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About the Cover:
A juvenile black bear in
Coal Creek Canyon.
Photo by Jon Mikulich.



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Ursae Majoris

By Kevin McCarthy

*Our attempts to keep bird
suet from the bears are
becoming elaborate, as
the beasts are perfectly*

*ready to crawl tightropes and
engage in other derring-do
for fatty dainties now that
snow smells come daily*

*But for the trouble, we hardly
begrudge the occasional gorge,
given the wild Ursa cycles
of gluttony and snore*

*One stole a cage feeder and
might have mashed it right
away, but I like to think of
it tucked under a thick arm*

*Another raided a friend's
garage freezer, skipping
elk steaks in favor of
Neapolitan ice cream*

*Then there was the cub that
slipped through the dog door
and left a neat pile of peach
stones, with sticky prints*

*It's warming to think of the
unexpected boons of inventive
foraging - a great sow licking
a seasoned grill, a youngster*

*biting into a Palisade wonder,
a bearish mass festooned with
parti-colored blobs, and that
big cinnamon making for home*

*with a seed-studded loaf, so
grateful, as are we, for odd
proof of bounty limitless
as the stars*



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Get Bear Smart

Get Bear Smart Society

Even when bears are being fed, or feeding from birdfeeders, or panhandling from tourists, they are still bears so they will treat you like another bear. The problem is that bears are very physical with each other. Even though they may look and act like a big dog, a sudden miscommunication like trying to pet one may result in a sudden and unavoidable swat or bite. Bears, unlike dogs, take offense at being petted. Bears play by bear rules and know nothing of ours. Close contact between uniformed people and bears is a script for disaster. So the answer is straightforward: don't get close.~Ben Kilham Source:

Among the Bears (pg 242) There are several tools available on the market today to help you keep curious or hungry bears away from you and your home, business or campsite.

There are lots of things you can do to deter a black bear from approaching or hanging around your property. Some in situ or passive deterrents, like an electric fence, automatically provide negative feedback to bears when they approach your property or specific attractants, such as bee hives or fruit trees. Others are manually deployed, helping you to deter a bold or aggressive bear's approach with noisemakers or projectiles.

No matter which tools you choose to protect yourself and your property, use direct eye contact and a take charge ATTITUDE with black bears!

And always ensure that the bear has a clear and safe avenue of escape with no people or obstacles in its way. If it has no way to escape, it may interpret your efforts to scare it away as an attack and stand its ground in self-defense.

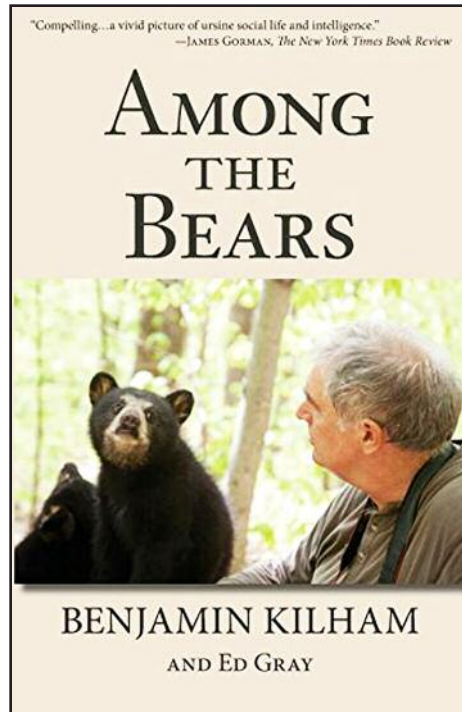
It is much easier to keep food away from a wild bear in the first place than it is to teach a food-conditioned bear to stay away from unnatural food that he has learned to enjoy. The first rule of BearSmartness is to not attract bears to areas frequented by humans.

Securing attractants is the single best way to keep people safe, prevent property damage, and avoid the unnecessary killing of bears that come into conflict with people. Bottom line: Garbage, birdseed and pet food etc. attracts bears to your property making it more likely for the bear to break into your home creating a safety risk for your family and a death sentence for the bear.

Bear Smart at Home

Although watching a bear feed in your yard can be an exhilarating experience, it almost always leads to trouble at a future date. Making sure your home and yard are bear-proof is an essential part of making your community safe for both bears and people. Here's how:

1. Keep your home bear-attractant free. Don't attract bears to your property with garbage, bird feeders, fruit trees and berry bushes, gardens, compost, dirty barbecues (grease cans or drip trays) or pet food.
2. Don't stockpile garbage and recycling in large quantities. Store it indoors; or outdoors in bear-proof containers. If your community has curb-side pick-up, don't place it outside until just before pick-up.
3. Bears can and will climb through open windows and doors. Consider keeping them closed and locked during bear season, especially if you know there is a bear in the area.
4. Use specially designed bear deterrents – remotely triggered





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noisemakers and sprinklers or unwelcome electric door mats – to discourage bears from entering your property, especially while you are away for extended periods.

5. If you encounter a bear in an urban area, remain calm. Give the bear plenty of space and an easy escape route. With a black bear, make lots of noise to encourage it to leave; if it's a grizzly bear, remain quiet and slowly back away. Call your local conservation/wildlife officer and report your bear sighting.

6. Keep the whole neighbourhood safe by encouraging your neighbours to follow **BearSmart** practices, too.

7. Join your local **BearSmart** organization or start one.

Natural threats to bears include drought, starvation, loss of natural food sources, accidents, internal parasites, fires and other bears. Mountain lions, also, on occasion kill small bears. Black bears are relatively disease free and have remarkable recuperative healing powers.

On average, bear hunting in the state accounts for about 70% of all bear mortality. Colorado Parks and Wildlife keeps statistics on all manners of black bear mortality including hunter take and bear mortality outside of hunting, (nuisance bear removal, vehicle mortality or bears shot by homeowners in defense of property), regionally and statewide.

Humans are responsible for most bear deaths. Collisions with vehicles, the destruction of “problem” bears, hunting, poaching, livestock protection and loss of habitat are leading causes of bear mortality in Colorado. It is yet to be known what affect if any a warming climate will have on black bears in Colorado, although hibernation is expected

to be shorter – therefore allowing for more time for human and bear conflict. **The growth of the human population is likely the biggest threat to bears in Colorado.**



LOSS OF HABITAT

Many areas of the state, are rapidly losing some of its best bear habitat to home development, ski and golf resorts. State forecasters project that Colorado's population will exceed 7.1 million by 2040, primarily focused in some of the most productive bear habitat in the state. Many counties have seen a four-fold increase in the human population in the past 20 years. Human population growth in the state is 2% annually, while human-bear conflict has been growing by 4% yearly. Human-bear conflict is expected to increase, regardless of whether the statewide bear population remains stable, increases or decreases.

“You don't have a bear in your backyard; the bear has a house in his front yard.”

— Mike Reid, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

(Photo of Jeanie with cubs, BearSmart.)



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Gross Comments Due April 9th ~ Animal Cruelty

Dear Readers,

You only have a few more days to voice your opposition to the Gross Dam Expansion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – that has extended public comment until April 9th. Go to the **TegColorado.org** website and follow the prompts to add your voice to stop the proposed project. While Denver Water wishes all of us to ‘think’ this project is already permitted and a done deal – IT IS NOT.

FERC must still amend the existing hydroelectric permit for Denver Water to go forward with the Moffat Project that will drain even more water from the Colorado River, one of the most environmentally endangered rivers in North America. Please do this today, everyone must weigh in and **help stop the expansion of Gross Dam and Reservoir.**

The **TegColorado.org** website makes it VERY easy to do this, and you may add any of your own concerns to what they have available for you to say to FERC. This is one of the very last steps we can take to help stop this proposed project. Do you civic duty and voice your concerns now.

Editor

Dear Readers,

Due to the repeated reports of hunter level arrows being shot at the local deer population in Coal Creek Canyon, (*pictures have been taken but will not appear here to avoid gratuitous violence*) regional Colorado Parks and Wildlife


officers are currently investigating this as a criminal cruelty violation and seeking any and all information that will lead to the person or persons committing this crime. Please contact Peter at DOW 720-724-4824 to turn in this individual if you know anything regarding this criminal activity. Also call this number to report any deer shot with an arrow in your area. On the weekend, call CO State Patrol and they will have the officer on call return your phone call and your name will not be used in any charges.

