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About the Cover:
Rapture in the Redwoods, ray of
sun appears through the canopy of
redwoods in Avenue of the Giants,
taken this summer by Frosty Wooldridge.

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Part One - New Series - Overpopulation

By Frosty Wooldridge

Accelerating growth consequences

Part 1: Quotes that make impact on America and around the world, denial, displacement, ignorance - Nobel Laureate Dr. Henry W. Kendall said, *If we don't halt population growth with justice and compassion, it will be done for us by nature, brutally and without pity - and will leave a ravaged world.*

What did he mean by that rather abrupt if not deadly statement? How can one of the few human beings on the planet who earned a Nobel Prize come to such a deliberate understanding? Why don't more humans recognize the same reality facing humanity in the 21st century?

As a world bicycle traveler across six continents, I witnessed firsthand with my own eyes what Dr. Kendall expresses in his statement. One look at China and India gives you an idea of the consequences of *exponential growth* at its end-most destination. Even worse, Bangladesh houses 157 million people in a landmass the size of Ohio. Can you imagine half the US population living in Ohio? Can you imagine the ecological damage as to shortages of drinkable water, sewage pollution, carbon emission exhausts, growing food to fill the bellies of those



157 million impoverished bodies, not to mention human crowding and loss of any quality of life?

Kendall talks about halting population growth with "compassion and justice." What does that mean? Answer: it means humans need to take their fecundity rates into their own hands and provide for birth control that brings human populations into balance with the carrying capacity of the planet. Exponential growth cannot and will not be tolerated by Mother Nature. She already starves to death over 10 million children annually and another

eight million adults. That's the "...will be done by nature, brutally and without pity..." aspect of Dr. Kendall's statement.

What constitutes exponential growth? The term means: endless growth of any organism. That growth ultimately results in overwhelming the carrying capacity of area in which it thrives and finally, collapse and possible extinction of that species.

As it stands today, according to UK Oxford University's Norman Myers, human encroachment upon worldwide habitat causes the extinction of (Continued next page.)



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Highlander Worldview

80 to 100 species daily. That means those creatures no longer exist because humanity overwhelms its own carrying capacity and destroys the food, water and living area for other species. Thus, humanity creates the most dangerous aspect of Mother Nature's "carrying capacity" limits. The current rate of extinction within the United States runs at 250 creatures annually. (Source: U.S. Department of Interior)

Collapsed civilizations litter history books: Easter Island, Mayan Empire, Incas, Anasazi, Vikings, Rwanda, Haiti and more to come. Read Jared Diamond's: *Collapse—How societies choose to fail or succeed*. Those civilizations collapsed via exhaustion of food or water, i.e. they overwhelmed their carrying capacity.

Humans create electrical energy by burning billions upon billions of tons of coal that pollutes the atmosphere that creates air polluted cities and acid rain that destroys top soil and acidifies our oceans that kills marine, avian, plant and reef life. With endless population growth, it can only worsen beyond solving.

Today, nearly all of humanity overrides its carrying capacity in oil-driven and oil-fed countries. Without oil, the United States could not exist with its 315 million inhabitants. Without the gasoline-filled tractors planting and harvesting enormous amounts of food, we could not feed the current number of people in the USA. Noted geologist Walter Youngquist said, "This is going to be an interesting decade, for the perfect storm is brewing—energy, immigration and oil imports. China grows in direct confrontation for remaining oil. I think the USA is on a big, slippery downhill slope. Will the thin veneer of civilization



(Humanity digs and carves the planet up for the remaining resources, which dwindle while humans continue on their growth rampage.) Photo by National Geographic.

survive?" Youngquist continued, "Beyond oil, population is the number one problem of the 21st century, for when oil is gone as we know and use it today—and it WILL be gone—population will still be here."

He states the obvious. Today, accelerating from 7.1 billion humans, our species will grow to 10.1 billion hungry people by mid-century. Unfortunately, by 2050, humans will have used up most of the oil on the planet. Our current rate of 84 million barrels per day pales in comparison of the predicted usage by China by 2030 of 98 million barrels per day. With the added 3.1 billion humans, oil usage will grow to over 200 million barrels burned daily. The carbon footprint havoc on our biosphere

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and oceans will prove cataclysmic. (Source: *The Long Emergency* by James Howard Kunstler)

When you look back on history’s ragged mane, those collapsed civilizations passed into oblivion without much fanfare. But with major cities like Los Angeles sporting 12 million; New York City with 19 million; Mexico City with 19 million; Bombay with 20 million; Sao Paulo with 20 million; Delhi with 22 million; Tokyo featuring a staggering 36 million and all the other overloaded cities around the world—it becomes obvious that humanity cannot exist without oil—but oil will soon vanish. Unfortunately, nothing on technology’s horizon can duplicate the energy we receive from oil. To say it’s going to get ugly with that many people bunched up in those cities may be the understatement of the 21st century.

At the end of Kendall’s statement, he said, “...and will leave a ravaged world.” You may appreciate the “Seven wonders of the world” created by human beings. Glorious triumphs of architecture and human engineering! However, we could add the “Seven tragedies of the world” created by humans such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, Sixth Extinction Session, Overly polluted Biosphere, Acidified and Destroyed Oceans, Acid Rain Phenomenon, Destruction of Worldwide Rainforests, Human Misery Index and more to come.

We may prove ourselves a clever species, but none too smart. None too reasoning. None too rational. None too proactive. Can America lead the world in this quest for a sustainable future? Can it change its course from its current overload of 319 million on its way to 625 million within this century and probably on toward 1 billion in the first part of the 22nd century? We need to get busy in order to provide a livable world for all creatures including ourselves. **If you would like to make a difference, please join these organizations for the most effective collective action you can take: www.CapsWeb.org ; www.NumbersUSA.org ; www.TheSocialContract.com ; www.Fairus.org**

*Frosty Wooldridge has bicycled across six continents - from the Arctic to the South Pole - as well as ten times across the USA, coast to coast and border to border. In 2005, he bicycled from the Arctic Circle, Norway to Athens, Greece. In 2014, he bicycled coast to coast across America. He presents **The Coming Population Crisis facing America: what to do about it.** www.frostywooldridge.com . 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/ Motivational program: *How to Live a Life of Adventure: The Art of Exploring the World* by Frosty Wooldridge, click: www.HowToLiveALifeOfAdventure.com*



Lies? Misinformation & Deception!

From BoCoFIRM - www.bocofirm.org

The Boulder County Commissioner's guest editorial on subdivision roads published last month in the Daily Camera continues their policies of arrogance, misrepresentation and deceit. They again demonstrated an unwillingness to listen to their constituents while following their own flawed agenda and blatantly ignoring the law and judicial decisions.

The Commissioners have once again proven they are not to be trusted and are unbecoming of their office. It is one thing to respond with careful thought and consideration presenting pros and cons of a plan, and it is another to deride the BoCo FIRM plan with false statements, sins of omission and innuendo.

It appears that the Commissioners prefer to attempt to pit some residents (those who live in the cities) against a minority of their fellow residents (those who live in subdivisions). But make no mistake about it, the #1 problem with the Commissioner's policy is that all county residents are forced to watch their streets and roads deteriorate. It is not an acceptable public policy to starve the Road and Bridge fund for both city and subdivision residents.

Our responses to the claims the Commissioners made in their editorial follow. **Commissioner's position** - "The disagreement lies in who should bear the lion's share of the cost: the people who live in the subdivisions or all taxpayers in the county? Before shifting county wide priorities there needs to be a county wide conversation about how to pay for unincorporated subdivision road reconstruction." **BoCo FIRM response** - We wonder why the Commissioners believe that the maintenance of subdivision roads is the only issue where charging a minority of residents extra taxes comes up and requires a "county wide discussion?" We also note that the Commissioners state that the roads require "reconstruction." Wrong. The vast majority of subdivision roads do not require "reconstruction" and again the Commissioners are trying to deceive county residents.

Commissioner's position - "We cannot increase the Road and Bridge Mill Levy ten-fold without making significant reductions in other services or increasing

everyone's taxes." **BoCo FIRM response** - Does anyone believe for a minute that the Commissioner's can't find where we could reallocate 2.7% of \$365,000,000 in annual spending? Perhaps they can start with cutting the legal beagles on County Attorney Ben Pearlman's staff that told them that forming a LID for routine maintenance was legal.

False claims? More misinformation from your County Commissioners - The Commissioners also stated that there are a number of "false claims" circulating about the subdivision paving issue. We address those claims here also. **False Claim #1**: "There is over \$60 million in reserves that could be used for subdivision roads." **BoCo FIRM response** - First off, using money from the reserves is not part of the BoCo FIRM plan. The source of funding in the BoCo FIRM plan is existing County revenue streams. But since they brought up this issue, a Boulder resident, Peter Dente, explains why this issue is irrelevant to the current discussion.

