress can't essentially tell agents of the federal government that state laws don't apply to them



Photo above: an already existing border fence near San Diego. More than 30 laws were waived to begin additional border wall construction near the city.

Courtesy Josh Denmark/U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

without passing corresponding laws. This part of California's lawsuit could be precedent setting if it goes to the Supreme Court, as it deals with interpreting the Constitution.

In any case, plaintiffs in this lawsuit and other border wall lawsuits argue, the IIRIRA doesn't apply to Trump or his DHS Secretary. The law applied only to border fencing projects for a very specific period of time, ending in 2008. If the court agrees, then DHS will not be able to waive environmental laws in building walls.

What now? Hoffmann points out that in matters of national security, the courts generally defer to the DHS. For that reason — regardless of where the merits of the case lie — plaintiffs will have a steep hill to climb in challenging border wall construction.

It's complicated, and the financial, environmental, and legal — not to mention humanitarian — stakes are high. At the very least, the suits ask for preliminary injunctions. If granted, the related border wall construction will halt as these issues are sorted out.

Maya L. Kapoor is an associate editor for High Country News.

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Sustainable Building... Beautiful

By Valerie Wedel

What is sustainability? Is it “green building”? What is green building? Various certification agencies have sprung up in recent years, and offer bragging rights to building projects carrying their certifications. Do these certifications matter? As more and more of us wake up to responsible use of the great gifts our planet offers, it seems more and more important that we continue asking these questions. Do we know yet what sustainability is? Is a sustainable building large? Small? Luxurious? Primitive? All of these? None of these? Is it purely physical? A feeling? Perhaps both?

With recent hurricanes devastating houses and people’s lives, and population booming in Colorado, there is a need for new building. On September 20, 2017, there was a Boulder Green Home Tour in Boulder, Colorado. The following weekend there was a Metro Denver Green Home Tour. These were opportunities to experience first hand builder’s and architects ideas of what green building can be, here and now. From tiny house, to co housing, to extremely large luxury homes, there are many visions.

Consider the Gonthier residence, recently completed in Boulder, Colorado. This new-old house stands upon living land as lightly as 4500 +/- square feet of luxury can. Inspired originally by French Country houses, it has morphed into something approaching California Mission Style. There is a red clay tile roof, and beneath that hand plastered lime walls inside and out. A pale stone foundation

anchors the house to the ground. Double stud wall construction has granted this house unusual, foot-thick walls, allowing impressive insulation. This has also allowed a gorgeous effect of windows as they open through thick walls, and frame views. Golden Colorado light flows in, casting shadows along wood floors, glowing within window jambs. The warm ivory of lime-plastered walls drink in the light, reflecting it gently, glowing. Subtle curves here and there soften the architecture, playing with shadow and light, welcoming one in an almost subliminal way to feel embraced and held.

Has this thick-walled, double stud construction technique sacrificed more trees than otherwise necessary? Yes, it has. Does this mean such a house cannot be sustainable?

According to Satto Rugg of Bodhgaia Architecture, who designed this house, houses built to present code in the United States typically use 2x6 lumber in the exterior walls.

However, double stud construction allows use of 2x4 lumber instead. The smaller lumber may be more efficiently milled from smaller trees, which can help support sustainable forestry. The actual wood volume in this house is 27% greater than conventional building practice. Since increased insulation in such thick walls helps reduce energy used in heating and cooling, and smaller trees may be more sustainably harvested than larger trees, this house may be as, or more, sustainable than conventional construction can allow.

Mindful practice collaboratively (Continued next page.)

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achieved by owner, contractor and architect, has preserved much of the landscape that typically would be lost during construction. Two massive old trees stand just to the north and south of the house, and a screen of shrubs and smaller trees stand between the house and road. A gravel and stone path winds from the street curb to the front door. As one walks this winding path it crosses over running water, moving between trees and shrubs that look as if they have been quietly growing for many, many years. A ditch between house and road catches runoff, and even on this dry September day is singing with sweet water.

On those clay roof tiles, on a south facing slope of the hip roof, stand photovoltaic arrays. These harvest sunlight, transmuting it to electricity. These photovoltaic arrays power the entire house and all its appliances, as well as charging an electric car in the generous garage. In fact, the house actually feeds electric power back into the grid, resulting in a monthly check from the electric company, instead of a bill.