This kind of violence against animals can lead to violence against humans, don’t ignore this behavior if you know the person/s responsible – lead authorities to them and get them any mental health they may need by letting them know they cannot continue to get away with cruelty to any animal, wild or domestic. You will be doing them a huge favor and they need not know you turned them in for this horrible behavior.

The Colorado Statute C.R.S. 18-9-202 states that a person commits offenses of animal cruelty if s/he: “Knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence overdrives, overloads, overworks, torments animals; deprives of necessary sustenance, unnecessarily or cruelly beats animals; allows an animal to be housed in a manner that results in chronic or repeated serious physical harm, carries or confines in or upon any vehicles in a cruel or reckless manner, or otherwise mistreats or neglects any animal, or causes or procures it to be done, or having the charge or custody of any animal, fails to provide it with proper food, drink, or protection from the weather, consistent with the species, breed, and type of animal involved, or abandons an animal” or **“recklessly or with criminal negligence tortures, needlessly mutilates, or needlessly kills an animal.”**

A conviction of cruelty to animals is a Class 1 Misdemeanor, with a minimum fine of \$500, minimum sentence of six months imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$5000 and a maximum sentence of eighteen months imprisonment.

Editor



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The Danger Of Local Hands On Public Lands

Jonathan Thompson - High Country News

When it comes to monuments, Utah lawmakers have conflicts of interest.

While the fight over President Donald Trump’s shrinking of Bears Ears National Monument has mostly migrated to the courts, another Bears Ears battle continues to rage. This one is over a congressional bill sponsored by Rep. John Curtis, a Utah Republican.

At first glance, H.R. 4532 seems to give monument proponents everything they asked for and then some. While it would lock in Trump’s shrinkage, it would also put all of the 1.35 million acres in the original monument off-limits to future mining claims and drilling leases, just as a monument would have done. Not only would the original Bears Ears Commission, an advisory group made up of tribal representatives, remain intact, but it would be joined by a “tribal management council” that would oversee the Shash Jáa (Navajo for Bears Ears) unit of the monument.

So why are the tribal leaders who fought for the monument asking Curtis to withdraw his bill? For starters, the bill codifies and perpetuates Trump’s nose-thumbing at those tribes, since the bill was devised without consulting tribal leaders. Meanwhile the so-called tribal management council is merely a sneaky way to put control of public lands into the hands of a small group of locals, a situation that can jeopardize the public good and the health of the land.

The tribal council would be made up of just one federal land management official, who would be mixed in with two local county commissioners, three members of the Navajo Nation and one member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Significantly, the Navajo and Ute councilors would not be official representatives of the respective tribal nations, but individual citizens, appointed by the president in consultation with the Utah congressional delegation (again, with no input from the tribal nations themselves). This new national monument, then, would be run by a committee of local individuals.

On one level, this makes sense. When it comes to making decisions on public lands, the residents of the rural communities adjacent to the land have an inherent advantage over bureaucrats who take their orders from Washington. Locals tend to know the land in which they live, hike and work on a regular basis more than those who reside far away. A live-in landlord will always be a more responsive steward than an absentee one.

Yet the live-in landlord — or the local land manager — is also far more likely to have a personal, financial interest in what happens on that land. These sorts of conflicts of interest are an unavoidable part of life in small, rural communities.

Take, for example, Utah State Rep. Mike Noel. When Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “reviewed” national monuments last year, he turned to Noel for advice. Noel is a longtime Sagebrush Rebel (Continued on next page.)



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from southern Utah and an outspoken opponent of national monuments in his home state. Noel not only had an ideological interest in the outcome of the review, but a handful of personal and financial interests as well.

In February, the Western Values Project, a conservation group, published documents that showed that Noel owns property within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which he failed to disclose in his conflict-of-interest filings for the Utah Legislature. When Trump redrew the boundaries of the monument, it was done so that Noel's parcel fell just outside the monument boundaries. As such, it has all the desirability of being adjacent to protected federal land, without the difficulties of access that can plague private inholdings.

There's more: As executive director of the Kane County Water Conservation District, Noel has long been a booster for the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline, which would benefit the water district and deliver much-needed water to portions of the 500 acres Noel owns in the county. The pipeline's proposed route ran through the original monument, obliging it to extra regulatory hurdles. Now it doesn't, thanks to Trump's monument shrinkage, which brings the pipeline one step closer to fruition.

Given how small the local population is around Bears Ears, Curtis' Shash Jáa management council is almost certain to be plagued by similar conflicts of interest. A council member might own property next to, or grazing allotments within, the monument; she may work as an adventure guide who takes clients into the monument, or have an ATV rental shop that would be affected by monument trail restrictions. Would they really make decisions in the best interest of the land if it might hurt their own bottom line or even put them out of business? Being local does not a steward make.

That's not to say local voices should be dismissed. But when it comes to public land, locals should have the same say that all other Americans do. We Westerners may scoff at bureaucrats, but they have one thing going for them: It's their job to make decisions based on the greater public good. And in the end, public lands are for the American public, not for the communities that happen to lie closest to them.

*Jonathan Thompson is a contributing editor at High Country News. He is the author of **River of Lost Souls: The Science, Politics and Greed Behind the Gold King Mine Disaster.***

Editor's Note: Historically federal public lands that get allotted to state or local authorities most often end up sold to the highest bidder, if not right away - it happens when people change in office or on committees and councils. A more long-term solution is for public lands to stay federal lands whether they be deemed monuments or not. This keeps conflict of interest issues at more of a minimum.

What Is A Shaman: The Bridge Between Realities

By Andrew W. Smith

The fire has grown dim and winks orange, crackling in the crystal, Arctic night. Rhythmic drumming thumps the skin walls of the tent. He is drifting into trance. Down under the pack ice, into blue he tunnels. Walrus, whales, seals. Talkeetna, his helping spirit, will hold council tonight. She will tell him when the great herds of caribou will arrive. His people are hungry and anxious and weak. Sedna will teach him how to help them.

Due to the recent resurgence of interest in alternative lifestyles and particularly the renewed interest in shamanistic practices, it seems pragmatic to understand more clearly exactly what is meant by the term shamanism. This might be best accomplished by exploring the wide range of information provided by anthropologists, scholars, and researchers of various disciplines. By examining the similarities of the worldwide practice of shamanism of past and present cultures, a distinct working definition arises. What is a shaman? Why and how does one become a shaman?

Why does one become a shaman? What are their special methods and beliefs? The answers to these questions are remarkably consistent throughout time and location and will provide a useful working definition.

Primitive tribes have existed before the advent of modern science, but as with all peoples, they still required a way of understanding the world in which they lived. Before modern medicine and psycho-therapy, and before the scientific methods of today, physical and mental illness were not unknown. Indeed, it seems probable that due to their harsh environments and lack of modern medicine, ancient tribes may have suffered considerably from mental and physical ailments. These tribes turned to the shaman for healing and advice.

The term 'shaman' comes originally from an ancient hunter-gatherer tribe found in Siberia called the Tungus. The renowned anthropologist Mircea Eliade furnishes a broad introductory definition: shamanism – Narrowly, a phase of the religion of the Tunguese people; faith and practices centering in the shaman, involving priestly, prophetic, and medical functions.

Broadly, similar features in the religions of other peoples, such as found among American Indians. Faith and practice based upon the theory of possession in which a spirit from outside the individual takes possession of the individual and operates through the possessed one (*Eliade 707*).

It is here that we come upon the first characteristic trait of shamanism. The shaman could not hope to provide aid to his/her people until they had acquired the assistance of some form of helping spirit(s).

Although there are numerous initiatory rites among shamanistic societies worldwide, a major theme remains consistent throughout: the initiate's must in some way undergo a profound psychological meta-morphosis to acquire the special knowledge that their people relied upon. And, this special knowledge was obtained with the help of spirits. The spirits resided in an alternative reality. The shaman becomes the bridge between the ordinary reality of the people and the alternative reality of the spirits (*Plotkin 203*).

