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CONTENTS

	Pages
Animals - Cats can be courageous too!	5
Issues - Gross Dam EIS	6, 7
TEG Responds to FEIS	8, 9
Wildlife - Buffalo Field Campaign	14, 15
Recreation- Destination: Rocky Mtn Nat'l Park	12,13,14,15,16
Issues - Water Forum in Boulder	17
Animals - Rattlesnake Vaccine	20, 21
Wilderness - Partnership seeks to end turf wars	22, 23
Conservation - What the President can do now!	24, 25
Politics - Legislative Session Highlights	27
Letters - CCCIA Annual Meeting - Slash Days	28, 29
Environmental - New Era of clean air Regs	30, 31
Antarctic Ice Melt	32, 33

REGULAR FEATURES

Animals & Their Companions	18, 19
Book Review	26
Ad Index & Telephone #'s	34

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Cats Can Be Courageous Too!

It is hard to imagine anyone not having seen the video last month of the cat that came to the rescue of his toddler being attacked by a dog. The story is that the two had been best buddies since the child came home from the hospital, sometimes even sleeping in his crib. No wonder the cat was so protective, that was his playmate.

While this heroic feline act came as a surprise to most, it was a wonderful reminder to us cat lovers that even though dogs are considered to be man's best friend, cats can be just as loyal and brave. They are most certainly harder to train, often act distant and aloof, but once you've got a cat to love you - well, it is for life.

I've been a feline lover all my life. If you're a Highlander reader you'll know this from my many wildcat covers, photos and housecat pictures on the Animals and their Companions pages. I have been had by at least one cat all my life since I left home at the age of eighteen when a Sealpoint Siamese named Sasha allowed me into her heart.

Mostly I have limited my cat habit to one at a time, but on the rare occasion - as in childhood - I get rescued by an orphan or lost feline needing a soft place to fall until I can find them a good home. It is this reference to them rescuing us humans that differentiates them from the canines in our lives.

My current feline companion (Lil' Bit) drew me into her sphere at the Angels With Paws Cat Rescue in Lakewood (Youngfield exit off I-70) during my quest to relieve the grief I felt at the passing of my darling Bengal named

Chela who left this world all too soon.

Lil' Bit seemed all loving and playful in the viewing room while I tried to assess if she and I were a good fit, but once she arrived home everything changed. But only for about three months. It turns out she is quite a drama queen and overreacts to just about everything.

Whatever had happened in her first home (she was two years old when I got her from the cat rescue) must have been traumatic because she hid upstairs and could not be coaxed into any interaction. Time went by and finally she began to trust little by little and now year's later acts like Velcro with me being the other side. She has become a great little companion, somewhat overly verbal and a killer mouser.

Don't get me wrong, I love dogs but I think cats get a bad rap and this recent turn of events where the world sees proof of their specialness is a great thing. Too many cats spend way too much time needing to be rescued when they could easily be providing love and companionship to millions of people.

There are ways to keep a litter box outside without putting your cat in harm's way (I've always had a cat run for mine) and even the felines prefer the smelly stuff out of where they live. So don't let misconceptions, litter box bother or anything else stand in your way of letting a little fur ball into your heart. If you've got a bit of love and financial resources (for the necessities of any pet) go out and find your true love today. You won't be sorry, as with patience and love you'll have a friend for their life.

(Cover Cat this page.)

By A.M. Wilks



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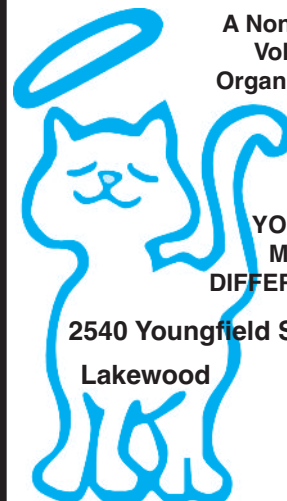
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Gross Dam EIS

By Jeff Thompson

Cowardly Betrayal of Our Country and Its People

On April 25, the Army Corps of Engineers released what it called a Final Environmental Impact Statement, or FEIS, for the Moffat Collection System project. The Moffat Collection System Project would tear down Gross Dam and rebuild it 131 feet higher to increase the water storage capacity in Gross Reservoir by 77,000 acre feet, from 41,811 acre feet to 118,811 acre feet. The water stored in the reservoir would come from the Frazer and Williams Fork river basins on the West Slope.

The FEIS claims the purpose of the project is “to develop 18,000 AF per year of new, annual firm yield to the Moffat Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and raw water customers upstream of the Moffat WTP pursuant to Denver Waters’ commitment to its customers. Denver Water’s need for the proposed Moffat Project is to address two major issues: (1) the overall near-term water supply shortage, and (2) the imbalance in water storage and supply between the North and South systems.”

The Corps has a little problem here. While this FEIS was being prepared, Denver Water’s lawyers were in what is known as the Colorado Water Court, Division 5, seeking

the court’s finding of due diligence in fully utilizing its water rights in the Frazer and Williams Fork basins. The documents filed by Denver Water’s lawyers to support the findings of due diligence directly and completely contradict the FEIS’s statements about the purpose and need for the project.

Actually, Denver Water’s lawyers have a little problem here too. The documents they filed in court to support the findings of due diligence are on the public record in Case No. 07CW29 and Case No. 07CW31. The documents show that Denver Water plans to store huge amounts of water from the Frazer and Williams Fork basins in Cheesman, Eleven Mile Canyon, Marston, Empire and Antero reservoirs, all in what Denver Water calls its “South System.”

The court documents show that Gross Reservoir serves as a key link in transferring water from those river basins to reservoirs in the “South System.” The transfer is accomplished by a statutory mechanism known as an “exchange agreement.” Once the water is in the “South System,” it can be treated and delivered to customers anywhere in Denver Water’s system.

The court documents make it clear that full utilization of Denver Water’s water rights in the Frazer and William Fork basins, through the expanded capacity of Gross Reservoir, will have many times more impact on these river systems than the FEIS discloses. These documents prove that the FEIS is a complete fabrication intended to mislead the public and other federal agencies as to the environmental consequences of the Moffat Project.

The court documents also indicate that Denver Water has been in charge of the Environmental Impact Statement and Clean Water Act permitting processes from beginning to end. The Corps’ role in this has been that of the passive observer.

Anybody can take a quick look at that stupidly written thing the Corps calls an Environmental Impact Statement and see that the worthless bureaucrats didn’t even read it before they released it. Denver Water will essentially be



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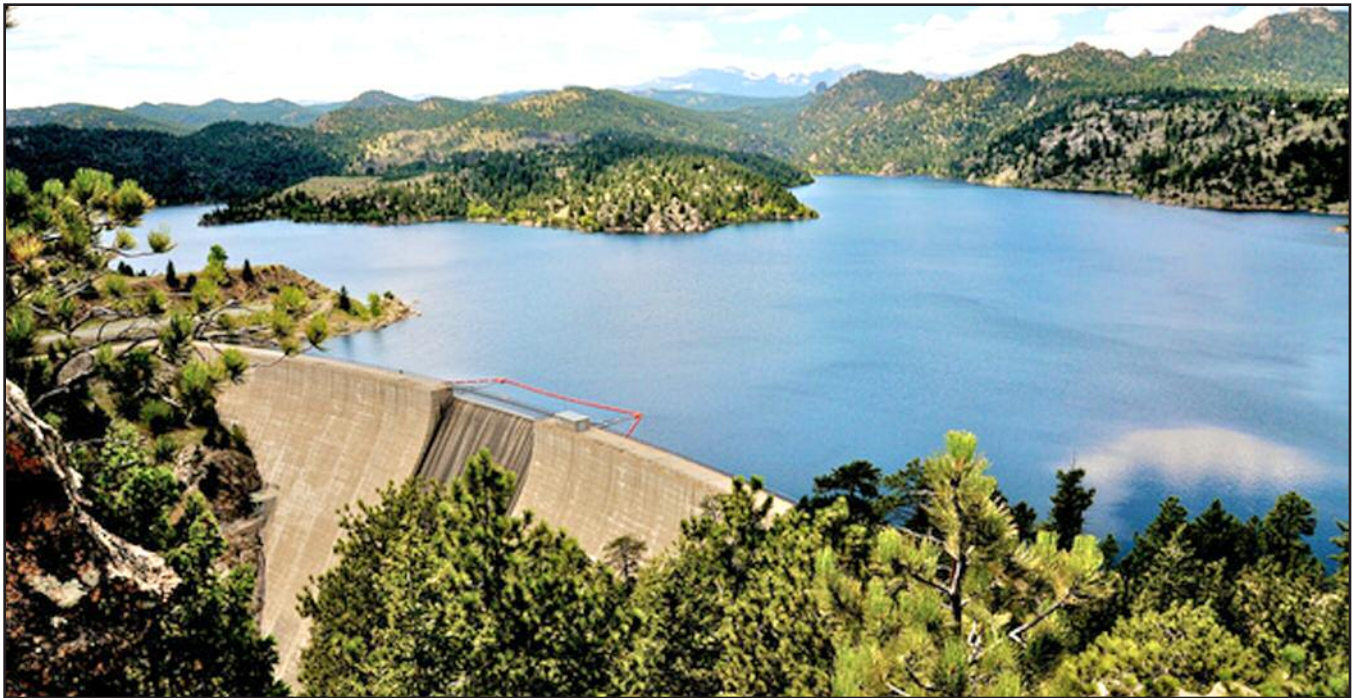

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permitting itself under the Clean Water Act while the Army Corps stands passively by. That's why this so-called Final Environmental Impact Statement is such a joke. The Corps just stood aside and let Denver Water write it for them.