"Whether there is \$60 million or \$80 million or \$40 million in reserves (the amount seems to change each time the Commissioners make a statement depending on what they feel best supports their position), and whether it is totally or partly or not-at-all available for immediate use for road and bridge maintenance is a MOOT POINT - a red herring by the Commissioners to distract residents from the real issue. The real issue is to RETURN the funding to the appropriately set and adequate historic levels and properly allocate funds to BOTH CITY AND COUNTY road and bridge maintenance for 2015 and beyond. Their current "slush" (discretionary) account is not the issue - NONE of this fund need be used toward road maintenance unless the Commissioners chose to do so as a timing issue and it would be paid back by future revenues."

False Claim #2: "The County has not maintained subdivision roads and is spending its money instead to fight the BoCo FIRM lawsuits. Over the past three years, the county has spent over \$700,000 per year on maintenance. None of these funds have been spent on litigation...all legal services are being handled in-house."

BoCo FIRM response - To determine whether or not this is a false claim we simply quote Judge Lowenbach's ruling on the Commissioner's illegal LID, "While it clearly had

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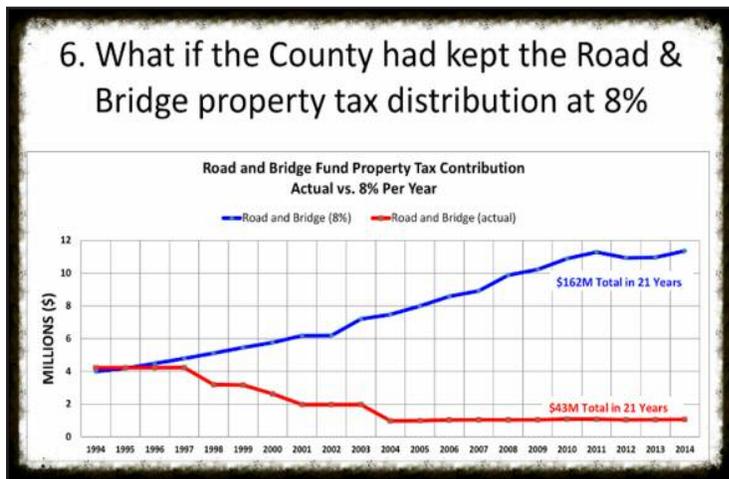
the duty to maintain those roads, the County did not perform that duty.” As for spending \$700,000 a year to maintain our roads, using the county’s own estimated ‘cost’ to fix our roads of \$72 million it would take over 100 years to get them all fixed. Even Cindy Domenico won’t still be a County Commissioner then. Finally, the Commissioner’s statement that none of these funds were spent on litigation assumes we are all so stupid as to think there is a special pot of money that doesn’t come from us to pay for their in-house legal staff.

False claim #3 - “Years ago the county reduced the amount of money budgeted for roads by decreasing the mill levy allocated to the Road & Bridge Fund.” **BoCo FIRM response** - There is absolutely nothing false about this claim. It is incontrovertible that all of the Commissioners over the past nearly 20 years have reduced the mill levy allocation to the Road and Bridge Fund. Their claim that the R&B fund has gone up by 4% is completely misleading. The only reason the fund has gone up is because a). we paid significantly higher taxes via the transportation sales tax b). there are more residents in the County paying those taxes and c). we have paid ever increasing ownership taxes to register our vehicles.

To illustrate exactly how much they diverted to other pet projects take a look at the graph here. The top line shows how much revenue would have gone into the Road and Bridge fund if the Commissioners had maintained the historical allocation of 8% of our property taxes. The bottom line shows exactly how much of our property taxes, ~1%, the Commissioners have allocated to the Road and Bridge fund. It is clear that by implementing their plan to divert funds from the Road and Bridge fund to pet projects the Commission has created this problem. What is BoCo FIRM going to do now? Another lawsuit, (**You may donate to help this next lawsuit at bocofirm.org**) **FIRM stands for Fairness in Road Maintenance.**

Given the Commissioner’s continued

refusal to even consider reasonable alternatives to their “we have no money” stance, with your financial support we will continue our legal battle to get our roads fixed. And trust us, we will find out where all our money went and who ordered it spent on pet projects instead of on maintaining our roads. We will not give up until we have achieved our goal of getting our streets fixed without new taxes.



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As the years go by, Buffalo Field Campaign's drive to defend, protect and restore wild, migratory bison throughout their native landscape becomes increasingly more important. Critical, in fact, as we are the only group in the field, working every night and day for America's last wild, migratory buffalo. Wildlife managers, decision-makers, politically influential livestock groups, and even some so-called wildlife advocacy organizations have unnecessarily created a serious and convoluted conundrum, which, if left unchecked and unchallenged, could spell the end of wild, migratory American buffalo in the United States. Rest assured, BFC is here to both check and challenge any and every human threat to wild buffalo.

A recent example of this gross mismanagement scheming against wild buffalo developed recently at an advisory committee meeting for an already doomed Montana bison management plan. Montana's statewide plan is separate from the controversial Interagency Bison Management Plan, though, it, too, has been largely written by the people who oppose bison. The statewide plan aims to determine the suitability of restoring "wild" bison populations around Montana. Montana already has wild bison populations — the Yellowstone herds — which occupy less than 1% of the state's available habitat, and are treated worse than vermin.

At the meeting, the advisory committee concluded that while it would agree to consider buffalo as wildlife, they would not be welcome unless fenced in, not allowed to roam freely. The definition of "wild" is "self-willed," "uncontrolled or unrestrained," making "fenced wildlife" a clear example of an oxymoron, which holds two opposing thoughts at once. Fenced buffalo herds - or buffalo game farms - are sadly very common throughout the United States, and truly reduces these awesome ice age roamers to a undignified position of domestication and also prevents them from fulfilling their critical ecological role as creators of habitat, food source for threatened

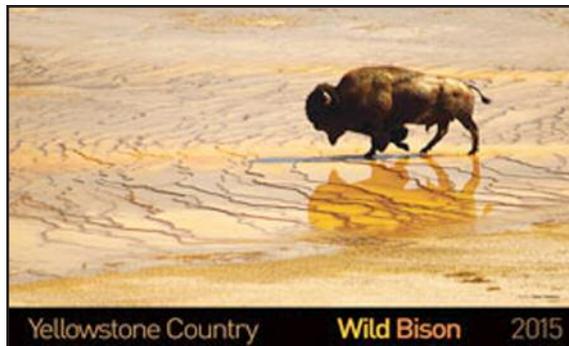


and vanishing predators, as an absolute keystone contributor to thriving plant and animal communities in some of the worlds most endangered habitats. Migration is movement; fencing is containment of movement.

As fall progresses and winter draws closer, the last truly wild, migratory bison left in our country - the most important bison populations in the world - will begin to make their ancient seasonal treks as they have done for hundreds of thousands of years. There is no structural fence to stop them, but there is a political one made up of rifles, slaughter traps, and hazers. BFC will again be on the front lines where these buffalo choose to roam, and as we document the injustice and ignorance, bearing witness to inexcusable brutality, we will continue to fight like hell for

the buffalo in the public eye, the policy arena and the courts. So long as wild bison still migrate, and we are there to defend them, there is still hope. **WILD IS THE WAY ~ ROAM FREE!**

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Political Contributions ~ Secondhand Smoke

Letter to the Readers,

Have you ever wondered why so many of your opinions about Jefferson County's issues seem to be diametrically opposed by the actions of that county's commissioners? Whether it's over-development, open space, transportation or zoning issues, the commissioners just don't seem to be on your side. If that's the case, just consider the possibility that you may not have been contributing enough to their re-election campaigns. Your \$100 check may just be lost in the shuffle in comparison with what other donors have been giving lately.

If you upped the ante from, say, a measly \$100 to something in the \$41,000 range your concerns might just be noticed by the candidate. That's what apparently happened in the current political campaign for Jefferson County Commissioner. A very wealthy oil and gas executive has contributed \$41,000 to the re-election campaign of Commissioner Don Rosier. (<https://tracer.sos.colorado.gov/CampaignFinance/Filings/Schedules/ViewContributionSchedule.aspx?FilingID=168473>)

The reason for that generous contribution might be Mr. Rosier's strong support for oil and gas drilling in Jefferson County. To quote from the Canyon Courier (9/9/14), **County Commissioner Don Rosier has expressed support for the oil and gas industry and for potential development in the county.** So could fracking be in our future? If we just add fracking to the Jefferson County Board of Education fiasco, also instigated by Mr. Rosier's political party, we could easily claim title to Controversy Capital of the Nation.

But say you don't have a spare \$41,000 in your pocket and can find only \$10,000 in loose change, perhaps only a new county-financed gas line to your jet hanger and nearby runway improvements at the county airport might be in order. That's what the county approved on September 16 of this year. One of Colorado's few billionaires (no, that's not a misprint) made a \$10,000 contribution to Commissioner Rosier's campaign just before that approval was granted. One can only wonder what the county would have done if the contribution had been in the \$41,000 range. A new private airport perhaps?

