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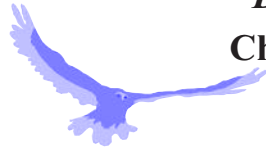


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CONTENTS Pages

Issues -	An Oil Pipeline & A River	5, 6, 7
	The Surface of Standing Rock	8, 9, 10
	The DAPL in the Post-Constitutional Era	11, 12
Letters-	Estes Park Elk Fest - Amend 69 - Hwy 72	13, 14
Animals -	A Fix For Doggy Breath	15, 16
Local Issues -	Unwelcome in Not-so Wild West	17
Politics -	The Absence of Balance	20, 21
Nature -	Hunting for a Rare Species	22, 23
Issues -	Improved Trail System Near Nederland	24, 25
Personality-	West's Oldest Climate Correspondent	26, 27
Wildlife -	Update Buffalo Field Campaign	28
Inner View-	Bottled Lightning: Skin Your Knees	29, 30
Environmental -	Battle Over Arctic Nat'l Refuge	32, 33

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Animals & Their Companions 18, 19
Ad Index & Telephone #'s 34

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An Oil Pipeline & A River

By Winona LaDuke - HCN

What Would Sitting Bull Do?

I am not sure how badly North Dakota wants this pipeline. If there is to be a battle over the Dakota Access, I would not bet against a people with nothing else left but a land and a river.

It's 2016, and the weight of American corporate interests has come to the Missouri River, the Mother River. This time, instead of the Seventh Cavalry, or the Indian police dispatched to assassinate Sitting Bull, it is Enbridge and Dakota Access Pipeline.

In mid-August, Standing Rock Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II was arrested by state police, along with 27 others, for opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline. In the meantime, North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple called for more police support. Every major pipeline project in North America must cross indigenous lands, Indian Country. That is a problem. The road west of Fargo is rarely taken. In fact, most Americans just fly over North Dakota, never seeing it.

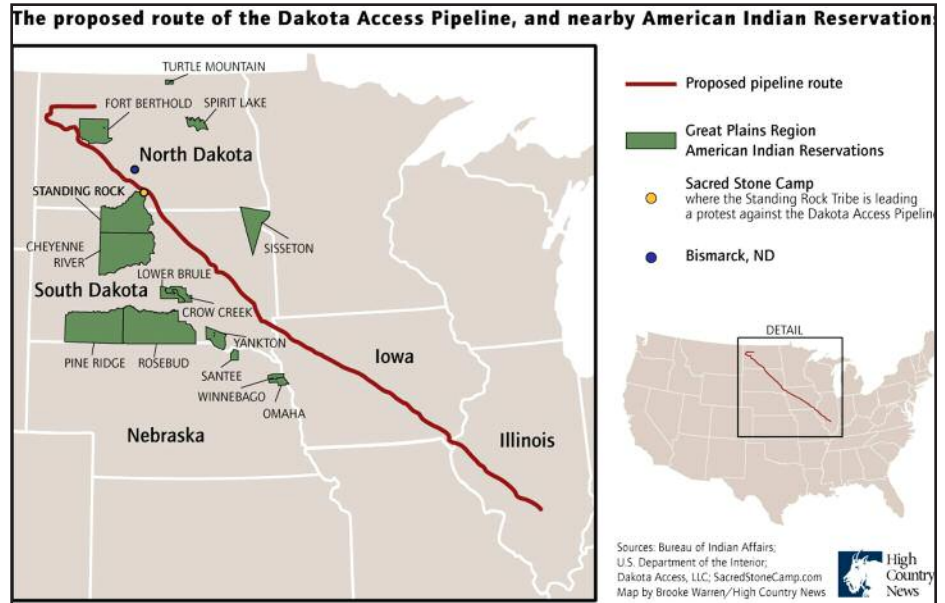
Let me take you there. My head clears as I drive. My destination is the homeland of the Hunkpapa Oceti, Standing Rock Reservation. It is early evening, the moon full. If you close your eyes, you can remember the 50 million buffalo—the single largest migratory herd in the world. The pounding of their hooves would vibrate the Earth, make the grass grow.

There were once 250 species of grass. Today the buffalo are gone, replaced by 28 million cattle, which require grain, water, and hay. Many of the fields are now in a single GMO crop, full of so many pesticides that the monarch butterflies are dying off. But in my memory, the old world remains.

If you drive long enough, you come to the Missouri River. Called Mnisose, a great swirling river, by the Lakota, she is a force to be reckoned with. She is breathtaking. "The Missouri River has a fixed place in the history and mythology" of the Lakota and other Indigenous nations of the Northern Plains, author Dakota Goodhouse would explain.

In the time before Sitting Bull, the Missouri River was the epicenter of northern agriculture, the river bed so fertile. The territory was known as the fertile crescent of North America. That was then, before the treaties that reduced the Lakota land base. But the Missouri remained in the treaty—the last treaty of 1868 used the Missouri as a boundary.

Then came the theft of land by the U.S. government, and



the taking of the Black Hills in 1877, in part as retaliation against Sitting Bull's victory at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. In a time prior to Black Lives Matter or Native Lives Matter, great leaders like Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse were assassinated at the hands of police.

One truth: the Lakota people have survived much. Every major pipeline project in North America must cross indigenous lands. Forced into the reservation life, the Lakota attempted to stabilize their society, until the dams came. The 1944 Pick Sloan project flooded out the Missouri River tribes, taking the best bottom lands from the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara, the Lakota and Dakota. Over 200,000 acres on the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River reservations in South Dakota were flooded by the Oahe Dam itself, forcing not only relocation, but a loss of the Lakota world. The Garrison, Oahe, and Fort Randall dams created a reservoir that eliminated 90 percent of timber and 75 percent of wildlife on the reservations.

That is how a people are made poor. Today, well over two thirds of the population of Standing Rock is below the poverty level—and the land and Mother River are what remains, a constant, for the people. *(Continued next page.)*

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Highlander Issues

That is what is threatened today. Enbridge and partners are preparing to drill through the riverbed. The pipeline has been permitted in sections from the west and from the east. The northern portion was moved away from the water supply of Bismarck, into the watershed of Standing Rock. That was unfortunate for the Lakota.

Despite Lakota legal and regulatory objections, the Dakota Access Pipeline construction began in May 2016. If finished it will snake through North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois, where it will link to a 774-mile pipeline to Nederland, Texas.

More than 570,000 barrels of Bakken crude oil will pass through the pipeline daily, along with 245,100 metric tons of carbon daily—enough carbon to combust the planet to oblivion.

The pipeline would span 200 water crossings, and in North Dakota alone would pass through 33 historical and archeological sites. Enbridge just bought the Dakota Access pipeline, noting that the proposed Sandpiper route—Minnesota's 640,000 barrel per day Bakken line—is now three years behind schedule.

Standing Rock claims the project violates federal and treaty law. In late July, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe represented by Earthjustice, filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Standing Rock claims the project violates federal and treaty law. Standing Rock also filed an intervention at the United Nations, in coordination with the International Indian Treaty Council.

As Chairman Archambault explained in a New York Times story: "The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation supported more protection of the tribe's cultural heritage, but the Corps of

Engineers and Energy Transfer Partners turned a blind eye to our rights. The first draft of the company's assessment of the planned route through our treaty and ancestral lands did not even mention our tribe.

"The Dakota Access pipeline was fast-tracked from Day One using the Nationwide Permit No. 12 process, which grants exemption from environmental reviews required by the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act by treating the pipeline as a series of small construction sites. "Without closer scrutiny, the proposal breezed through the four state processes."

In Iowa where work on the pipeline is underway, three fires erupted causing heavy damage to equipment and an estimated \$1 million in damages. Investigators suspect arson, according to Jasper County Sheriff John Halferty. In October 2015, three Iowa farmers sued Dakota Access LLC and the Iowa Utilities Board in an attempt to prevent the use of eminent domain on their properties to construct the pipeline.

The health of the Missouri River has been taken for granted. Dammed in the Pick Sloan Dam projects, each project increases contamination and reduces her health. Today, the Missouri is the seventh most polluted river in the country. Agricultural run-off and now fracking have contaminated the river. My sister fished a gar out of the river, a giant prehistoric fish, only to find it covered with tumors.

Here's just one case: In a January 2015 spill, saltwater contamination from a massive pipeline spill reached the Missouri River. In the baffling way of state and federal agencies, North Dakota's Health Director David Glatt did not expect harm to wildlife or drinking water supplies because the water was diluted. The saying is: "The solution to pollution is dilution." That is convenient, but not true.

Blacktail Creek and the Little Muddy River were contaminated after nearly 3 million gallons of saltwater with elevated levels of chloride contamination. All was diluted. But then there was that gar fish with the tumors.