What isn't a joke, though, is this: The people of this country organized themselves under a Constitution that gives them the power to make laws through a Congress they elect. In the 1970's, the people, through Congress, passed two wonderful and inspiring Acts to restore and protect our rivers for future generations, the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

In a cowardly betrayal of the people and our constitution, the Army Corps of Engineers ceded the power to make the laws that govern our country with respect to the restoration and protection of our rivers to the likes of Denver Water, which promptly repealed those laws and made their own.

Jeff Thompson moved to Colorado in 1974 after finishing law school. He loves this land called Colorado and hates watching Governor Hickenlooper sell our future to the highest bidding rapacious real estate developers he can find under the guise of formulating a Colorado Water Plan.

(Photo above courtesy of **Michael Bandow**.
Check out his website for other wonderful photos!
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TEG Responds To FEIS

By Chris Garre – President TEG

Be a part of the conversation and let your voice be heard at tegcolorado.org

On Friday, April 25, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made available online the much-awaited Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Denver Water's Moffat Collection System Project (enlargement of Gross Dam/Reservoir). The Moffat Project proposes to drain even more water from the headwaters of the already endangered Colorado River, including the Fraser River, and divert that water through a tunnel under the Continental Divide from Grand County to the Denver area. The siphoned flows would flood unique natural areas of rural Boulder County in a greatly enlarged Gross Dam and Reservoir before being piped to the sprawling lawns and suburbs in Denver Water's service area.

The FEIS is the latest, and likely the public's best,

opportunity to understand the costs and impacts of this massive scheme and to make their voices heard. The \$360-million, 72,000-acre-foot project has so-far faced a headwind of controversy through the multi-year permitting process and is likely to be contested for years into the future.

The Draft EIS, released in 2010 was met with over 3,000 negative comments from the public revealing the shortcomings of the several thousand page document: Faulty models, assumptions and baselines, resulting in –Faulty supply and demand projections, therefore – Failure to establish justifiable need for the project. Failure to describe enforceable mitigation plans, An inadequate appraisal of the effects of climate change, And an inadequate and perhaps faulty analysis of water availability and Western Slope river impacts, And use of a priori criteria that eliminated a broad spectrum of practicable and common sense alternatives, including conservation and efficiency practices.

Unfortunately, professional analysis of the Final EIS during the month of May by The Environmental Group of Colorado (TEG) has determined that these core faults of the proposal persist, as well as several more critical points which are still under review.

Though it may be tempting to assume that a growing city will obviously require water supply projects such as this one, we Coloradans ought to bear in mind that half of Denver Water's clean drinking residential water, after being diverted from rivers on the Western Slope 40 miles away, channeled through tunnels under the Continental Divide, pumped through expensive and resource-consumptive treatment facilities and then piped through a network of 3,000

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miles of service lines, gets sprayed directly onto grassy laws. That's right, quite literally, 50% (source: <http://www.denverwater.org/SupplyPlanning/WaterUse/>).

And while an argument could be made that restrictions on outdoor/landscape water use negatively impact quality of life in Colorado's semi-arid climate, that argument is easily negated by the large population of Coloradans happily living off of well water (the State of Colorado prohibits use of well-water for landscape/outdoor purposes, unless specifically excepted in rare cases). Quality of life in Colorado is not correlated with a water-thirsty, non-native, grassy bluegrass lawn.

The Draft EIS, three and half years ago, revealed how flawed Denver Water's proposal was and stoked a fire of opposition to such ill-planned, short-term thinking. As we can now see, with even a cursory review of the 11,000 page Final EIS, Denver Water has ignored the 3,000 public comments and shows no sign of intending anything other than bullying this project through the permitting pipeline at full speed. Fortunately, The Environmental Group of Colorado (TEG) is prepared to challenge Denver Water's permits in court – a last-resort option that Denver Water is bringing on itself by ignoring the existence of a plethora of more sensible, and economically stimulating, water supply solutions. **The public comment period for the FEIS is scheduled to end June 9th.** Visit TEGColorado.org to join the conversation and let your voice be heard.

Editor's Note: Okay, so I gave information in the April Highlander regarding the Truck Traffic & Noise Study Findings i.e. Videos on Denver Water's website that was done last fall. I promised to weigh in on those findings, which have been replaced on their website with a costly study of their findings by a noise and vibration company that, of course, states no

noise or vibration findings in the study will exceed county or state allowable levels. The videos don't seem to be on the website any longer, only the glossy-colorful study.

In my own comments to Denver Water about their videos and noise study I brought up the fact that Hwy 72 and Gross Dam Road would need massive construction to allow the trucks needed to navigate both roads and the hairpin turns of each. Their reply to my emailed comments admitted to not only the need, but also the plans by Denver Water to modify our roads to accommodate the big trucks.

So, folks... the plan is to increase the time and hazards of this proposed project by at least two years. Which is the projected time it might take to change the hairpin turns at our Community Center parking lot onto Gross Dam Road and other multiple areas of roadways, both Hwy 72 and Gross Dam Road and this is before the project even starts. We all know how the flood inconvenienced our travel in the canyon, well now imagine road construction to make our roads navigable for truck traffic to even start the proposed Moffat Project. Not a pretty picture no matter how you look at it, unless it's from an office in Denver!

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Lunch Begins	11:00 am
National Anthem	11:15 am
Event Ends & Cleanup Begins	3:00 pm



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Buffalo Field Campaign

Mother buffalo and their family groups have undertaken important yet difficult migrations, trekking many miles from Yellowstone's high elevations, over periods of weeks and months, to access critical winter range and spring calving grounds in Montana. They simply seek a quiet place to survive, to rebuild their own strength and raise their precious young. Weak from winter and swollen with new life, the relief for pregnant buffalo of finding sufficient food is enormous. Sadly, after such effort, wild buffalo are forced to quickly evacuate the ground that they may take the course of a season to reach. In the throes of pregnancy, birthing, or raising an infant, wild buffalo are aggressively driven off their native homelands by the irrational politics of Montana's livestock industry and the state and federal agents who are "just doing a job" by carrying out these policies on the ground.

Hazing activities resumed in May. They are likely taking place again as you read these words. Each operation originated south of Horse Butte, in the Denny Creek/South Fork area of the Hebgen Basin, an area highly favored by wild buffalo and other wildlife, but livestock interests refuse access only to the buffalo. Now in the height of calving season, more newborn buffalo that are just getting their legs are having their first experiences of life brutally interrupted by yelling cowboys who come tearing in on horseback to chase their families away. And no short distance, but for miles over fields, through fences, across rivers and creeks, through thick woods, over fallen timber, down gravel roads, and into muddy flats—all with no rest, no chance to nurse or get a drink of water or even a bite of grass. Calves collapse from exhaustion; mothers bluff charge to defend their babies, bulls stop and spar in frustration. The horsemen press them on. Buffalo that are in the throes of labor or that have literally just given birth are not spared. The agencies involved in these wild bison harassment operations included the Montana Department of Livestock, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Yellowstone National Park. Barely a mile of the stretch of land that the buffalo are chased from is in areas occupied by a few private landowners who don't welcome wild buffalo. The remainder of the ten-plus miles they are forced to flee through is National Forest land, public land, critical wildlife habitat where there are no cattle and no conflict, and nothing close to justification for such assaults.

After miles of hazing, agents forced the buffalo across the Madison River, towards the northwest bluffs. But they didn't stop there as they had been doing. They loaded up their horses, drove around to the bluffs, and resumed hazing the tired buffalo along the northwest bluffs, pushing the buffalo, ironically, towards Horse Butte. How does this make any sense when next, they will be hazing buffalo

away from Horse Butte, east into Yellowstone National Park.

Ignoring exhaustion in the calves they were pushing, and even after we called their attention to an injured yearling, they forced them to march for another few miles towards the Butte.



