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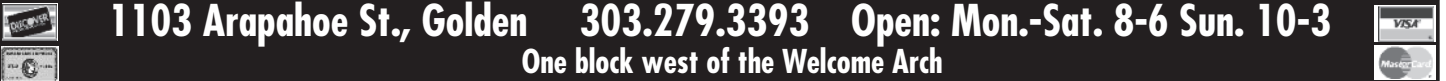
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Time For The Bears...

From Defenders of Wildlife

Wild beauty, wide-open spaces, abundant wildlife—these are the benefits of living in the Rocky Mountains. With these benefits, however, come the responsibilities of minimizing our impact on the natural ecosystem. Learning to co-exist with bears is one such responsibility.

As the human population of the Colorado Rockies area has increased, so have our interactions with black bears - sometimes with unfortunate results. Many bears have become so used to our presence in their world, they have lost their natural wariness of us. Reward this behavior with something to eat even once, and we end up with bears that associate us with food. Such bears will aggressively seek handouts and follow their noses to developed areas for the unnatural sustenance we unwittingly provide for them in the form of garbage, compost piles, pet food, livestock feed, fruit trees, vegetable gardens, bird seed and other items found near our residences.

In pursuit of an easy meal, these bears can damage property and injure people. Wildlife managers called in to deal with a “problem” bear may try relocating it or discouraging it by using pepper spray, firing rubber bullets or deploying specially trained bear dogs. If these methods fail, however, killing the bear is usually the only other option. Research on breaking bears of the human-related food habit continues, but at present wildlife professionals concur: **A human-fed bear, more often than not, ends up dead.** Throughout the Rockies, incidental feeding by humans contributes to many black bear deaths. **As a resident of bear country you can help prevent wild bears from becoming mortality statistics.** Simply follow the guidelines presented and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Dispose of garbage properly. Don't let garbage pile up or develop strong odors that can attract bears. Minimize odors by keeping garbage inside the house or another secured area in tightly closed trash cans. Stash food scraps, especially meat, fish and fruit by-products, in the freezer in an airtight container or wrapped in newspaper until trash collection day.

Put garbage and recyclables out for collection in bear-resistant containers. Plastic and metal trash cans with fitted lids and dumpsters with sliding doors or lift-up lids are not bear-resistant. Bear-resistant trash and recycling containers feature sturdy

construction and self-closing mailbox-top-style lids and are designed to be secured permanently to prevent toppling. Your local garbage service may require you to use such containers and may even provide them. Fifty-five-gallon steel drums with locking-ring lids are a less expensive alternative. Ask your state wildlife agency where you can purchase them. If you don't have a bear-resistant container, keep garbage and recyclables in the house or a secured area such as a roofed enclosure with bear-resistant fencing until close to pick-up time on trash day. When garbage is no longer accessible at one house, bears will move on to the next, so **encourage your neighbors to handle their garbage properly, too.**

Don't discard cooking grease in your yard. Collect it in a glass, plastic or metal container with a lid. When ready to dispose of it, transfer it to a plastic bag, seal the bag tightly and place it in a bear-resistant container. Be bear-aware when cooking and eating outside.

Don't leave any food or beverage—including unopened canned items—outside or even on a screened porch. Bring all dishes, containers, utensils and uneaten food inside as soon as you are finished eating.

Promptly and properly discard or recycle soda cans, used paper plates, cups, disposable containers and napkins. Anything that has been used to hold or cook food and beverages (especially sugary ones) can attract bears. Don't leave food cooking outside unattended. Bears have been known to snatch sizzling steaks right off the grill. Clean outdoor cookers and coolers thoroughly after each use. Burn off any remaining food (Continued on next page.)



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Highlander Wildlife

particles and scrub the grease from grills, smokers and other outdoor cookers. If cooking over an open fire, remove any unburned food or scraps from the fire pit. Store outdoor cookers and coolers inside if possible. Even clean grills and empty coolers may retain trace odors that entice bears. And bears that have had a taste of what coolers and grills can offer will investigate these potential food sources whenever they come across them.

Don't leave scented products outside. Bears will sample anything that smells good, even nonfood items such as suntan lotion, insect repellent, soap and candles.

Make your property bear-resistant. Vehicles: Don't leave trash, groceries or animal feed in your vehicle.

Bears can and do pry open car and truck doors and break windows to get at food or coolers and other items they associate with food.

Porches, Windows and Other Entrances:

Keep doors and windows closed and locked. Food smells can lure bears inside. If you must keep a freezer or refrigerator outdoors, secure it to the wall and padlock the doors so bears can't knock it over and open it. Outdoor lighting can also be used to deter bears from approaching buildings.

Gardens: Consider electric fencing if you have a garden. Vegetable gardens, especially those containing

potatoes and root vegetables such as carrots and beets, attract bears. Flower gardens are not as attractive to bears as long they don't contain sweet vetch, dandelions or clover. Never use blood meal as a fertilizer or deer repellent in any type of garden.

Compost Piles: If you must have a compost pile, enclose it with electric fencing. Don't put meat, fish, melon rinds and other pungent scraps in the pile. Better yet, compost only leaves and grass, not kitchen scraps. Keep the pile aerated and properly turned. Add lime to promote decomposition and reduce odor.

Fruit Trees and Berry-Producing Shrubs: It's best not to have shrubs and fruit-bearing trees, which bears can climb and destroy. However, if you do have apple, crabapple, chokecherry or other fruit trees or berry bushes and don't wish to replace them with varieties that don't attract bears, install electric fencing. Pick fruit as soon as it ripens (or before if you're not going to use it right away). Remove any fruit that has fallen to the ground as soon as possible.

Bird Feeders: Don't put out any type of bird feeder during the period bears are active, mid-March to mid-November. (Birds don't need supplemental feeding at this time anyway.) This includes suet feeders, peanut butter feeders, all types of seed feeders and hummingbird feeders. At a minimum, make feeders unavailable by hanging them at least 10 feet from the ground and four feet from any supporting post or tree trunk. Better yet, take bird feeders down and bring them in at night. Regularly pick up all waste seed, hulls and shells, or use only shelled seeds and nuts. Store all birdseed indoors.

Salt and Mineral Blocks: Don't set out salt and mineral blocks to attract wildlife to your yard, because bears are among the animals you will attract.

Pets: Don't leave pets unattended outside, especially at night or when a bear is known to be in the area. Store pet food inside. Consider feeding pets (and livestock) at midday so they are finished eating before dusk. Bring pet food bowls inside as soon as pets are finished eating. Don't leave bones and scented chew toys laying around your yard.

Beehives: Install electric fencing around hives.

Livestock: Bears usually don't bother horses, adult cattle or llamas; however, calves, goats and especially sheep, pigs, chickens and geese are vulnerable. To keep bears out of corrals and chicken coops, install electric fencing.

Store all livestock feed in a secured area or in bear-resistant containers. If an animal dies, remove the body from your property as soon as possible. Haul it to the landfill, have a rendering service pick it up or bury it at least eight to ten feet deep in a remote spot on your land. **Don't dump an animal carcass on public property or leave it near any developed area.**

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Public Hearing Decision & Enough Already

By A.M. Wilks

The public hearing March 14th in front of the Boulder County Commission (*pictured here*) was successful in that the commissioners made a decision to deny Denver Water's appeal to the county's land use director's findings. So the 1041 permit must be applied for regarding the proposed expansion of Gross Reservoir. The meeting room was full and the overflow room too, with many Coal Creek Canyon and Northshore residents ready to speak and agree that Denver Water cannot bypass the 1041 permit process.



The attorney for Denver Water, Jessica Brody, made an unfortunate threat in her speech: stating that with or without a 1041 permit Denver Water will continue in their efforts. There is no misconstruing that threat to mean anything other than, 'We'll see you in court.' A powerful utility such as Denver Water that is fueled by profits from water rates and new tap fees is not going gently into that good night of failure. They have been putting out the propaganda of a need for expansion of Gross Dam and reservoir since 2003. They've spent a ton of money buying up water rights in Grand County for decades and paying off dozens of organizations with promises and dollars.