There are pipelines everywhere, and fewer than 150 Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pipeline inspectors in the whole country. And now comes the risk from oil. "I am here to advise anyone that will listen that the Dakota Access Pipeline project is harmful." The pipeline companies generally discuss a 99 percent safety record, but studies have found that to be grossly inaccurate. A former Scientific American Editor, Trudy Bell, reports

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that PHMSA data from 2001 to 2011 suggest the average pipeline “has a 57% probability of experiencing a major leak, with consequences over the \$1 million range in a ten year period.” Not good odds.

At Standing Rock, as the number of protesters grew from 200 to 2000, state law enforcement decided to put up a safety checkpoint and rerouted traffic on Highway 1806 from Bismarck to Standing Rock, hoping to dissuade people from coming and put the squeeze on Standing Rock’s Prairie Knights Casino, which is served by that road. We just drove around; the scenic route is beautiful. And as supporters surge in numbers, the casino hotel and restaurants are full.

While North Dakota seeks to punish the Lakota, Chairman Archambault expresses concerns for everyone: From the New York Times: “I am here to advise anyone that will listen that the Dakota Access Pipeline project is harmful. It will not be just harmful to my people but its intent and construction will harm the water in the Missouri River, which is one of the cleanest and safest river tributaries left in the Unit States. To poison the water is to poison the substance of life. Everything that moves must have water. How can we talk about and knowingly poison water?”

In the meantime, North Dakota Gov. Dalrymple announced a state of emergency, making additional state resources available “to manage public safety risks associated with the ongoing protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline.” He may have exceeded his scope of authority and violated civil and human rights to water.

Chairman Archambault’s interpretation: “Perhaps only in North Dakota, where oil tycoons wine and dine elected officials, and where the governor, Jack Dalrymple, serves as an adviser to the Trump campaign, would state and county governments act as the armed enforcement for corporate interests.”

The Standing Rock protest camp represents that struggle for freedom, and the future of a people. There are a lot of people at Standing Rock today who remember their history and the long standoff at Wounded Knee in 1973. In fact, some of those in Standing Rock today were there in 1973 at Wounded Knee, a similar battle for dignity and the future of a nation. I am not sure how badly North Dakota wants this pipeline. If there is to be a battle over the pipeline, it will be here. For a people with nothing else but a land and a river, I would not bet against them. The great Lakota leader Mathew King once said, “the only thing sadder than an Indian who is not free, is an Indian who does not remember what it is to be free.” The Standing Rock protest camp represents that struggle for freedom, and the future of a people. All of us. If I ask the question “What would Sitting Bull do?” —the answer is pretty clear. He would remind me what he said 150 years ago: “Let us put our minds together to see what kind of future we can make for our children.” The time for that is now.

This article was originally published by LA Progressive.

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The Surface Of Standing Rock

Article and photographs by Diane Bergstrom

Slow to be covered by mainstream media, an encampment of protectors as they define themselves, not protestors, have been taking a stand at Standing Rock Sioux Reservation outside Cannon Ball, in south-central North Dakota. They are gathering to protect the water quality and quality of life of the Missouri River from a planned 1,172-mile pipeline that would pipe 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day through the Midwest. It started in April with a small group of 20 people on the reservation who prayed for protection of the water, sacred sites, and their children. They prayed for help, and put up a video on Facebook. Now thousands of people have travelled from inside and outside the U.S. to Standing Rock in supportive non-violent direct action against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) developed by Texas-based corporation Energy Transfer Partners, including Canadian corporation Enbridge, and its subsidiary, Dakota Access LLC. The pipeline would run from North Dakota to Illinois, over farm lands, waterways, through reservations, even UNDER the Missouri River, and PER YEAR, emit 100 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (*Oil Change International*). Drinking water and agricultural waters are threatened, in addition to everyone and everything downstream that rely on the water. There is also deep concern for future generations. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe filed a lawsuit on the grounds the pipeline violates the Federal Land Preservation Act and creates environmental damage. Bulldozers have plowed through sacred burial grounds, mace was sprayed on protectors, and private security company attack dogs were unleashed. At the time of this article, an injunction had been denied but federal agencies implemented a hold on construction on federal lands and asked Dakota Access LLC to temporarily halt their construction, until they can determine the need for reconsiderations. Dakota Access continues to build.

An ominous prophesy of a “black snake” is known in several indigenous cultures. Elders foretold if it crossed

their lands, their people would die. In the 1800’s, the black snake was interpreted to be trains and roads. It is now believed to be pipelines. Xian Chiang-Warren, fellow at *Grist*, wrote on Sept. 16, “The ‘black snake’ isn’t the only prophecy making the rounds at camp: According to Crazy Horse, a revered mid-19th century Oglala Lakota chief who led tribes to victory at Little Bighorn, the Lakota people would undergo generations of spiritual genocide and environmental degradation following American colonization of the West. Then, a seventh generation would wake up and rise — a generation that would lead the healing and restoration of the planet, rejuvenate a forgotten spirituality, and create harmony among people of all colors and creeds.” Black Elk, an Oglala Lakota Medicine Man, also had a future vision of his people suffering from wars, sickness and famine, and after seven generations, predicted a reunification of all people of all nations of the Earth. Crazy Horse, a war leader, saw the invention of cars and airplanes, predicted the world wars—after which his people would begin to heal and dance with all races under the Sacred Tree. He prophesied a time when all nations would work together for the betterment of the world. The current gathering at Standing Rock has been unprecedented. Xian Chiang-Warren reported there were more than 280 indigenous tribes represented at the camp; “Some of the people gathered here have not, traditionally, been allies. Members of the Crow Nation haven’t been welcome guests in Sioux territory since 1876, when they allegedly scouted for Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. On Aug. 27, Crow Nation representatives bearing peace pipes and hundreds of pounds of buffalo meat arrived at the camp gates and were met formally by Standing Rock leaders. A murmur went through the crowd — this was history. ‘There has never been anything like this in Indian country before, ever,’ said LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, a tribal historic preservation officer for the Standing Rock Sioux. Recently, Allard found herself at lunch with a member of the Crow and a member of the Pawnee — a meeting that would have been inconceivable until now.”



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On Sept. 8, over a thousand Coloradans, of many races and ethnicities, rallied behind tribal elders to “stand in a peaceful way” in solidarity with Standing Rock. We dressed in the four Lakota colors, and arrived from each of the four directions, converging at the capitol. Those who chose to start from the north congregated outside the Brown Palace, wearing red representing that direction, the ancestors, and Buffalo People. At rush hour on the busy downtown corner, prayers were led in Lakota, Spanish and English to honor all the previous inhabitants of the area. We turned to honor each direction including Mother Earth and Father Sky. The Denver Police escorts handed out bottled water. Elders’ advisements of appropriate reactions to anticipated harassment from passersby were unnecessary. Drivers cheered and honked in support, eliciting cheers from the marchers, and passersby surprisingly repeated, “God bless you.” Speakers from the steps of the capitol offered positive messages of unity, solidarity, perseverance, and inclusion: we are all indigenous to this earth; there is power in numbers, power in water, power in prayer; water has no color, water represents everyone; we have a God-given right to fight for clean water; without water, we have no life; we know the anchor of a mother protecting her child; we stand together as one nation. Lois Hickman, who attended the march, is now at Standing Rock. She reported on the sense of peace and positive camaraderie felt in the camps among the thousands of committed supporters. Children are running around, laughing and playing. Dogs, horses and cows are in the area. People are reuniting or meeting for the first time and sharing stories. Many are organizing donations, cooking meals for the masses, cleaning the area, and setting up recycling centers. Prayers, drumming, and dancing



continue through the night at one camp. Prayers and passed pipes were offered to honor the ancestors’ remains that have been bulldozed, and final goodbyes were expressed to those ancestors. The occasional helicopter or drone overhead, or the cell signal scrambling devices, do not deter the hopeful resolve. A young girl, who joined Lois near a fire to warm her bare feet, told her, “We can’t let the fire go out. It must never go out.” This resolve permeates

the camps and the movement. Xian aptly summarized, “This generation of protectors has a future to defend.”

Winona LaDuke, Anishinaabe, is an activist with a long history of working on climate change issues, renewable energy, sustainable development strategies, and preserving the integrity of native food/plant sources. She is the Executive Director of Honor the Earth, founder of White Earth Land Recovery Project in Northern Minnesota, and was actively involved in stopping the Keystone XL pipeline, and changing the regulations Enbridge faces with their Sandpiper pipeline planned to cross thousands of the cleanest fresh water lakes in Minnesota with the most pristine wild rice harvesting areas. Google her interview with Amy Goodman on

Democracy Now, Aug. 23. She divulged that the Canadian-based corporation Enbridge has met pipeline opposition from all the affected First Nations across Canada and Canadian courts voided their contracts. They also purchased discount faulty pipe from Thailand and their lawyers refuse to divulge where those pipes have been purposed. After years of Enbridge testifying the only route they could transport oil was across northern Minnesota, they were stopped by the citizens of Minnesota and tribal councils, the courts ruled against them, and now they must do complete Environmental Impact *(Continued next page.)*

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Studies, and consult with tribes. This is costing Enbridge billions of dollars. They showed up to do business in North Dakota which does not regulate the oil industry to the same extent. The Anishinaabe also have a black snake prophesy. Winona is camping at Standing Rock to lend her knowledge and experience in stopping destructive pipelines, preserving environments, and supporting tribal rights. She has lectured about our mistaken belief that we can take anything that is in the ground, and how that has put us in an era of “extreme extraction,” i.e. fracking. “There’s a reason why it’s in the ground. We don’t understand how Mother Earth lives. Anything we take now is not given to us willingly.” The recent 5.8 earthquake in Oklahoma comes to mind, and their 2,488 earthquakes in the past year.