As I returned from patrol a week ago, I received a phone call that my sister-in-law was in labor. She was expected to give birth to her first child on Friday. Two thousand miles away through the wire, the sound in my brother's voice was what you might imagine from an expectant father, full of wonder, excitement, fear, anticipation, joy. I imagined them there, together in a comfortable place, with people around them to help take care of

them, doing everything to ease her labor and bring this baby safely into the world, ensuring a quiet space, excellent nutrition, comfort, and love. My niece was born on Friday afternoon, not long after I had returned from witnessing yet another brutal hazing operation. I couldn't help but think about my sister-in-law and my brand new niece, about all the mothers I know, being hounded by yelling men riding large animals, forcing them out of their bed, refusing to let them rest or take nourishment, chasing them until they could barely run anymore, and then chasing them some more.

This is what is happening to wild buffalo, day after day, right now. It feels important that we envision it so, because for some, putting ourselves in another's "shoes" may be the only way we can begin to really understand—and through that understanding, truly feel—compassion. I can't help but wonder, when the agents spent Mother's Day with the moms in their lives, did they feel proud of the "job" they did to the buffalo?

WILD IS THE WAY ~ ROAM FREE! ~ Stephany

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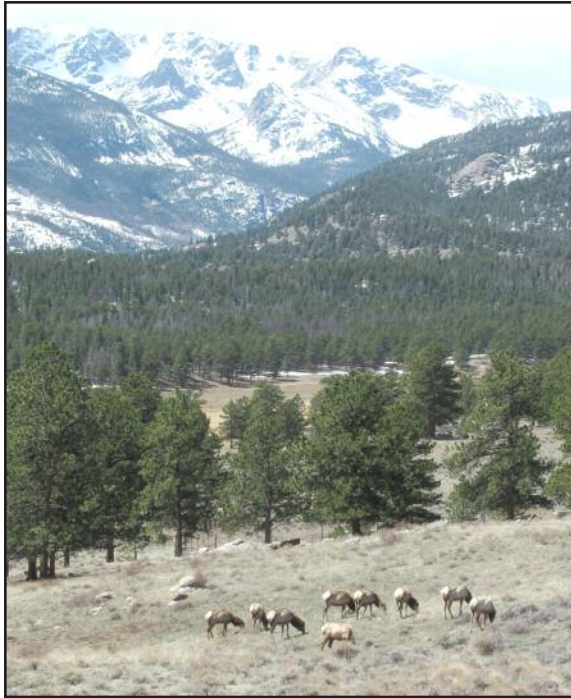
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Article and Photographs by Diane Bergstrom

It's summer, it's getting hotter, and it's time to head to the park! Weather permitting, by the time the Highlander hits the stands, Trail Ridge Road should be open. Call ahead on the road status line for updates: 970-586-1222. The road has eleven miles above 11,000 feet so it's always a good idea to check if traversing the road to the western slope is your intended destination. If you are headed to the park from the front-range, and are travelling along US Highway 36



through Lyons, I strongly recommend you take Highway 7 through Allenspark. I thank you, the road construction crews thank you and your passengers will thank you. While the road repair work is being accomplished in record time, it won't be done until the fall. (Refer to my past article, **Road Repair Warriors & US 36**, at highlandermo.com under **Archived Issues**, April 2014 issue). You will



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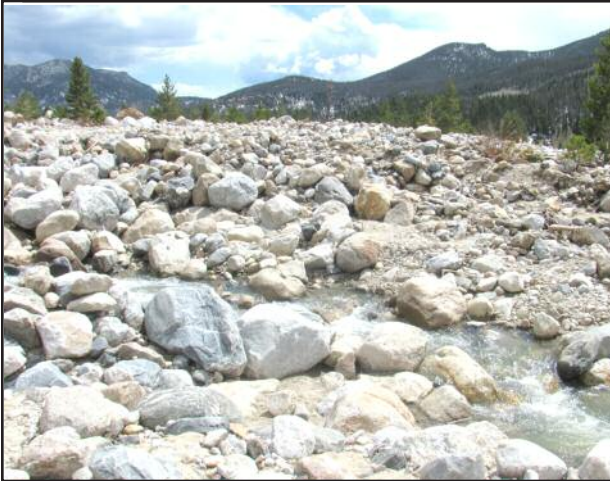
being contained by Lake Estes. Be careful while hiking, as noted in the photographs, sidewalks have buckled and part of the road has washed away. Trails throughout the park have been damaged and some are impassable. Be aware of the condition of footbridges before crossing them, and unstable slopes, and always get free maps from rangers and

volunteers. Rocky Mountain has over 350 miles of trails so you will be able to find safe, stable, and fun routes. Ask those folks in uniforms for suggestions. By the way, if you are looking for volunteer opportunities, there is something for everyone.

Investigate your choices at volunteer.gov/romo or nps.gov/romo/volunteer or call the volunteer office at 970-586-1330.

If this is your first

visit to RMNP Park, (one of the top ten most popular national parks) or you're a regular visitor, I have a few recommendations. See a 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. It (Continued next page.)



when considering possible delays, and a prettier ride. My July article will provide an update of the road construction. One of the challenges offered by a flagger from American Civil Constructors was that often people using GPS don't understand that the red line on researched routes indicates road construction. Just avoid it and everyone will have a better experience. Stop along the way and shop in the towns affected by the flood. Their revenue losses were tremendous and we could all help by keeping our dollars local.

Within the park, Old Fall River Road and the Alluvial Fan sustained the most damage from last September's flood. The road will be closed through 2014. Stop at a visitor center or view the website, nps.gov/romo, for the latest updates. The Alluvial Fan was created by the flood of 1982 when Lawn Lake's earth dam deteriorated and sent 29 million gallons of water downhill. The meadows of Horseshoe Park flooded, then in a chain reaction, the Cascade Lake Dam failed. Six feet of water entered the town of Estes before

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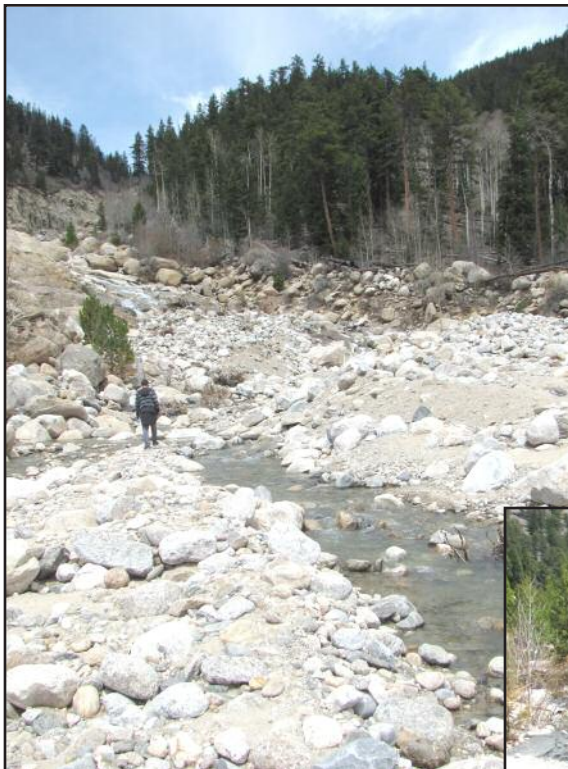
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has great footage of areas most of us will never see, and provides interesting wildlife and historical information. The center is open daily from 8:30 am-4 pm. A 7-day park pass costs \$20; an annual pass costs \$40; a yearly pass which includes the Arapaho National Recreation Area costs \$50; a National Parks & Federal Lands annual pass costs \$80 (free for citizens with a permanent disability); a senior lifetime pass for those 62 and older costs \$10; an annual active military pass is free (CAC card or DD for 1173 required). If you are interested in camping, reserve your spots soon online at



www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.

Introduce your kids to the Junior Ranger program, visit www.nps.gov/romo/forkids/index or stop by a center or ranger kiosk and get a booklet to walk them through engaging activities. To obtain a badge, they must attend a ranger-led program that the whole family will find interesting and informative. Schedules are in the park newspaper obtained at the fee stations. *The Secret Lives of Wild Cats* is peaking my interest and will be part of my summer education! Getting children involved today could create great stewards of our national parks tomorrow. Remind them we need to give all the animal moms - mule deer, elk, moose, Bighorn sheep - lots of space with their