Always amazed by the number of highly educated and well informed speakers that oppose the proposed project: armed with facts, figures and scientifically sound reasons to keep the proposed project from going any further. The 1041 permit process has a public hearing phase so we may be called upon again to speak to the Boulder County Commission. This sixteen-year saga continues and as a community surrounding Gross Reservoir we must also continue following the efforts to stop the project.

It has been proven though that a construction project such as this DOES NOT CREATE NEW JOBS. The haul study

Denver Water conducted a few years ago did prove any roads to be used for the proposed project would not support safe travel for residents or vehicles to be used for the construction. All environmental studies done to date have used now out of date information and none addressed impacts on the humans in the way of this proposed construction project. Stay alert for all further information regarding this issue and continue to be ready to oppose it in any ways we need to as residents who have the most to lose.

By Jeff Thompson

ENOUGH ALREADY WITH MOFFAT!

As reported here, Boulder County's Board of Commissioners upheld Land Use Director Dale Case's decision that Denver Water must apply for and obtain a county 1041 permit before proceeding with its proposal known as the Moffat Project or Gross Reservoir Expansion Project. If Denver Water applies for the permit, the county land use department should take no action on it and simply reject the application on the grounds that Denver Water has no authority or power under its charter, Article X of the Charter of the City and County of Denver, to apply for the permit. Denver Water's charter prohibits Denver Water from pursuing the Moffat Project.

There's no need to put the opponents of this project through another round of written comments and hearing testimony. Director Case should simply take the now long overdue action of informing Denver Water that it will not be allowed to pursue the Moffat Project unless and until the City and County of Denver changes Article X of its Charter to allow Denver Water to pursue a project which has no benefit for either Denver's residents or Denver Water's Consolidated Service Area customers.

(Continued on next page.)

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Highlander Issues

According to the Abstract for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Moffat Project, the purpose of the project is to develop 18,000 acre feet per year of new annual firm yield to its Moffat Water Treatment Plant and raw water customers upstream of the Moffat Water Treatment Plant pursuant to Denver Water's commitments to its customers. On Page 10 of Appendix A-1 to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the project, it explains that Denver Water's need for the project includes slightly more than 67,000 acre feet to meet its commitments to provide water outside Denver Water's Consolidated Service Area. Its commitments to provide water outside its service area are water leases. Section 10.1.13 of Denver Water's charter provides the following with regard to its power to make commitments by leasing water:

The Board shall have power to lease water and water rights for use outside the territorial limits of the City and County of Denver, but such leases shall provide for limitations of delivery of water to whatever extent may be necessary to enable the Board to provide an adequate supply of water to the people of Denver.

Accordingly, Denver Water's commitments to customers outside its service area can be reduced to whatever extent may be necessary to enable it to provide an adequate supply of water to the people of Denver. At my request in 2011 for information about these water leases to customers outside its service area, Denver Water provided me with a partial list of its water leases and amounts in acre feet to water customers outside its service area:

Arvada Conditional Lease	3,000
Arvada Other Leases	19,525
Broomfield	6,500

North Table Mountain	6,000
Westminster	4,500
"Other"	24,475

Denver Water's need for 18,000 acre feet per year of new annual firm yield disappears if it reduces its commitments under its leases to customers outside its service area, as its charter requires, by less than a third. But instead of doing what its charter requires it to do, Denver Water has chosen to violate its charter and pursue a project estimated to cost over \$400,000,000.

In the proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Board, Boulder County has completely refuted Denver Water's demand projections to support the need for the 18,000 acre feet. On top of Denver Water's demand projections, an unsupported 30,000 acre foot "safety factor" was added just to make Denver Water's claims even more ridiculous. Most of the cost of the project is due to another unsupported claim by Denver Water that it needs 72,000 acre feet of water storage in Gross Reservoir to insure its ability to deliver the 18,000 acre feet in dry years.

A large part of the cost of this project would be borne by Denver Water's customers who live in Denver and the larger Consolidated Service Area. The number of people living in poverty and struggling mightily to stay out of poverty in Denver and the Consolidated Service Area has risen dramatically since 2000. It's a scandal the Denver City Council hasn't investigated this project and put a stop to it to protect its own citizens.

**It will be a scandal if Boulder County's
Commissioners let this project live any longer.
Enough is enough.**

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Gilpin County Animal Response Team - GCART

Wildfire Awareness for Large Animal Owners: Gilpin County Animal Response Team to Offer Free Classes on Emergency Livestock Handling From Leroy Foster

Wildfires wait for nobody, and when it's time to evacuate you are only given one chance to get out of your home. For those of us living with animals, the prospect of fire evacuation can be twice as serious. Many of us look at our pets and livestock as members of our family, and leaving them behind is not an option in an emergency. That's why community organizations like the Gilpin County Animal Response Team (GCART) have come together to help carry out and facilitate animal emergency response in case of fires, floods, and other disasters.

Part of what GCART does is educating members of the public about what to do with their animals in case of an emergency evacuation scenario. Do you know if you can get your horses in a trailer when you have limited time and a potentially scary situation? How about your llamas and poultry? Do you know what to do with your livestock once you have arrived at a safe evacuation location such as the Gilpin County or Boulder County fairgrounds? Nobody wants these questions racing through their mind unanswered when a wildfire is roaring through their neighborhood.

Fortunately, GCART is here to help make sure that our local animal owners are educated and confident when it comes to animal handling in emergency situations. From geese and chickens to alpacas and horses, this spring will bring a number of opportunities to learn about animal



handling and care in case of emergencies. These classes are free to the public and will be run in the following order:

The first class, covering emergency animal handling and operating the GCART portable livestock chute, will be held at the Gilpin County Fairgrounds on **May 5th, 2019, at 1:00 PM**, in the indoor barn.

The second class, covering completing emergency contact forms for your livestock and setting up the temporary pens at the Gilpin County Fairgrounds, will be held at the Gilpin County Fairgrounds on **May 14th, 2019, at 6:30 PM**, in the indoor barn.

Keep an eye out here in the Highlander for additional classes on trailer maintenance, towing, and backing. GCART asks that you please spread the word about these classes to your livestock-owning neighbors. Community awareness and education goes a long way toward preventing tragedy when natural disasters threaten our homes in the high country.

GCART members meet once a month at the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office off of Highway 46

and Dory Lakes Road. **The next meeting is on April 9th at 7 PM.** New members are always welcome and encouraged to attend. *Photo captions: During wildfires, you may need to house your animals in temporary pens and stalls at designated fairground facilities. GCART's free classes include special handling education for owners of llamas, alpacas, chickens, and other farm animals.*

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Wild Horse Paradox

By Debbie Weingarten High Country News

The horses stood chest-deep in the river, pulling up long strands of eelgrass with their teeth. There must have been 20 of them, in colors ranging from nearly white to ruddy brown. The babies stood wobbly in the current. My partner and I floated quietly past in our kayak, trying not to spook them. But it was a sweltering Friday in July, and we were followed by hollering college students in rented innertubes. Beer coolers floated along behind them, and music reverberated off the canyon walls. Uninterested and used to the party, the horses barely looked up.

A stone's throw from metropolitan Phoenix, the Salt River runs through the Tonto National Forest, where deer, bighorn sheep and bald eagles live amid cactus and mesquite bosques. But the most famous and controversial inhabitants are the area's "wild" horses. Once slated for removal by the U.S. Forest Service for reasons of public safety, today these horses are protected by state law. Now, in the first arrangement of its kind, a state government is working with a nonprofit to manage horses on federal land. Now long-feuding entities must work together to find a way to balance the horses — and the mythology of the American West they represent — with river and land conservation and public safety.