Here are my recommendations to learn more background, stay informed, contribute money or donate resources. First, Google Lawrence O’Donnell’s four minute presentation on *The Last Word on MSNBC* on August 25. It is the best short speech on colonialism ever made. You can also find it on YouTube. Consult websites www.standingrock.org, www.unicornriot.ninja, www.theguardian.com, and www.honorthearth.org. Current updates can be found at *Indian Country Today* and *American Indian Reporter*. Donation supply lists are posted at www.sacredstonecamps.org/supply-list and at www.unityofboulder.com under “Recent Posts.” Unity is also a collection site and transports donations every week, 2855 Folsom Avenue, Boulder.

Lois informed me Standing Rock is raising money for a medical vehicle to be on site over the winter, and for temporary structures for food storage and a school.

Their needed resources come in many forms and an effortless one is to consider contributing prayer in your style, belief, or tradition according to your interpretation of the Great Spirit. A simple common two-word Lakota prayer is *Mitakuye Oyasin*, meaning we are all related, and is used to pray for everyone and everything on earth. It is a prayer of awareness, unity, strength, sacredness, honor, and peace. Our indigenous relatives at Standing Rock understand the power of prayer. Prayers in community started the entire movement and, with a little help from Facebook, spread the word.



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The DAPL In The Post-Constitutional Era

By Jeff Thompson

It may be time to accept that our federal government is no longer the federal government organized by our long and appropriately venerated and defended Constitution of the United States. That would mean that the federal government, with all its agencies and bureaucracies and the courts that back them up, no longer exercises legitimate power over us. It's scary to think about that.

If we all were to accept that the federal government is no longer legitimate and no longer has a right to govern our lives, wouldn't that result in a very dangerous and chaotic situation? But if it were true, how would ignoring that reality help our situation? How long could we go on pretending before some very scary people step in and take charge? Wouldn't it be better to accept reality and fix the situation, get our Constitution of the United States government back in place?

The truth is, as I see it, some very scary people have already stepped in and taken charge. I'm talking about the Army Corps of Engineers, the oil industry billionaires and federal court judges. That's my take on the significance and importance of the Standing Rock battle against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

You can look at the Constitution of the United States as a treaty all the people of the United States have with each other. We all agree to be governed by a government both empowered and limited by this great treaty. But this great treaty we know as the Constitution is broken like all the treaties we broke with the Native American tribes. We no longer have the government intended by the Constitution and eloquently described by Abraham Lincoln as government of, by and for the people.

The government of, by and for the people is a government by laws, which are enacted by members of the United States Congress on behalf of the people who elect them. The courts make sure that government officials obey those laws when the people take government officials to task. Oil pipelines are a case in point, which shows that Constitutional government no longer exists. In 1969, the United States Congress enacted a law known as the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. At the heart of NEPA is a requirement that federal agencies provide the public, for every action "significantly affecting the quality of the human environment," a detailed statement on the environmental impact of the proposed action. This detailed statement is called an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS. An EIS was intended by Congress to be the means by which the people can

hold federal agencies accountable for the environmental effects of their decisions.

NEPA also created the Council on Environmental Quality, which has authority to issue regulations to implement NEPA. These regulations are intended by Congress to have the force and effect of any statute or law. In their own words, they are "**action forcing**" regulations, meaning they force federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers to provide the public with a properly prepared and honest EIS in cases where the proposed action has the potential to "**significantly affect the quality of the human environment.**"

In determining whether an action has the potential to "**significantly affect the quality of the human environment,**" these regulations make it very clear that it does if it is "reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment" and that, significance cannot be avoided, by breaking it down into small component parts. Further, the regulations state, "**cumulative impact is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.**" And, if, that's not clear enough yet, the regulations go on to state, "**cumulative impacts can result from** (Continued next page.)

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individually minor but collectively significant actions ...

The Dakota Access Pipeline is a 1,172 mile pipeline, which crosses 209 rivers and creeks. The Gulf Coast Pipeline is an oil pipeline that runs 485 miles and crosses 2,000 rivers, creeks and wetlands. The Gulf Coast Pipeline is the southern leg of TransCanada's Keystone Pipeline. The Army Corps of Engineers is tasked with protecting rivers, creeks and wetlands by another Act of Congress known as the Clean Water Act.

Both pipelines are intended to carry oil that was produced by "fracking" and is, as such, too thick to flow through pipelines. Highly toxic and corrosive chemicals are added to oil that has been produced by fracking so it will flow through pipelines under high pressure. A mountain of information, together with actual pipeline breaks and spills, make it clear that these pipelines pose huge and virtually inevitable damage to the human environment.

Yet, upon the request of corporations in the oil industry, the Army Corps of Engineers gave those corporations permission to build the pipelines. It did so without providing the public with an EIS. The Army Corps declared that the river, creek and wetland crossings could


each be considered separately and without regard to their cumulative impacts. It did exactly what was forbidden by the United States Congress.

The corporations and the Army Corps of Engineers are acting in open defiance of the laws of Congress. The Army Corps actions have been challenged by citizens in federal courts. Although one court challenge still has some life, so far the federal courts are backing the Army Corps and the corporations against the people and the laws of Congress. The opinions issued by the federal courts so far, which justify the Army Corps of Engineers' open defiance of the laws of Congress, can only be described as "sophistry," clever but obviously fallacious reasoning.

This is the fusion of government and corporate power against the people, not government by the people. My hope lies with the Native American tribes with whom our government made and then broke so many treaties. The true patriots these days are the ones who are rallying around and supporting the Native Americans at Standing Rock any way they can. We've forced the federal government to delay construction of a small segment of the Dakota Access Pipeline under Lake Oahe, probably just until the election is over. We have to support the Native Americans at Standing Rock for the long haul to have any hope that our constitutional government will somehow be restored.

Jeff Thompson moved to Colorado on December 31, 1973 after finishing law school at the University of Nebraska. He is licensed to practice law in the State of Colorado. In addition to the warriors at Standing Rock, he wants to acknowledge the inspiration he has received over the years from warriors Chris Hedges, Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden.




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Estes Park Elk Fest - Amendment 69 - Hwy 72

Dear Readers,

If you're heading to Rocky Mountain National Park to watch the elk rut, or attend **Elk Fest in Estes Park, October 1 and 2**, you may want to refer to my article on Elk Viewing Tips in last month's issue, under highlandermo.com, Archives. Estes Park News has a great 20 minute video on elk biology and rut footage, "The Elk of Estes Park," at epnews.com. The bears are packing on calories in anticipation of a predicted hard winter. If you want more advice on bears, new videos are available on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website atcpw.state.co.us/ bears or watch them on the CPW YouTube channel. They have produced videos with advice from bear-proofing your home to what to do if you see a bear.

Children in 4th grade can get a free National Park pass for themselves and their families at www.everykidinapark.gov. The program is in its second year after nearly 2 million kids participated in the first year. The pass allows free access to national public lands and waters. Fill out the screens online, download the final form, and bring it to a park entrance fee station to get your pass. Your 4th graders can show their passes at the Estes Park Visitors Center, 500 Big Thompson Ave., to receive a backpack filled with useful and fun items collected by **Visit Estes Park**. Enjoy a beautiful autumn in the Park!
Diane Bergstrom



Letter to the Editor,

Your article on amendment 69 is very misleading. As a small business owner and an individual with a family, my taxes will go through the roof and healthcare will be hard to get and of low-quality. I realize what your up to, a left wing paper lying to the public to push your socialist agenda and make Colorado a nanny state. Healthcare is a privilege, not a right. There has always been free healthcare in this country, just walk into any emergency room. By law they can't turn you away.

What you don't realize is that most Coloradan's, as well as most Americans want government OUT of their lives. Socialized medicine and socialism do not work and it never has and it never will. Why do you think so many people travel to this country for their healthcare? Because, first and foremost, they can get care NOW, and it's of high quality. And they pay cash for it!! Why, because it's worth it. Bottom line- you won't tell the people the truth because if you did your socialist agenda would crash and burn. Good luck sleeping at night. Paul Fontana, Evergreen, CO
Thank you Paul, For taking the time to write and put in print your erroneous opinions regarding last month's excerpts from the **ColoradoCare.org** website promoting the passing of Amendment 69 on (Continued next page.)



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Highlander Letters

this year's ballot in November.