The solar power is strengthened by the long axis of the house running east and west. This allows plenty of south light to shine on the PV array year round. According to the owner, Vidan Gonthier, the site was chosen with this in mind. The land had also been built on previously. An old and decrepit building was razed in order to allow space for the present house. Reclaiming an old building site, preserving beautiful, mature trees, and carefully developing and preserving the existing landscape, are not necessarily

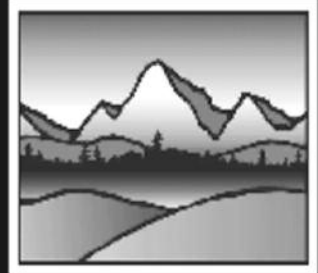
typical of conventional construction in this country. They can, however, be healing for the earth and our people.

The front porch is generous, a welcoming haven to rest in the shade and enjoy water song and dancing leaves. This house feels as if it has stood here for decades, impeccably maintained. There is a sense of peace, of harmony, as of a loved and cared for family estate, at peace in the landscape. Construction at la maison Gonthier finished about four weeks before the writing of this article.

The architect and general contractor were both present while the house was on tour. The architect, Satto Rugg, dressed in black, brought to mind a sleepy panther. He flowed about the house, greeting visitors, sharing bits and pieces of the house's history and creation. The general contractor, Lee Carmichael of Sightline Builders, also paced quietly around the house, answering questions. A solar energy consultant was stationed by a table with house drawings. Visitors wandered in and out of the house, almost all of them captivated by a pervasive sense of peace.

Feeling European white oak floors, satin smooth underfoot, gleaming with oil instead of the usual plastic polyurethane coating so typical on many contemporary wood floors. If it takes trees 200 years to grow, then should a floor last that long also? Most wood floors can be sanded 2 to 4 times before they must be replaced. (Depending in part on the skill of the sanders and how little they can take off each time.) Polyurethane tends to peel and blister, whereupon it must be sanded off and replaced -sometimes

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Breathing deeply, slowly here, and the sense of peace grows. The lime plastered walls do not off gas the way conventional paint does. There are no voc's, no formaldehyde fumes filling the living spaces of this house. There is instead a hand plastered wall that is beautiful and healthy. In fact, the lime plaster will quietly absorb toxins over time from the indoor air. As visitors talked with the contractor and architect, these men gently bragged that the owner himself helped build his house, working side by side with contractors to plaster the walls, tirelessly committed to preserving the landscape and old trees, sourcing his own counter tops, fixtures and furnishings.

Lime plaster is a traditional building material, but very expensive in this day and age due to the amount of hand labor required to apply it. Because it is so labor intensive, it may be dismissed in this country as a building material. Anyone who has troweled lime plaster knows it is also hard physical work. One grows curious as to who this owner may be, who chose luxury and also worked hard to help build it.

As visitors flowed in and out of the house, there was only one negative comment that surfaced. A single family house so large cannot be sustainable. Is this true? Towards the end

of the afternoon, as the tour was drawing to a close, the owner pedaled up on a bicycle, baguette and leafy greens peaking out of a grocery bag. He reclaimed his kitchen, seemingly unfazed by the stream of visitors Guild volunteers were beginning to gather up. He held court in the open kitchen, smiling, waving greens and bread about, appearing to happily answer questions from admiring tour guests.

What, really, is sustainability? If more luxury houses were built in this mindful way, what would our world look like? Is it not true, to those among us who decry large luxury houses, that they do in fact inspire those among us with less wealth? To be utterly honest at the end of the day, is it not also true that at this time many of us would really live in a large and beautiful personal space if we could? So then could houses such as this inspire smaller house builders to work with minimum toxic interiors, thoughtful use of form and light, and careful landscape preservation, as well as photovoltaics? And, of huge importance, could this inspire home owners to know they can demand, and contractors to know, there is a market for this? What is that intangible energy one feels here, that so many visitors remarked upon? A sense of joy and mindfulness infusing the space, arising from the care with which design and construction were undertaken? Can this intangible energy of beauty and harmony infuse all our works, large or small? How would we feel, what would our world look like, should this come to pass? What really is sustainability, and how do we get there?

Ms. Wedel holds the vision that architecture has potential to be healing for our earth and people. Green building is a beginning. She holds a masters in architecture, and has been involved in both conventional and alternative building. She lives in the foothills west of Denver.

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Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

TAXES

Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 26 303.642.7371

VOLUNTEERS

CCCFPD pg 8 303.642.3121

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 27 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 28 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well pg 23 303.438.6669

NOVEMBER
2017

POWER UPDATE



Click to Save Energy

United Power's website is loaded with information and tips to help our members save energy.