MANY WESTERNERS LOVE FREE ROAMING "WILD" HORSES, perhaps mostly for what they represent: freedom, rugged beauty, an unbreakable spirit. There's a reason horses gallop across airport kitsch and pickup truck commercials: They've seeped into the mythology of the West. But across the actual landscape, nearly every aspect of wild horses is controversial, starting with the question of what to call them.

If they are recognized as "wild," free-roaming horses can receive federal protection under the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act, which requires the government to protect free-roaming horses and burros living on federal lands as "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West." Many horse advocates, including those advocating

for the Salt River horses, use the word "wild" for that reason. But when the government surveyed the Tonto National Forest in 1973, all the horses they encountered were marked with the brands of nearby tribal communities. Because of this, the region was not designated a Wild Horse and Burro Territory, leaving today's Salt River horses unprotected.

The Salt River Wild Horse Management Group, which has compiled over 50 testimonials from eyewitnesses who remember seeing unbranded, free-roaming horses on the Salt River prior to the government survey, maintains that they are the descendants of colonial Spanish horses brought to the area by Father Eusebio Kino in the 17th century. They have begun collecting DNA from deceased horses to prove it. The group interprets a newspaper article from 1890 describing the Salt River horses as "native stock" as evidence that by then, the horses had already been in present-day Arizona for at least six generations.

Gus Cothran, a horse geneticist at Texas A&M University, says horses are not "native" to the United States. Technically, they aren't "wild" either. "All of the horse populations that we've ever seen in the Western Hemisphere are feral, in the sense that they did derive at some point from a domestic horse population," he said. Cothran, who has conducted genetic analyses of 200 free-roaming populations of horses, including more than 100,000 individuals, said he's found that only 3 to 5% of the groups descend from colonial Spanish horses, though— given its geography and history of Spanish settlement — he hypothesized that Arizona could have a higher proportion of horses with colonial Spanish bloodlines.

Such horses could be valuable for equine genetic diversity, said Cothran. But without a comprehensive genetic study, he added, "I find it pointless to make arguments about whether these horses have value or not." A horse trainer originally from Holland, Netherlands said her "passion with wild horses" began by accident, after she went to an auction looking for a horse she had trained. "I

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ended up sitting next to a kill buyer,” she said. “I was asking everybody, ‘Have you seen this white mare?’ And the guy said, ‘Oh, honey, she’s on somebody’s dinner plate by now.’” The man described his job — how much money he made, how he collected horses from auctions and Craigslist posts, and then drove them to a slaughterhouse in Mexico.

Netherlands began to fly around the country, documenting government horse roundups, which she regards as “cruel, unsustainable and a waste of taxpayer dollars.” Family groups were separated; she saw broken legs and necks, babies “giving out” after hours of helicopter pursuit. Some of those horses, she said, end up slaughtered.

I asked Netherlands what would have happened to the Salt River horses if they had been removed. “They were going to end up in slaughterhouses, absolutely,” she replied. “They were going to send them to auction. And who wants 35 horses that aren’t tame for \$25? Those are kill buyers that end up with the horses.”

This rumor — that the Salt River horses would be slaughtered — fueled the campaign against their removal. But when I asked Mundy about it, he sighed and said, “The Forest Service was never going to slaughter the horses. We had a local shelter that was going to take the horses and

find homes for them.”

The national controversy around wild horse slaughter rose to a fevered pitch in the 1980s, after federal investigations found that thousands of horses removed by the Bureau of Land Management were sent to large-scale adopters and ultimately slaughtered.



Kayakers paddle past horses from the Salt River herd in Arizona’s Tonto National Forest. Kerrick James/Devon Christopher Adams/Flickr CC

The last U.S. horse slaughterhouse closed in 2007, after Congress stopped funding federal inspections of such facilities, effectively ending domestic horse slaughter. However, a 2011 government study revealed the unintended consequences, including a spike in horses exported to Mexico or Canada for slaughter for horsemeat. Now, on our drive, Lenski spotted a small band in the riverbed and quickly pulled over. We clambered over rocks and dried-up eelgrass to the river’s edge. Above us, the Superstition Mountains stretched (Continued on next page.)

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across the horizon, and a craggy finger-shaped boulder called Weaver's Needle rose up to a perfectly blue sky.

Lenski stood on the riverbank, hands on her hips. Downstream, four horses waded ankle-deep in what was left of the river. Lenski said she was still impacted by her experience with Delorian — a particular wild horse that got hurt and hobbled along for miles to reach people who could help - his perseverance, how he walked for five miles on three legs and showed up on their doorstep, a place he had never been before. "I tell you what," she said, "if anything in my whole life made me believe there's a God. ..."

IN HIS PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING *Wild Horse Country: The History, Myth, and Future of the Mustang*, David Phillips considers at length the mythology of wild horses, one that has evolved over centuries. Today, wild horses are a symbol muddied by mismanagement practices. "Animals that once were the embodiment of grit and self-reliance begin instead to symbolize waste, fecklessness, and inept bureaucracy," he writes.

Netherlands disagrees, maintaining that horse manure supports the landscape in positive ways. The annual 5.8 million humans who visit the Tonto National Forest — floating the river and dumping their trash — have a much greater impact on the ecosystem, she says. Lenski said she collected 25 pounds of nails the morning after a single bonfire at Butcher Jones.

The dilemma is both morally and logistically complicated, notes Phillips. "As a nation, would we keep storing the horses or kill them? Store them and we'd have to live with the cost. Kill, and we'd have to live with ourselves." Phillips has become a staunch advocate for mountain lions, one of the horse's only natural predators. The Salt River Horse Act allows the Arizona Department of Agriculture to develop a management plan for the Salt River horses, which live on U.S. Forest Service land, and allows for private management partners. In May 2018, the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group partnered with the state. Under the contract — which does not come with a budget and is managed entirely by public donations and volunteers — the management group tracks the horses and

responds to injuries and horse-car collisions. During a recent drought, volunteers began an emergency feeding program. And the group recently started a fertility control program, darting specific mares with porcine zona pellucida, or PZP, a non-hormonal birth control that prevents pregnancy for one year.

Recently, a stakeholder group mediated by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution brought together state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, ranchers and the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group to begin developing a long-term management plan for the Salt River horses. Both Mundy and Netherlands feel optimistic about the working group. The fact that free-roaming horses must be managed by humans complicates the very idea of wildness. But in the face of 21st century realities — suburban sprawl, dwindling natural resources, fewer predators — "managed" may be the best Westerners can do. "We get the question, 'Are they still wild if you manage them?'" said Netherlands. "And you know, just because they get treated humanely, just because we don't let them starve, doesn't mean they're any less wild. It just means they're lucky." Cothran told me, "The best management usually comes when there is less wildness allowed — in other words, when there is a lot more human control over what's going on." Yet human management places the horses in a gray area — not quite wild, yet not quite kept. "We love wild horses because they are not managed, not controlled, not tamed," wrote Phillips. "Take that away, and the wild horse is just livestock."

Debbie Weingarten is a freelance writer based in Tucson, Arizona.

Editor's Note: Population control is a controversial subject as many folks find negatives to the chemistry and the fact that the mare must be given the shot yearly. The real issue is that our public lands that should be supporting these horse populations are being leased for pennies per acre to cattle ranchers that choose to push off the wild horse herds and BLM and the Dept. of the Interior let them. The lands are public and the wild horses an American wild resource we shouldn't let starve or be rounded up for slaughter.



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Mining Companies Pollute Waterways, Citizens Pay

By Mark Olalde - High Country News March 18, 2019

This article was originally published by Center for Public Integrity, in partnership with Mother Jones, and is reproduced here as part of the Climate Desk collaboration.

The remnants of an abandoned gold and silver mine scar the Little Rocky Mountains just south of the Fort Belknap Indian Community in Montana, bleeding polluted orange water into streams that meander through the reservation. Warren Morin remembers drinking the once-pristine water while he was growing up in the 1970s. Now it's so acidic it makes his skin burn and turn red on contact.