While your attacks on me are very revealing, they are also unnecessarily personal. In disseminating information for my readers to educate themselves regarding this important issue by going to the website themselves and check to see if passing it would save them money for their healthcare premiums, it is immature and unprofessional to attack an editor for simply printing important information about an issue for this election year (*that BTW I also endorse*).

Your opinions are quite wrong: WE ALL PAY FOR THE HEALTH CARE OF THE POPULATION THAT CANNOT AFFORD HEALTH CARE COVERAGE. Yes, your taxes go towards paying for what you spout is FREE. How ignorant to suggest anything concerning healthcare (*simply because you say it is illegal to turn away a person at an emergency room*) is without cost to someone. What, you think doctors just treat that indigent person without someone paying them to do so?

I sincerely doubt you've even gone to the trouble of checking the **ColoradoCare.org** website to figure what your savings might be or to see how many educated individuals and highly respected organizations are endorsing the passing of this important Amendment.

The hardest part of the entire process would be for everyone to save the amount they are currently paying each month for their health care premiums and then add it to

what they need to pay for state taxes. **AMENDMENT 69 DOES NOT INCREASE YOUR TAXES**, it lowers your health care premiums with a single payer policy. In over 90% of all cases that amount is less and with the no co-pays or deductibles; just to name a couple of the many benefits of ColoradoCare, everyone wins - even medical providers.
Editor

Letter to the editor:

Sharing the Road with Large Trucks from Jim Plane of State Farm Insurance, September 2016 issue, brings to mind the document on our local roads that I prepared as an addendum to TEG's 2010 response to the draft environment impact statement on the Moffat Expansion Project.

This document can be found at [tegcolorado.org/Programs/Citizens for Sustainable Water Management/Draft Environmental Impact Statement/TEGs "addendum" to submitted DEIS comments](http://tegcolorado.org/Programs/Citizens for Sustainable Water Management/Draft Environmental Impact Statement/TEGs 'addendum' to submitted DEIS comments). It's a good read, if I do say so myself, and don't forget to look at the photos! **NOTE:** when the addendum was written Denver Water estimated cutting 20,000-30,000 trees. In the final impact statement the estimate is 200,000-300,000 trees. I encourage everyone to use the TEG website to make a donation for the expected legal case following the Corp's decision in favor of the project. Many thanks, Judy Green

(Pictured here, one of Judy's favorite canyon confusing road signs. Not only does the DEIS and the EIS disregard road safety issues regarding the proposed Moffat Project, the haul route study Denver Water did showed Hwy 72 is NOT capable of supporting the project.)



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A Fix For Doggy Breath

This is a review of a new product for bad breath in dogs. It is not a recommendation to eliminate the need for adequate dental care or cleanings for your canine. After using the product for my doodle dog for about a week I smelled improvement in her breath. This is surprising since she has access to horse apples (that means manure) on a daily basis and the real source of her bad breath. The *Woofmints* helped considerably, while not a complete cure as the manure still gets eaten whenever I don't watch her like a hawk.

So my guess is that for the average dog with less than acceptable breath, this product would help or even eliminate bad odor; especially if you work hard to prevent tooth decay and the buildup of tartar on the teeth. I started brushing the doodle's teeth when she was a tiny pup so she lets me brush them regularly, but nothing has helped with her manure breath until I started giving the *Woofmints*.

My way of giving them is to just tilt her head up and open her mouth to drop them into the back of her throat – then holding her jaw shut I level her head and massage her throat so she swallows. I follow the mints with a couple of little treats to make sure they don't get stuck in her throat.

The following is the manufacturer's description and how to acquire the product. *By A.M. Wilks*

Woofmints is an all natural dog breath freshener. The gel caps dissolve inside your dog's stomach, releasing organic peppermint & parsley oils & turning your dog's bad breath from foul to fresh—all from within! Expect results after approximately 7 days of consecutive use.

Whether you're looking to cure a bad case of puppy breath, or eliminate your old pup's stinky dog breath—*Woofmints* dog breath fresheners are a perfect remedy.

What are Woofmints?

Woofmints are super effective breath fresheners for your pooch.

How do they work?

The oils in the gel caps dissolve in your dog's stomach and mouth providing freshness from within.

How do I give them to my dog?

You can hide the gel cap in their food or their favorite treat. If your dog is smaller than 25 lbs, give your dog 1 gel cap in the morning and 1 at night. If your dog is larger than 25 lbs, you can give them 2 gel caps in the morning and 2 at night.

Are they natural?

Yes! They are all natural, vegan and gluten free.

What are the ingredients?

Check out our ingredients page at woofmints.com

Where are they manufactured?

Proudly 100% made in the USA.

How do I know Woofmints are safe for my dog?

The prestigious New York Animal Medical Centre ran tests on *Woofmints* and deemed the

(Continued next page.)

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Highlander Animals

product "Completely safe for dogs".

Are Woofmints recommended by Vets?

Yes! We have a long list of Vets that recommend *Woofmints* to their pooch patients to freshen their breath.

Where can I get Woofmints?

Right online at woofmints.com, or even Amazon.

What if my dog won't take them?

Try hiding the gel cap in a treat like cheese or peanut butter and feeding that to your dog by hand. If you still can't feed the gel caps to your dog, let us know contact@woofmints.com

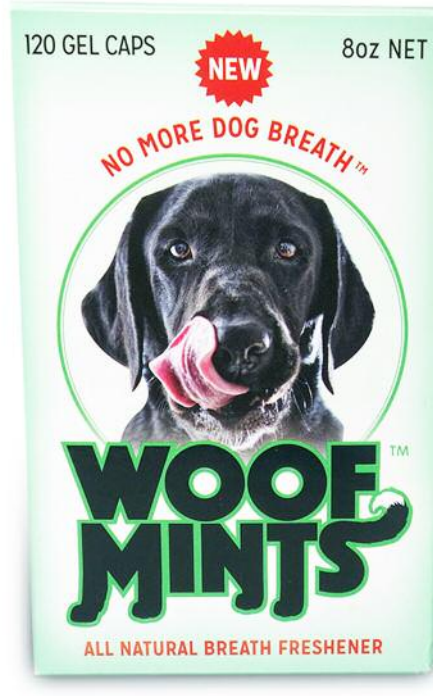
Are Woofmints good for my dog's teeth?

Whilst they won't improve the health of their teeth (*good oral hygiene is necessary for healthy teeth*) *Woofmints* will not affect their teeth in any way.

What if I miss a morning or evening giving my dog Woofmints?

No problem! Just give them the gel cap/s at their next meal. No need to double the dose to make up for the skipped session.

Editor's Note: Over the years and having had several dogs, I had mixed results with dental cleaning at the Vet's office. Besides being expensive, usually the need for a dental also means extractions and/or serious ramifications



for the dog's health. Starting your dog as a puppy for brushing their teeth regularly is the only solution, same as with people. Be patient, use dog tooth brushes and paste and get into a routine so they see it as positive attention. It can prevent needing as many expensive dental cleanings.



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Unwelcome In The Not So Wild Wild West

By Marie Atkinson

For folks who have recently moved into a foothills community or have children becoming teenagers: that age when by definition they aren't fit for society and break rules or laws, here are a few examples of why it isn't the Wild West of yesteryear; **it is illegal to ride dirt bikes on our dirt roads**, or use the single track hiking trails for your motocross track. There are several young individuals who have decided to knowingly break the law and race around on their loud, unlicensed motorcycles whenever they want. A sad part is that their parents know about the illegal behavior and condone the activity. Lying and covering up the actions of juveniles only encourages their blatant illegal behavior and can make them more dangerous when confronted by neighbors or residents that turn them in to the authorities. As the parents, don't be surprised if someday these young juvenile delinquents end up in jail – as your lack of a good example is setting them up for adult failure.

What these actions can lead to is **not only criminal charges but also the financial danger from litigation for personal injury or death**. Several horseback riders have been put into more than severe situations by these illegal dirt bikes and it is only due to the actions of the experienced riders and luck that has prevented serious injury or death. Criminal prosecution, even for a juvenile, can lead to lawsuits and impoverish the families of the dirt bike riders should the worst happen and someone get killed or injured. **Residents need to call the non-emergency county sheriff offices (Boulder, Jeffco and Gilpin) and report the dirt bikes every time you hear or see them** – the police know where they live (there are more than a couple) and they are repeat offenders. Simply give your address, what you heard or saw – any descriptions if you had time to notice so that it goes onto the record. You can remain anonymous and still report the offense; the more of us that do then the sooner the problem may stop.

The same rules apply to massive trucks: construction, trash, county snowplows, etc. on our neighborhood roads: obey the speed limit and give horseback riders ample time and space to avoid being surprised and hurt. If you see a rider having trouble, stop and kill your engine until they can get past or out of your way. This goes for pedestrians and folks walking their dogs – slow down for them and show them the simple courtesy of not scaring the canines or making the people have to run for a ditch or hillside to avoid your loud and overly large vehicles.