Now no one is claiming quid pro quo here, and these contributions are probably perfectly legal, but it just has to make you wonder how much Mr.

Rosier really cares about the concerns of the typical Jefferson County voter whenever they might be opposed by a couple of his wealthy contributors. When contributions from just two wealthy individuals with strong financial interests in Jefferson County make up half of Mr. Rosier's war chest, just how much attention do you think he will pay to the needs and wishes of the average voter?

Bob Kropfli

Editor's Note: A concerned resident in Coal Creek Canyon (*wishing to remain anonymous*) wrote to complain about the secondhand cigarette smoke she often endures to get her mail at the local Post Office Branch in our convenience store.

I recommended she talk to the folks who manage the store and she said she had, but still often finds one or more employees smoking just outside the front door to the only entrance. This has been explained by saying the clerks need to be able to see who is in the store and might need help at the cash register or Post Office window.

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The Taproot Of Leanin' Tree

Article and photographs by Diane Bergstrom

I met Ed Trumble years ago at lunch with his friends, who have been meeting for decades, and knew the intimate details of each other's lives. An easy air of loyalty, respect tempered with humor, and camaraderie hung over the table. They're good company, and in good company. I had given his dear friend Bill Bower a ride, and as Ed approached us at the end of the table, he removed his camel fedora, extended his hand and introduced himself. I introduced myself as Bill's driver. With a twinkle in his eye, Ed asked me, "How old does one have to be to get one of you?" I replied,

"92." With a wink and a boyish grin, he quipped, "You'd be worth the wait." His friends snickered but were not surprised by his quick wit or charm. I personally was impressed with a man in his early 80's who's still got game.

A few miles northeast of that restaurant, heading out of Boulder along the Diagonal Highway towards Longmont, a brown cultural interest sign simply worded, **Art Museum** is posted just before 63rd Street, on the south side of the highway. It's an ambiguous marker for one of the most extensive private collections of western art on free



Left: Ed Trumble in his office.

Above: The Museum.



public display. Each painting and sculpture at the **Leanin' Tree Museum** was carefully selected and purchased by Ed Trumble. With over 500 pieces in the collection, he knew each artist personally. Except for three, he told me. Much of the collection was obtained before art inventories were published online and gallery auction sales were closed with the click of a mouse. A time when a handshake finalized a deal. Ed has travelled all over the southwest, spending time with artists during their shows, at their studios, and in their homes. He rode trails with the founders of the prestigious **Cowboy Artists of America** organization, swapping stories and buying their art. They were cowboys and adept painters, who lived the life they painted. After inspiration was stirred at a Mexican cow camp, during a cattle roundup across the border, the founders met in the back booth of a bar in Sedona and formed the organization in 1965. When I asked Ed if he'd ever closed a deal over a couple fingers of scotch, he replied, "Indeed, more than one!"



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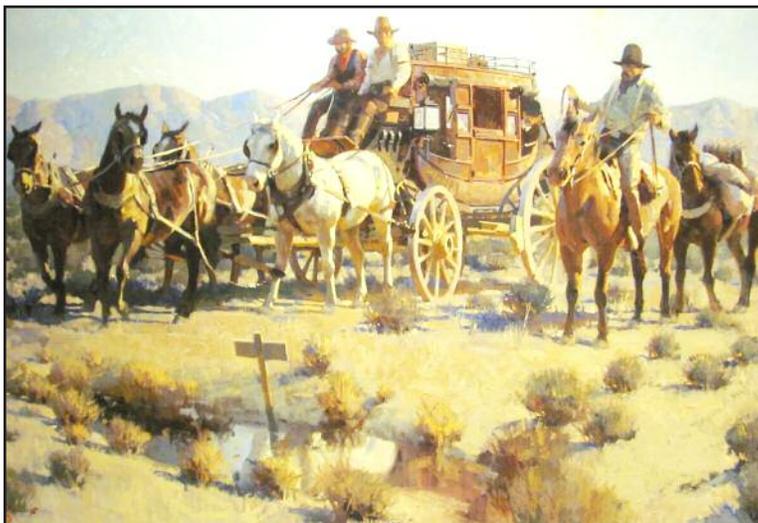


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Above:
Bad Water by
James Reynolds.
Left: *Waitin for
an Answer* by
Vel Miller. Right:
*Friendly
Persuasion* by
Vel Miller.



leaned in close to the painting to point out the numerous hues used to create depth and shadow on a white horse's legs. Ed has several of James' pieces and considered him, "Both a fine friend and the finest oil painter this nation has seen for many decades." He was a prolific painter into his eighties, maintaining his high quality

standards before he died, Ed explained, as he showed me one of James' final paintings, *Lookin' for a Trail*. Ed's eye for art started at a young age, when he developed a fascination for words (Continued next page.)

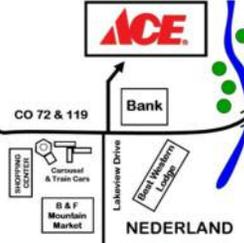
While having dinner with my artist friends, Susannah and Todd, I asked them what they, as artists, would be curious to know about Ed. They wanted to know his process for choosing pieces, considering he is not known as a visual artist. Ed outlined, "I insist that the subject matter be cowboy subjects, Native American subjects, western landscape or western wildlife. In a collection, you have to keep it focused. The more common denominators you have in a collection, the more viable it is, from the standpoint of uniqueness." In regard to the high quality of his selections, he reflected, "I maintain that if you look at 10,000 paintings, your eye will learn to pick out the good ones. I've probably looked at more than 10,000 paintings." His artistic eye is evident as we walked around the museum and he paused in front of James Reynolds' "Bad Water." He



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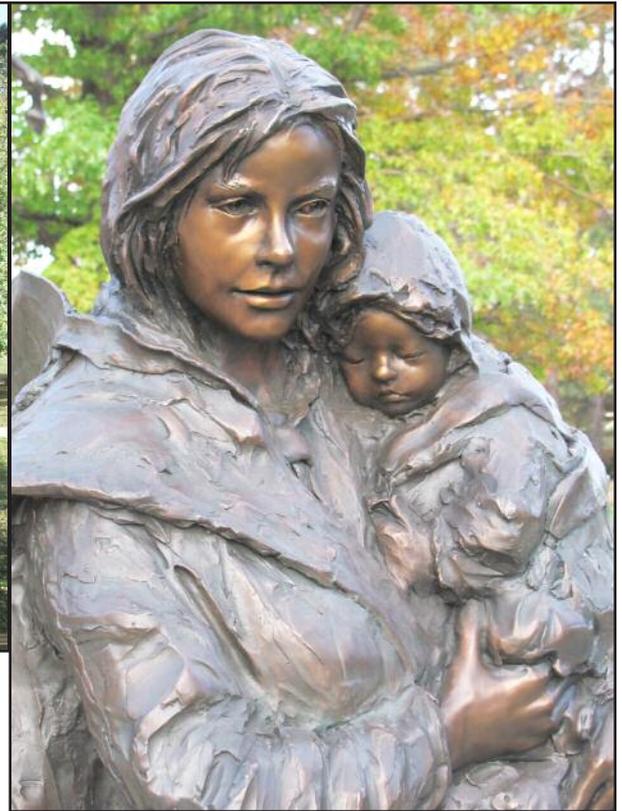
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Above: Sculpture Garden. *Right: Crossing the Prairie by Glenna Goodacre.*

and pictures. He created posters in the one-room country school he attended in rural Nebraska, and won awards at the state fair for them. His tenacity was forged at an early age too, doing farm chores as soon as he could walk. He lost his father when he was merely nine years old and the family lost their farm during the

severe drought. His enterprising mother kept the family together during the Great Depression, and remained

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constant as each of her four sons went into service during World War II. Ed was drafted in his teenage years, and referred to himself as a Buckass Private, with the L Company, 99th Division, 395th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion. He was injured at the Battle of the Bulge, where the Germans shot propaganda cards out of artillery shells to rain down on American soldiers, warning them of impending death and



Indian Maiden by Bill Hampton.

Every speculation has failed....
 Every promise broken....
 Every hope shattered....
 There's no rhyme or reason..
 No end in sight....
 After Germany - Japan....
 If you don't fall to-day -
 then to-morrow....
 Put a stop to it - - -
 - - - in one way or another

*Dead men tell no tales
 - But P.O.Ws. do!*

encouraging them to become POWs. Ed found the cards fascinating and saved several. He and his brothers survived the war, after simultaneously serving on four different continents. He proudly showed me a photograph of

the Trumble brothers in his book, *The Story of Leanin' Tree*. It is a well-written narrative of his history, including photographs of cards and artwork, accompanied by his rich stories of the artists. After turning down a job with Hallmark in (Continued next page.)