Pegasus Gold Corp., a Canadian company that owned that mine and several others in the state, went bankrupt and folded 20 years ago. That left a legacy of water pollution and a cleanup bill of \$100 million with no end in sight. "They took the heart of the mountains away from us," said Morin, chair of the tribal council's natural resources committee.

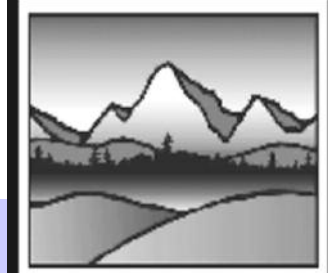
Pegasus isn't an isolated case. Especially in the drought-prone West, the outdated and opaque regulatory system meant to ensure money is available to restore water and land at gold, copper and other hardrock mines often falls short. Regulators with insufficient funding are tasked with

cleaning up a mess left years ago by now-defunct companies. The agencies that required those firms to set aside money underestimated how much it would take, in some cases acquiescing to companies pressing for lower amounts.

Pollution seeping from these mines regularly contaminates waterways. There's often no end date to treatment costs, billions of dollars of which have been shouldered by taxpayers. Contributing to this situation is Zortman-Landusky, the mine abutting the Fort Belknap reservation that's the most troublesome of three former Pegasus operations. Brook trout began dying off when miners blasted the mountains to expose ore and have since disappeared from large swaths of the streams, locals said. Beavers and frogs are gone, too. Arsenic and other heavy metals stain water at a nearby treatment plant. While Pegasus set money aside for reclamation as legally obligated, it proved to be tens of millions of dollars less than the bill so far. Taxpayers remain on the hook for the shortfall. Every year, the state spends up to \$2 million to contain water pollution at Zortman-Landusky — on top of what the cleanup already cost.

"That site's an example of *(Continued on next page.)*

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Highlander Environmental

where we and the industry just didn't maintain our full responsibilities, so we've taken that one on the chin, rightfully so," said Chris Dorrington, administrator of the Montana environment department's Air, Energy and Mining Division.

THE COST OF POLLUTION

It's difficult to put an exact number on the nationwide funding shortfall for hardrock mine cleanup. Each state manages its mining industry differently, and many don't maintain a database of reclamation bonds — the funds meant to guarantee that cleanup costs are covered if a company walks away from its mine. But the deficiency looks substantial. Jim Kuipers, who runs a mining consulting firm in Montana, researches mine closure and previously studied reclamation for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He estimated, in a 2003 report by the Center for Science in Public Participation, that there was between \$1 billion and \$12 billion in unfunded cleanup liability at the country's hardrock mines.

Kuipers said calculations of companies' cleanup costs are improving, decreasing that gap as states base their bonding requirements on more accurate estimates. Even so, he said, as many as half of active hardrock mines could still hold inadequate reclamation bonds.

When the Pegasus mine near the Fort Belknap reservation was new in 1979, Kuipers said, "mines were

permitted in a very nonchalant manner, and this whole financial assurance issue was not given a whole lot of concern." Uncontrolled mining pollution has a literal ripple effect. Mine waste, heavy metals and acidic water often end up in streams and rivers.

Mining has polluted the headwaters of more than 40% of Western watersheds, according to the EPA. In 2017, metals mines generated nearly 2 billion pounds of toxic waste. That's roughly the same weight as 5,000 Boeing 747s, and it accounts for a full half of toxic waste generated by all industries across the country. "The facts are incontrovertible," said Jennifer Krill, executive director of Earthworks, an environmental advocacy group. "Mining is the nation's largest source of toxic pollution. The costs have been counted and are only going to continue to grow." An Earthworks report studying the mines responsible for 93% of U.S. gold production in 2013 found every site had at least one pipeline spill, such as diesel fuel or dangerous cyanide solutions used in gold processing. About three-quarters of the mines also harmed nearby groundwater or surface water, "including impacts to drinking water supplies for residential homes and businesses, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and fish kills." An estimated 50 million gallons of water polluted with toxic metals still flows from the country's hardrock mines daily, the Associated Press revealed in February.

The National Mining Association, which represents the industry, contends that mines permitted today don't cause the same level of pollution. New operations, according to the group's factsheet on bonds, are constructed "and closed using state-of-the-art environmental safeguards and technology that minimize releases of hazardous substances to the environment."

A BROKEN SYSTEM

Last November, Montana voters considered a ballot measure prohibiting the state from permitting new mines if the companies disclosed that they expected the sites to pollute water indefinitely, even after cleanup. An Alaskan measure aimed to create new protections for salmon-spawning streams, a move that would restrict — perhaps halt — the permitting of large new mines. Industry interests opposing the initiatives outspent environmental advocates more than twice over in Montana and six-to-one in Alaska. Voters rejected both measures by large margins. Unlike with coal mining, which is also underfunded for proper cleanup, no central law or single federal agency oversees hardrock reclamation. A patchwork of state and federal legislation, beginning with a law barely updated since its passage in 1872, regulates hardrock mine closure. The Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and state regulators oversee a system of governance unique to each state, managed by often-outdated memorandums of understanding.

States have fine-tuned their mining laws since they were

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MINING'S LEGACY

In December 2017, the EPA reversed nascent attempts by the Obama administration to mandate a separate source of mine cleanup funds. Earthworks and others are suing to

compel the agency to implement the rule, which a federal judge in 2016 ruled is required by the same 1980 law that created the Superfund program to clean up hazardous waste sites.

“Holding mining companies accountable for cleaning up their pollution is an idea that’s heading backwards under the Trump administration,”

Earthworks’ Krill said. “The environmental cleanup is so high and the land value is so low that it’s difficult to do without outside support,” Ketellapper said. He highlighted two gold mines, one in Colorado and the other in South Dakota — which each fell to the Superfund program — as emblematic of the failure to properly calculate bonds. “The sickening thing about it is the people that did this, they raped the land, they took the money and they ran off,” said Morin, with the tribal council. “And they stuck the taxpayer with it.”

Mark Olalde is the 2018 American University Fellow with the Center for Public Integrity. Photo caption: Water treatment infrastructure at the Zortman-Landusky gold and silver mine in Montana is shown in 2004. Montana Environmental Quality Council

stuck with cleanup costs after a rash of bankruptcies wiped out mining companies in the 1990s. But predicting future costs isn’t an exact science. States and mining companies often negotiate over the amount of money to set aside.

“We go back and forth with them on getting those costs to be realistic,” said Kyle Moselle, associate director at Alaska’s Department of Natural Resources.

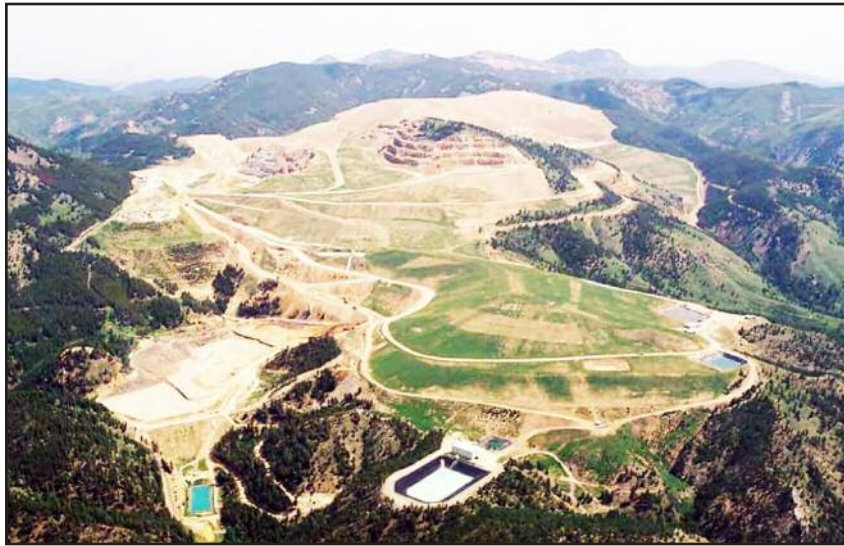
Experts say that regulators can get played if they’re not wary. Companies’ consultants can massage subjective aspects of the calculations, like how

much inflation might rise over time, to land on a more favorable amount. Ann Maest, a mining consultant who often works on contract for government agencies and environmental advocacy organizations, researches the impacts of resource extraction on water. To secure permits, mining companies frequently underestimate their potential for long-term water pollution, she said, which leads to insufficient bonds.