The lack of respect for law-abiding taxpayers and citizens to have a legal right to use public roads is seen also in the blatant hatred against bicyclists on our narrow state highways. Yes, they are a bother and yes they have a legal right to be there. The law states drivers must give them

three feet of safe room before they pass. You may not like it, but it is the law. It only takes a minute or so to make sure oncoming traffic isn't too close (even on a blind curve) so – slow down and obey the law that ensures their safety.

Not only do folks move up to the mountains thinking they are going back to the lack of rules or laws as in the Wild West, but some also have no respect for their neighbors. Those of us who have lived here for years refuse to be bullied into accepting loud noise from illegal dirt bikes on our dirt roads.

New folks who move to mountain bedroom communities that play loud music from their decks or have late parties and hoot or howl (**and even discharge firearms in highly populated bedroom communities**) with no consideration for their close neighbors are discourteous and unwelcome.

You may have moved into what you think is the Wild West, but should you act in ways that lack common courtesy to the folks living nearest to your new home, think of how you would like to be treated and then act accordingly. We all need to be responsible even living in the Wild West: don't attract bears (by preventing smelly trash), remember your voice and music (or yelling at your dogs or children) carries all the way across the gully or hillside, don't trespass – always ask permission to walk on even highly used trails, be considerate in all ways, don't use chainsaws before 8:00 AM or after 8:00 PM.

Most of us live up here for the quiet and privacy: if you don't - you're in the wrong place. **Obey the speed limit in small subdivisions (20 or 25 mph may seem too slow, until you hit someone just trying to navigate out of the many driveways along these bedroom community roads – and some are highly hidden from view)**. Most of us don't tolerate fools easily, we all sacrifice to live here: with hard work, inconveniences in winter, and a love of nature. If this is not why you are here, MOVE OUT – go back to the city or buy 35 acres somewhere so you don't have to consider your close neighbors. Many mountain folks may be quiet and mostly reserved, but don't disrespect the laws and common courtesies or you'll be sorry – in more ways than you can even count.

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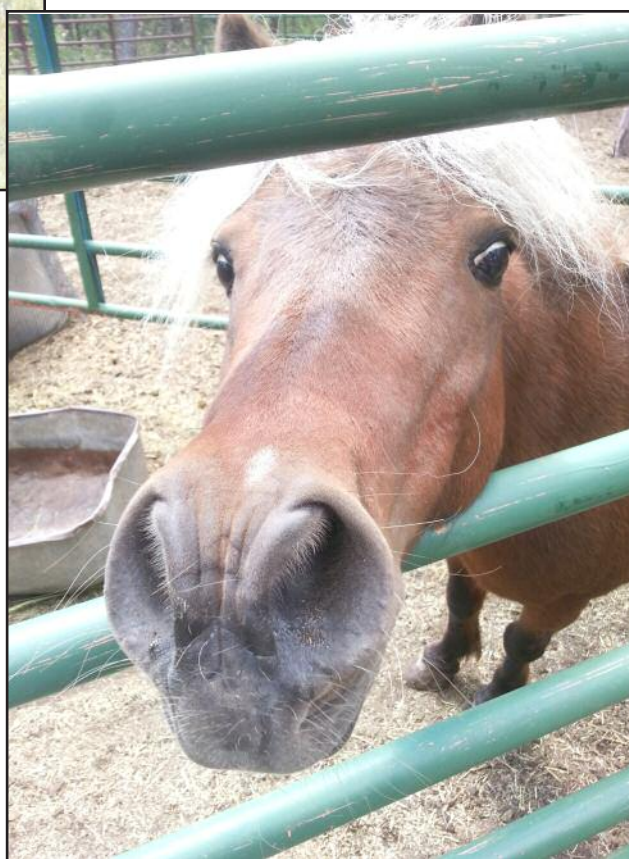
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Left: Sascha Right: Grey Squirrel prepares for winter

Bottom: Rudy's nose looks HUGE



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NEXT PAGE

Top: Three horses all in a row, sent in by Shelly Peters of Hands Hooves & Paws.

Left: Kiyomi

Right: Chanel poses with Rudy

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The Absence Of Balance

Article by Diane Bergstrom



Last year, a particular session scheduled at the Conference on World Affairs at CU Boulder caught my attention: **Political Women on the Rise**. At the naïve age of 19 (many years ago), I was made painfully aware during a Sociology class of the great absence of women representatives in our political arena. While representation has changed some over the decades, it is nowhere near balanced. Females make up 51% of our U.S. population, 40% of households with children under 18 lists the mother as the only or primary source of income, and the gender pay gap averages around 75% for women compared to men in equivalent jobs. In our national political arena: women hold 20 of the 100 U.S. Senate seats, 20%; women hold 84 of the 435 U.S. House seats, 19.3%; women hold 75 of the 312 Statewide Executive seats, 24%; and 3 of the Supreme Court Justice seats. (*Rutgers: CAWP*) After learning state-of-affairs statistics, I like to play let's-switch-that in my head just for creative visualization. What would our society look like if these stats were the other way around? On a macro playing field, what would the world look like?

According to panelist Mary Hughes, studies have shown that governments are better, corporations are better and investment firms are better when women are on the boards. She explained in regard to agendas, women offer wider points of view and prioritize issues differently. In regard to procedures, women are more open and bring different rules for implementation. In regard to content, women are more


encompassing because they account for more people's lives. In regard to a transportation bill, women considered requirements for jobs, women and childcare. In regard to outcomes on budgets and foreign bills, women got more done, faster. Hughes is a writer, political strategist and advisor, and creator of **Close the Gap CA**, a campaign to recruit progressive women to run for office in California. She emphasized, "We all want to vote for the best person, not any woman. I look for someone whose values I share. That's fundamental in who I'd recruit." She suggested the US ranks well below many other countries for electing women into the federal legislature. In 1992, we saw a big leap but it's been a long flat line ever since. She outlined a 2012 study done by the Center for American Women in Politics at Rutgers University to determine the reasons. They found that women's first obligation is to their families, accompanied with the concern that the media spotlight would jeopardize the family. Next, the enormous amounts of money needed to campaign were daunting. Finally, with the opinion that government is not able to get much done, women had the belief they could be more effective as a direct service provider or by serving on the board of a non-profit organization. Another factor depicted women degrading their usefulness and Hughes adamantly stated, "This is not the case! Many good women won't lend their talent to where we need it." She added another caveat, "Many women won't self-promote, men will. It is so much fun! It's extraordinary! We've got half the talent we could

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have on the playing field.”

Another panelist, Mary Katharine Ham, is a writer and political commentator who appears on The O’Reilly Factor, is a Fox News Channel contributor, and editor-at-large for the conservative/libertarian news site HotAir.com. She agreed with the daunting amount of media coverage, as she noted she has been out there, and unfortunately, “You hear about the crazy ones!” (Caribou Barbie who can see Russia from her porch comes to mind.) She stated the Republican Party is incentivized to recruit women and minority candidates because they take such a hit for not having women and minorities represented by their candidates or in their base. “Women are not a monolithic block. If we want true representation in government, we’ll vote for women,” she added, “I do stand on the shoulders of giants which liberated me to make different choices.” Her Virginian grandmother had charted submarines in WWII, won an election for local councilwoman, and was a feminist. *(Let me provide Webster’s definition of a feminist as being an advocate for equal rights, just so all readers are on the same page.)*

Final panelist, Elizabeth Sherman is a professor of American politics at American University, has taught courses on women, politics and public policy at several colleges and universities, and founded the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts. She stated, “Equality is something we have to practice, not just believe in. The constitution says the power of the decision-making is with the people. Our democracy is stronger when everyone is represented.” She added, “If we don’t know where we’ve come from, how do we know where we’re going?” She explained American history is often not women’s history and in the 18th century, Abigail Adams, brilliant in her own right, wrote letters to her husband reminding him to remember women whose voices needed to be heard or they won’t follow laws that do not consider them. Sherman stated prior to suffrage, women still had political power fueled by moral fervor born of devout Christianity. They were the first lobbyists who fought for better water in filthy slums where immigrants were raising children. Even though they didn’t have rights of citizenship, they organized strikes at textile mills against working conditions and child labor. She told of how Sojourner Truth listened, from the back of a room, to men state that women were too fragile to be involved in politics. She marched to the front of the room and proclaimed she had carried bales of cotton and done the work of 20. (She also had been quoted, “Now, if you want me to get out of the world, you had better get the women votin’ soon. I shan’t go till I can do that.”) Sherman told of journalist Ida

B. Wells, who was outraged by lynchings in Tennessee, and risked her life by researching and writing scathing articles about it. She wielded political power in the late 1890s that she was not given.