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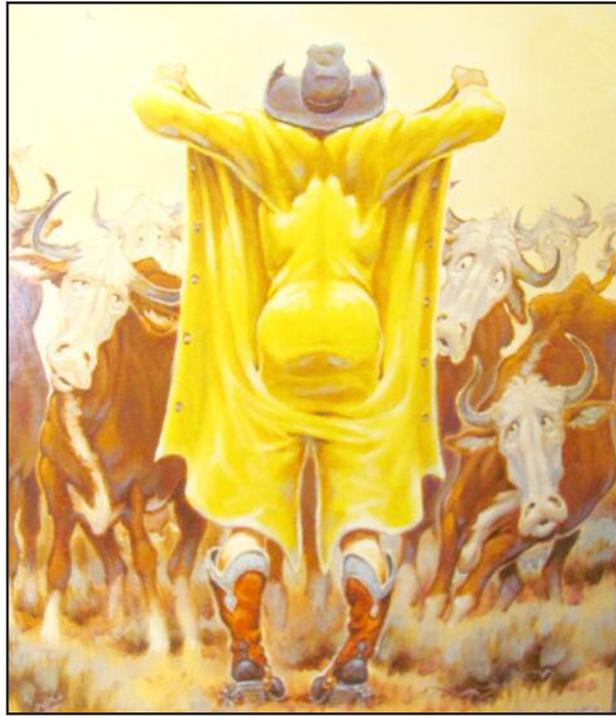
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Highlander Art

Kansas, Ed followed his heart west to Denver and accepted a job designing ads and writing copy for Western Livestock magazine. He met artist Robert Lorenz there and together, they launched the **Lazy RL Ranch** in 1949, with an initial offering of four cowboy Christmas cards. Ed sold them through the mail to western farmers and ranchers. After Bob died, Ed purchased his half of the business and renamed it, **Leanin' Tree**.

As Ed expanded the card line by purchasing a variety of art and acquiring rights, he has often collaborated with artists applying his own art of design and gift with words. While meeting with Lloyd Mitchell in the Santa Claus Inn in Los Angeles over beer and peanuts, they discussed the composition of the classic painting for card reproduction, **Hang in There**. The original design depicted a cowboy hanging on to a calf that had gone over a cliff. Scribbling on a couple of napkins, they brainstormed a



Takes One Helluva Cowboy to Stop a Stampede by Mike Scovel.

revised version still printed on cards today of a steer holding on to the cowboy and his horse who have gone over the edge. **Leanin' Tree** has published paintings by Mike Scovel for over 30 years and Ed considers him their best-selling humorist. Ed developed the image of a back view of a cowboy, holding his duster coat wide open, while standing in front of a herd of baffled steer. He commissioned Mike to paint it. (Ed took his inspiration from a Portland art campaign poster portraying their mayor flashing himself at the art museum, entitled *Exposed to Art.*) Mike, who enjoys making people laugh with his paintings, entitled his painting, **Takes One Helluva Cowboy to Stop a Stampede**. Ed hung the

painting in his office, and daily contemplated a card phrase to go with the image. After three weeks, he successfully penned, "Isn't it great, knowing at your age you can still draw a crowd!" Ed's familiarity with the artists also includes a familiarity with their styles. When the daughter of his wife Lynn, toured an estate sale, she noticed a print by an artist whose work also hangs in the museum. (*See Indian Maiden, previous page.*) She called Ed and suggested he come see it. When he arrived, shoppers holding the print were debating its authenticity. Print versus painting. They decided the flat surface might suggest it was a print. They declined. Ed evaluated the piece. He knew Bill Hampton's smooth brush strokes and recognized that the gawdy jewelry in the image, inconsistent with Bill's style, was over-painted on the original oil. He bought it, had it restored, and hung it in the museum, along with other Hampton paintings. (*You can find it on the first floor but won't find this background story posted.*) Ed commented, "Every one of the pieces has a remarkable

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Invocation by Buck McCain.

story behind them.”

The museum, outdoor sculpture garden, and factory are located at 6055 Longbow Drive in Boulder, 80301. Their telephone number is (303)530-1442 and their website is www.leanintree.com. The museum/gift shop is open Monday through Friday 8-6, Saturday 9-5, and Sunday 10-5. The museum is a self-guided tour. Nicole and Lise give guided tours of their card-making facility four times a day on weekdays. Go see how cards are made! *Leanin' Tree* cards, are made in the USA on recycled paper with soy-based ink, and sold at 30,000 outlets. They also offer an online personalized greeting card option. Ed said, “We like to think our cards please America.” *Leanin' Tree* is a local, family-run company employing over 200 local residents, welcoming visitors from all over the world. **An open house will be held November 7, 8 and 9** to celebrate their new Christmas room full of Christmas cards (and a few Hanukkah) and gifts. There will be refreshments, drawings, and activities for children. *Leanin' Tree* offers over 5,000 cards and card discounts are given at the gift shop. Always good to buy local! Plan a visit soon to see western masterpieces in this friendly local museum. I overheard an out-of-state visitor comment, while standing in front of a painting, “I have a copy of this! I can’t believe I am standing in front of the original!”

Ed advises, “Look at all the original art you can!” (P.S. Ed is turning 90 in November. If you’d like to send him a birthday card, please mail it to his attention at P.O. Box 9800, Boulder, CO 80301.)

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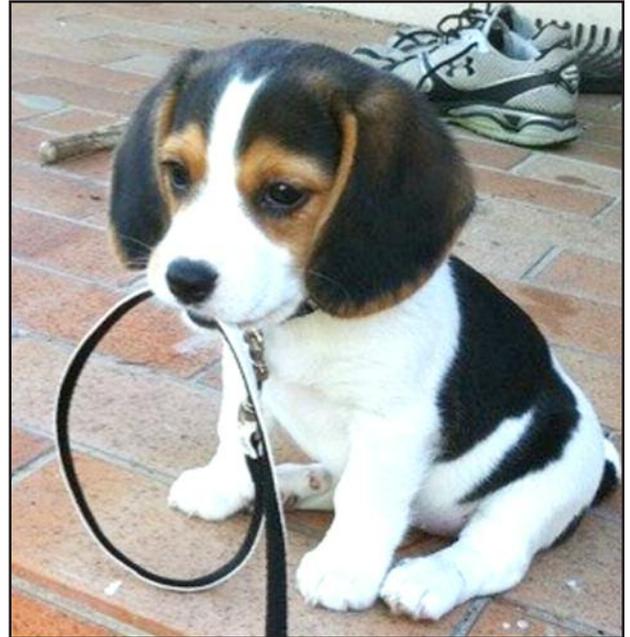
*Top Left: Cat on ledge by
Diane Bergstrom.*

*Top Right: Local doe with
this year's fawn!*

*Bottom Right:
Tiny dog in hotdog bun.*

*Bottom Left:
Kitten finds unusual
place to nap.*

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*Above:
Dog Sunbather's Club!*

*Top Right: Come on....let's go
for a walk!*

*Bottom Right:
Chanel admires view
of the Divide!*

*(Cropped photo - original
by Diane Bergstrom.)*



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Climate Canary-Changes How We Talk About Coal

By Brian Calvert - HCN

A On a tree-shaded corner of the town park in Paonia, Colorado, a life-sized statue of a miner stands, his pick gripped in both hands and his gaze turned toward Coal Mountain, a small peak in the West Elk Range of the Rocky Mountains. The statue honors the 68 men who have died in nearby mines since 1906, and acknowledges the historic importance of coal to the community (which is also HCN's hometown). These days, though, it also stands as a monument to an energy source whose future is in flux.

About a third of American power plants run on coal, and more than half of it comes from Western mines. But even though it remains the country's greatest single source of fuel for electricity, its prominence is slipping; as recently as 2007, for example, coal-fired plants produced half the nation's power. Much of the drop is due to economics, as more plants convert from coal to cheaper natural gas. But more than economics are involved: The battle over coal is increasingly moving into law and public policy.

In June, a federal judge in Colorado stopped a lease expansion for the West Elk Mine, one of three mines in the North Fork Valley, above Paonia. The judge said that the agencies involved had failed to adequately account for climate impacts, either from the mine's operations or from emissions that could come from burning the new coal. The decision came just after the Environmental Protection Agency issued a new set of regulations for power plant emissions, and though it may be appealed, it could set new precedents in the way mines and agencies calculate coal's cost to the climate. It also came as the White House continues to push a climate change agenda through agencies like the EPA and the BLM.

Still, when U.S. District Court Judge R. Brooke Jackson – a Western judge appointed by President Obama – ruled to enjoin expansion of the West Elk Mine, it came as something of a shock. “This is the first time, that I’m aware of, that conservation organizations like ours have been able to invalidate a BLM approval for a coal mine because an agency failed to adequately consider climate change impacts,” says Nathaniel Shoaff, staff attorney for the Sierra Club, which

joined other groups in suing federal agencies for approval of the lease expansion. “And that the court did so on these grounds is going to come up in lots of other cases.”