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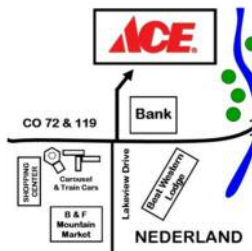
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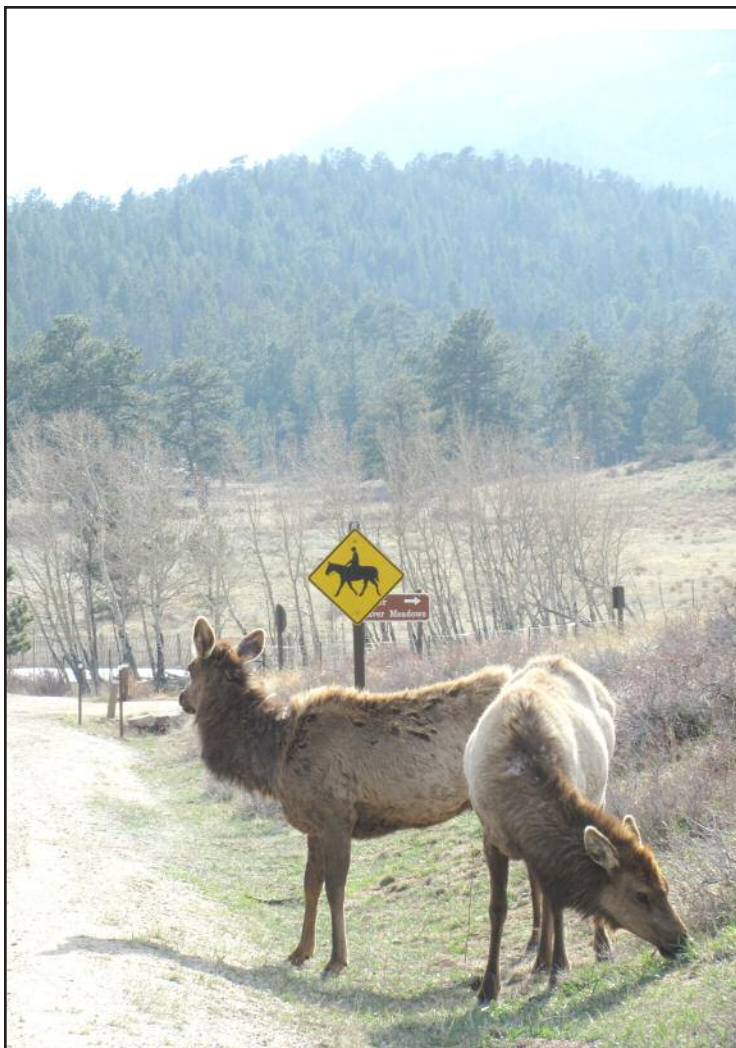
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allowing you the option to increase your sightseeing, avoid congestion and limited parking, and reduce your carbon footprint on the park. The Bear Lake shuttle (all Bear Lake Road construction is DONE!) will run on the weekends on June 1, 7 and 8, then start daily runs from June 14 – October 12. The Moraine Park shuttle will run the same dates. The Hiker shuttle will run daily service



from June 28 - September 7, including weekends through October 12. Check for more *(Continued next page.)*

babies. They are very protective. As my Alaskan friends have been known to say, they would rather run into a bear on the trail than a momma moose because they think bears are more predictable. Speaking of space, WAIT, at a distance, for any animals on the road. Elk are notorious for starting, stopping, changing their minds and their direction. I was stunned to watch a driver pass an elk on the road. Absolutely stunned. US 36 is a highway so rangers will ticket you for breaking the road laws. Elk have the right of way, and simply refuse to pay attention to the yellow lines.

The free bus shuttles will be running again this year



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Highlander Recreation

information in the park newspaper. The most exciting shuttle news for me is the addition of a stop along the Bear Lake Road at Sprague Lake! Yes, I am a park nerd but this opens up hiking trailheads and end points! Exciting stuff. So start planning now to get up to the park this summer! And keep returning — we need to support our

national parks in order to keep them. As John Muir, father of our national parks, poignantly stated,

Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.



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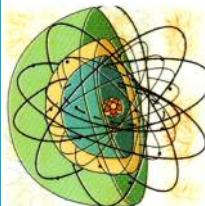
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Event Speakers: Jo Evans on Colorado Water Law - Allison Holloran on Threats and Conservation of ecosystems - **Gross Reservoir Dam panel: implications and final day for Public Comments** - Steve Grace book signing for *Dam Nation: How Water Shaped the West* - Phil Doe, and Wes Wilson on Fracking Hazards and Water/Ecological Destruction - Abby Burk on the new Colorado Water Plan - Libby Comeaux on Community Rights and Water Discernment - Dale Ball on Dietary Choices and understanding your Water Footprint. Contacts: Kristen Marshall tel: 303-440-8654 email: marshall@indra.com Kitty Brigham tel: 303-489-6084 email: brighamk@peak.org

Bios for three of the speakers:

Abby Burk is the Western Rivers Action Network Colorado Coordinator for National Audubon Society. She began with Audubon Rockies in January 2014, and brings a lifetime love of rivers, particularly of the Colorado River and its tributaries. Abby is responsible for promoting cultural change in water use and river conservation through interacting with government representatives, conservation organizations, businesses, and recruiting and training community leaders. She has extensive ecological and management experience, and is committed to water quality protection and conservation, watershed management, and riparian health education. Abby has an Interdisciplinary Master of Education Degree, with Ecology and Stream Ecology concentrations from Frostburg State University.

Chris Garre is the President of The Environmental Group of Colorado (TEG). Through the Citizens for Sustainable Water Management (CSWM) project within TEG, he has been facilitating grassroots action to oppose Denver Water's proposed expansion of Gross Dam &

Reservoir (Moffat Collection System Project).

Chris advocates instead for better conservation practices and smart conscious growth as more appropriate responses to anticipated population growth and water needs in metro Denver.

Jeff Thompson grew up close to the homesteading roots of his Iowa great-grandparents. He worked summers in the fields for a seed company before getting **degrees in Economics and Law**. Jeff has been locally involved in revealing the illegal manipulations around the **Colorado River Upper Basin water extraction projects (Moffat and Windy Gap)**, which he sees as a tragic ignorance destroying this region's and the world's essential 'sacred hoop'. Jeff cites a parallel with these projects to what Lakota holy man Black Elk called the destruction of his people's "sacred hoop" through the ignorance of greed and utter disconnect from the source values in Nature. Jeff feels that in bringing light to the serious hidden intentions of the Gross Dam expansion project that he can open up a channel for wisdom in our regional community and help restore the sacred hoop of Black Elk's nation, of our nation, and of the world.



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Top Left: Sassy the goat checks out the situation on Nui...the horse.

Top Right: Sassy gets on top of Nui.

Bottom Left: Sassy looks for a spot.

Bottom Right: Found her sleeping place on a very tolerant sleeping horse!

WOW!!!!

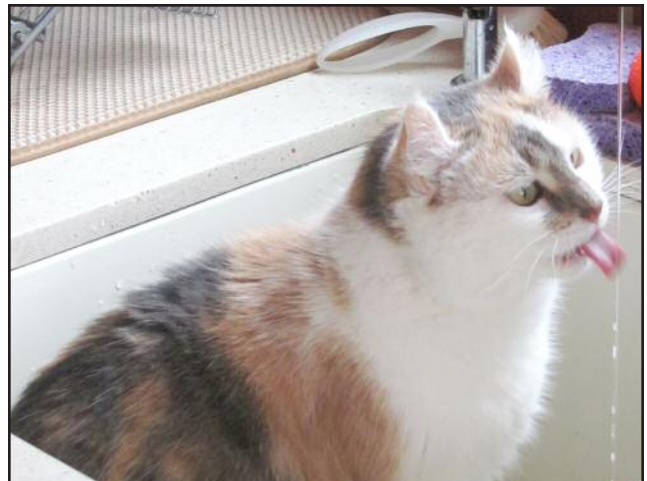


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*Left: Guy with dog at
Whole Foods in Boulder.*

*Top Right: Cover Cat -
in the sink,
and one of his buddies below.*


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Rattlesnake Vaccine

By Dr. Debora Stump- Homeward Bound Animal Hosp.

Anyone who has ventured outdoors in a dry and rocky area of Colorado has likely been much closer to a Western or Prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*) than she may have realized. Prairie rattlesnakes prefer dry areas with moderate vegetation and can be seen basking in the sun, sometimes stretched out on pavement or across a dirt path when the temperatures are to their liking, between 50o F and 80o F. When the temperature is outside this range, the snakes move inside structures, into rock crevices, or into shallow burrows made by other animals. The primary food source for rattlesnakes are small rodents such as mice and rats but squirrels, rabbits, prairie dogs, amphibians and other reptiles have also been known to end up as a meal. These snakes use communal den sites during certain times of the year and here a mature female can give birth to as many as 12 live young.

Since these animals are common in our environment, awareness and avoidance is of utmost importance. Rattlesnakes are very good at coiling tightly and lying perfectly still to avoid being spotted. Their very distinctive warning system, the rapid shaking of the rattle at the end of

their tail, is often not used unless they feel they have been seen. When enjoying your time outside in areas that may be snake habitat, never step or put your hands in a place where you can't see. If you encounter a snake, always assume it is alive and capable of moving quickly. Dogs are safest on a leash so they can be prevented from closely investigating.

Rattlesnake venom is basically modified saliva produced by glands found beneath and behind the eyes and ejected through hollow fangs when the snake strikes and bites. This venom is composed mostly of proteins that have various toxic effects including damage to blood vessels, damage to the cell membrane of blood cells, damage to muscle cells and alterations in the blood's ability to clot. Rattlesnake bites to people and animals always require immediate medical attention. Bites have been documented in many domestic species and even in captive elk. Bites can be fatal but with proper treatment, most victims survive.