“It’s rare to find a mine that’s really accurately estimated how much it’s going to cost to do hydrologic reclamation when they have an acid-producing mine,” Maest said. In Arizona, roughly \$500 million of the more than \$600 million worth of hardrock reclamation bonds overseen by the state’s Department of Environmental Quality sit in

corporate guarantees and self-assurances. These forms of bonds allow the mining firm or a related entity such as a parent company to guarantee reclamation against its own financial strength. Because regulators don’t call on bonds until a company is in dire straits, experts say these guarantees are effectively worthless.

Other states may be moving away from self-assurances. New Mexico’s legislature is considering a bill that would close a loophole left by earlier efforts to stop the practice. Legislation that its supporters believe will be signed into law this year in Colorado would also institute a ban on self-bonds — and strictly limit when permits can be issued for mines expected to pollute water indefinitely.



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Humanity Is A Liability For Natural World

By Michael McCoy – High Country News Mar. 18, 2019

What a lifetime of observing nature has taught me.

Growing up in Boulder, Colorado, I accompanied my father as he headed out on work projects. One day, around the time I was 6, he and his business partner received a contract to put in a water line connecting a new reservoir to the city, crossing a vibrant marsh that was home to many species. This required dynamiting and draining the marsh. Why not move the line away from the marsh rather than through it? I asked. No clear answer. The dynamite was set, tamped and detonated. In one second, the marsh went from being alive to dead — gone forever.

Back in 1948, the English astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle allegedly remarked, “Once a photograph of the Earth, taken from the outside, is available, a new idea as powerful as any in history will be let loose.” Hoyle wasn’t specific about what this “powerful” idea might be, but I suddenly understood it when, on Christmas Eve 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts — Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders — entered lunar orbit and took a picture of the Earth from 240,000 miles away. Seeing the beauty of what we now call “Earthrise” became a turning point in my life: It made humanity’s 4.5 billion years of evolution, together with all the wars we have fought or ever will fight, including Vietnam — seem utterly absurd.

I was 26 years old then, and in veterinary school. At the end of the program, I applied for an internship at the San Diego Zoo and ended up working with one of the world’s most knowledgeable individuals in the field of veterinary

reproduction: Harold J. Hill. Our practice was in Imperial Beach, the most southwesterly community in the United States, just north of Tijuana, Mexico. To the south, the city is bordered by the Tijuana Estuary, the largest estuarine system in Southern California. For too many people, though, the Tijuana Estuary was merely a dumping ground. At the time, the community supported a plan to dredge it and put in a marina.

One day, I went to an open meeting to discuss the plan. When it was my turn, I spoke out and said: There is never going to be a marina! The room grew hostile, but I stood my ground. The hostility continued for 10 more years. Meanwhile, we built a grassroots support group and worked with anyone who would listen. At last, in November 1980, our efforts were rewarded: My wife, Patricia, and I met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the estuary. The land had been purchased, and now, as a national wildlife refuge, it was safe from development. Yet the question that perplexed me then continues to puzzle me now, especially when I think about my very personal experience protecting the estuary. Why, I wonder, would any intelligent creature want to threaten the life support system that protects it?

I don’t believe I know the answer. But over the past few decades, I have seen a change in public perception, attitude and awareness toward the environment, and I believe the Tijuana Estuary is emblematic of this change. These changes have led to the incorporation of mindfulness into our daily dialogue, while environmental education has

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inspired new laws. The Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the California Coastal Act have stopped the desecration of many natural areas, including the Tijuana Estuary. And as someone who laid the groundwork to protect the estuary...

I feel privileged to have been involved — to have lived at the right place and time to help change the perception of my local community toward this extraordinary place.

Today, I am 77 years old. And as I look back on these events, I see clearly how they cemented my view of humanity as a liability rather than an asset to the natural world. It seems to me that humans have evolved as an aberrant intelligence that undermines the planet and all other species. We consider ourselves the most important creatures that ever walked the Earth. Yet when I think about how we treat the planet, I feel like asking: Why don't you care about your mother and father? Our parents support us when we are young, but nature supports us from conception to death.



Tijuana Estuary was declared a National Wildlife Refuge in 1980, protecting its many inhabitants from future development. Don Greene/CC via Flickr

Highlander Nature

Many of those who challenged me decades ago over the Tijuana Estuary seem to have had a change of heart since then. I know this because I've met them on the trails in the refuge. They talk about the loss of land and species, and how it is hard to find a place that offers peace and serenity. The beauty of nature is shrinking, they say. So I tell them it is up to all of us to restore,


expand and protect nature against the onslaught of bad judgment and development.

And sometimes, we simply look over the estuary and out to the ocean. It is serene, peaceful and beautiful.


Michael McCoy lives in Imperial Beach, California, and has been a veterinarian for wildlife and domestic animals since 1971.


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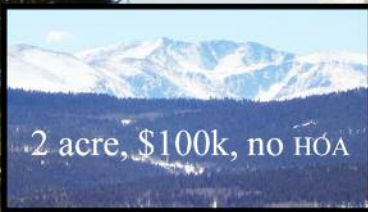



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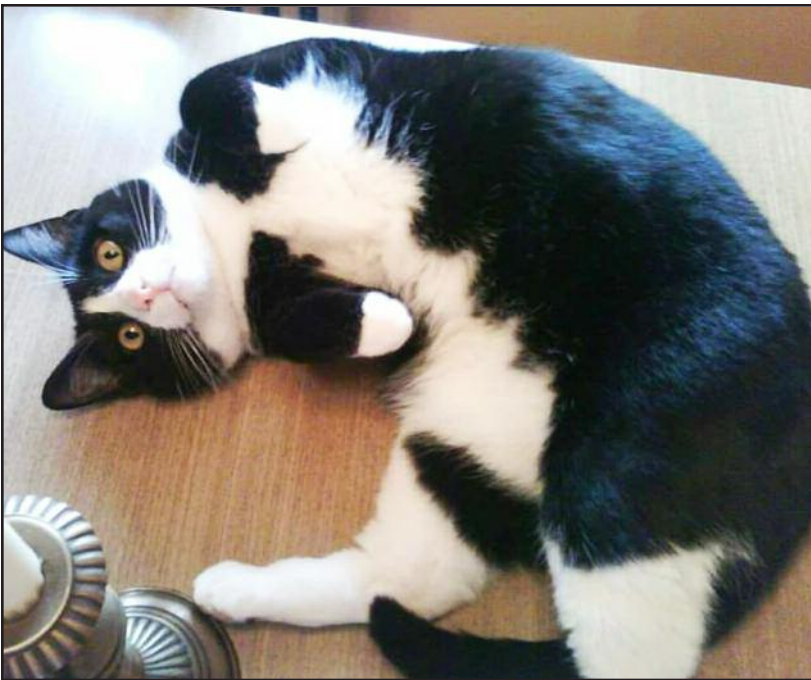


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Top left: three year resident in a shelter....

Top right: Cat hides in plain sight -

Bottom left: Cooper from Allen Mace.

Bottom right: Giant Great Dane - Horse & Rider.

Animals & Their Companions

Top: Foal does giant leap trying to cross creek. Horse & Rider

Right: Spooners

*Left: Honky Tonk Man
Spanish Mustang*

Bottom: Cat crouches in sink.