Jackson ruled that the Forest Service and the BLM had failed to look hard enough at the impacts of the lease expansion, as required by the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act. The mine, owned by Arch Coal – one of the nation's biggest coal-mining companies – had sought to extend its underground mining operations into the Gunnison National Forest, an expanse of aspen, scrub oak and beaver ponds popular with big game hunters. The expansion would have required numerous wells to vent methane pockets trapped amid the coal. The agencies thoroughly touted the economic gains of the expansion, “down to the job and the nearest \$100,000,” without fully examining the costs to the area and the climate, Jackson said. That includes the methane, a greenhouse gas many times more potent than carbon dioxide that's released during mining operations, as well as the CO2 released from the coal once it is removed from the ground and burned in a power plant.

Jackson also ruled that the BLM failed to account for the “social cost of carbon,” a federally established measurement of how greenhouse gas emissions might affect global warming. “In effect the agency prepared half of a cost-benefit analysis, incorrectly claimed that it was impossible to quantify the costs, and then relied on the anticipated benefits to approve the project,” Jackson wrote in his decision.

Jackson also took issue with something called the Colorado Roadless Rule. That 2012 rule, a compromise between the state's mining industries and environmentalists, was Colorado's response to former President Clinton's Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which put 58 million acres of national forest off limits to road building, energy development, logging and mining. Clinton's rule would have prohibited roads in coal-seamed areas of the North Fork, something the state's version allowed. In his decision, Jackson agreed with the plaintiffs, who claimed the Colorado Roadless Rule had not sufficiently accounted for potential costs to the climate and so should not be used in arguments for a

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coal-mine lease expansion.

The Colorado Roadless Rule effectively opens up 350 million tons of coal for extraction, Shoaff says. That's a huge amount of coal and a huge amount of carbon. In the past, the BLM and Forest Service have argued that if that coal is not mined in a particular location, it will be mined elsewhere, canceling out the costs to the environment. "That is a totally specious argument," Shoaff says. "And this court got rid of it in about one page." The decision creates potential precedents that could push agencies to better account for costs to the climate in their leasing agreements, Shoaff says, including the market impact of pulling so much coal out of the ground. Models can predict what will happen to the price of coal if that amount of coal is not mined. Generally, it will increase, potentially making other, less-polluting energies more appealing, and thereby reducing carbon emissions.



The West Elk Mine (pictured above via Google Earth) decision was not the only shift in the discussion of coal's future this spring. The White House is moving forward with

an aggressive climate change agenda, and that, too, is affecting coal. The most visible of these initiatives is the EPA's Clean Power Plan, a rule that aims to reduce the coal industry's U.S. emissions by 30% below its 2005 levels by 2030. The rule has been discussed by policymakers in Washington, D.C., and via public comment meetings in three other cities, including Denver. Many high-profile environmental groups like the

Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Fund support the rule, but it also has its detractors, particularly from the coal industry and states whose economies rely on it.

In hearings at the EPA's Region 8 office in Denver last month, Colorado's Moffat County Commissioner John Kinkaid likened the rule to an "environmental extremist

war." "This isn't some abstract bureaucratic exercise to the people of northwest Colorado," he said. "To us, this is personal." A coal-fired plant and two attendant coal mines are the top three taxpayers for the county, he said in an interview later. "We feel that we're being told that the science is settled, so just be quiet, and, you know, live (Continued next page.)

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Highlander Issues

with the regulations,” he said.

Meanwhile, the BLM is quietly moving toward creating regulations for dealing with methane from underground coal mining. Coal and methane are often found together, and it was the need for detection of methane, deadly for miners, that brought about the legendary canaries in early mines.

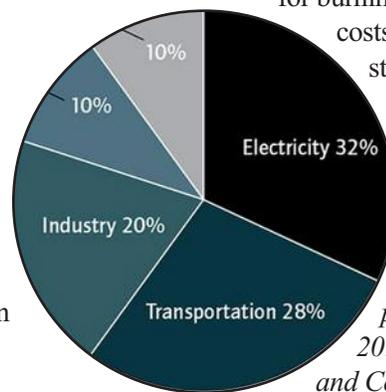
These days, methane is vented through wells drilled from the surface before mining begins, for safety purposes. But not all of that methane is captured, re-used or burned off, creating another kind of emissions problem. Methane is a major greenhouse gas that is 20 times more powerful than CO2 over a 100-year period. U.S. coal mines account for 10% of all human-caused methane emissions, according to the BLM. Adhering to the White House climate change initiative, the BLM is now requesting comments on a program to “capture, use, or destroy waste mine methane” in the mining of coal and other lease minerals. All of this is to say that coal is being viewed differently, in the courts and by the agencies that regulate it. Coal mining is still going strong, though, with much of the domestic losses in the industry offset by exports to meet foreign demand.

Colorado’s West Elk Mine decision is likely to be appealed, though details remain uncertain. A BLM spokeswoman in nearby Montrose, CO, declined to comment on the case. The overall effect on the industry, or even on Arch Coal, remains an open question, too. Company spokeswoman Kim Link says the ruling would not change operations immediately but it would complicate long-term planning.

That kind of uncertainty is the problem with decisions made in the absence of a coherent national energy policy, says Robert Godby, director of the University of Wyoming’s Center for Energy Economics & Public Policy. No such policy means a “hodgepodge of rulings” like the West Elk Mine decision. “The screws are getting turned on greenhouse gases, and anybody involved in that industry knows that,” he says. “And they’re hoping for some clarity so they can move forward.” Stuart Sanderson, Pres. of the Colorado Mining Association, says such clarity is lacking.

“The administration was not capable of producing a climate bill that could get through the Congress, even when the Democrats had a filibuster-proof majority in the U.S. Senate,” he says. “Failure to work with industries and try to achieve consensus has created a national (regulatory) vacuum.”

Still, the West Elk decision makes clear that once arguments for burning coal are weighed against its costs to the environment, coal might start to lose. “Slowly but surely those decisions are adding up,” Godby says. “I don’t know if we’ve hit the tipping point, but we’re closer to it.”



US EIA Chart shows percentages of gas emissions in 2012. 10% each from Agriculture and Commercial/Residential.

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Colorado's River Economy Equals \$9 Billion

From Sarah Tory - HCN

As Colorado prepares its first statewide water plan, which will determine how water is managed across the state now and for decades to come, a crucial debate is taking place: how to divvy up Colorado's dwindling water supplies. That discussion actually began nine years ago in the "Basin Roundtables," set up under the 2005 Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act, designed to spur conversation among farmers, environmentalists, water providers and other stakeholders in each of Colorado's eight major river basins plus the Denver metro area.

When Governor Hickenlooper issued his executive order last year to create a state Water Plan, he charged the Colorado Water Conservation Board with the task and they, in turn, looked to the Basin Roundtables for their ideas about what the overall plan should include. The goal said, James Eklund, the Board's Director, was to tackle Colorado's water problems "as one unit."

That's the theory at least. But with the Roundtables dominated by municipal and agricultural interests, other groups are struggling to make their voices heard. On Sept. 10, a group of Colorado business leaders made their case for the "river-based economy" at the Colorado Water Conservation Board meeting in Glenwood Springs, where

members of the public could comment on draft sections of the plan. The setting was fitting: nearby, the rugged Glenwood Canyon runs alongside the busy I-70 corridor. A good portion of the town's economy revolves around people coming to fish and raft on the Colorado River which carves through the canyon walls, but that river, like so many on the West Slope – where the majority of Colorado's water lies – is shrinking. Every year, 180 billion gallons of water are sucked from rivers flowing west of the Continental Divide through a vast system of tunnels and pipes to thirsty farms and cities along the dry Front Range.

Now, faced with a growing gap between water supply and demand, they need more. In their draft plans, released in July, East Slope Basins like the South Platte emphasize the need "to consider new Colorado River supply options to meet future water demands" - which means keeping open the possibility of pulling more water from west to east through new transmountain diversions. But those plans, say members of Colorado's outdoor recreation, real estate, and tourism industries, jeopardize a \$9 billion dollar economy that hinges on healthy rivers – and supports more than 80,000 jobs in the state.

A report commissioned by Protect The Flows found that if the Colorado River was a company, it would rank 155th on the 2011 Fortune 500 list *(Continued next page.)*

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(those numbers are based just off of the revenue and jobs provided by the outdoor recreation industry), ahead of General Mills and US airways. It would also be the 19th biggest employer on the list. "It's really pure economics for us," says Dennis Saffell, a realtor from Grand County. Factoring in all the indirect beneficiaries of Colorado's rivers means the true economic value is likely much greater, he added, citing a recent report that found declining river flows across the Southwest could significantly hurt home prices.

Decades of overuse, plus a 15 year drought, have taken their toll on Colorado's waterways. Reservoir levels have dropped 35% in the last 12 years and average flows on the Colorado River are half what they were two centuries ago.

"For 150 years we've done a good job of taking water out of the river," says Craig Mackey, the co-director of Protect The Flows, a coalition of business owners that rely on rivers. Protect Our Flows wants the statewide plan to place more emphasis on smart water management and remove the option of building new transmountain diversions. The group is pressing the Colorado Water Conservation Board to set concrete statewide conservation goals in the Water Plan, especially for towns and cities – something most other Western states have, but Colorado is lacking.