Hughes commented toward the end of the session that she was glad Abigail Adams isn’t here to take us to count. Several Scandinavian, European and emerging nations have gender quotas for their delegates to their nominees, she explained, “If you believe in the value that women add to the legislative body, then you want to make sure they are there. (But) quotas are antithetical to the values of the U.S.” President Obama recently wrote, in the *Talk/My Opinion* column for *Glamour*, “We need to keep changing the attitude that raises our girls to be demure and our boys to be assertive, that criticizes our daughters for speaking out and our sons for shedding a tear.... We need to keep changing the attitude that teaches men to feel threatened by the presence and success of women.” In regards to his daughters, he wrote, “It’s important for them to see role models out in the world who climb to the highest levels of whatever field they choose. And yes, it’s important that their dad is a feminist, because now that’s what they expect of all men.... This fall we enter a historic election. Two hundred and forty years after our nation’s founding, and almost a century after women finally won the right to vote, for the first time ever, a woman is a major political party’s presidential nominee. No matter your political views, this is a historic moment for America.” He desires that, “America is a place where every single child can make out of her life what she will. That’s what twenty-first century feminism is about: the idea that when everybody is equal, we are all more free.”

Vote this election. I personally hope to hear a final definitive shatter of the highest, thickest glass ceiling in my country.

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Hunting For A Rare Species

By Pepper Trail

We don't look like ghost hunters. We're not dressed in ectoplasm-resistant overalls. We're out in broad daylight and look pretty normal, not like those glowing-eyed TV guys who are always whispering into night-vision cameras. We're a typical group of Oregonians gathered at a trailhead, men and women, old and young, with a couple of young kids racing around waving butterfly nets.

The ghost that we're chasing is - we hope - not a ghost at all. It's a bee. To be specific, it is Franklin's bumblebee, *Bombus franklini*, the rarest bumblebee in the world. Always restricted to a tiny range in southern Oregon and northernmost California, the species has seemingly disappeared. Despite many searches, no one has seen a Franklin's bumblebee since 2006, and experts fear that it is now extinct - a ghost.

The search for ghosts - animals and plants that are so rare that they are thought to be extinct - is sadly becoming a common activity for conservation biologists. The most famous search is the decades-long pursuit of the ivory-billed woodpecker. That magnificent bird, a symbol of the primeval forests that once covered Eastern North America, retreated as the forest fell before the axes and torches of the early settlers.

The last undisputed sighting of the species in the United States was in the late 1930s, but tantalizing reports have continued to trickle in, most famously in 2004, when a blurry and much-disputed video was made in the Big Woods of Arkansas. Intensive surveys of the remote swamp were undertaken, only to be abandoned five years later with no further sighting. But still, every year or two comes word of an ivory-bill sighting in some new location. As Emily Dickinson said, hope is the thing with feathers.

Our hunt for Franklin's bumblebee didn't require travel into the depths of the wilderness. We just organized a carpool from the town of Ashland up into the nearby Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument on a beautiful sunny day. Once there, we crowded around Robbin Thorp to get our instructions and last-minute pointers. He's the University of California expert who was the last person to see a living Franklin's bumblebee, just a few miles from our meeting-place.

Dr. Thorp believes that the disappearance of Franklin's bumblebee populations since 1998 is due to diseases spreading from commercial colonies of bumblebees. Bumblebees are important pollinators of greenhouse crops, especially tomatoes and sweet peppers, but studies show they suffer from higher rates of disease than colonies of wild bees. If they escape greenhouses, which they do occasionally, they can transmit those diseases to wild bees.

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- butter-yellow monkey flowers, dark pink checkerbloom, purple coyote mint - and we spent the next several hours netting and releasing yellow-faced bumblebees, yellow-headed bumblebees, two-form bumblebees, fuzzy-horned bumblebees, and indiscriminate cuckoo bumblebees. But no Franklin's bumblebees.

The known range of Franklin's bumblebee covered an area only about 190 miles north to south and 70 miles east to west. It may be that the species simply did not have a large enough population to allow resistance to a new threat to evolve, a situation that, unfortunately, is well documented in both human and animal populations. The western bumblebee, a formerly abundant species with a range covering most of the western United States and Canada, is far more likely to be able to evolve resistance. In fact, two individuals were recorded on Mount Ashland during this year's surveys, a hopeful sign for that species' recovery.

But I haven't given up on the Franklin's. Its small range is mostly in the Siskiyou Mountains, where there are plenty of little valleys far from roads that have never been surveyed. If you're out hiking the area someday, and spot a distant figure with a white butterfly net stalking slowly through a field of flowers, well, that might be me. Still hunting for our local ghost, still hopeful, always.

Pepper Trail is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org).

He is a writer and naturalist in Oregon. Photo this page of a Franklin's bumblebee, courtesy of Pepper Trail.

In addition to Franklin's bumblebee, its close relative, the western bumblebee, has also experienced catastrophic declines across the West since the late 1990s. Other wild bumblebee species seem to be doing fine, so the decline of the Franklin's and western bumblebees can't be blamed on general factors like habitat loss or wildflower decline.

With this sobering tutorial, we set out on the hunt, bumblebee identification sheets in hand. My team headed south on the Pacific Crest Trail toward a spring where I expected an abundant display of wildflowers, and thus plenty of bumblebees. The flowers were there in abundance

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Improved Trail System Near Nederland

U.S. Forest Service

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests

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Boulder Ranger District

Contact: Reid Armstrong, 970-222-7607

Forest Service releases draft decision on improved trail system near Nederland

BOULDER, Colo. (Aug. 25, 2016) — The U.S. Forest Service has released its final environmental assessment and a draft decision for the Magnolia Non-Motorized Trails Project.

The draft decision would approve a 44-mile, non-motorized trail system across about 6,000 acres in Boulder and Gilpin counties in an area along the Peak to Peak Highway known as East Magnolia and West Magnolia. Currently there are only 16 miles of existing National Forest system trails in the area and about 46 miles of non-system or “user-created” trails.

“At the start of this project, we inventoried the trails in

the area and discovered that there were all these user-created routes out there in addition to our system trails. Basically, on a map it looks like a spaghetti-bowl of unsustainable trails,” said Recreation Manager Matt Henry with the Boulder Ranger District.

“The goal is to turn that spaghetti bowl into a sustainable, non-motorized trail system that provides a better user experience that’s more in tune with what users are seeking,” Henry said. “We are hoping to do that by improving trail location, alignment and connectivity in a way that also minimizes the impacts to wildlife habitat.” The project includes building new trail, adding some user-created trails to the system and obliterating all other user-created routes. A total of 29 miles of user-created routes will be obliterated following this decision. Any additional user-created routes found during project implementation will be obliterated as well.

New signage to help keep visitors on the system trails; improved trailheads, including bathrooms and expanded parking at West Magnolia and Front Range trailheads; and facilities for horse trailers at West Magnolia Trailhead are also components of the draft decision.

The draft decision eliminates snowmobiles in the project area and restricts bikes and horses to designated trails. It also provides an opportunity for a special use permittee to groom non-motorized trails in winter for Nordic skiing and fat tire biking – a sport that has seen a remarkable increase in popularity since this project was initially proposed in 2012.

One key component of this draft decision is that it includes an adaptive management approach, which allows the U.S. Forest Service to make adjustments in the implementation of this project as needed.

“Our goal is to enhance the recreation experience for non-motorized users, which includes those on horseback, bicycle and foot,” Henry said. “As we go through the process of implementation, which could take 5 to 10 years, we might discover that there are better ideas for where to



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locate a trail or how to manage traffic flow. The adaptive management component of this decision will allow us to make those adjustments.”

The project will be implemented in phases by working with partners on both fundraising and implementation, starting on the West Magnolia side of the Peak to Peak Highway as outlined in the decision. Work on the Magnolia trails project where it overlaps with the proposed Forsythe II forest health project will be postponed until analysis is complete and the decision on that project is finalized. The draft decision also facilitates access from the trail system to the community of Nederland through connecting trails that don't currently exist, allowing trail users to easily visit a restaurant downtown.

Other regional trail connections outlined in the draft decision include connecting the Magnolia Trail System to the Toll Conservation Easement Trail to Jenny Creek Trail, which would allow non-motorized connection all the way to the Continental Divide on trails; and providing connectivity to Boulder County Open Space's Reynolds Ranch as that trail system develops over time.

"I'm really excited about this project," said Boulder District Ranger Sylvia Clark. "It's located in an area that can really benefit from an improved trail system. The demand for this type of recreation will continue to grow,

and through this decision we are hoping to provide a better experience for the visitor while also being better stewards of the land we manage.”

More than 300 people participated in the comment process, submitting upwards of 1,300 comments about the project. "The level of participation from the public was outstanding," Clark said. "We always know that when we do a project on the Boulder Ranger District, we are going to get a lot of interest from our partners and neighbors. To see this level of feedback on a project proposal, gives me great hope that the end result will be something we can all be proud of.”

Those who previously provided written comments on the project now have until midnight on Oct. 11 to review the documents and submit written objections. The complete draft decision, final environmental analysis and information about the objection process are available online at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/MagnoliaTrails.