Misty Morning At The Lake

By Ingrid Winter

An apparition-

*a gleaming white shape
with perfectly lovely
and graceful curve
now enveloped
in mist
dissolving and
appearing again
in another place*

*A fleeting form
that merges
with the water
exposed for a moment
then shrouded again*



*re-emerge
concealing
and revealing*

*ever new aspects
of beauty*

*created by
water and air*

*Then slowly
evaporating
and melting away
in the sun*

*Allowing the evanescent
phantom
to solidify
and become-
a bird*

*A movement
through the mist
slow
serene
unhurried*

*A western grebe
now floating between
water and air.*

*As the fog
closes in
engulfing
the ephemeral figure
and letting it*

*Photo of Western Grebes Courtesy Alexa Boyes.
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Safety Feature Must Haves On New Cars

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

Today’s new cars are packed with safety features that help protect drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. But which car safety features should you look for when buying a new auto?

Safety features: standard equipment

Some important safety features are now required on new vehicles. These include front airbags, electronic stability control, safety belts, and the LATCH child safety seat system. Side-curtain airbags have become standard on many new cars in recent years. Review additional safety features at Safercar.gov.

New technologies to consider

Once exclusive to luxury vehicles, crash avoidance technology is now available on many new models. These can include: **Forward collision warning**

These systems use an audible warning to alert drivers when they are coming up too close to a vehicle in front of them. “Systems with autonomous braking also back up warnings with an automatic application to the brakes,” says David Zuby, chief research officer for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and its Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI). “Our research shows that both help reduce crashes.”

Adaptive headlights

These headlights pivot toward the direction you’re traveling and are great for improving visibility around curves. When the HLDI studied adaptive headlights offered

on Acura, Mazda, Mercedes, and Volvo models, it discovered that they lowered property damage liability claims by as much as 10%. For added safety, Zuby also recommends HID headlights, adaptive high-beam assist and night view technology.

Blind spot detection

Sensors serve as second eyes, alerting drivers of objects in their blind spots. Though less research backs up the benefits of blind spot detection, Zuby recommends it. “Whether or not it’s effective, when we’ve talked to vehicle owners with cars equipped with blind spot detection, they universally agree it’s a good thing,” Zuby says. Learn which vehicles are equipped with crash avoidance systems.

Additional auto safeguards

When shopping for a new car, review the crash performance of various models provided by the IIHS vehicle safety ratings. And learn more about new auto safety technologies from State Farm®. Keep in mind that safety features aren’t a substitute for safe, defensive driving. If you need to brush up on your skills, consider taking a driver safety class. Need more incentive? Taking a class may make you eligible for discounts on your auto insurance.

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Historic Avalanches

By Jay Bouchard High Country News March 15, 2019

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Over the past two weeks, we've witnessed one of the most intense avalanche cycles in Colorado history. According to leading experts, recent avalanches — there were more than 600 recorded in March alone — are running longer and larger than they have in decades, and in some cases, the slides are more intense than they've been in hundreds of years. The carnage has been well-documented across the state: cars have been buried on I-70 and elsewhere; homes have been destroyed; and already seven skiers have been killed by avalanches in the backcountry this year.

To better understand the strength and scope of snow barreling down mountainsides in Colorado, we set out to learn what exactly has led to this intense avalanche cycle. Is it merely a lot of damn snow? Another catastrophic by-product of a warming climate? According to snow scientists and forecasters with whom we spoke, the answer is not nearly so simple. Yes, Colorado is experiencing a banner snow year. Yes, the climate is changing. But neither of those factors, they say, are solely responsible for the intensity of avalanches we saw last month. Instead, it's been a mixture of weather events over the past five months — a "perfect storm" of sorts — that created unstable snowpack across the state.

"It's a combination of events," says Karl Birkeland, director of the U.S. Forest Service National Avalanche Center. "You get your biggest avalanches not just when you

get a big storm, but when you get a big storm that's on top of a series of events that set up over your season."

In Colorado's case, according to Birkeland, that series of events involved early snowfall in October followed by dry weather in November, creating a weak base layer of snow. Colorado then saw consistent snowfall throughout the winter on top of that layer, but not too much in any given storm, which loaded snow in the mountains but didn't "tip the bucket," he says. These conditions ultimately created a snowpack that is extremely unsteady, and thus, when major storms arrived in early March, it triggered massive avalanches.

"You had a very deep snowpack with a very weak layer down at the bottom of it," he says. "And then you just added a load really quickly and that was enough to push it over the edge."

Moreover, wind throughout Colorado's high country made vulnerable conditions even more likely to slide, according to Spencer Logan, lead avalanche scientist at the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC). Wind drifts snow around, he explains, and in some cases wind can move snow from one place to another at rates far greater than it is falling from the sky.

"If you imagine the snowpack being like an old man, it doesn't like change," Logan says. "Rapid change makes snow unstable. Wind is a really good way of creating that rapid change."

Because of all of these factors, we are seeing avalanches "unlike anything anyone can remember," Logan says. "Professionals who have been doing this for 40 years have never seen these kinds of avalanches."

When such extreme weather conditions like this develop, it's natural to ask whether or not this is the most recent manifestation of climate change. In the case of avalanches, while global warming likely has an indirect influence, experts caution against conflating weather and climate too broadly.

"I don't think we can directly tie this event to climate change. This is really tied to a particular sequence of events — a sequence of weather events over the course of a season," Birkeland says. "I'd be reluctant to tie it to climate change necessarily. It's more kind of the perfect storm in terms of these different things coming together to give you a snowpack that's deep and has a weakness at the bottom with big storms on top of that."

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Dr. Kelly Elder, a research hydrologist at the U.S. Forest Service and an avalanche science instructor at Colorado

Wednesday, it seems the abnormal winter weather will continue in Colorado — at least for now. But how many

more avalanches will break loose is hard to know: Logan says that his team at CAIC has recorded 609 slides in March so far, but that's probably only a fraction — maybe 25 percent — of the total over that period.

As droves of skiers head for the hills for spring downhill, it's important that we all keep in mind the significant avalanche risk, both on the roads and on the slopes.

A historic-sized avalanche near Aspen, Colorado, on March 9, 2019. The house in the bottom of the image is protected by a defensive wedge but


suffered some damage. Telluride Helitax



Mountain College, agrees that the number and intensity of avalanches last month is largely do to abnormal weather. However, he says, one of the impacts of global warming is unpredictability.

“This is a weather issue, but climate change predictions suggest increased variability in weather,” he wrote in an email to 5280. “We should expect more seasons like this one, as well as more drought seasons where we are begging for more snow. Increased variability means greater extremes and greater uncertainty in predicting them. Climate change is real; how it will manifest remains to be seen.”

As a “bomb cyclone” ripped across the state one recent



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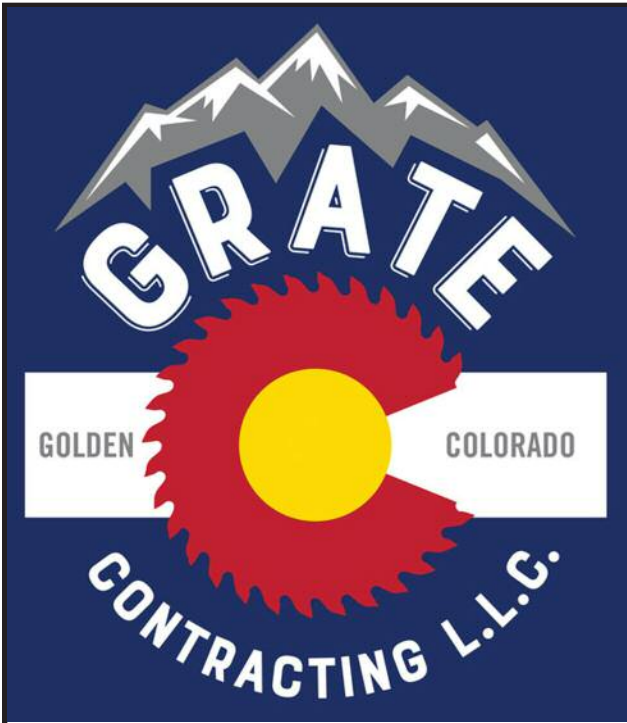


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Come Together...