Both Mackey and Saffell noted that although most of the Basin Roundtables recognize the economic value of healthy rivers, far fewer have actually quantified those benefits - or included specific language to protect stream flows. Since each Basin's recommendations lay the foundation for the statewide plan, it's essential that all of them include concrete standards. But the river advocates are up against some strong, well-entrenched political forces. They pointed to the big agriculture and municipal interests that drive a large chunk of Colorado's economy – and hold much of the power at the Basin Roundtables.

In comparison, the recreation economy is "the new kid on the block," says Mackey, who grew up skiing on wood skis and cable bindings. "I'm a sixty year old man and Patagonia, The North Face, the Vail Ski Resort – these companies grew up in my lifetime," he added. "So we really need to push our way into the conversation."

And there's another challenge: Colorado's water laws. Most were written in the late 1800's and though a few modifications have occurred over the years, the laws still reinforce a "use it or lose it" mentality, which makes it difficult to implement conservation strategies. Thanks to those laws, says Saffell, farmers and cities have a legal right to keep using more water.

Think of it this way, he added: if we had the same traffic laws as we did 150 years ago when the water laws were written, it would be utter chaos. Most laws change to accommodate new realities, says Saffell, "but for some reason our water laws are untouchable." Instead, "we need to get away from this concept that any water left in the river is wasted water because it's not being put to beneficial use," he said.

Sarah Tory is an editorial intern at High Country News.

The Health Hazards Of Artificial Turf

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that playing on artificial turf fields can cause cancer? If so, how can I minimize exposure for my sports-loving kids? — Melanie Witmer, Syracuse, NY

Just when you thought it was safe to play soccer on that brand new synthetic turf field, it may be time to think again. Those little black dirt-like granules that fill up the space between synthetic blades of grass and make up some 90% of today's artificial turf fields are actually ground-up car and truck tires. As such they contain a host of potentially noxious chemicals that can lead to a wide range of health problems.

Four of the constituent chemicals in these "tire crumbs" (or "tire mulch") as they are called—arsenic, benzene, cadmium and nickel—are deemed carcinogens by the International Agency for Cancer Research. Others have been linked to skin, eye and respiratory irritation, kidney and liver problems, allergic reactions, nervous systems disorders and developmental delays.

While the risk came to light recently when a University of Washington women's soccer coach began to think it might be more than a coincidence that two of her goalies were stricken with cancer, researchers have known about such potential links for years. A 2007 report by the Connecticut-based Environment & Human Health Inc. (EHHI) looked at several scientific studies and found definitive connections between various health problems and exposure to synthetic turf.

EHHI also reported that kids on playfields are likely to face similar risks as line workers in the rubber fabrication and reclamation industries, where they say health reports show the presence of multiple volatile organic hydrocarbons and other toxic elements in the air. "Studies at tire reclamation sites report leaching of chemicals into the ground water."

The Synthetic Turf Council, an industry group, maintains that there is considerable evidence pointing to the health safety of synthetic turf. But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) isn't taking sides, leaving it up to state and local jurisdictions to decide whether or not to allow artificial turf. The EPA would like to see more research done so parents everywhere can have a better idea of the risks.

Of course, synthetic turf fields aren't all bad. For one, they don't need frequent watering (a grass playing field typically requires 50,000 gallons of water per week during growing season) and doesn't require the application of potentially toxic pesticides. Furthermore, turf is much more durable and less costly to maintain than grass.

Do these pros outweigh the cons? Some schools don't think so and are turning back plans to convert their grass fields to turf. Where it is too late for that, parents should warn their little athletes to stay upright as much as possible—turf-related cancers seem to be most common in goalies who spend the most time down on the turf surface. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that those playing on synthetic turf avoid eating or drinking on the field where toxic dust can contaminate food and liquids, wash their hands and body aggressively with soap and water afterwards, and remove clothes worn on the field and turn them inside out before washing them separately from other items. *International Agency for Cancer Research, www.iarc.fr; EHHI, www.ehhi.org; Synthetic Turf Council, www.syntheticurfCouncil.org; CDC, www.cdc.gov. earthtalk@emagazine.com.*

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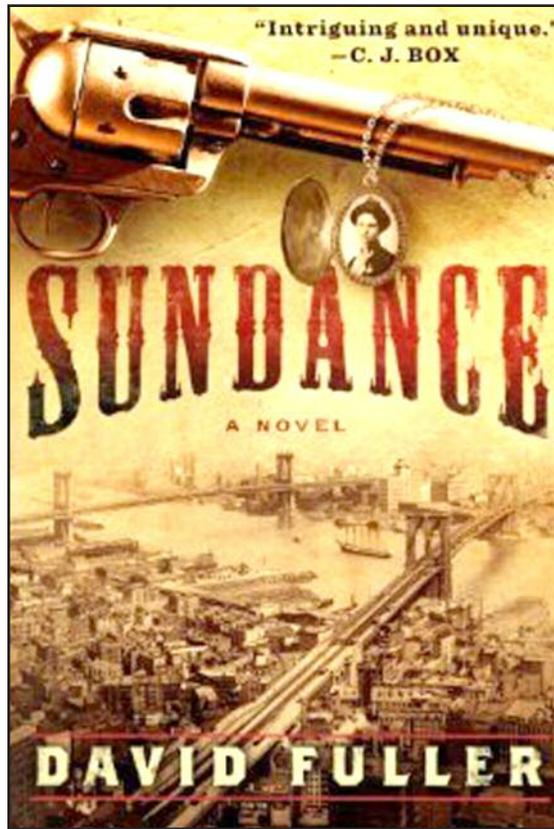
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Reinventing The Sundance Kid

By Karen Rigby - HCN

Sundance: A Novel - David Fuller
352 pages, hardcover: \$27.95.
Riverhead, 2014.

What if an Old West legend left the outlaw life behind to embark on a mission to find his lost love? David Fuller's second novel recasts the fate of Harry Alonzo Longbaugh, better known to history and movie fans as the Sundance Kid, who allegedly perished along with Butch Cassidy in a 1908 shootout in Bolivia. In *Sundance*, the former train and bank robber is fictionalized as Longbaugh, who emerges from prison in 1913, bent on locating his missing wife, Etta Place. With a suspenseful plot that sweeps from Wyoming to New York, Fuller transforms the wily bandit into a heroic and determined rescuer.



The Los Angeles-based author thoughtfully evokes a man at odds with his own shifting nature. Once adept at relying on intuition, Longbaugh is a changed man; his glory days are behind him, and a newfound caution awakens him to the reality that “in life, stories are always defined after the fact.” He is, as he is forced to admit, “no longer certain of the edge delineating action from prudence.” As Longbaugh searches tirelessly for Etta, he gets glimpses of lives unlike his own – in a boarding-house, an opium den and overcrowded tenements – even as he’s pursued by both a Wyoming lawman and an Italian gangster who’s after Etta.

With its twisting plot and occasionally brutal scenes, *Sundance* entwines the pain of romantic separation and the urgency of Longbaugh’s quest with historic

events, including the deadly 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City, and he brings in real-life characters such as Lillian Wald, a humanitarian and nurse. Fuller deftly places Etta at pivotal historic junctures, putting her shoulder-to-shoulder with strong-minded characters and giving her a fascinating, outsized role nearly equal to Longbaugh’s in his outlaw days.

Fuller captures the grit and glitter of a modernizing city: “In the midst of more people than he could have imagined, he was unseen and anonymous. The city could not only hide him, but here he could slay his nickname and bury it.” But Longbaugh’s past catches up with him in the end and offers him the chance for a new beginning, culminating in a surprising – even controversial – act of mercy.

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Seeds Of Change

By Melissa E. Johnson

*You know how if you plant seeds,
it takes time for the fruits of the seeds
to push up through the ground's surface?
Same goes for the changes you want to manifest.
They take time to see.*

~Karen Salmansohn

The thing about seeds is that they don't grow overnight. You can plant them, water them—even talk to them—and you get nothing, or at least that's how it seems. But there's business going on underground: roots are forming, intertwining with others for mutual support and growth, while decisions are being made about how many flowers, or apples, or tomatoes will grow from that seed. Then one day, just when you thought nothing was happening—BAM! Signs of life emerge from the ground, reaching for the sunlight. Suddenly, it all makes perfect sense.

So it is with you and me. Dreams are our seeds of change. Words are also seeds, and when dropped into the ether, whether spoken or held deeply in our spirit, they

grow and bring forth their kind. Nothing grows without a seed. Nothing changes without a dream. And as we move deeper into fall, I'm reminded how temporary it all is. Seasons change. People come and go. Time marches on, waiting for no one, yet moving us forward in rhythm with the silent longings of our hearts.

Just as the Aspen leaves turn green, then gold, falling to the ground with winter's early warning, I'm reminded that we, too, must first die to one life before experiencing the new growth of spring. We must clear space; shed a part of what we know and make room for what we want to create.

We know it's coming; we've longed for it. Yet so often we fear the change we seek.