It is important to understand that BOTH realities are equally significant. Neither, so to speak, is more real than the other. The shaman lives in both realities.

Among shamanistic tribes of Siberia and Mongolia, the quest for knowledge begins with a violent disorganization of the initiate's personality. This psychic dismemberment is performed by spirits. The spirits then reassemble the shaman into his/her new identity.

In Asia and North and South America, this dismemberment often takes the form of the candidate's psychic experience of the body (Continued next page.)



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Highlander History

being dismantled. The theme of the initiate as a skeleton is frequently encountered (*Vitebsky 59*).

The Inuit of northern Canada often describe the acquisition of knowledge or helping spirits as a descent into the depths of the ice-covered sea. North American natives traveled to the underworld through a tube or tunnel. In South America, the Jivaro of the Amazon Basin seek the knowledge of the 'grandfathers' in the hollowed out recess behind a waterfall (*Harner 14*). An 'Eskimo' shaman by the name of Igjugaarjuk is reported by Rasmussen, the great Danish explorer, in one of Lommel's works as having said, "All true wisdom is found only far from men, out in the great solitude, and it can be acquired only through suffering. Privations and suffering are the only things that can open a human's mind to that which is hidden from others" (*Lommel 151*).

It is important to mention that not all initiates survive this ordeal. The practices are extremely rigorous. The mental and physical pressures of fasting, dancing, isolation, and trances are demanding (*Rogers 12*). This, too, has its merits.

The shaman is not like his or her fellows. What influence

over them would the shaman have if they were? It is the respect and confidence s/he acquires through initiatory rites that elevate the shaman to a position of power. The members of the tribe are acutely aware of the shaman's unique posture before them. They will act as priest, spiritual adviser and healer. "The shaman is the centre, the brain, and the soul of such a community. He/she is, so to speak, the regulator of the soul of the group or tribe, and their function is to adjust, avert and heal defects, vacillations, disturbances, and diseases of the soul. Looked at biologically, the whole life of primitive peoples is more strongly influenced by the subconscious than seems to be the case of moderns.

Only recently has modern medicine begun to fathom the importance of psychotherapy combined with chemical approaches to healing. Shamans have been practicing this dual aspect of diagnosis and treatment for thousands of years worldwide. If these ubiquitous practices have been so successful for so long in so many diverse cultures, it seems likely that our modern practitioners have much to emulate.

It is still dark. It is almost always dark this time of year. And, it is very quiet, calm and still. The fire is long dead and he is chilled and stiff under the caribou hides. His wife is snoring softly beside him. He feels like he has been away for a very long time. The trance has drained him. Dogs are milling about in the crusted snow outside the tent. No. It is not just the dogs. The sound is growing louder. Low, muffled rumbling. The caribou are returning. His people will recover. It is just as Sedna has foretold.



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My Visiting Coyote

By Michael Baughman

*I come home with a chicken or
a rabbit and sit up
singing all night with my friends.
It's baroque, my life, and
I tell it on the mountain.
I wouldn't trade it for yours.*

—from William Stafford's poem, *Coyote*

We live on a small hill in a narrow valley not far from the convergence of Oregon's Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges. On the valley floor, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, ducks and geese share land with increasing numbers of vineyards and marijuana grows. As they've been doing for tens of thousands of years, coyotes come down from the mountains at night to catch what they can. We often hear them yipping and howling, and occasionally, just after first light in the morning, we spot lone animals or pairs prowling the pastures and farmyards.

A few months ago, a coyote killed and devoured one of our cats. My wife, Hilde, discovered what was left of Whitey — little more than a head and tail and four legs — under a pine tree close to our storage shed. I buried him nearby.

I'm fairly certain that the same coyote that killed Whitey is back to try for his brother, Red. Not long ago, I walked out our back door in mid-morning to split some of the firewood logs stacked against the shed. A brief movement caught my eye, a quick flash of darkness behind a shrub. I stopped, looked hard, saw nothing, and then, when I took a single step toward the shrub, a coyote sprang from its cover, landed on all fours, big ears cocked forward, black-nosed, narrow-snouted head turned to stare at me with bright yellow eyes. This was a healthy, handsome animal, with thick brown fur tinged with black and a bushy tail held high, but I had no more than a second to admire it.

The coyote sprinted back behind the shed with the kind of speed that made it seem to simply vanish. I had time to take just two steps toward the shed before it reappeared, after coming up against our next-door neighbor's fence. This time it didn't pause to look at me. Our wire fence, four feet high, separates us from a neighbor down the hill, and, after a sharp right pivot, the coyote, at least six feet from the fence, jumped over it with no apparent effort, easily clearing the wire. It took me a few seconds to reach the fence, and by that time the animal was out of sight, into brushy cover a hundred yards away.

Since my encounter with the coyote, Hilde and I have been talking about it. She says she would kill the coyote if she could, to protect Red. I care about Red, too, a lifelong outdoor cat, and we're doing our best to keep him out of harm's way. But I don't believe that leg-hold traps or canisters of cyanide or rifles should ever be used against coyotes.

My respect for coyotes — call it love — dates back to a night many years ago when Hilde and I cross-country skied an old logging road down a (Continued next page.)

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mountainside under a full moon. Cross-country skis sliding through powder snow make a lovely, muted hissing sound, and I think that sound, along with the full moon, were what started the coyotes howling. A pack of them followed us down the mountain. One would bark, then yip, then produce a long drawn-out howl, the note rising shrilly as the volume increased. The louder the howl became, the closer it seemed, and when the animals joined in chorus they seemed very close indeed.

We looked back often enough, but of course we never saw one. They followed us all the way to our car, and it wasn't until the skis were lashed to the roof rack that they finally fell silent. No sound on earth could be wilder, freer, lovelier than what we heard that winter night.



Thoreau wrote that "in wildness is the preservation of the world," and though I don't know exactly what that meant to him, I do know what it means to me. Wild animals are superior to the domestic species that people breed and train, and far superior to the beasts we slaughter to eat.

The advantage that wild animals have over all of us is that they live where and how they were meant to live, and are lucky enough to have no way of knowing that they won't exist exactly as they are forever.

(Coyote in Wyoming sagebrush - U.S.G.S.)

Michael Baughman is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). He is a writer in Oregon.

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Pronghorn Crossing: 60 MPH!

By Valerie Wedel

Pronghorn antelope, native to our Front Range area – can run as fast as 60 MPH!

Pronghorns are the fastest land animal in the northern hemisphere. They are the second fastest land animal in the entire world. Only the African cheetah is faster. Our very own Pronghorn could probably outrun a cheetah, since Pronghorns run longer distances at speed.

Long ago, ice ages rolled across our planet, from about 2.5 million years B.C. until about 10,000 B.C. Geologists call this the Pleistocene Period. Sometime during this period Pronghorns evolved, side by side with American cheetahs and long legged bears, who all ran amazingly fast. They lived on our high plains grassland. As the climate changed, American cheetahs and long legged bears disappeared. But our Pronghorns have stayed right here, where they first began.

Pronghorns are a unique species. Not really antelope, although we often refer to them as antelope. The Pronghorn's closest living relative is actually a giraffe. This is amazing when you realize Pronghorn antelope weigh about 100 lb +/-, and are smaller than mule deer.

Like giraffs, Pronghorn have beautiful big eyes set high up in their faces. They have amazing vision. Part of their horns are covered with skin and hair. In their faces and heads you can see the giraffe kinship.

The range of the Pronghorn used to stretch from Canada to Mexico, across the entire western United States. They tend to be found living between 3000 – 5,900 ft elevations, and prefer open range and grasslands. Today Pronghorn are often spotted in Northern Colorado and in Wyoming. Their range is smaller than it was before white people moved west and fenced the range.

Originally they numbered in the millions. By the 1920's they had declined to a mere 20,000. Thanks to careful conservation efforts, Pronghorn have now recovered to about 800,000 animals.