By Valerie Wedel

The words of an old Beatles song keep running through my brain... Ever get a song stuck in your head? It's that driving beat and the hook – Come together, right now.

As of this writing, we have learned 49 Muslim people were murdered while praying in mosques, in Christ Church, New Zealand. A crazed, gun-toting killer who seems, as of this writing, to be a white supremacist, used a civilian assault rifle. This is so far away, and yet one feels it as if it were next door. And here, on the opposite side of the world, an old friend just died suddenly, of lung cancer.

How do we deal with grief? How long does it take to recover? When is it over? Is feeling grief better than feeling nothing at all? Would you rather feel nothing?

Elizabeth Kubler Ross tells us grieving is a process of stages one can move through. She writes of five stages: “The five stages, denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance are a part of the framework that makes up our learning to live with the one we lost. They are tools to help us frame and identify what we may be feeling... they are not (just) stops on some linear timeline in grief.”

— *Five Stages of Grief* by Elisabeth Kubler Ross & David Kessler

From the famous Irish poet and playwright, Oscar Fingal O’Flahertie Wills Wilde (Oscar Wilde, b. 1854 – d. 1900), writing during the late 1800’s:

“Where there is sorrow, there is holy ground.”

What does that mean, “where there is sorrow, there is holy ground?”

When I found out my old friend had died so suddenly, I was shocked and devastated. I kept thinking of her husband and daughter. What must they be feeling... And then I became aware of a deeper, more selfish grief I could not let go of.

Who here in Colorado knows my old friend? Really, no one but me. Who is there I could share stories and memories with? I have had a deep, primal need to be with other beloved friends who had also known and loved our mutual friend.

I tried hard to get back for the funeral but it happened so quickly... Many of us couldn’t get to each other. We now live scattered all over the country. And that was another source of grief – to miss her send off. To miss being in community with my tribe of old friends...

We have, many of us, reconnected deeply through sharing our grief over

the phone and in letters. Being in closer contact, even if not in person, with beloved old friends has been deeply, deeply comforting. When two of our old gang were able to attend the memorial service and shared their experiences with me, I could at last begin to lay aside a crushing sense of loss. Something about sharing this grief in community has made it easier to bear.

Perhaps it is our community, how we hold and support and encourage each other, that is the sacred ground. If this is true, then by our actions we may build this sacred ground each day. Or not...

Psychotherapist Francis Weller has written and taught extensively on grieving. He believes we must heal in community. From Weller’s website: “Grief has always been communal, always been shared and consequently has traditionally been regarded as a sacred process. Too often in modern times our grief becomes private... .. (and) hidden from the eyes that would offer healing.”

How many of us have ever been told to “just get over it,” “man up,” and the like? How do we honor the time and processes we need to grieve in our modern world? And still put food on the table and keep a roof over our heads?

From ancient India come a series of teachings which some say may be the roots of Zen. “Centering” is a transcription of ancient Sanscrit manuscripts, published in America by Paul Reps. These teachings are written as a conversation between Shiva and Devi. Perhaps there is comfort in these ancient words, transcribed from 4,000 and 5,000 year old texts, including

(Continued on next page.)

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the *Vigyan Bhairava*, (c. 2000 BC) and the Malini Vijaya Tantre (c 3000 BC):

...Waking, sleeping, dreaming, know you as light...

(p 169, Repts)

... Toss attachment for body aside, realizing I am everywhere. One who is everywhere is joyous. (p 171, Repts)

How can one be everywhere and yet in one place? If our society does not support us to grieve at what pace we may need... a day? A month? A year...? perhaps we may find comfort in words from our ancient ancestors. We need no official time line for grief or pain. Just an opportunity to hold each other. To slow down just a bit from our lives and... be.

Perhaps words from 5,000 years ago are not comforting. And yet, for so many thousands of years, we have shared this same planet. We are each part of an ancient, unbroken web of life.

Deeply feel pain, let it wash like waves on a beach... there will come a stillness. From that stillness, a next step may form. And one notices over time the waves grow smaller... in the space between, there is room for new life, new growth.

Come together...

References & Further Reading

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Highlander Guest Opinion

illustrates our own Catch-22.

When you consider the fact that adding another 140 million people will drive us into massive carbon footprint exhaust into the biosphere—we face “catastrophic climate destabilization” on a level not known since the dinosaurs vanished.

I could present “ecological footprint;” “water footprint;” “resource footprint;” “species extinction rates” and more information that would depress the most optimistic person as to what’s headed toward their children. Because once America reaches 440 million people, everyone becomes a victim with few workable solutions.

Thus, let the American citizens demand, with their knowledge of what’s coming, a national discussion-debate with our leaders. Let’s engage our top food, farming, resource experts, environmentalists, animal extinction experts, climate professionals and other experts who understand our predicament. They need to be interviewed on 60 Minutes, NPR, PBS and every network regularly to educate the American people. Today, the major networks

avoid this issue like the Bubonic Plague. Those experts might offer solutions now before, at some point in the future, when no solutions will solve our dilemma.

Let’s publish this knowledge in every media center in America. Let’s deal with our future before it becomes our ugly present. In fact, by reading this commentary, what kind of a world would you like to hand over to your kids? Because if you fail to act, fail to speak up—your kids face an extremely unpleasant *Tragedy of the Commons* in their future.

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Frosty Wooldrige,

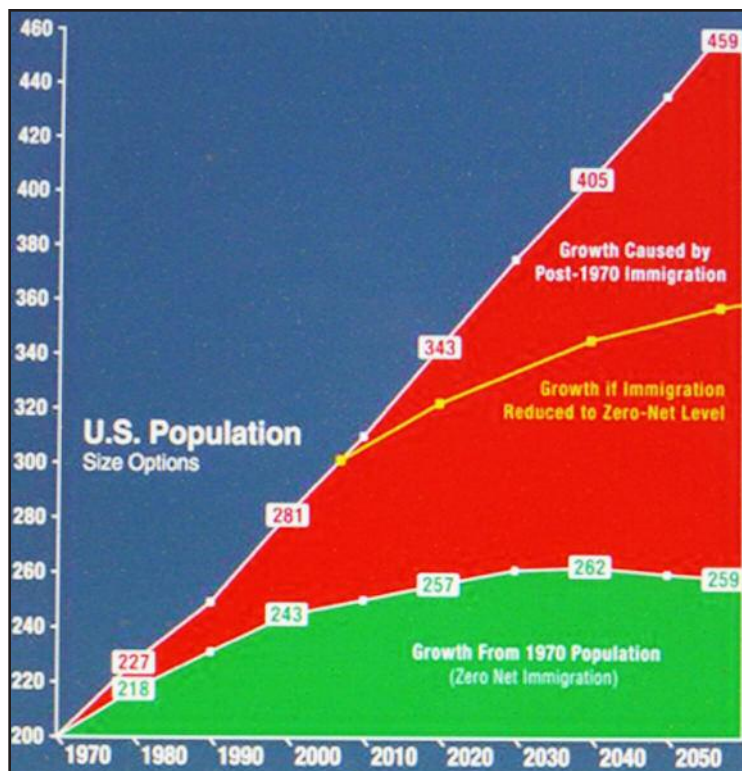
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How ESA Is Weakened

By Adam M. Sowards *High Country News* Nov. 16, 2018

Reckoning with History is an ongoing series that seeks to understand the legacies of the past and to put the West's present moment in perspective.

In his classic book, *A Sand County Almanac*, conservationist Aldo Leopold wrote of ecological communities, "A land ethic of course cannot prevent the alteration, management, and use of these 'resources,' but it does affirm their right to continued existence, and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state." Congress essentially agreed with Leopold when it passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, with only 12 dissenting votes in the House and none in the Senate.