Consider the Aspen—do you think it spends the winter fearing that it will never again experience the joy of having beautiful leaves adorn its branches? Questioning the essence of its being? Wishing things were different? Regretting having done what is in its nature to do? I think not. It's rather like they are hibernating, conserving

energy for the new cycle of life that will emerge come spring.

(Continued next page.)



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Why should it be any different with people? Consider what you do between cycles of change, waiting for your seeds to grow. How do you fill your time? What do you give your energy to?

When you're moving through change, yet you can't quite see the end result, do you live in fear that where you are is all your life will ever be? Or do you get busy doing what you can to organize yourself, energize your thoughts, and develop a good plan to support your change as you move forward?

*All changes, even the most longed for,
have their melancholy;
for what we leave behind is part of ourselves;
we must die to one life before we can enter into another.*
~Anatole France

Even when change comes from a conscious choice to restructure some aspect of our life—to let go of a dead-end relationship, change careers, start a family, create a new business or embark on a great travel adventure—it is tempting to spend our time in an anxious state, questioning

our decisions, worrying that it will all go horribly wrong; expecting signs of new life to emerge immediately on the heels of our decision to change, just after planting the seeds.

But if we could step back and observe ourselves from a distance, we would see that we aren't done yet: We are still moving toward a destination that we can't quite see because we're consumed with the day-to-day experience of our change, slowed by the natural timing of things; like watching seeds grow underground.

Remember: To everything there is a reason, a season, a cycle and right timing. Work with the energy of change, not against it. Be patient and mindful of life's rhythms. Use down time to improve where you can, turning weaknesses into strengths. And prepare yourself, for a bright new tomorrow will emerge just as surely as the snow falls on changing leaves. Will you be ready?

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

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The Walrus Detectives

By Krista Langlois - HCN

If you spent any time on the internet recently, you probably saw the photos: A giant, roiling mass of 35,000 walrus crowded onto a beach in northwest Alaska. The photos, captured by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, were featured on the BBC, the Associated Press and more Twitter and Facebook feeds than anyone could count. (See Next Page.)

Most reports — with the exception of a few ultra-conservative sites — decisively linked the record numbers of on-shore walrus to record low sea ice offshore, and overnight, the walrus became an international symbol of climate change. The New York Times called the situation a “walrus crisis,” and NBC News reported that it was a “very visual sign of what wildlife scientists know and worry about: From the Arctic to Antarctica, some species are having to adapt, or die, in the face of the long-term threat of a warming planet.”

But two walrus experts currently using a National Science Foundation grant to analyze recent, historic and prehistoric walrus samples to piece together the species’ 4,000-year history say that we don’t understand enough about “normal” walrus behavior to know whether the massive haul-out is, in fact, unusual. Nicole Misarti, a research professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Lara Horstmann, a professor of marine biology, say that it’s certainly not unprecedented: Massive haul-outs of walrus are annual events in Russia, and were recorded in Alaska in 1938. Just because the walrus haven’t hauled out in this specific location in such large numbers during the limited time we’ve been studying them doesn’t mean that the behavior is necessarily abnormal, or related to climate change.

Nonetheless, Misarti and Horstmann aren’t ruling climate change out, either. There’s no doubt that the trend of more and more walrus gathering on Alaskan beaches in recent years mirrors a decrease in Arctic sea ice, “but nobody knows enough about walrus to say whether it’s a lack of sea ice or sea ice moving in a different direction or prey moving to different areas,” Misarti says. “Those are the burning questions.”

Plus, reports claiming that the haul-out is harmful to the walrus or is a “crisis” are overblown, the researchers say. “It’s important that people realize it’s not a mass die off and it’s not a

mass stranding,” Horstmann notes.

“It’s not like whales stranded on a beach. The walrus are purposely hauling out there — they’re not helpless and the numbers of trampled young are actually quite low so far,” adds Misarti.

Yet like most species, walrus numbers in Alaska have indeed decreased over the past several decades, and those that remain are vulnerable to climate change. Just as vulnerable, though, are the subsistence villages that depend on walrus. That’s why Misarti and Horstmann are combing through historic interviews and analyzing trace hormones like cortisol (the “stress hormone”) collected from bone and tooth samples to figure out how walrus populations responded to past climactic events like the Little Ice Age or the Medieval Warm Period. “We really don’t know much about walrus, so pretty much any information we can give subsistence hunters or state agencies is going to be helpful,” Misarti says.

Aiding their groundbreaking *(Continued next page.)*



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Highlander Wildlife

research is the fact that walrus teeth have growth rings similar to those in trees. "With a tree ring, you can look at an individual tree and how it's changed over time," Horstmann says.

"We're doing some of that, but we're also looking at groups [of walrus] over time," Misarti explains. "It would be like looking at ten trees from 100 years ago, ten trees from 1,000 years ago, and so on."

Still, the lab work is slow and painstaking, and one year into a four-year study, the researchers don't yet understand how walrus react to environmental changes. One hypothesis behind the current trend is that larger haul-outs used to be more common in Alaska, but the introduction of snowmobiles and ATVs drove the animals farther to sea. Another is that perhaps clams have flourished recently in the area, and the walrus are simply following their favorite food source. And a third, of course, is that melting sea ice is driving more females and juveniles onto shore.

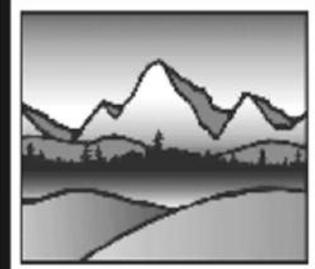
Again, no one knows, but media hyperbole that

oversimplifies the threats walrus do face and plays into the growing tendency to relate any unusual event to climate change only gives climate deniers a stronger case for decrying all climate science as bunk.



Krista Langlois is an editorial fellow at High Country News.

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First Legal Hemp Harvest Since 1957

From Nelson Harvey - HCN

Boosters of industrial hemp often fondly refer to the plant as a wonder crop, usable in everything from building materials to batteries to breakfast cereal. Since Colorado voters legalized both hemp and marijuana with the passage of Amendment 64 in 2012, hemp advocates have been buzzing about the state's promise as a manufacturing hub for this dizzying array of products. Yet even as Colorado farmers make history this fall with the first legal commercial hemp harvest on U.S. soil in 57 years, it's unlikely that much of their bounty will go toward the plant's diverse list of potential uses.

Instead, hobbled by a longstanding federal ban on shipping hemp seed across state lines, most Colorado hemp farmers are squirreling away their seed supply, using this year's harvest as a source of next year's supply in an attempt to vastly increase planted acreage in 2015 with Colorado-grown seed stock.

"In an ideal world we'd grow between 1,500 and 2,000 acres of hemp next year, said J.R. Knaub, a 37-year-old farmer in the northeastern Colorado town of Sterling who has been growing corn, sugar beets and alfalfa for the last 20 years and this year planted around 2 acres of hemp. "But getting seed will be the biggest task we have to conquer."

The federally-induced seed shortage has already stunted

the growth of Colorado's hemp industry: Last spring, farmers registered with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to plant nearly 1,600 acres of hemp. Yet seed shortages, poor germination rates and inexperience with the crop will limit their harvest this fall to about 200 acres, according to Zev Paiss of the Rocky Mountain Hemp Association.

"This year, because it was so hard to get seed, people were buying whatever they could get a hold of, and it wasn't always the best seed," said Paiss. "Because of that, I've heard that the amount of germination farmers achieved varied widely." *(Continued next page.)*



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Highlander Issues

In light of the shortage, Colorado hemp farmers appear to be prioritizing seed saving this fall over other potential uses for their hemp crops. The state Department of Agriculture requires hemp farmers to submit a form at least 30 days before harvest detailing what they plan to do with their plants, and as of late September, 27 farmers had written that they plan to use their crop primarily for seed saving purposes. Just 14 farmers had plans to experiment with making construction materials, textiles, medicines and other hemp-based products, and only one farmer planned to sell seed to other growers this fall. (As this story was published, “harvest notification” forms continued to roll in from farmers around the state).



Above: Hemp agriculture in Colorado.

Photograph by Billy Allegar Iwant2shootu@instagram.

“We are at the very beginning of rebuilding a complicated industry,” said Paiss. “All the farmers are going to be holding on to their seed this year and building seed stock. There will be almost no seed available for sale to new businesses [next] year.”

The federal ban on hemp has its roots in the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. The act made it illegal to transport the plant or its seeds across state lines without a permit from the Drug Enforcement Administration, which can be hard to get. Since Colorado voters legalized industrial hemp in 2012, farmers have found ways to import seed from other countries, but many are reluctant to discuss the

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details of those legally nebulous arrangements. Plus, there's no guarantee that seeds they import from hemp producing nations like Canada and China will successfully clear U.S. Customs.

There are cracks forming in the façade of federal hemp prohibition: The 2014 farm bill contained a provision allowing colleges and universities to cultivate industrial hemp for research purposes without fear of federal interference, and 19 states have laws on the books permitting such pilot projects, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Eight of those states, including Colorado, California, Maine, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Vermont and West Virginia have passed laws removing barriers to more widespread hemp production.