Editor's Note: This is a very exciting project for all but the motorcycles and ATV's that use to dominate these areas. I personally can hardly wait to see what a connection from the trails to the town will look like. Riding or hiking into Nederland for a cool beverage or burger sounds devine.



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The West's Oldest Climate Correspondent

By Bryce Gray

Anna Mae Wright checks the weather each day, then records data like temperature, precipitation and snow depth. On Aug. 19, the high temperature was 92 degrees Fahrenheit and the low was 57, with no precipitation.
Jay Hemphill

Anna Mae Wright

Age: 89

Hometown: Redrock, New Mexico

Vocation: Housewife, farmer, volunteer weather monitor for the National Weather Service

Most recent recognition for weather observations: In November 2012, she received the National Weather Service's Ruby Stuft Award, which is "presented to any observer attaining 70 years of service."



In many households, 6 p.m. means dinnertime. But for 89-year-old Anna Mae Wright and her family, that hour marks another daily routine, stretching back more than seven decades: "Weather-reading time."

Since the late 1940s, each evening Wright has faithfully documented the temperature, precipitation and other meteorological data outside her home near Redrock in southwestern New Mexico, using equipment installed by the National Weather Service. Over the years, the recording process has become a staple of daily life, fit in alongside tending the garden's tomato plants, crocheting and knitting, and sending her four kids to school — at first in Redrock, a tiny, unincorporated outpost on a remote stretch of the Gila River, and later, 30 miles away in Lordsburg, after the local school closed due to low enrollment.

Wright began the ritual with her husband, Ralph, recording the 24-hour highs and lows and other readings on their 320-acre farm and mailing monthly reports to the National Weather Service. Since Ralph's death in 1997, she has carried on the tradition mostly alone, sometimes helped by her 60-year-old son, Bill Wright. She now ranks as the West's longest-serving member of the Weather Service's Cooperative Observer Program, a network of more than 9,000 volunteers nationwide.

"The rural folks, they're the most interested," says Frank Kielnecker, a Weather Service employee in the regional office that Wright reports to. "I've never had to call her and say, 'What's the deal? You're not reporting on time.'"



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Although she has accumulated many awards honoring her decades of public service, Wright says she does not spend much time reflecting on her achievements. “I feel proud,” she says. “It gives me a sense of self-worth, I guess.” Her son takes pride in her dedication but sees it as entirely natural, since farmers and ranchers like them “tend to be interested in the weather anyway.”

Though their work remains largely anonymous, the cooperative observers are providing crucial information about global climate change. The crowd-sourced approach allows for precise data to be gathered from far-flung corners of the West, such as Redrock, and — in cases like Wright’s — provides a continuous record for which there’s no substitute.

“It’s a long-term climate record at some very remote locations,” says Kielnecker, making it especially valuable to researchers who typically consider even 30 years a suitable window to examine climate trends. The records collected by volunteers make a difference on a local level as well, forming the most comprehensive daily source of temperature and precipitation readings. Short-term forecasts and even warnings for severe weather are often based on observer data, which are uploaded to the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina, each month, and entered into a massive database that’s available to the public.

Wright’s routine has rarely varied over the years, although she no longer sends in written monthly reports. In 2006, she started submitting information by computer, after the Weather Service outfitted her with the appropriate equipment.

While her rhythm has remained constant, regional data show that the climate itself seems to be shifting on her watch. Average annual temperatures in the Weather Service’s Southern Desert Climate District of New Mexico reflect a steady climb, with the five warmest years all occurring since 2000 — including the sweltering years of 2014 and 2015. Yearly averages over the last 15 years have regularly been higher than those observed from 1901 to 2000, often by at least two degrees.

Unfortunately, weather observers like Wright are becoming increasingly rare, says Kielnecker, as rural communities lose population and fewer people maintain a lasting attachment to the land. “People don’t stick around anymore in a rural place as long as

Ms. Wright has,” Kielnecker says, noting that participation in the Cooperative Observer program has tapered off in southern New Mexico.

But the steady stream of data from Redrock shows no signs of slowing down. Wright is still making meticulous notes about everything she observes from her ranch house — rain, snow, sleet, lightning, hail. Her son, Bill, has taken over the family farm and says he’ll also take over weather-recording duties whenever her career draws to a close. That could be a while, yet. “I think I’ll stay with it as long as they want me to, as long as I’m able to,” says Wright. “I like it.”

Former HCN intern Bryce Gray covers energy and the environment at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in Missouri.

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This is big news, and we are excited to share these achievements with you—all to better protect our beloved buffalo. First our logo. This new design took some time to get right. It is the first-ever official logo of BFC, and as such represents the iconic and majestic buffalo on his home turf. It also portrays the wild grass (grassroots!) and mountains that free-roaming buffalo need to thrive. The surrounding sun is our tribute to the Native Peoples and their relationship with this animal and bioregion; it also represents hope, and the potential of a brighter tomorrow for this imperiled species. We hope you are as proud of this as we are!

This single, long-lasting graphic now represents our mission and vision—with all of our core elements included. You will notice our logo at the new website, on new BFC gear in our new online eStore. We have so much “new” to share with you! Now about that new website!



You undoubtedly know that information is a powerful force for buffalo protection. That is why we created a new, technologically improved website.

Our website is among our most effective methods for educating, empowering, and engaging the public. All of the content has been revised and updated, and if you're familiar with the old site you know that was quite a task! Despite the depth of the challenge, your BFC team pulled together and made this happen...for the last wild buffalo.

We ask you to please explore the new site. Browse the new store. Share this exciting new conservation tool with your family and friends, and spread the word to save the herds!

“Must” we ever “Cull?” The current “clear cut” style of removing bison from the Gardiner area poses a grave risk to the genetic integrity of the entire Yellowstone bison herd for a number of reasons. Perhaps the most tragic part is that

the northern herd subpopulation was nearly wiped out in 1996/97.

The current herd probably consists of remnant individuals and migrants from other adjacent Yellowstone subpopulations. Removal of a large number of individuals from only one subpopulation within a single region poses the risk of permanent loss of entire lineages—a potentially irreplaceable loss to the species.


If population control were ever truly necessary (which we, for the record: doubt severely), then a scattered, random removal of individuals would probably be more conducive to maintaining genetic diversity. However, the carrying capacity for bison in the Greater Yellowstone

ecosystem has not been accurately established.

“Ideal Numbers” - and How We Get There

Therefore, the current population cap of 3,000 is an arbitrary human-generated number: it is not based on science, and is not representative of what the ecosystem can actually support. If the efficiency of bison grazing patterns and their remarkable ability to extract the most nutrition from the lowest quality forage is considered in conjunction with potential availability of public lands, this number should be much higher.

Because wild buffalo naturally travel in small herds (think family subgroup), the cumulative effects of yearly removals of entire large groups of bison within an isolated population result in a steady erosion of genetic integrity within this herd. This is a national tragedy and will ultimately result in the demise of this magnificent national treasure! Our website has ACTION STEPS you can take.



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Bottled Lightning: Skin Your Knees On Eternity

By Frosty Wooldridge

At the beginning of my presentations on *How to Live a Life of Adventure* at high schools, colleges, civic clubs and church groups, my first words exclaim, "I live a spectacular life!"

After the audience digests such brash words, I invite each person to repeat for himself or herself, "I live a spectacular life!"

They repeat the words, but with unease, consternation and even trepidation. It's a bit difficult to make a bold statement on how you live your life. You might be living a dull life, average existence and even, a difficult life. You may face challenges that seem to consume, daunt and defeat you.

So, how do you bottle your internal lightning energy? How do you go out into life to skin your knees in the face of eternity?

First, your 80 years on this planet constitute your personal eternity. That means you choose what happens, how it happens and for how long. You choose to learn as much as you can during your schooling. You choose to care for your body-temple by your actions or inactions. You choose to eat, drink and nourish your being with healthy foods and fellowship of friends. You choose to fill your spirit with your own options of connection to the natural world.

Second, harness your youthful exuberance not only in your teen years, but choose to maintain your energies throughout your entire life. It's been said, "Life deals you high and low cards, but you play with the hand you're dealt." You can bluff your way through or you can play it straight. Either way, you win or lose on your chosen merits, talents, skills, education and actions.

Third, choose your words and thoughts wisely. Choose your friends with care. Hang with others that carry their own "bottled lightning." For starters, what defines bottled lightning?



Think of the energy that explodes through your body when you work on a project that you love. It may be working on your car, creating a bookshelf in a woodcraft class, writing a poem or volunteering at a homeless shelter. It might encompass a math class, *(Continued next page.)*

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sports of all kinds, dancing or yoga. It may be a novel or a Shakespearean play.

Include its concepts into your inner passions, drive and creative living. You may choose that “bottled lightning” drive throughout your life. Once you feel it, you know it. Once you know it, you own it. From that point onward, apply it to your work, play and quiet times.