In horses and cattle, facial bites are common and can result in severe swelling that interferes with the animal's ability to breathe. This is most effectively treated soon after the bite before the nasal passages are blocked. Horses commonly experience damage to the heart muscle. Long-term follow-up is necessary as the cardiac dysfunction may be permanent.

A rattlesnake vaccine is available for horses and for dogs.

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lesser degree than neutralization shown to Western diamondback venom. Veterinarians have reported to the company that in their experience vaccinated dogs seem to have less pain, less swelling, and a decrease in permanent injury after being bitten.

Medical treatment for an animal following a rattlesnake bite is directed toward managing pain and swelling together with supporting the heart and blood vessels as the toxin takes effect and is subsequently broken down and removed by the body's immune system. Antivenom can also be a first line treatment and is most effective when administered in the first few hours after the bite. Antivenom is made by injecting sheep with rattlesnake venom, allowing the sheep to mount an immune response, and finally harvesting and purifying the sheep's anti-snake venom antibodies. Both the rattlesnake vaccine and the antivenom treatment consist of foreign proteins and can therefore cause adverse reactions of their own.

Although rattlesnake bites can and do occur, they are rare compared to number of people, animals and snakes that are living in beautiful Colorado. Take appropriate precautions to protect yourself, your family and your animals. If you have further questions about rattlesnake bites and your pets,

your veterinarian has valuable information about prevention and treatment options.

*(Photo here of Prairie Rattlesnake
by Greg Joder.)*

The vaccine is made of proteins found in the venom of the Western Diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus Atrox*), a snake related to the Prairie rattlesnake. Studies conducted by the company manufacturing the vaccine have shown that antibodies produced by vaccinated dogs and horses are able to neutralize Prairie rattlesnake venom as well but to a



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Unlikely Partnership Seeks To End Turf Wars

From Krista Langlois

The room was a brawl waiting to happen. Horseback riders sat next to mountain bikers. ATV, jeep and motorbike enthusiasts took their seats across from wilderness, hiking and “quiet trail” advocates. Even a survey of peoples’ heads revealed the potential tension: There were cowboy hats and shiny, banker-like pates; spiky mullets and hair flattened by bike helmets; Patagonia “Live Simply” trucker caps and real trucker caps worn without irony.

But the Trails Roundtable hosted in May in Grand Junction, Colorado, by the soon-to-be nonprofit Grand Valley Trails Alliance turned out to be surprisingly peaceful. Even the mere suggestion of a fight was brushed off: When one man off-handedly commented that the group was “fighting over a quarter-mile of trail,” someone else broke in to say, “I don’t think we’re fighting,” and the entire room murmured its agreement: “Not fighting, not fighting, not fighting...” like an echo chamber or the human microphone from Occupy Wall Street.

The scene was a far cry from the battles enacted here just over a year ago, when the Bureau of Land Management released a draft of its new Resource Management Plan. It was the first such rewrite in 27 years, and it brought to the surface grudges that had been percolating for years. Some

argued that there wasn’t enough wilderness; others that too many motorized ORV trails would be closed. One particularly vocal minority of off-roaders staged public protests, broke down blockades and nearly came to blows at a BLM meeting.

Across the West, similar debates over the future of public lands are also underway. Many BLM Resource Management Plans – which guide all aspects of public land use, from ranching to hiking to drilling – have reached the end of their 25-year shelf lives, spurring a sweep of land planning not seen since the ‘80s. In Colorado alone, 70% of the state’s 8.3 million acres of BLM lands have recently been or are in the process of having their management plans rewritten.

Often, oil and gas leases draw the most controversy, but here in Grand Junction – a traditionally conservative city of about 60,000 on the banks of the Colorado River – energy has taken a backseat to recreation. The region has already gone through two energy boom-and-busts (one in the early ‘80s and a similar cycle from about 2006 to 2012), and while drilling isn’t vilified here the way it’s been in more liberal Colorado communities, many in Grand Junction understand that the town also needs more sustainable ways to squeeze economic juice from the million acres of public land surrounding the city. Namely, recreation.

Every day, mountain bike-, ATV- and raft-laden vehicles speed past Grand Junction on their way west to Utah’s red rock country. Yet the Grand Valley has canyons as stunning as those in Moab, and local officials are eager to promote them. Nearby Fruita has transformed itself from a sleepy fruit-growing town to a world class mountain-biking destination, and Colorado National Monument, which borders Grand Junction, is being considered for national park status, which would surely bring a boost in tourism.

What kind of tourism is a multi-million-dollar question. For decades, traditional user groups have pushed for their own interests, with little collaboration. Each group cites facts and figures to back its position: Bill Hamann, co-founder of the Quiet Trails Group, is fond of a Colorado

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College poll claiming that 65% of Colorado residents hike, compared to 16% who ride ATVs. The Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, meanwhile, likes to state that ORV users contribute \$141 million annually to Grand Junction's economy – far more than backpackers.

For a while, it looked like the same old turf wars would prevent the Grand Valley from capitalizing on its recreational opportunities. But a progressive new BLM manager, Katie Stevens, is working with moderate off-roading enthusiasts

and a new trails group to try to prevent the argument from denigrating into the kind of us-versus-them struggles taking place on public lands in Utah and elsewhere. Among those seeking cooperation is Dave Grossman, a Durango native invigorated by the cultural conflict he encountered in Grand Junction. "We'd accumulated enough scars and frustrations that we started asking questions about whether there were other ways," he says.

So two years ago, Grossman helped found the Grand Valley Trails Alliance, which just held its fourth roundtable meeting to bring eight diverse trail-related groups together to talk. "We want them to look at each other as potential allies," Grossman says. The goal is to improve the trail system and the BLM planning process, which involves creating new trails, poring over maps of old ones with the BLM to eliminate illegal or destructive trails, and coordinating a kind of horse-trading, in which green groups like Great Old Broads for Wilderness can agree to support a new motorized trail in exchange for environmental protections elsewhere.

For old-school, dyed-in-the-wool environmentalists like Grossman, the latter effort represents a necessary philosophical compromise. "Non-mechanized wilderness has created such a niche in the environmental movement that a lot of Westerners who are actually environmentalists (have

grown to) hate the word," he says. By encouraging mountain bikers, motorized users and others to get involved in the land planning process, Grossman hopes

eventually get more people to connect with the land, and later, to protect it.

The BLM's final management plan is set to be released later this year, and Grossman doesn't kid himself: "There's probably going to be litigation, and all kinds of arguments," he says with a half-laugh, half-grimace. Still, he and other members of the alliance hope the

group's collaborative work will help resolve disputes more quickly and serve as a model for other western communities grappling with controversial land decisions. "We don't always agree and we definitely don't always think alike," Grossman says. "But at least we know each other."

Krista Langlois is an editorial fellow at High Country News. She tweets @KristaLangois2. This article was originally published in High Country News (hcn.org). The author is solely responsible for the content.

Photo of Colorado National Monument
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What The President Can Do Right Now!

By Bruce Babbitt

When a racist rancher in Nevada and his armed supporters can command headlines by claiming to own and control publicly owned lands, perhaps it's time to remind Westerners about the history of the nation's public-land heritage.

Recall that it is we, the American people, who own the public lands that make up so much of our Western states. These great open spaces are the birthright of all of us, not just the residents of Nevada or Arizona or other Western states. The question of ownership of the public lands was settled by the founding fathers, in favor of you and me, by the Maryland compromise reached in 1781, and carried forward in the property clause of Article IV in the United States Constitution.

On occasion, diehard malcontents such as Cliven Bundy

emerge to promote so-called "Sagebrush Rebellions" to turn the public lands over to the states as a conduit for handing them out to resource raiders and private interests. Governors and state legislatures, most recently in Utah, are sometimes drawn into endorsing these movements, only to see them fade away in the face of public opinion.

Now, while this latest fracas is fresh in our minds, let me speak up for the employees of the Bureau of Land Management who have been demonized by Fox newsman Sean Hannity and threatened by rancher Cliven Bundy and his followers. BLM staffers are dedicated public servants who struggle with the unenviable task of juggling the conflicting demands of ranchers, miners, oil and gas companies, sportsmen and conservationists. They deserve our respect and our gratitude.

I believe that the whole sorry Bundy episode has given us an opportunity to renew our commitment to conservation. We can do that by calling on President Obama to take action to protect more of the special places on our public lands.

He can begin by using the Antiquities Act to establish more national monuments. Some may counsel caution in light of the recent House passage of a bill by Utah Republican Rep. Rob Bishop to gut the law. However, the best way to protect and preserve the Antiquities Act is to use it visibly and vigorously, thereby demonstrating once again the broad public support it has enjoyed for more than 100 years.