If Colorado farmers can save hemp seed successfully this fall, the acreage planted there next spring should grow substantially from this year's levels. Paiss says that the seed saved from two acres of industrial hemp should be enough to plant at least 20 acres next year, which he says is a conservative estimate. Bill Billings, the president of an eastern Colorado company called the Colorado Hemp Project, says depending on the hemp variety and production methods, an acre worth of seed could be enough for 100 acres next year. Even if the ban on seed transport persists, farmers will likely continue smuggling seed from abroad next year to supplement what they can grow themselves.

And despite the seed shortage, there are some plans afoot to use part of this year's hemp harvest for research and development — it is possible, after all, to save some seed while putting the rest of the plant to immediate use. Over the next few years, Colorado entrepreneurs are hoping to build processing plants to make hemp-based pharmaceuticals, textiles, energy drinks and myriad other products.

Billings says he's working with a Boulder, Colorado-based company to develop hemp-based carbon electrodes for batteries and other applications that could make expensive materials like graphene unnecessary. Ryan Laughlin, the farmer who harvested a much-publicized hemp crop on his Springfield, Colorado farm in 2013 before state hemp regulations were finalized, is selling this year's harvest to Cannabis Therapy Corp. of Boulder, which makes hemp and cannabis-based pharmaceuticals. And a firm called American Hemp Ventures recently won approval to build an experimental hemp processing plant in

Logan County in the eastern part of the state.

Over time, the hope is to replace many imported hemp products with domestically produced alternatives. "Right now we import \$580 million per year in hemp products into the U.S.," said Paiss. "We are talking about tapping into a half-billion dollar industry over the next few years.



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KGNU Radio pg 32 303.449.4885
Olde Golden Christmas pg 11

EXCAVATING

Driveway Doctor pg 3 303.642.0606
Silver Eagle Excavating pg 31 303.642.7464

FARRIER

Forbes Farrier Service pg 33 303.725.8471

FIREWOOD & FOREST MANAGEMENT

Lumber Jacks - pg 12 303.642.0953

GIFTS

bellaAboutique pg 3 303.423.8876
Rocky Mtn Antler Works pg 7 720.301.3334
The Silver Horse - pg 26 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 26 303.258.3225
The Alpaca Store & More ins cov 303.258.1400
Wondervu Gift Shop pg 23 303.642.1258

GROCERIES

B & F Mountain Market pg 29 303.258.3105

HEATING

HiTech Appliance pg 6 303.665.0951

HEALTH & FITNESS

Hands, Hoofs & Paws pg 18 303.503.6068
Massage Envy Spa inside front cov 303.423.3689
Nederdance pg 6 303.258.9427

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 13 303.258.3132
Canyon Colors-Painting pg 12 303.301.4298
Colorado Water Wizard pg 27 303.447.0789
Driveway Doctor pg 3 303.642.0606
Meyer Hardware ins front cov 303.279.3393
Redpoint Construction pg 25 303.642.3691
Summit Up Prop. Maint/Rep. pg 16 303.582.5456

HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 10 303.582.5230

LIQUOR

Mid-County Liquors pg 27 3093.642.7686
Town Center Liquors pg 32 303.940.5735
Underground Liquor pg 5 303.582.6034

PLUMBING

JMCleary Mechanicals pg 10 303.642.0885
Keating Pipeworks, Inc. pg 9 720.974.0023
Morgan Rooter Service pg 8 303.642.3166

PROPANE

Carl's Corner pg 25 303.642.7144

REAL ESTATE

Black Hawk Real Estate pg 20 303.881.3953
Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 22 303.642.7951
Mock Realty-Kathy Keating -Back cov 303.642.1133
RE/MAX Alliance pg 14 303.952.3068
Summit Up Property Mgt. pg 9 303.618.8266

RESTAURANTS

Charlie's-Central City pg 24 303.552.5932
Malones Clubhouse Grill pg 21 303.940.1800
Ralston Road Cafe pg 29 303.420.6650
Sundance Cafe pg 25 303.258.0804
Westfalen Hof - pg 16 303.642.3180
Wondervu Cafe pg 23 303.642.7197

RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 13 303.258.3132
bellaAboutique pg 3 303.423.8876
Golden Mill pg 5 303.279.1151
HiTech Appliance pg 19 303.665.0951
Meyer Hardware ins front cov 303.279.3393
Mountain Man Store pg 21 303.258.3295
The Alpaca Store & More ins cov 303.258.1400
The Silver Horse - pg 26 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 26 303.258.3225

STOVES/SERVICE

HiTech Appliance pg 19 303.665.0951
Indian Peaks Stove/Chimney pg 6 303.258.3474

TAXES

Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 28 303.642.7371

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 17 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 27 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well pg 8 303.438.6669

NOVEMBER
2014

POWER UPDATE



Small Change Has a Big Impact

It's only small change—an average of 50 cents per month—but when you multiply that by the thousands of generous United Power members who participate in Operation Round-Up it makes a BIG difference in your local community.

Operation Round-Up funds don't just go toward utility bills. Round-Up has provided funds for local fire departments, community health clinics, youth programs, food banks, needy families and many other worthwhile causes.

Put your small change to work!

Sign up on your next bill statement, online or by calling 303-637-1300.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Free Trip to D.C.

United Power is now accepting applications for the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour to be held June 11-18, 2015. The cooperative will pay all expenses for this unique opportunity for three local students to experience our nation's capital first hand. This experience will allow students to gain a better understanding of American History, see government in action, develop leadership skills, and gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives.

United Power's Youth Tour is open to high school students 16 years of age or older and whose primary residence is in United Power's service territory.

Applications are available under the 'your Community' section at www.unitedpower.com. For more information contact United Power's Community Outreach Specialist at 303-637-1334. **Applications must be postmarked by January 12, 2015.**



Cooperative Youth Tour
Washington, D.C.
June 11-18, 2015

What To Do During an Outage

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

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

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

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

Customer Service: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

Happy Thanksgiving - Gobble Gobble



11457 Coal Creek Heights
Amazing Views
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,730 sq.ft. **\$259,900**



23 Elliot Lane
Amazing Remodel
4 BD/ 3 BA 2,604 sq.ft. **\$398,000**



76 Wonderland Avenue
Convenient Location
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,674 sq.ft. **\$187,500**



635 Divide View
Shines with Pride of Ownership
3 BD/ 2 BA 2968 sq.ft. **\$349,900**



10 Ronnie Road
Panoramic Mountain Views
2 BD/ 2 BA 2,120 sq.ft. **\$274,000**



11427 W. 103rd Ave.
HOME SWEET HOME!
3 BD/ 2 BA 1328 sq.ft. **\$238,500**



335 Iris Street
Broomfield Heights Beauty!
3 BD/ 3 BA 2520 sq.ft. **\$284,900**



277 Morning Star
Lovely Place to call Home
2 BD/ 1 BA 732 sq.ft. **\$185,000**



30 Wonder Trail
Charming Mountain Cabin!
1 BD/ 1 BA 440 sq.ft. **\$129,000**



10232 Dowdle
Privacy in the Pines
3 BD/ 4 BA 4,752 sq.ft. **\$399,000**



10 Leon Lane
360 Degree Divide & City Views
3 BD/ 2 BA 1813 sq.ft. **\$369,900**



34705 Stanton Drive
Rare Foothill Property w/ Private Pond
3 BD/ 2 BA 1.40 Acres **\$329,000**



11648 Overlook Road
Enjoy Foothill Views
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,104 sq.ft. **\$274,900**



77 Ramona
Flawless Retreat in the Mountains
3 BD/ 3 BA 3516 sq.ft. **\$489,400**



8819 Blue Mountain
Breathtaking Views of Blue Mtn Valley!
3 BD/ 4 BA 3173 sq.ft. **\$549,000**



29538 Loomis Way
Snow-Capped Views
3 BD/ 3 BA 4.65 Acres **\$549,900**



282 Ronnie Road
Secluded Behind Aspens & Rock Outcroppings
3 BD/ 3 BA 2887 sq.ft. **\$419,000**



2126 Apex Valley Road
Majestic Setting on Upper N. Clear Creek
3 BD/ 2 BA 1406 sq.ft. **\$289,900**



6374 Modena Lane
Extraordinary Boulder City Estate
3 BD/ 3 BA 3220 sq.ft. **\$801,000**

LAND LISTINGS

- 19 Ronnie 0.7 Ac. - \$74K
- 33966 Nadm 1.08 Ac. - \$75K
- 64 Damascus 1.87 Ac. - \$44,900 Under Contract
- 0 Damascus 1.86 Ac. - \$44,900
- 11547 Shimley 1.15 Ac. - \$ \$29K
- 0 Hilltop NEW! 2.8 Ac. - \$84K
- 129 Debra Ann .76 Ac. - \$39K Under Contract



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

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