Watch Pronghorn run. A herd bounds along as if they are flying. Then they really open up, and the rest of the world stands still. They can clip along for miles at 30 – 40 MPH, and then seemingly effortlessly, spin up to 60 MPH!

Traveling by motorcycle to see our country years ago, I saw Pronghorn here, along the front range. Their pale markings blended in with the grass of the hills. Some of the Indian tribes referred to them as "Pale Deer." Thirty years ago, there used to be so many Pronghorn that even my untrained city eyes could spot them.

On that journey I acquired a silver bracelet from a Lakota artist. It depicts a Pronghorn mid-leap, with three thunderbolts coming from his forehead. The story I was told about that bracelet is that *(Continued next page.)*



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Pronghorns, despite their relatively tiny size, will face down a cougar to protect their family. And the Pronghorn will win! The vision of a seemingly small and delicate “Pale Deer” facing down a giant lion is both talisman and source of strength.

Pronghorns are very curious, and will often come over to investigate something, including people and other predators. If they decide it is a threat, they really may attack instead of running away. If they do attack, they will just drive the threat away, and then return to peaceful grazing.

Can you imagine a tiny Pronghorn actually facing down a lion? There is film footage of a Pronghorn facing down and chasing away wolves in Yellowstone. Another Pronghorn attacked and took down a drone. Eagles are known to hunt Pronghorn babies, so the drone probably registered as a threat. This certainly suggests lions could be toast also!

How does a Pronghorn defend him or herself? What does one do, face to face with a wolf? He prances and hops from side to side with his forequarters, speeding up and slowing down. When he is close enough, which for a Pronghorn may be many feet away, he leaps into the wolf with his little hooves out, and strikes with tiny, pointy, twin battering rams. Between the tiny, pointy toes, the speed of the leap, and the momentum of the Pronghorn’s modest weight, this is a very dangerous attack to a wolf.

This Pronghorn zig-zag attack pattern is also sometimes used by human soldiers and martial artists. The speed, angle and momentum behind a smaller person is how smaller people defend against larger and more powerful opponents. Just like the Pronghorn!

Motorcyclists are like Pronghorns also. If you have ever

ridden a motorcycle where dogs run free, you may have learned to vary your speed going past dogs. Speeding up, slowing down, and zig zagging confuses them. If you don’t do something like that, the dog may judge your speed and direction, leap for the motorcycle, and cause an accident.

Pronghorns have (prong-shaped) horns they also can strike with. Fauns too young to run with the herd will lie hidden in tall grass. Adults will draw predators away from the hiding place.

Those lightening bolts shown in the silver bracelet, coming from the Pronghorn’s forehead, represent spirit power. Watching a Pronghorn run off a predator, one does not doubt their spirit power.

Pronghorn herds have migrated each spring and fall, for over 6000 years, following a specific path in Wyoming. Today conservationists must protect the Pronghorn migration path from cars and people. A protected Wildlife Corridor for conservation has been created, stretching 150 miles, from the Green River Basin in Wyoming to the Grand Tetons. This route may be the longest intact wild animal migration path left in north america.

US Hwy 191 crosses this ancient wildlife migration corridor. As the highway became busier, Pronghorn were repeatedly hit by cars and trucks. Today overpasses have been built in key locations, and planted with grasses. These create green bridges which help the Pronghorn safely cross highways. Thousands of Pronghorn can now be seen using these pathways, spring and fall.

You know Pronghorn are the very best of our land and spirit, when you hear rugged ranchers reduced to tears by their beauty and freedom. Pronghorn need us to help them survive, because of us. The Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund have more information on how to help. Together, we can share this land and watch Pronghorn thrive right here for another 6000 years.

References: Wikipedia
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Short video of Pronghorn migration.
[yube.com/watch?v=T3lmJp5jCGY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3lmJp5jCGY)
Slightly longer video with spectacular footage of running and migrating pronghorns.
[//www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pht7uDMysKg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pht7uDMysKg)
Baby pronghorns playing tag in Yellowstone.
[/www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bb4ppyHzs6Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bb4ppyHzs6Y)
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Previous page left: Shasta & Jess.
 Top right: Phoenix trying to nap.
 Bottom right: Ayla next to her door bell.

This page top: Chino enjoys butt scratch
 from Sally. Below: Chance & Chino in
 pasture. Indie after a good grooming.
 Bottom right: Lil'bit eats cat grass.



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Lightning Effects

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

According to NOAA, hundreds of people are struck by lightning each year. The good news: 90% of victims survive. The bad news: 70% suffer serious long-term effects, including: Burns, Vision or hearing loss, Nervous system damage, Muscle, ligament and bone damage, and possible Neurological defects.

Lightning strikes

You don't have to be hit directly to suffer injuries. You also can be struck by: A side flash: Lightning jumps from its primary target to another victim.

A ground current: Lightning strikes an object and then travels across the ground, making contact with a victim.

Conduction: A victim is touching a metal surface that is struck by lightning.

Lightning safety

Lightning can travel 10 to 15 miles away from a storm, according to NOAA. If you hear thunder, you're within this range and should seek shelter immediately. If lightning is common in your area, familiarize yourself with ways to reduce risk before and during a lightning storm. For example:

Go indoors at the first sign of a storm.

Invest in home lightning protection.

Lightning strikes cost \$790 million in insured losses in 2015, according to the Insurance Information Institute. Many times, these strikes can land on or near residences, wreaking havoc on the home's electrical system,

appliances, or electronics. "There's so much more valuable electronic equipment in homes today," says Bud VanSickle, executive director of the Lightning Protection Institute (LPI). "The loss from lightning can be tremendous."

Fortunately, by following these pointers, you may help safeguard your property — and yourself — from the damage inflicted by lightning.

Know the numbers

Lightning is not always taken seriously — but it should be. "It's an occasional danger, but a tremendous hazard," says VanSickle. The stats prove it:

During a thunderstorm, don't let dry conditions fool you. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from an area of rainfall.

Lightning causes an average of 55-60 fatalities yearly.

The air surrounded by a lightning strike can heat as much as 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. That's about five times hotter than the sun.

Each year, the United States experiences 25 million flashes of lightning. Florida and other Gulf Coast states see the most lightning; Pacific Coast states see the least.

A single strike of lightning can pack up to 100 million volts of electricity.

Invest in lightning protection

"A direct lightning strike with no path to follow will use any available path, such as electrical wiring not designed to handle lightning, metal plumbing pipes, or metal gas system lines," says VanSickle. Your best bet for stopping

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lightning damage in its tracks? A lightning protection system tailored specifically to your home's architecture. Such a system creates a pathway for lightning bolts, guiding them safely into the ground.

Install surge protection devices

Lightning strikes on or near a power line or utility service are a frequent cause of power surges. Point-of-use surge protection devices (SPDs), combined with a good grounding system, should protect your electronic and electrical appliances from most electrical surges. An SPD does not suppress or arrest a surge; it actually diverts the surge to the ground.

Service entrance SPDs provide protection for your entire electrical system and are usually installed at the electrical panel(s) or at the base of the service meter. These devices help prevent the entrance of overvoltages which can cause a fire. Surge protection devices are typically installed in conjunction with a lightning protection system.

Hire a professional

Installing a lightning protection system is not a do-it-yourself task due to all of the intricacies involved in completing the job accurately. Fortunately, you can find a reliable certified installer by visiting databases from the LPI and UL. "LPI certifies members in accordance with national safety standards," says VanSickle.

Seek certification

Make sure your professional installer uses only products that bear proof of UL certification. This ensures the equipment complies with national industry standards.

Get a second opinion

If you move into a home with a lightning protection system in place, or you have structural repairs done to your home's exterior that could compromise your current system, it's wise to have your system checked out by a third-party independent follow-up inspector to ensure it still properly stands up to strikes.

Safeguard yourself

During a lightning storm, the inside of your home or office is the safest place to be — but you still need to

practice precaution, says VanSickle. Don't touch anything that can conduct electricity, such as: Electrical appliances, Metal surfaces, such as a sliding door, Anything connected to your plumbing system, Anything served by gas lines, such as water heaters, ovens, furnaces and fireplaces.