The president could start with California Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein's bill to protect a million acres in the Mojave Desert of California. Or he could take up Maine Democratic Rep. Mike Michaud's bill to protect the scores of small islands that host seabird colonies off the coast of Maine. The president can use his authority under the Antiquities Act to take these bills and their establishing language and designate the lands in questions as new national monuments.

President Obama could also review the list of our existing national parks and monuments, many of which are in need of expansion because these areas are threatened by encroaching strip mining, drilling or other incompatible development. He could start out in the majestic expanses of southern Utah, where Canyonlands, Arches and Capitol Reef national parks all need additional lands to protect their



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And at Yellowstone National Park, the migratory herds of bison, elk and other wildlife all need more space, which can be best obtained by designating the forest lands to the West as a national monument. There are many other areas where local residents are voicing support for new national monuments, including the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains in Idaho, the Vermillion Basin in Colorado and the Owyhee Canyons in Oregon.

The president also has the authority to add lands to our National Wildlife Refuge System. There is an urgent need to create a system of refuges to protect the endangered greater sage grouse that inhabits the sagebrush seas that stretch across public lands in seven Western states.

In addition, the Antiquities Act could be used to protect fisheries and endangered coral system in our marine waters. Bristol Bay off western Alaska is the most prolific of our fisheries, the passage through which millions of salmon migrate to spawn throughout the river systems of Alaska. The little-known deep-water corals adjoining the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea also deserve enhanced protection.

There is much to be done, and President Obama should not wait until the eleventh hour to act. He should start now by advancing proposals, explaining the urgency of conservation, generating the visibility of the issues at stake and asking all Americans to voice their opinions. He should invite Congress to take legislative action, making it clear that he will act if it doesn't.

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Bruce Babbitt, former Interior Department secretary appointed by President Bill Clinton, is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a syndicated column service of High Country News (hcn.org). He lives in Washington, D.C., where he is working on conservation planning in the Amazon River Basin as a fellow of the Blue Moon Fund.

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The Little Boat That Sailed Into History

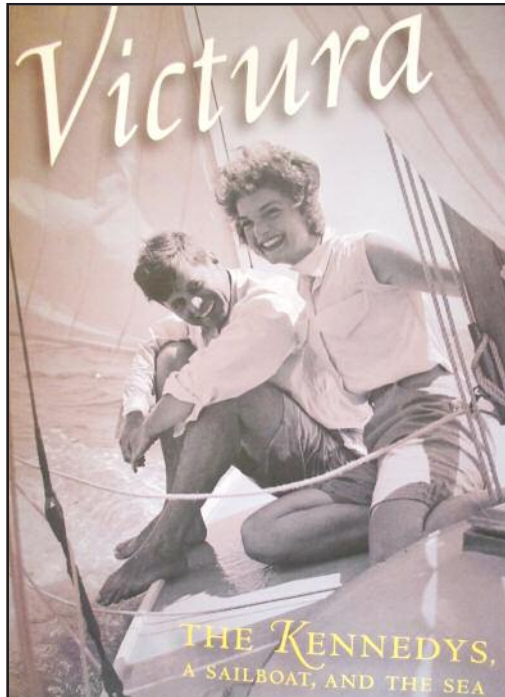
“To truly understand the dynamics and magic of the Kennedy family, one must understand their passion for sailing and the sea. Many families sail together, but the Kennedy’s relationship with Victura, the 25-foot sloop purchased in 1932, stands apart. Throughout their brief lives, Joe Jr., Jack and Bobby spent many hours racing Victura. Lack of effort by one of his sons in a race could infuriate Joseph P. Kennedy, and Joe Jr. and Jack ranked among the best collegiate sailors in New England. Likewise, Eunice emerged as a gifted sailor and fierce competitor, the equal of any of her brothers.

The Kennedys believed that Jack’s experience sailing Victura helped him survive the sinking of his PT boat during World War II. In the 1950s, glossy *Life* magazine photos of Jack and Jackie on Victura’s bow (the book’s cover picture) helped define the winning Kennedy brand. Jack doodled sketches of Victura during Oval Office meetings, and it’s probable that his love of seafaring played a role in his 1961 decision to put a man on the moon, an enterprise he referred to as “spacefaring.”

Ted love Victura as much as any of his siblings did and, with his own children and the children of his lost brothers as crew, he sailed into his old age: past the shoals of an ebbing career into his eventual role as the “Lion of the Senate.”

In *Victura*, James W. Graham charts the progress of America’s signature twentieth-century family dynasty in a narrative both stunningly original and deeply gripping. This true tale of one small sailboat is an invaluable contribution to our understanding of the great story of the Kennedy’s.”

After reading this book myself I couldn’t describe it more succinctly than what appears on the book’s jacket,



re-printed here. It is more than just an enjoyable read; it is our history from a different perspective. If you’re at least fifty years old you probably know exactly where you were and what you were doing when President Kennedy was shot.

That fact alone identifies the massive appeal to the nation one president can have.

No matter your party affiliation it is a fact that JFK had a more lasting affect on our population than almost any other person in our history. To read about his personal life, family and human difficulties alongside his loves – both human and recreational is a treat like no other in historical remembering. Author Graham does a great job in keeping the reader’s interest and imparting historical facts,

a feat most writers fail at miserably.

The intimate family stories about brothers and sisters in such a well-known family are new and interesting. The parents of these famous people who were taken from us all to soon become real and you will feel a compassion about their losses in a new way not revealed before.

The author’s insight into how sailing played an integral part in the survival of JFK and his PT shipmates reveals an understanding of the recreation only another sailor could.

If you love sailing or the sea you’ll be able to relate to this family’s love of a little boat named Victura, be sure to pick up a copy for your summer reading or put it on your ‘to read’ list and it will not fail to entertain while educating you. Published by ForeEdge and only newly released in April, *Victura* is available in hardcover or Kindle at Amazon.com and probably most books stores.

By A.M. Wilks

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Legislative Session Highlights

The session has been fast-paced and productive. In fact, the days fly so fast that I rarely have time to change out of the mountain boots that I put on in the morning where I live in the High Country, to traverse through the snow and ice from my house to my garage. I arrive at the Capitol at 7:30 and attend the first meeting while I eat yogurt and fresh fruit. I finish attending a series of meetings around 7:00 pm. Often I look down and realize that I am still wearing my mountain boots! I am most definitely not the exception. We all stayed very busy as we considered over 200 Senate-initiated bills and over 300 House-initiated bills. I love my job and wouldn't have it any other way.

The Session highlights are:

HB 1317 and SB 3 to increase access to consistent, high quality, safe and affordable child care.

HB 1298 and 1292 to increase funding for pre-school through 12th grade public education.

SB 1 to make public colleges more affordable.

HB 1328 to expand high speed Internet to unserved areas of Colorado.

A package of bills to improve the quality of health care, access to health care and affordability of health care.

A package of bills to help the victims of the September 2013 flood.

A package of bills to help respond to or to prevent catastrophic wildfires, including protecting our firefighters.

And, perhaps the most important, a package of bills to strengthen our economy and get people back to work in good paying jobs.

As always, I love hearing from you. Please feel free to follow me on Twitter, like my Facebook page, visit my website.



You can also contact me by calling my office at 303-866-4873 or sending an email to jeanne.nicholson.senate@state.co.us. Sincerely yours, Senator Jeanne Nicholson

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CCCIA ~ Slash Days

CCCIA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On behalf of the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association, Tom Mulvany, President, and the Board of Directors have announced the upcoming date for the CCCIA Annual Membership Meeting. **This year's meeting will be held at the Community Center, 31528 Hwy 72, on Saturday, June 21, 2014.** There will be a potluck dinner (CCCIA will provide the main dish and beverages) **from 6-7:00 PM, with the meeting agenda to follow at 7:00 PM.**

The association, in its 67th year, supports 245 individual, family, and business members with numerous community events throughout the year. This annual meeting recaps the previous year's activities and will also serve as the opportunity to elect several new candidates to the Board of Directors and reelect some others. Committee reports are reviewed and financial reports are submitted.

Please mark your calendar for a special evening at our historic 'HALL' and enjoy an evening with some of your canyon neighbors. The Board of Directors extends its sincere appreciation to all of the members and volunteers for their participation and financial support in the various CCCIA sponsored events at the community center throughout the year.

**Regards, Tom Mulvany President -CCCIA
303-642-7121**

Slash Collection Weekend

Dear Coal Creek Canyon Community,

We wanted to make sure you were aware that it is **SLASH COLLECTION WEEKEND on June 21 & 22 at Fire Station #2 (near Highway 72 & Camp Eden Road).** This is the Jefferson County and Coal Creek Canyon Fire Department hosted event where private landowners can get rid of slash from their properties. At this event you may drop off your materials and they will be chipped after the collection weekend. Needless to say, slash and slash piles are fuel for wildfires! Getting this material out of our forest benefits the health of our trees and helps our firefighters. Every little bit counts and this is one of the most convenient ways to dispose of these materials.