For example: this past spring, I carried my passion for long distance bicycle travel along the West Coast of America. I pedaled nearly 2,000 miles from Canada to Mexico. Each day, I pedaled up hills and coasted down hills. I traveled through sunshine and rainstorms. I pushed into headwinds and enjoyed tailwinds. I witnessed stunning sunrises and sunsets. I met fantastic people and several “otherwise” people. Each day, I expected great moments.

At one point on the Big Sur south of San Francisco, known for its incredibly rugged mountainous cliffs that tower over the crashing surf—I stopped at a vista point overlooking a lagoon 150 feet below me. Another traveler

yelled out, “They’re spouting!” I looked down to see a 30-ton Grey whale surface for air. For an added treat, a calf spouted right alongside its mother. I snapped several pictures as they played between the seaweed and waves rolling in from the wide Pacific Ocean.

I muttered to myself, “Spectacular!” Indeed, at that moment, I lived a spectacular life because I took a chance. I pedaled my bike down the West Coast. I opened myself up to the energies of the universe. Do you think it’s easy to pedal a bike across a continent? Is it a cakewalk to ride in a rainstorm? Answer: a cyclist faces every kind of challenge you can imagine, just like your own life.

In the same high vibrational frequencies, you enjoy the same possibilities in your spectacular life. It might be travel or raising a child. It might be your Zumba Dance Class or playing the piano. Discover your “bottled lightning” in your pursuit of happiness.

**Now, repeat after me with certitude,
enthusiasm and genuine confidence,
“I live a spectacular life!”**

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

In 2005, he bicycled from the Arctic Circle, Norway to Athens, Greece.

In 2012, he bicycled coast to coast across America.

His latest book is:

How to Live a Life of Adventure: The Art of Exploring the World by Frosty Wooldridge, copies at 1 888 280 7715

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Battle Over Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Dear EarthTalk: What's the latest in the battle over whether or not to permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)? The issue seems to come up every few years around election season but I haven't heard anything about it lately. — Gerald LaPlante, Boston, MA

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), located on Alaska's northeast coast, has been a conservation-versus-development battleground for decades. The 1.5 million acre coastal plain at the foot of the Brooks Range where the land meets the Arctic Ocean is the crown jewel of the 19 million acre refuge—and a magnet for iconic Alaskan wildlife like caribou, polar bears and wolverines. But oil interests say the coastal plain is covering huge oil and natural gas reserves and should be drilled for the sake of the U.S. and Alaskan economies.

Some 250 wildlife species consider ANWR home, while another 180 species of birds migrate through every year (from all 50 states and beyond). The coastal plain itself is a birthing ground for the region's iconic caribou herd and also provides safe haven and sustenance for hundreds of other marine and terrestrial species. Environmental advocacy groups cite studies showing that industrial operations would deter animals from the area, robbing them of one of the last protected areas to raise their young.

Beyond biological pragmatism, conservationists argue that opening the refuge up to drilling operations would set a dangerous precedent, potentially opening the door for similar pressures on federal wilderness areas and even in national parks. Some of the key defenders of ANWR include the Alaska Wilderness League, Defenders of Wildlife, EarthJustice and others.

The other side champions the economic potential of the region. Alaska Governor Bill Walker has strongly supported drilling operations in ANWR, a stance shared by Alaska's federal representatives. A 2007 Yale study showed the potential for \$374 billion dollars of oil beneath ANWR. This would be vital income for the state government, which relies heavily on oil and gas tax streams for its budget.

Alaska politicians say they need the extra revenue to pay to relocate climate refugees from villages inundated by rising seas. "We are in a significant fiscal challenge," Alaska's Republican governor Bill Walker told the BBC. "We have villages that are washing away because of changes in the climate."

Nationally, supporters of drilling also cite economics: Every barrel of oil produced domestically puts tax money in the national coffers and creates local jobs. Shell has been the major commercial supporter of opening the refuge, though 78 percent of Alaskans share the sentiment. The state legislature has passed legislation opening ANWR to oil exploration—but it's not theirs to decide since it's on federal land.

But that doesn't mean ANWR is safe from development. Inside the Washington DC beltway, the Republican-dominated House passed a dozen resolutions in support of opening it up to oil exploration in the last session alone—although Democratic filibuster efforts were able to block any such legislation. Meanwhile, Senate Democrats Michael Bennet (CO), Ed Markey (MA) and 32 Democratic co-sponsors introduced legislation last December calling for permanently designating the most sensitive sections of ANWR as wilderness off limits to development. With bigger fish to fry right now, lawmakers might not consider the legislation until a new President is in office, **but backers of protecting ANWR can urge their Senators to support the bill via an easy-to-send customizable online form letter courtesy of the non-profit EarthJustice.**

ANWR, www.fws.gov/refuge/arctic; Alaska Wilderness League, www.alaskawild.org; Defenders of Wildlife, www.defenders.org; EarthJustice, www.earthjustice.org.

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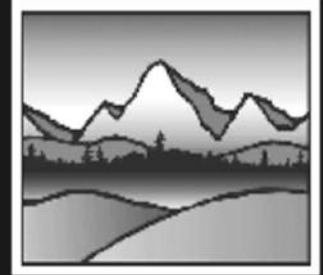
Dance floor professionally installed by Anderson Carpet & Flooring (a locally owned business)

Democrats Michael Bennet and Ed Markey introduced legislation last December calling for permanently designating the most sensitive sections of ANWR as wilderness off limits to development.

Photo Credit: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



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POWER UPDATE

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United Power Celebrates National Cooperative Month in October

Being a part of a cooperative means being a part of something special. Every year United Power celebrates National Co-op Month in October, and we use it as an opportunity to talk about what makes a cooperative different. The 2016 theme is "Cooperatives Build" – inviting us to showcase the specific way that co-ops build trust, community, jobs, a better world, and so much more.

Co-ops were developed to fill a need not addressed by other kinds of businesses. In the 1930s nearly ninety percent of urban dwellers had electricity, while only ten percent of rural dwellers did. Why the difference? Private utility companies were not willing to bring electricity to rural areas as they deemed it was too expensive to string electric line to isolated rural farmlands. And so, the electric cooperative was born.

A cooperative exists to serve its members, but what makes co-ops unique is that the members are also the owners. In addition to getting the product and services needed, members also get a say in the business decisions that the cooperative makes. Without members, there would be no cooperative. For more information, visit www.unitedpower.com.



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Monsterville Halloween Trick-or-Treating for Everyone

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214 Chute Road
Custom Log Home
4 BD/ 4 BA 3,582 sq.ft. **\$584,000**



201 Olde Carter Lake Road
Immaculate, Inviting, Tasteful & Tranquil
2 BD/ 3 BA 1,977 sq ft **\$425,000**



219 Katie Lane
Home, Barn, 2 Workshops and More
3 BD/ 1 BA 1,228 sq ft **\$349,900**



NEW PRICE!
12023 Coal Creek Heights Drive
Immaculately Maintained Executive Home
4 BD/ 4 BA 4,644 sq.ft. **\$599,000**



694 Lost Angel
Solar Home on 9+ Acres
1 BD/ 1 BA 714 sq.ft. **\$289,000**



NEW LISTING!
11760 Spruce Canyon Circle
Privacy & Seclusion on 9.25 Acres
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,585 sq.ft. **\$449,000**



NEW LISTING!
31779 Hilltop Road
Fully Fenced Foothills Paradise
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,518 sq.ft. **\$424,000**



Under Contract!
10271 Dowdle Drive
Sweet Get-Away Property
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,196 sq. ft. **\$263,000**



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



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



Under Contract!
33359 Lyttle Dowdle Drive
Beautiful Home in the Mountains
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,909 sq ft **\$509,000**



SOLD!
1295 Hwy 72
Character Filled Vintage Cabin
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,445 sq.ft. **\$198,700**



NEW LISTING!
Under Contract!
11577 Coal Creek Heights Drive
Architecturally Stunning Home!
4 BD/ 4 BA 3,322 sq.ft. **\$545,000**



NEW LISTING!
Under Contract!
967 Copperdale Lane
Quaint Mountain Home
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,655 sq.ft. **\$279,000**



Under Contract!
205 Wonder Trail
VIEWS, Freshly Updated!
1 BD/ 1 BA on .8 Acre **\$229,500**



NEW LISTING!
Under Contract!
3174 Coal Creek Canyon Drive
Cozy Home next to South Boulder Creek
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,770 sq.ft. **\$189,000**



SOLD!
31972 Warrens Road
Your Little Oasis Awaits
2 BD/ 2 BA on 1.92 Acres **\$324,000**



SOLD!
398 Crescent Lake Road
Stunning Custom Home
3 BD/ 3 BA 3,366 sq.ft. **\$588,000**



Under Contract!
10777 Ralston Creek Road
Blissful, private & peaceful
2 BD/ 1 BA 35+ Acres **\$389,000**



SOLD!
765 Indian Peak Road
Gorgeous Stone Crafted Mtn Home
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,763 sq.ft. **\$650,000**



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CRS, ABR, GRI
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Broker Associate
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