Take action in an emergency

"Lightning travels at 90,000 miles per second in air," says VanSickle. "The time it spends on or in your home is measured in micro-seconds, so when you know you've been struck — it's gone." Following a damaging strike, VanSickle recommends inspecting the roof and attic areas to ensure there isn't a fire above your smoke detectors. Then check utility rooms to see that there isn't a problem with water, gas, or electrical system components. "Just be aware that the lightning could have followed metal systems concealed in walls, the attic, under floors, etc., and there is a potential for a leak or a smoldering fire concealed from view," he says.

Avoid touching electronics or anything with a cord, such as your phone. Stay away from water sources, including pipes, sinks and showers. Do not stand or lean on concrete structures. Seek shelter in a hard-top vehicle if you're stuck outside. If you're outside and shelter isn't available, crouch down at least 100 feet from tall objects, tuck your head in and cover your ears.



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Republicans Should Support Outdoor Industry

By Raúl Grijalva - Opinion - High Country News

It's easy to forget now, but President Donald Trump didn't just campaign on his plan for a border wall or his opposition to Hillary Clinton. He ran on his alleged business acumen, and part of his appeal was based on the idea that he knew a good deal when he saw one.

Now, new economic numbers show us that his understanding of our economy — and his knowledge of which American industries have the brightest future — are mistaken. Thanks to Bureau of Economic Analysis numbers released Feb. 14, we know that Trump's attacks on public lands, coupled with his touting of outmoded business models like coal mining, get things exactly backwards.

The agency announced that the outdoor industry — think everything from the making and marketing of hiking boots, tents and all-terrain vehicles to the work involved in providing services like outdoor guides, food and lodging — contributed approximately \$373.7 billion toward our gross domestic product in 2016, making up more than 2 percent of the total. This is bigger than extractive industries like mining, oil and gas combined — together, those industries contributed 1.4 percent — and double the economic impact of agriculture, including farming and logging.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis also found that the industry contributes \$673 billion to a figure called "U.S. gross output," which measures the total value of domestic goods and services produced by an industry. In other

words, there's a huge market for what the outdoor industry is offering.

Hikers approach the Dry Fork of Coyote Gulch inside of



Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Achilli Family/Flickr

Contrary to Trump's rhetoric, our economic future relies more on conserving the public lands that support this industry than on exploiting them for temporary benefit. According to the new figures, the outdoor industry is growing at 3.8 percent, much faster than the overall national economy at 2.8 percent. This economic share will continue to grow for the foreseeable future, even as the coal companies Trump favors diminish further every year.



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That's why his and some other Republicans' needless antagonism of the industry is so puzzling. Last year, Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke launched a review of national monuments with an eye to shrinking or reorganizing any they thought needed reform. This review, plagued by ill-defined metrics and a lack of public input, culminated in December with Trump's legally dubious shrinking of two monuments in Utah, one of which (Grand Staircase-Escalante) was established in 1996 by President Bill Clinton and has gained iconic status as a premier Western recreation site. These much-loved places may not even be the last on the chopping block.

Even before Trump's move was final, Utah's Gov. Gary Herbert and Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Rob Bishop, all Republicans, signaled their full support for slashing the monuments, despite the black eye it gave the state and the inevitable drop in revenue it would entail. The consequences of this self-injury have been dramatic. For two decades, outdoor companies held their twice-yearly Outdoor Retailer trade show in Salt Lake City. Thanks to the monuments fiasco, the industry last year moved the lucrative event to Denver. Republican attacks on public lands were a determining factor.

The figures are in from January's relocated winter show, which kicked off a newly expanded thrice-yearly program. According to Emerald Expositions, the trade show's operator, Denver is expected to see \$110 million in revenue this year alone. Utah is not likely to see a dime of that money.

This economic power has increased the industry's awareness of its own political voice. In October, in a sign of unity that should alarm Republican conservation skeptics, the leaders of more than 350 outdoor companies — including major labels like REI, North Face, Patagonia and First Lite — sent Trump a letter urging him not just to respect America's conservation heritage but to “keep current protections in place for our public lands and waters.” It was an eminently reasonable request; Trump seems to have ignored it.

This trend is much bigger than the two monuments, and it's going to continue. Rather than celebrating federally protected lands as the much-beloved public resources they are, some Republicans in Washington have fallen into the habit of describing them as an insult to local control. They refuse to renew popular programs like the *Land and Water Conservation Fund*, they reject the creation of overdue national monuments near the Grand Canyon and elsewhere, and they talk in nearly apocalyptic terms about the need to rewrite universally supported laws like the Antiquities Act and National Environmental Policy Act.

The outdoor industry isn't a political entity; it's a business like any other. It's also a growing part of our national economic future.

To my Republican friends, I say with all sincerity: Alienating outdoor industry leaders is not in your best interest.

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A Great Armchair Journey

By Jessica Kutz - High Country News

Home to stunning rock formations and majestic stone arches, Utah's national parks evoke a sense of awe from millions of visitors every year. With their prose and photographs, writer Christopher Cogley and photographer Rich Briggs capture that beauty in their book, *Utah's Greatest Wonders*, A Photographic Journey of the Five National Parks.

Each chapter is dedicated to one of the state's national parks, with Cogley providing insight into the geology that shaped these extraordinary landscapes, while educating readers about the area's history and early inhabitants.

Briggs' images provide breathtaking looks at iconic formations like Delicate Arch and Cathedral Valley, photographed in every season of the year, at every time of day. If you're itching for a quick armchair journey to the desert, this book is well worth your time.



Utah's Greatest Wonders

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It's Not Easy Living Close To Beavers

By Ben Goldfarb

For 30 years, Susan Sherosick has lived in uneasy proximity to beavers. The tireless rodents routinely fell the cottonwoods that line her 32 acres in southwest Oregon and dam her creeks into wetlands. Twice, she has asked the county to send a trapper, though she tries to leave the animals alone. But when new dams flooded her house this winter, she again drew the line. "Pretty soon I couldn't flush the toilet," she told me. "It was like living in a marsh."

When Sherosick called for a trapper this time, though, she never heard back. She isn't sure why her pleas went unanswered. But it's likely Sherosick had become caught in the middle of an unusual legal battle, one that could upend how the West's wildlife agencies manage the region's most influential rodent.

The case revolves around Wildlife Services, the branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture tasked with managing problematic animals. The agency killed more than 21,000 beavers nationwide last year, including 319 in Oregon. That irks conservation groups like the Center for Biological Diversity, which in November notified Wildlife Services that it planned to sue the agency in Oregon — where, it claimed, the federal government's beaver killing violates the Endangered Species Act.

At first blush, this seemed perplexing. The Endangered Species Act is designed to conserve rare flora and fauna, and beavers are found from Alaska's tundra line to northern Mexico. But beavers are a "keystone species," an organism whose pond-creating powers support entire biological communities.

In Oregon, beavers' beneficiaries include a host of threatened and endangered fish, including chinook, chum, sockeye and coho salmon. By creating ponds, storing water, and converting straight streams into multi-threaded ones, beavers expand shelter for young fish and keep creeks well-hydrated. One 1992 study found that two-thirds of Oregon's coastal coho overwintered in beaver ponds and slackwaters. In its coho recovery plan, the National Marine Fisheries Service recommends "encouraging the formation of beaver dams."

By eliminating beavers without accounting for the destruction of beaver-built critical habitat, conservationists

argue, Wildlife Services risks jeopardizing federally protected fish. According to the Center for Biological Diversity and its allies, the agency has a responsibility under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to consult with the Fisheries Service to ensure that its beaver-killing isn't harming listed salmon.

On Dec. 27, the unique legal gambit cleared its first hurdle. Wildlife Services notified the center that it had agreed to consult — and that it would let beavers live while the review progressed.

Although the agency consented to submit a biological assessment to the Fisheries Service by Feb. 28, it hasn't yet done so. If both agencies eventually agree that killing beavers is likely to harm protected fish, they'll undergo a formal consultation that could end with specific measures for reducing damage. In neighboring Washington, for instance, the agency agreed to concentrate its trapping on agricultural drainage channels rather than salmon streams.