Slash includes tree branches, limbs, tops, small logs and other tree debris. No tree stumps will be accepted. Please keep the materials at a maximum length of 8 feet and a maximum diameter of 6 inches. You may bring pine needles, but please be prepared to empty any bags or other carrying containers. We need all the material to be loose.

The hours of operation on both June 21 & 22 will be from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Please note that if the area fills up then we will need to close early. There are fees for the collection service that are based on volume. Small Pickup Trucks \$5 - \$10, Large Pickup Trucks \$8 - 12, Trailers \$10 - 15, Dump Trucks \$20 - \$25.

If you need help hauling your slash to the collection site, the Saws & Slaws team will be offering our slash hauling as a service again this year. We use this as a fundraiser to help cover the costs of Saws events. In order to participate, we need you to have the material gathered on your property in an easily - accessible (by a truck and/or trailer) area. We would collect the material from your site and then haul it to the collection event. Of note, we pay the above collection fees, too, so expect our fees to be more than the above! We'll be sure to give you an estimate before the event to make sure you are comfortable with the expense of it. If you are interested in this service, please contact Jody Dickson at 303.642.3568 or jody@dickson.org. Space is limited, so please contact us as soon as possible. We are still looking for sites for neighborhood community slash collection events, so if we have a whole bunch in a particular neighborhood we may transition your request into a different kind of slash disposal! Sincerely,

Jody Dickson -Saws & Slaws/The Environmental Group - Jody@Dickson.org - 303-642-3568

Dear Readers,

Letters submitted to the Highlander can be sent to news@highlandermo.com and be about anything of interest to canyon folks or all readers in general. The Highlander distributes always to Coal Creek Canyon and other rural mountain routes, but also into Boulder and Golden businesses and all along the northern western suburban cities. Copies are taken to Central City and along the Peak to Peak Highway up through Nederland. Feel free to send your letters, they must be signed (phone numbers are not necessary unless you wish to give a point of contact).

It is summer now, finally...and we must all be very careful with fire. Please remember to put cigarette butts out only inside a container, never on the forest floor or flung out a vehicle window while driving.

Use caution with combustion engines that could give off a spark and have a fire extinguisher, shovel and/or water hose/container handy when cutting wood.

Be careful with gas or charcoal grilling and always remember to check the grill or ashes before bedtime in case you left the fire on to burn off food particles or for hot ashes that could be blown away by wind that comes up in the night.

NEVER take using fire outside lightly and be aware of any BURN Bans as they are put in place when we don't get enough rain to keep fire danger low. Look for smoke after thunderstorms and lightning. Happy Summertime!

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A New Era Of Clean Air Regs Is Dawning

From Cally Carswell

Court rulings are not typically repositories of poetic prose. But they occasionally contain beautiful little gems, like this quote from the King James Bible, embedded in Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's majority opinion in a clean air case the Supreme Court ruled on recently: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth."

The thing about the wind is that it goeth where it pleaseth, ignoring the political boundaries we humans have drawn around our cities, states and nations. Frequently, it blows pollution created in one state into another state. Heck it even delivers soot from China to the West Coast. And that makes air pollution tricky to regulate. What is an unlucky downwind state to do if it falls out of compliance with air quality standards because of pollution drifting over from its neighbors, pollution over which it has no control?

Anticipating such a conundrum, Congress wrote a "good neighbor provision" into the Clean Air Act, barring states from "significantly contributing" to downwind states' failure to meet air quality standards. The U.S. EPA first used its power to ensure interstate neighborliness in the late 1990s, with a plan for managing drifting nitrogen oxides. Then, in 2005, the Bush Administration created a new but similar rule to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. That rule was overturned by a lower court in the

administration's twilight. So, in 2011, the Obama Administration crafted its own "cross-state air pollution rule," often called the "transport rule," and it was stricter than the Bush version. It was the validity of this rule that the Supreme Court just considered, and upheld, reversing a lower court decision that had tossed out the regulation in its entirety.

On its face, the decision doesn't matter much to Westerners because the transport rule applies only to Washington D.C. and 27 Eastern states, where there is a higher concentration of big, old coal plants, especially in the Midwest, and where prevailing west-to-east winds blow their soot and smog-forming emissions to their neighbors and beyond. In the East, the regulation is expected to force significant new cuts in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides pollution from some coal plants.

But the ruling may have implications for other major clean air cases making their way through the courts. Since the Clean Air Act itself is not crystal clear on how the EPA must go about tackling the complex problem of pollution that travels between states, the Supreme Court gave the agency leeway to interpret the law and come up with a reasonable regulation, what lawyers call "deference."

"It's not uncommon in administrative law for courts to



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say, 'We're not really experts in this policy area, so we'll defer to (the agency that is),' " explains attorney David Pettit, director of NRDC's Southern California air program. "But EPA can be so political, that it's a little surprising and satisfying to see the courts say (that here too)."

It's a potential indication of how the High Court will approach another EPA case it's currently considering that involves whether the EPA did its due diligence in deciding to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from really, really big emitters - namely, coal-fired power plants - but not from a slew of small emitters, namely, every single household in the U.S. This case involves similarly complex issues, explains Ann Carlson for Legal Planet. If the court is consistent in extending similar deference to the agency to reasonably tackle those issues that may mean a ruling upholding EPA's approach to carbon dioxide regulation.

The transport rule decision is also one indication that an era of clean air policy is ending and another dawning. It's one of a suite of new regulations that, once implemented, could lead to the retirement of a number of coal-fired power plants.

For several years, a lot of big-deal EPA clean air regulations, like the transport rule, have been in limbo because they've been in litigation, slowly making their way through the appeals process and each successive court. Directly and indirectly, these rules more or less represent the sum total of the federal plan to mitigate climate change. That's because they address emissions from coal plants - not always climate changing emissions, but the economics are such that some of the oldest, most polluting coal plants are likely to close rather than install expensive retrofits to control mercury or nitrogen oxides or sulfur dioxide.

Many of these cases have or are about to come to their conclusion in the courts, and the rules have largely

held up. The D.C. Circuit Court recently upheld new mercury rules for power plants. The greenhouse gas decision from the Supreme Court is imminent. Lower courts have affirmed EPA's authority to regulate haze-causing pollutants from power plants. (The Supreme Court may yet take up that issue.) Carbon dioxide limits for new and existing power plants - the most significant pending regulations from a climate perspective - are likely still in for lengthy litigation. Still, for some of the biggest new clean air initiatives in years, we're now moving instead into an implementation phase, the time when the rules are put into practice, and the cleaning up begins.

"The power industry is saying the lights will go out, which I'm skeptical of," says Pettit. "(But) we'll see what happens, and whether the whole coal fleet will go away or what." How many coal plants will be phased out, and what will replace them, are the big questions for both the climate and all of us electricity users.

Cally Carswell is a contributing editor for High Country News, and is based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Follow her on Twitter @callycarswell. This article was originally published in High Country News (hcn.org).

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Antarctic Ice Melt

From Krista Langlois

Save for a freak May snowstorm, the other day started off normally. I woke up, made a giant mug of coffee and walked to work. But May 12 was no ordinary Monday. "Today," said Eric Rignot, a glaciologist at the University



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of California, Irvine, "we present observational evidence that a large sector of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet has gone into irreversible retreat. It has passed the point of no return."

Language that strong isn't often tossed about at NASA news conferences, and the world took notice. Climate change advocates Protect Our Winters called it "the day that all climate scientists feared." Mother Jones coined it a "holy shit moment for global warming." The well-known Canadian environmental writer Chris Turner tweeted that it's "the most important news story you'll see this week, by a wide margin."

So what's all the fuss about – and why should you care? In the most basic terms, two separate scientific studies, using two different models and released by two reputable scientific journals, both came to the same conclusion: Glaciers on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet are melting more rapidly than expected and have begun a domino effect that's virtually unstoppable, even if we cut off greenhouse gas emissions today. Over the course of hundreds of years, the melting glaciers will boost ocean levels by 4 to 16 feet, changing the geography of the world, as we know it.

Previous models, of course, have also predicted sea level rise, and West Coast cities have begun preparing by relocating threatened structures, moving drinking water supplies and modifying construction permits. But no previous study has been this conclusive or concrete in its modeling, nor taken into account the degree of Antarctic melt now considered inevitable. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned earlier this year

that global sea level could rise between four inches and three feet by 2100, but the new findings make such predictions seem almost quaint. Penn State University geoscientist Sridhar Anandakrishnan told NBC News that future IPCC estimates "will almost certainly be revised" upwards as a result of the new studies.