Visit our website and click on 'Energy Programs' to learn more about our renewable energy programs and rebates, special rates for off-peak energy use, equipment rebates you might qualify for and easy low-cost ways to save energy and money.

www.unitedpower.com



What To Do During an Outage

United Power's line crews are on alert round-the-clock and we use the most sophisticated outage tracking technology in our 24-hour dispatch center, but you can also help when it comes to restoring power. Sometimes we may not know the extent of an outage, or we may not know about an isolated outage at the end of a line that affects one or two homes. A simple call from our members paints a much clearer picture of the extent of the outage.

What should you do in the event of a power outage?

- Verify that your entire house is out and that you haven't just blown a fuse or tripped a circuit breaker. If you have determined that your home is out of power, turn off or unplug any appliances you were using when the power went out. Leave a light on so you know when power is restored.
- If your power remains out for longer than a few minutes, or to report an electrical safety hazard, please call United Power's Outage Line at 303-637-1350. If the outage is widespread, your call will be answered by our Automated Outage Reporting System. Use the phone number on record with United Power to report your outage. You can also report your outage via the SmartHub online portal or mobile app.
- When reporting an outage, please provide any details you may have. If you heard a loud bang, or your power is out but your neighbors have power, let us know. This will help us determine any unknown problems on our system.

Don't panic! Our crews work 24-hours a day in order to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Free Trip to D.C.

United Power is now accepting applications for the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour to be held June 7-14, 2018. The cooperative will pay all expenses for this unique opportunity for three local students to experience our nation's capital first hand.

United Power's Youth Tour is open to high school students 16 years of age or older and whose primary residence is in United Power's service territory. Applications are available under the 'Co-op & Community' tab at www.unitedpower.com. For more information contact Julie Stewart, Community Outreach Specialist, at 303-637-1334. **Applications must be postmarked by January 12, 2018.**



Cooperative Youth Tour
Washington, D.C.
June 7-14, 2018

Thanksgiving Dinner - All Are Welcome

Thurs. Nov. 23 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM CCCIA Hall



941 Indian Peak Road
Fabulous Mtn Retreat w/5 Car Garage
5 BD/ 3 BA 1.09 Acres **\$745,000**



11 Eagles Nest
Dynamic Continental Divide Views!
1 BD/ 1 BA .69 Acre **\$275,000**



69 Aspen Drive
Nicely Remodeled - Main Floor Living
2 BD/ 1 BA .57 Acre



10827 Brook Road
Sunny & Bright! Separate Cabin Included!
3 BD/ 2 BA 0.8 Acre **\$379,000**



15 Debra Ann
Beautifully Appointed - Raised Ranch
4 BD / 3 BA .08 Acre Private Pond



11835 Vonnie Claire Drive
Hard-to-Find Horse Property!!
3 BD / 2 BA 3.17 Acres **\$394,900**



31227 Burke Road
Oversized Garage w/ 2nd Floor Office
2 BD/ 1 BA .53 Acre **\$335,000**



5011 Garrison #102
Fantastic Wheat Ridge Condo!
1 BD/ 1 BA + Sunroom **\$179,000**



29373 Spruce Canyon
VIEWS - Remodeled - Over 3 Acres
3 BD / 3 BA **\$579,000**



722 8th Ave., Longmont
Circa 1910 Old Town Charming!
2 BD/ 2 BA Oversized Garage **\$349,000**



19 Ronnie Road
Views, Well, Septic, Building plans
included .7 Acre **\$115,000**



11536 Coal Creek Heights Drive
Panoramic Divide/City Views!!
3 BD/ 3 BA 3.3 Acres **\$599,900**



13371 W. 63rd Place, Arvada
Lovely Home w/Park-Like Yard
4 BD/ 4 BA 3-Car Garage **\$485,000**



144 Wonder Trail, Wondervu
Vintage Cabin - Well Drilled
2 BD **\$90,000**



34535 Stanton Drive
Log Home With Solar!
3 BD / 3 BA **\$564,900**



32596 W. Inspiration Road
Complete Remodel w/ Views + Office!
3 BD/ 2 BA 1.18 Acres **\$349,900**



194 Wonder Trail
Charming Cottage w/Super Views!
1 BD / 1 BA **\$249,900**



702 Copperdale Lane
Sweet Ranch Style Home w/ Office
2 BD / 2 BA 1.05 Acres **\$349,900**



249 Rudi Lane
Post & Beam Constr. - Passive Solar
2 BD / 3 BA **\$399,900**



BUY OR SELL A HOME
WITH Kathy Keating or
Susan Peterson and **USE**
the moving truck for **FREE**



Kathy Keating,
CRS, ABR, GRI
EcoBroker,
Broker Associate
303.642.1133

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