"We're hoping that the outcome of the consultation is that there's no more trapping of beaver in critical occupied salmonid habitat," said Collette Adkins, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity.

Whatever happens, the case's symbolic significance is hard to miss. Around the West, a burgeoning coalition of "Beaver Believers" is relocating, conserving, or imitating beavers to improve sage grouse habitat, build wetlands for swans, store groundwater, boost cattle forage and repair eroded streams. Although Wildlife Services has often been a powerful headwind in the face of that momentum, its willingness to consult in Oregon hints that it's capable of viewing beavers as boons as well as pests.

For one beaver colony, the case has already made a difference. After Susan Sherosick's trapping requests went unanswered, she contacted a wildlife biologist named Jakob Shockey, the founder of a company called Beaver State Wildlife Solutions. Shockey visited Sherosick's land to install a flow device, a pipe-and-fence contraption designed to lower beaver ponds, sparing both property and the animals' lives. Shockey's services have been solicited elsewhere in Oregon by agencies from the National Marine Fisheries Service to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. "There are lots of people interested in seeing beavers persist on the landscape," he said.

Sherosick, who appreciates her beavers despite the headaches, is among them. When I spoke with her last month, she seemed cautiously optimistic about her ability to cohabitate with her buck-toothed neighbors. "The water's down far enough now that it's not hurting anything," she said. "I'm waiting to see how it works out."

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

He is the author of the forthcoming book,

Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter.



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Update from the Field: Lockdown at Stephens Creek as Yellowstone Sends Buffalo to Slaughter

three of these good people have been charged with misdemeanors, including “interfering with a government operation,” and were in jail in Gallatin Count, Montana. As Wild Buffalo Defense put it in a press release, “The fact that Cody and Thom were charged with interference with a government function assumes that one of the functions of the Yellowstone National Parks Service is to capture and slaughter endangered buffalo. These individuals sought to do what the parks service should be doing, which is protecting the wild buffalo and expanding their habitat in

Recently, two people with the direct action collective Wild Buffalo Defense locked down to the “Silencer,” the squeeze chute located inside Yellowstone National Park’s infamous Stephens Creek buffalo trap. Cody Cyson, an Ojibwa man, and Thom Brown, a former volunteer with BFC, risked life, limb, and freedom to halt buffalo slaughter operations facilitated by Yellowstone, and draw attention to the trap that has resulted in the deaths of thousands of the country’s last wild, migratory buffalo. The trap’s squeeze chute has been a vehicle for terrifying and torturing countless wild buffalo who have been captured inside Yellowstone’s trap.



Another member of Wild Buffalo Defense, Hannah Ponder, was later arrested, allegedly, for violating Yellowstone’s extensive closure surrounding the trap. All

cooperation with the other agencies that are a part of the Interagency Bison Management Plan.” We couldn’t agree more.

There was a hearing scheduled for later at Yellowstone National Parks Justice Center, Mammoth, Wyoming. Because Cody and Thom allegedly occupied the squeeze chute, shipments to slaughter were halted for hours. While, as an organization, BFC can’t take these kinds of actions, we are deeply grateful to these brave souls. We are in solidarity with anyone who is working to liberate wild buffalo and protect them from slaughter, quarantine, and domestication. Ironically, this action marked the four-year anniversary of when Comfrey locked down to the access road that leads to this very trap, stalling trucks that would take buffalo to slaughter.

Sadly, ignoring public opinion and strong statements made with direct action, Yellowstone insists on catering only to Montana livestock interests and is still sending buffalo to slaughter. An estimated 200 buffalo have already been moved through the park’s trap and sent to slaughter facilities. An estimated 300 or more buffalo are still inside Yellowstone’s trap, awaiting the same fate.

We can only estimate the number of buffalo who are suffering these “management” actions because Yellowstone is not disclosing the information in a timely manner, and, more importantly, because of the extensive public closure that Yellowstone places around the trap. A whopping seven miles in diameter, it is impossible to see anything happening there with the naked eye, ridiculous to try even with binoculars, so spotting scopes are the only tools available to us to even make educated guesses about how many buffalo are in that monstrous contraption.

This closure is overly broad and designed to limit the ability of the public to document publicly funded government activities carried out by the National Park Service to systematically destroy the sacred buffalo. From

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the public's perspective, we are the ones who are violated by the existence of not only the trap itself, but Yellowstone's extensive and unnecessary public land closure, which is only in place because Yellowstone doesn't want the people to see what they are doing to our national mammal — the country's last wild buffalo.

In fact, this year, Yellowstone has even cancelled the token media tours that they have held for the past couple of years. With combined hunting and capture-for-slaughter and unapproved quarantine, bison managers have already met and are likely to exceed the lower end of their 600-900 kill quota. Nearly 450 are already dead and at least 300 more are still imprisoned inside Yellowstone's trap.

Like the news of the Wild Buffalo Defense heroes who took direct action, not all of our updates are bad news. We are fighting for the buffalo on every possible level, including in places the agencies can understand: the courts and the policy arena. We recently had a huge victory with our petition to list the 'Yellowstone' buffalo under the Endangered Species Act when Judge Cooper ruled in our favor when we challenged the US Fish & Wildlife Service's negative finding.

We've also gained thousands of signatories on our Report: Bison as a Species of Conservation Concern, including giant representation from the Piikani Nation, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Western Watersheds Project, Patagonia Clothing Company, and so many more. We think it will offer you inspiration to read the letters the Piikani Nation of the Blackfeet Confederacy and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe sent to the US Forest Service. Powerful, powerful stuff with very sharp teeth. *(Seen at our website.)*

The buffalo have many champions and we are all doing our best to fight for their freedom on every level. Each and every one of these efforts are possible because you enable us to be on the ground, in the field with the buffalo, seeing things from their perspective, being in the face of these agencies and knowing first-hand what is actually taking place. This is a centuries-old range war and there are many battles to fight. And you know what? We're going to win. The buffalo are going to win.

TAKE ACTION -

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A yearling buffalo struggles to free herself from the the Silencer, as a Yellowstone bison biologist stands by, waiting to conduct invasive procedures.

Photo by Stephany Seay, Buffalo Field Campaign.

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Change Your Life

By Frosty Wooldridge

www.HowToLiveALifeOfAdventure.com

“How you doin’ Jack (or Jill)?” I asked a recreation-center friend last week.

(In life, you can choose dark clouds or you can choose flowers. Choose flowers in your thoughts and daily living with a positive mental attitude.)

“Same ole, same ole,” he said.

“Come on man,” I said. “We’ve got ski season in full swing. That’s got to put a spring in your step.”

“Probably so,” he said. “But I need something new to fire me up.”

He begged the question: why do some people find great joy in living while others find endless labor in their lives?

I think many beleaguered people pick up “leftover thinking” much like they eat “leftover” vittles from Thanksgiving. While it

may taste all right, it doesn’t provide the vibrancy of the initial meal.

President Thomas Jefferson once said, “We’ve got a wolf by the ears. We can’t keep him and we can’t let him go.



Both options remain dangerous.”

In this fast-paced age, we may harbor “leftover thinking” such as “I’m not good enough” or “Am I enough?” or “I don’t measure up to others.”

Some great philosopher said, “We find two wolves fighting in our minds. The good wolf and the bad wolf.”

A student asked, “Which one wins?” The teacher said, “The one you feed.”

Which leads to the question: how do you change your leftover thinking?

Remember that form follows thoughts. What you think determines how you feel. Thoughts create ideas and attitudes. No matter what your situation, you can choose to feed the wolf that will move you forward.

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You may feed the “animal” in your mind with your highest and best thoughts. You may be an introvert or an extrovert. By changing your thinking, you brighten and enliven every cell in your body. By changing your thoughts to positive energy, you create a positive outcome.

“How was your weekend, dude?” a friend asked. “Man, we danced, bicycled, played games and went to the movies,” you responded. “Can’t wait to see what happens next.”

See the difference? The world or friends or even enemies may not change, but you change in how you handle and deal with them.