What could rising seas actually look like for the West Coast? Andrew David Thaler, a deep-sea ecologist, posed that question to his Twitter followers last fall, and the response was tremendous: Requests poured in from around the world asking Thaler to virtually inundate their hometowns under the hashtag #DrownYourTown. #DrownYourTown has now been tweeted millions of times, and Thaler has perfected a real-time, interactive

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GIS modeling technique that allows him – or anyone with basic technology skills – to visualize what coastal cities might look like with varying amounts of sea level rise.

Thaler warns that the images aren't exact and shouldn't be used to make real estate decisions. But with once-theoretical sea level rises now a looming reality; these images make the future of the West Coast graspable.

If the West Antarctic Ice Sheet completely melted into the Amundsen Sea – as the new studies from NASA, UC Irvine and the University of

Washington predict will eventually happen. Yeah, yeah, you're saying. My great-grandkids won't even be alive for that. How about something more immediate?

The new studies don't make predictions for specific

years, so the best we can do for the end of this century – the year 2100 – is the IPCC's latest estimate of about 4 feet sea level rise. Keep in mind that figure may be

conservative, as scientists now say the IPCC estimates will likely increase in light of this new information.

Pictured here is Honolulu, Hawaii.

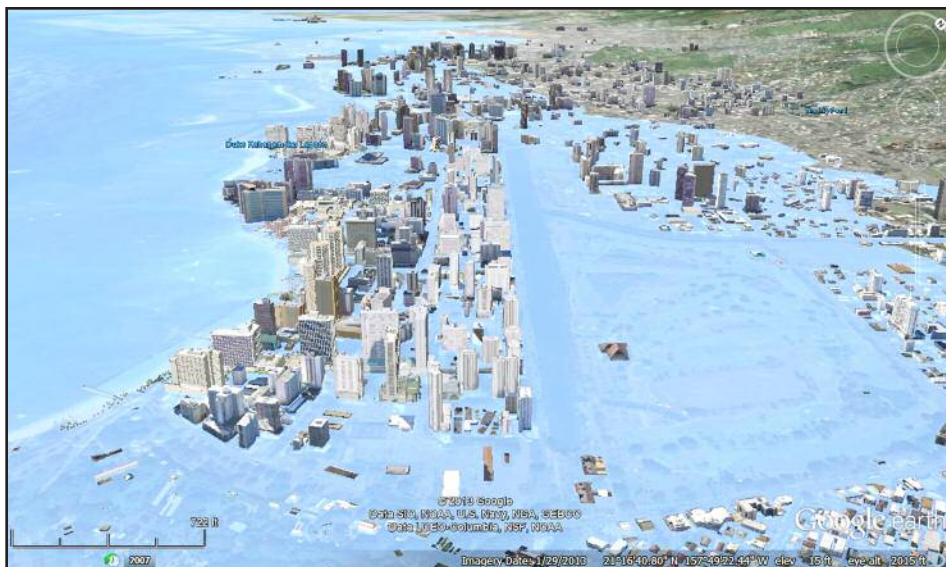


Image courtesy #DrownYourTown.

Krista Langlois is an editorial fellow at High Country News. She tweets @KristaLanglois2.

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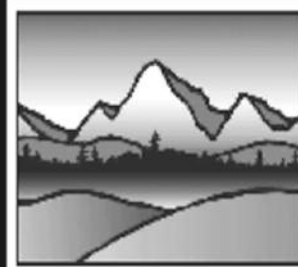
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HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 20 303.582.5230

LIQUOR

Town Center Liquors pg 31 303.940.5735

LOCKSMITH

Lou Naumann pg 15 303.642.0938

INSTRUCTION

DreamCatcher pg 19 303.444.8422

PLUMBING

ACME Septic, Inc. pg 9 303.459.1106
Keating Pipeworks, Inc. pg 26 720.974.0023
Morgan Rooter Service pg 25 303.642.3166

PROPANE

Carl's Corner pg 25 303.642.7144

REAL ESTATE

Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 29 303.642.7951
Gail Kirby-Keller Williams pg 6 303.475.9370
Mock Realty-Kathy Keating -Back cov 303.642.1133
Summit Up Property Mgt. pg 24 303.618.8266

RENTALS

A to Z Rentals pg 20 303.232.7417
Arvada Rent-Alls - pg 16 303.422.1212

RESTAURANTS

Malones Clubhouse Grill pg 22 303.940.1800
Ralston Road Cafe pg 12 303.420.6650
Sundance Cafe pg 15 303.258.0804
Westfalen Hof - pg 25 303.642.3180

RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 14 303.258.3132
Arvada Rent-Alls - pg 16 303.422.1212
Golden Mill pg 27 303.279.1151
HiTech Appliance pg 18 303.665.0951
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Mountain Man Store pg 17 303.258.3295
Natural Pet Marketplace pg 11 303.449.4193
The Silver Horse - pg 12 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 12 303.258.3225

STOVES/SERVICE

HiTech Appliance pg 18 303.665.0951
Indian Peaks Stove/Chimney pg21 303.258.3474

TAXES

Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 32 303.642.7371

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 28 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 5 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well - pg 30 303.438.6669

JUNE
2014

POWER UPDATE



Save Trees with Paperless Billing

United Power members who no longer wish to receive a printed bill in the mail can sign up for Paperless Billing.

To sign up for Paperless Billing, call our Member Services department at 303-637-1300 or login to SmartHub at the top of our homepage.

Once you are enrolled in Paperless Billing, a paper bill will no longer be mailed to you. You will receive an e-mail notification when your statement is available.

www.unitedpower.com



Calling Before You Dig is Easy—Dial 811 to Know What's Below

There is a national phone number that makes every digging project safer. Simply dial 811 a few days before you dig to have underground utilities located for free.

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job.

Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

For more information about the new Call Before You Dig number, visit www.call811.com.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Is Your Phone Number Accurate?

Occasionally, United Power will try to contact members via the phone to notify them of planned outages or emergencies.

If the phone number on file with United Power is not up-to-date, United Power is not able to alert you to these events. Please verify that the phone number on your account is correct by calling our Member Services department at 303-637-1300 or by logging into your account through SmartHub at www.unitedpower.com. You may be missing important information!

United Power does not share member information.

Customer Service: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." *Billy Graham*



2280 Forest

Warm, welcoming & accomodating!

5 BD/3 BA+ legal 2 BD/1 BA apt. **\$739,000**



10982 Twin Spruce Road

Come See All the Changes!

3 BD/ 3 BA Garage/RV Pk'g **\$319,000**



10653 Twin Spruce

Road improvements complete!

2 BD/ 3 BA 1,896 sq. ft. **\$245,000**



11710 Ranch Elsie Road

Vintage Property in Rolling Hills

2 BD/ 1 BA - 1,165 sq.ft. **\$204,000**



102 Black Bear Trail

Privacy in the Pines!

2 BD/ 1 BA 1.39 Ac. **\$203,000**



125 Moss Rock Place

VIEWS! VIEWS! VIEWS!

3 BD/ 3 BA 4-Car Garage **\$379,000**



NEW LISTING!

3072 Coal Creek Canyon

Remodeled 'nose to toes'

3 BD/ 1 BA **\$199,000**



11578 Ranch Elsie Road

Sunny & Great Location!

3 BD/ 2 BA **\$329,000**



38 Elliot Lane

Level Lot, RV Parking

3 BD/ 2 BA 6-Car Garage **\$279,000**



10232 Dowdle

Privacy in the Pines

3 BD/ 4 BA - 4,752 sq.ft. **\$409,000**



30 Wonder Trail

Historic Wondervu Cabin An

Original Get-Away! 1 BD **\$84,000**



2924 Lake Park Way

Beautiful Updates

5 BD/ 4 BA 2-Car Garage **\$349,900**



143 Aspen Drive

Jaw Dropping Views!

4 BD/ 4 BA - 2,564 sq.ft. **\$415,000**



NEW LISTING!

31679 Hilltop Road

Perfect Horse Property!

3 BD/ 2 BA - 1,716 sq.ft. **\$284,900**



Coming Soon!

8819 Blue Mountain

Sweeping Views of the Valley!

3 BD/ 4 BA 2-Car 1 Acre **\$529,000**



NEW LISTING!

6365 Cole Lane

Fab Arvada Townhome

3 BD/ 4 BA 2,200 sq.ft. **\$298,000**



11568 Overlook

Foothill Views!

2 BD/ 1 BA 1,258 sq. ft. **\$224,000**



992 Karlann

Nice blend of old & new - Remodeled

3 BD/ 2 BA **\$219,500**



NEW LISTING!

11648 Overlook Road

Saturated in Attractiveness

3 BD/ 2 BA 2,104 sq.ft. **\$284,000**

LAND LISTINGS

33966 Nadm 1.08 Ac. **\$75K**

64 Damascus 1.87 Ac. - **\$49K**

0 Damascus 1.86 Ac. - **\$49K**

11547 Shimley 1.15 Ac. - **\$29K**

0 Hilltop NEW! 2.8 Ac. - **\$84K**



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EcoBroker,
Broker Associate
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303.497.0641