Another philosopher noted that the winds may shift on the ocean, but it’s how you set your sails that determines your destination.

To further your feeding the “good” wolf, you may engage the enlightened “Attitude” mindset. If it’s a rainy day, you may dance to a sunny environment by appreciating that rains bring green grass and flowers. You get to release what doesn’t work. You enjoy a choice of “atmosphere” for your day.

On a rainy day, you might dig into your favorite book, an old movie or Skype a dear friend. Feed the good “attitude” wolf inside your mind. The “sad” wolf lopes away.

Third on the list of the “good” wolf comes your choice of “Changes” mindset. By changing your thinking you change your outcome. It takes some work, however, in time, you re-groove your mindset into happy thoughts that bring happy enzymes to your cells, which translate into every aspect of your body.

Let life know you love living by making choices that benefit you at any given moment.

Finally, your first three options create the “Everything” mindset transformation. One old friend of mine said it this way, “S + R= O.” In other words, “Situation” plus your “Response” equals Outcome. That simple equation changes everything!

With these four aspects of the P.A.C.E. Concept, you may handle any drama, any world condition, any family situation, every challenge and daily living.

Finally, share a feeling of expressed gratitude daily in your meditation, prayer or quiet moments. You may be a humanist, spiritual person or very religious. Gratitude works in your mind to comfort your spirit.

Appreciate the gratitude within you, in front of you, in back of you, to the left of you, to the right of you, below you and above you.

“What’s happenin’ dude (dudette)?” a friend asked. “I’m feeling great!” you respond. Life is good!

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Calif. Public Access Laws Tested Over A Beach

By Julia Carrie Wong

This article was originally published on The Guardian and is republished here with permission.

A Silicon Valley billionaire who was ordered by California courts to restore public access to a popular surfing beach is seeking to take his case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case could entirely upend public access to beaches in a state with more than 1,000 miles of shoreline.

Vinod Khosla, the influential technology investor and co-founder of Sun Microsystems, has been battling California regulators and environmental advocates for years over access to Martin's Beach, a picturesque cove about 30 miles south of San Francisco that can only be reached by a private road across Khosla's property.

Khosla has consistently lost his legal fight, thanks to California state law that regulates access to the coastline — and prioritizes public access to beaches. In August 2017, a California appeals court ordered him to restore access by unlocking the gate to the road, an order with which he has only intermittently complied.

A ruling against Vinod Khosla over Martin's Beach will

throw private property rights into “disarray,” Khosla’s lawyers say.

In a petition to the Supreme Court filed on recently, Khosla’s attorneys argued that the state law regulating California’s coastline is “Orwellian,” and that the state court’s interpretation of the law in Khosla’s case “crosses a constitutional line.”

The ruling against Khosla “will throw private property rights in California into disarray,” the petition states. “After all, petitioner is hardly the only private property owner along the vast California coast, or the only one who would prefer to exclude the public from its private property.”

Mark Massara, an attorney who has represented the Surfrider Foundation in litigation seeking to keep Martin’s Beach open, called the appeal “a Hail Mary pass for a financial windfall” based on “preposterous” legal arguments.

Nevertheless, he warned that if Khosla were to win, there could be a “financial free-for-all.”

“The only way they can find for Vinod is to throw out the entire California coastal program,” Massara said. “It’s hard to fathom what would happen to California’s beaches and all beach access in the United States.”

Access to Martin’s Beach has been disputed since soon after Khosla purchased 53 acres of land adjacent to the shore. The previous owners had maintained public access to the beach for nearly a century, charging visitors for parking and offering limited amenities.

Khosla began blocking access by locking the gate to the private road in 2010, touching off the protracted legal battle. The California coastal commission, a quasi-judicial body that must approve any new development on the coastline, has argued that landowners seeking to change the public’s degree of access to a beach must seek a permit. Khosla has rejected this argument and refused to apply for a permit to close the road.

“It’s the equivalent of saying that you know the IRS is not going to treat you fairly so you’re not going to file a tax return,” said Massara. “He won’t spend \$200 on a permit

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application, but he'll pay \$10 million to go to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Neither Khosla nor his attorney responded to a request for comment. Khosla, whose net worth is estimated at \$2.4

billion, attributed the decision to close the gate to his property manager when he was forced to testify on the matter in 2014. At the time, he also claimed ignorance of the lawsuits filed on his behalf, stating: "I probably get 500 to 1,000 pages of documents like this a week. I cannot review them all. I'm not trying to be unreasonable, just telling you what my life is like."

The difference between the life of a billionaire and that of an average citizen is certainly on display in the Martin's Beach case. State law allows the coastal commission to issue fines of up to \$11,250 per day for blocking public access to a beach. In September, the commission warned Khosla that his violations of the California Coastal Act could rack up fines of more than \$20 million.

"In this case, it's fair to say that the civil fines and penalty

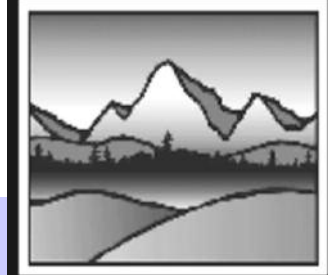
structure is not sufficiently motivating for a guy of [Khosla's] means," said Massara. "Eleven thousand dollars a day – I tend to think he just doesn't care."

Martin's Beach photo - Marcin Wichary/Flickr



This story is published with The Guardian as part of their two-year series, This Land is Your Land, examining the threats facing America's public lands, with support from the Society of Environmental Journalists.

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Private Funding For Public Water? No Thanks!

By Karen Knudsen

President Donald Trump has unveiled a \$1.5 trillion plan to rebuild our nation’s crumbling infrastructure, including the pipes and treatment plants that keep clean water flowing from our taps. But if you read the fine print, his plan offers just \$200 billion in federal funds; the remaining \$1.3 trillion is expected to come from other sources, including private investors.

Private investment in water systems might look like a good deal to those who want to limit federal spending; it certainly appeals to cash-strapped cities and towns. And the need is great: The American Society of Civil Engineers gives our nation’s drinking water facilities a “D” grade, and says \$1 trillion will be needed to fix them over the next 25 years.

But private investment comes at a cost. Fundamentally, it means handing over our most essential resource to those who put profits before the public interest. That’s what we learned here in Missoula, Montana, where we recently wrested control of our water system away from a multinational corporation.

Missoula is unusual in that our water system was privately owned since the town’s founding in the 1870s.

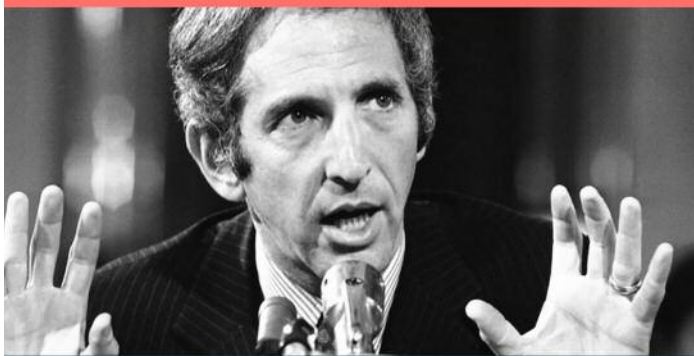
Our first water entrepreneur was “One-Eyed Riley,” whose delivery method involved a yoke and two buckets. Since then, the system passed through many hands, but was never well managed. Compared to neighboring towns with public utilities, Missoulians endured high rates and poor service. Necessary capital improvements were not made, and the system steadily deteriorated.

When the Carlyle Group purchased our water system in 2011, we hoped the situation would improve. But we soon realized the fundamental tension that lay between Carlyle’s goal of generating a short-term profit and Missoulians’ need for safe, clean water over the long haul. After a four-year court battle, we purchased our water system from Carlyle for \$84 million. Now, for the first time in our town’s history, ownership of our water system — its pipes, pumps, wells, water rights, wilderness lakes and dams — has landed where it belongs, in the hands of the people, where it can be managed for the public good, for all time.

Unfortunately, other cities seem headed the other way, seeking private financing as the answer to their water woes. Many will be disappointed: Private investors require high rates of return, so they are unlikely to support projects that won’t pay off sufficiently.

If there is money to be made from water, look out. Population, pollution and climate change are squeezing global drinking water supplies, so investors — including

More info at KGNU.org



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commercial bottling plants — are rushing in. There are disturbing accounts of bottling plants targeting a town's good water source, only to deplete local water wells, dry up wetlands and drain streams.

Some people assume that private management means greater efficiency and lower rates. Yet the reverse is often true. The New York Times analyzed three communities where private equity firms manage water or sewer services. In all three places — Bayonne, New Jersey, and Rialto and Santa Paula in California — rates rose more quickly than in comparable towns. In Bayonne, the price of water skyrocketed by nearly 28% after the private equity giant Kohlberg Kravis Roberts took charge of the city's system.

That's why some cities that had gone private — from Ojai, California to Fort Wayne, Indiana — have seized their water systems back from private ownership.

While the price tag can be daunting, public investment is the better option. State and local governments already provide the lion's share of money for water infrastructure, and federal funding is available through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (though those funds are flat-lined in the president's proposed 2019 budget). There are also collateral benefits from public investment. The Economic Policy Institute found that spending \$188.4 billion on water infrastructure would yield

\$265 billion in economic activity and create 1.9 million jobs.

In Missoula, we are reaping the benefits from public ownership of our priceless water assets. Decisions about our water are made right here in town, not in a distant boardroom. Instead of short-term profits, our priority is long-term water security, a critical concern in the era of climate change. We don't have to worry about rates going up to fatten investors' wallets, and there are less tangible benefits, including a more intimate connection to the resource on which all life depends.

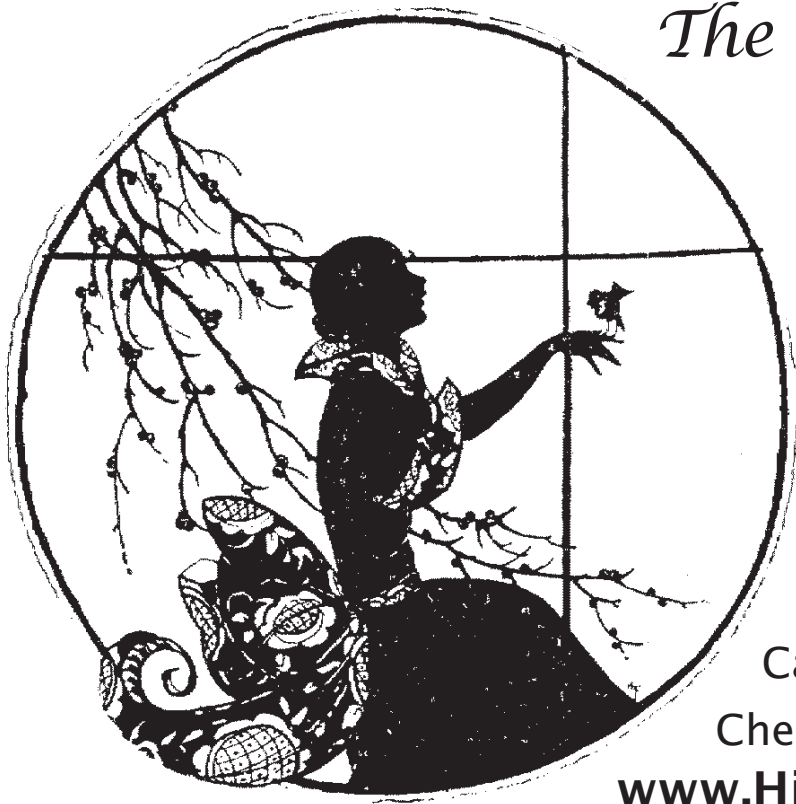
So here's our advice: If your community hopes Trump's infrastructure bill will fix your water system, be sure to read the fine print. And if you're lucky enough to control your own water, never give it up without a fight.

Karen Knudsen is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She is the director of the Clark Coalition, based in Missoula, Montana.

Editor's Note: Our current local problems with **Denver Water** are based upon it not being a public utility, but instead a **for-profit water company** run by a Board of Director's that only wish to promote unplanned suburban growth at the expense of the natural environment and to the negative detriment of rivers, people, mountain communities and even their own customers by way of rising water rates.

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ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 26 303.258.3132
B & F Mountain Market pg 16 303.258.3105
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Mountain Man Store pg 24 303.258.3295
The Silver Horse - pg 13 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 13 303.258.3225

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Universal Lending Corp. pg 30 303.791.4786

ROOFING

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

SNOW PLOWING

Bill Hutchison pg 3 720.352.9310

STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

TAXES

Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 21 303.642.7371

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 10 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 29 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well pg 13 303.438.6669

Power Update

April
2018

Free Wildfire Preparedness Workshop

As your electric cooperative, it's our pleasure to serve you in a variety of ways in every season. We wanted to let you know about a valuable educational opportunity from the Colorado State University Extension in Gilpin County this month:

FREE Wildfire Preparedness Workshop
April 21, 2018 | 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Gilpin County Community Center
250 Norton Drive, Black Hawk, CO

As fire season approaches, it is important for everyone in the mountains to be ready. This workshop will cover what you need to know to stay safe and to improve your house's chance of surviving a fire. We will discuss defensible space, communication plans and things firefighters wish you would do.

RSVPs are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome to attend.
For more information, or to RSVP, please call 303-582-9106.



*Ballots Not Mailed this Year

This year, only the four incumbent directors whose seats are up for election submitted petitions indicating their interest in retaining their positions for another term. Due to a lack of challengers, the United Power Board of Directors made the decision to conduct the election differently this year.

Members who register at this year's Annual Meeting will be issued a ballot and be able to cast their votes for the Director election. This simplified process will result in a substantial cost savings for the membership.

Directors run in geographic districts in order to accurately represent United Power members, but are elected to the board at-large.

- **Registration and Dinner Service begins at 4:30 p.m.**
- **Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.**

2018 ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 18, 2018

ADAMS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
9755 Henderson Road
Brighton, CO 80601

**ENTER AT THE EXHIBIT HALL FOR
REGISTRATION & DINNER**

4:30 - 6:30 pm

EXHIBIT HALL
Registration
Balloting
Dinner
Entertainment


6:30 - 8:00 pm

WAYMIRE DOME
Business Meeting
Co-op Update
Election Results
Door Prizes!

www.unitedpower.com/annualmeeting

*Ballots will not be mailed this year

**UNITED
POWER**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Member Services: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

Your health is everything.

SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 28
CCC 9Health Fair



Wide variety of free or low cost health screenings provided for children, teens and adults. Check www.9HealthFair.org and search for 80403 for a complete list.

9Health Fair
OWN YOUR HEALTH

Saturday, April 28th
8:00am to 1:00pm

Coal Creek Canyon K-8 School
11719 Ranch Elsie Rd, Golden, CO 80403

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



941 Indian Peak Road
Fabulous Mtn Retreat w/5 Car Garage
5 BD/ 3 BA 1.09 Acres **\$725,000**



1720 Gross Dam Road
Exquisite Home VIEWS - Pool - 4 Acres
4 BD/ 4 BA 5,913 sq.ft. **\$899,000**



805 29th Street
Convenient Spanish Towers Condo
1 BD/ 1 BA VIEWS **\$290,500**



7592 Nikau Avenue
Nicely Remodeled Niwot Home
4 BD/ 3 BA 2.096 sq.ft. **\$514,000**



29373 Spruce Canyon
VIEWS - Remodeled - Over 3 Acres
3 BD / 3 BA **\$564,000**



10712 Twin Spruce
Charming Cabin / Seasonal Stream
822 sq.ft. **\$189,000**



15 Debra Ann
Beautiful-Raised Ranch w/Private Pond
4 BD / 3 BA .8 Acre **\$522,000**



33848 Ave De Plines
Fantastic Mtn Home w/City Views
4 BD/ 3 BA RV Garage **\$484,000**

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



For additional information
and photos:
www.kathykeating.com
kathykeating@mockrealty.com