This congressional consensus existed because few legislators understood the ESA's full implications. But for decades, as scientific research accumulated and judges established precedents, the ESA's full scope made it arguably the nation's most controversial environmental law. Today, private landowners and industry in the West are calling for Congress and the president's administration to gut the law, weakening a system already riddled with compromises that threaten species' continued existence.

In Leopold's day, solving endangered species issues seemed easy: Stop overhunting. Leopold himself told one of conservation's most famous fables about reconsidering his own hunting practices after killing a wolf and watching "a fierce green fire dying in her eyes," a conversion experience that led him to "think like a mountain," his eloquent metaphor for considering things from nature's perspective.

But through the mid-20th century, scientists developed new ways to understand species. Joseph Grinnell, who directed the University of California, Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, leveraged this scientific shift through his influence. Grinnell and his students helped habitat protection emerge as the central factor in species survival, as historian Peter S. Alagona wrote in his book, *After the Grizzly: Endangered Species and the Politics of Place in California*. Protecting habitat to keep species alive eventually flipped to using endangered species to protect habitat.

Yet protecting habitat opened Pandora's box, particularly after the Supreme Court clarified the ESA's power. In the first major test of the law, *Tennessee Valley Authority v. Hill* (1978), the Court found, "The plain intent of Congress in enacting this statute was to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction, whatever the cost" (emphasis my own). Later, the Supreme Court affirmed in *Babbitt v. Sweet Home Chapter of Communities for a Greater Oregon* (1995) that the law's prohibition of "harm" extended to damaging habitat, including on private lands. Such precedents demonstrated (Continued on next page.)

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Highlander Politics

the ESA's radical potential to upend economics and property, inciting a backlash against federal land-use regulation that began with the Sagebrush Rebellion in the late 1970s and has only quickened since.

The legislative and executive branches sought remedies after the judicial branch bolstered the ESA. Congress countered with amendments, and executive agencies, especially the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, rewrote rules for greater flexibility. For example, in 1982, amendments to the ESA initiated habitat conservation plans (HCPs), which included incidental take permits. HCPs allow landowners to craft land-use plans that may harm endangered species or habitat incidental to the project, while protecting landowners from legal penalties. This legal innovation allowed negotiation over endangered species habitat, something welcomed by those seeking to move beyond lawsuits.

Recent history extends this worrying trend. For instance, the years-long effort to protect the sage grouse across the West, which had been promoted as a cooperative model, has devolved. After fostering collaboration among federal agencies, states, industries, landowners and conservationists, the Interior Department adopted a sage

grouse recovery plan in 2015. But under Secretary Ryan Zinke the department has changed the plan to favor oil and gas development and undermine species protection, throwing collaboration to the wind and undermining the goodwill developed painstakingly over years of work. Meanwhile, congressional Republicans introduced bills last summer to reform the ESA, and the Trump administration's Interior and Commerce departments have proposed new rules that would give more power over rare species to the states, while allowing greater flexibility for development favored by industry — suggesting that no amount of compromise may satisfy critics of the law.

With the climate crisis and other environmental challenges confronting the West, endangered species require vigorous action if they are to survive. Compromise, although a necessary lubricant to politics, often fits poorly with species' biology. Just as important, standards of right and wrong, as Leopold framed these issues, do not permit concessions easily. No matter how central science may be to solutions, it is worth remembering that the ESA is a product of politics.

Adam M. Sowards is an environmental historian, professor, and writer. He lives in Pullman, Washington.



Leopold bow hunting, Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1938.

Courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation

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Off To The Atlantic Coast

Life as a farmer's daughter came to an end as I neared age seven. After three years of drought our farm had to be auctioned off because during the good years prior Dad had bought new equipment and then couldn't pay the payments when times got bad. We ended up piling into a big pink Dodge with those huge fins in the back and pulled a U-Haul trailer with all our belongings from Kansas to Florida. Our two horses got sent back to my grandparent's farm nearby and I visited them some summer's as I got older.


Upon arrival to the Atlantic coast in Florida I thought the white sand on the beach was snow. We drove down the east coast towards Daytona, stopping at the public beaches to frolic in the waves crashing along all the sandy snow colored beaches and this began my love of the ocean. I was nearly seven years old and the Kansas winter gave way to no seasons at all in sunny Florida.

We moved into a rental house about 100 miles north of Palm Beach that had a lot of mature landscaping and I learned quickly what picking fruit from trees in the backyard was like: grapefruit, oranges, limes and my favorite – mangoes. I couldn't get enough of the mangoes. Some tasted like other fruit, with hints of banana or pineapple and I learned how to only pick and peel the ripest ones that were so sweet and pulpy they ruined my appetite for dinner regularly. It was quite a change from the vegetable garden or sweet corn field of Kansas.

In addition to the numerous fruit trees in our backyard there was a huge Banyan tree with long vines that hung down between the wide reaching branches. My brother and I made it into a big fort and learned how to swing from branch to branch on the vines like little monkeys. There was no need for lumber or anything manmade as the branches were big, smooth and rounded just right for shimmying and even walking barefoot on while hanging



onto the vines. We spent hours in (Continued on next page.)



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I had my own bedroom in that rented house and right outside my window was the best smelling flowering bush I had ever seen. It was a big Gardenia and its flowers were so fragrant with soft white petals that smelled like heaven itself.



Some mornings I would wake up and before even opening my eyes I could smell the gardenia flowers blooming and the morning dew drying spread that sweet scent as the heat of the day started. The half circle driveway was lined with beautiful but not fragrant flowering bushes of Bougainvillea and I always wondered how they could have such delicate blooms but not give off a scent to compete with my Gardenia bush.

My parents had friends that had previously moved to Florida from Kansas years before we did and they had a house with a huge swimming pool that we visited so often



my little sister learned how to swim before she was three years old. She only swam underwater, but she was good at it and could go from side to side – popping up to catch a breath and then hanging onto the side of the pool before some adult snatch her up and try to make her stay in the shallow end.

I had only just started first grade when we moved so had to deal with being the new girl when we moved again to a house we bought not even a year later. It was in a new subdivision with homes on the edge of the new town we moved to. There we were only three miles from the Atlantic Ocean and often went out to the public beach, which had picnic tables under small open structures up in the sand dunes away from the water's edge. The only other thing out there was an old car museum that had dozens of antique cars tourists paid to look at and to get out of the humid heat, sun and sand.

Once I got old enough my brother and I were allowed to catch the city bus a few blocks from our house up on the main highway that took us to the beach for the day and

then we rode it home in the afternoon. My Dad bought me a minnow bucket and a small fish net to catch little reef fish that I took to town in the afternoon and sold what I had caught to the local department store that stocked fish for people that had salt water tanks in their homes. I also found sand dollars close to shore and sold them outside the car museum to tourists. Those carefree days of summer at the beach instilled in me a love for the ocean that has never gone away.

We often made a trip to the beach as a family outing when a hurricane was approaching to watch the ocean go from small breaking waves to big angry forty foot high waves crashing so far up onto the beach that the picnic tables and their covered buildings

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would disappear under water and the tide would come close to covering the parking lot for the beach and threaten the museum building. It was one of my first lessons on how

powerful nature could be and how it can change so drastically.

We did have to board up our exterior house windows with plywood a few times in the years we lived there and hunker down in the hallway between our bedrooms: us kids sleeping on the shelves of the main closet next to the bathroom as we waited out the hurricanes. Only one time did we get to go outside when the eye of the hurricane was directly over our neighborhood. Instead of it sounding like a freight train outside it got real quiet and our radio came on with an announcement saying we had about ten minutes to go secure any loose stuff. In the eye the sun was shining, birds were singing and there was no wind. Then the sirens came on and we went back to the hallway again. I wasn't scared because we had experienced tornadoes in Kansas and they seemed much more deadly as you rarely saw them coming.

By A.M. Wilks



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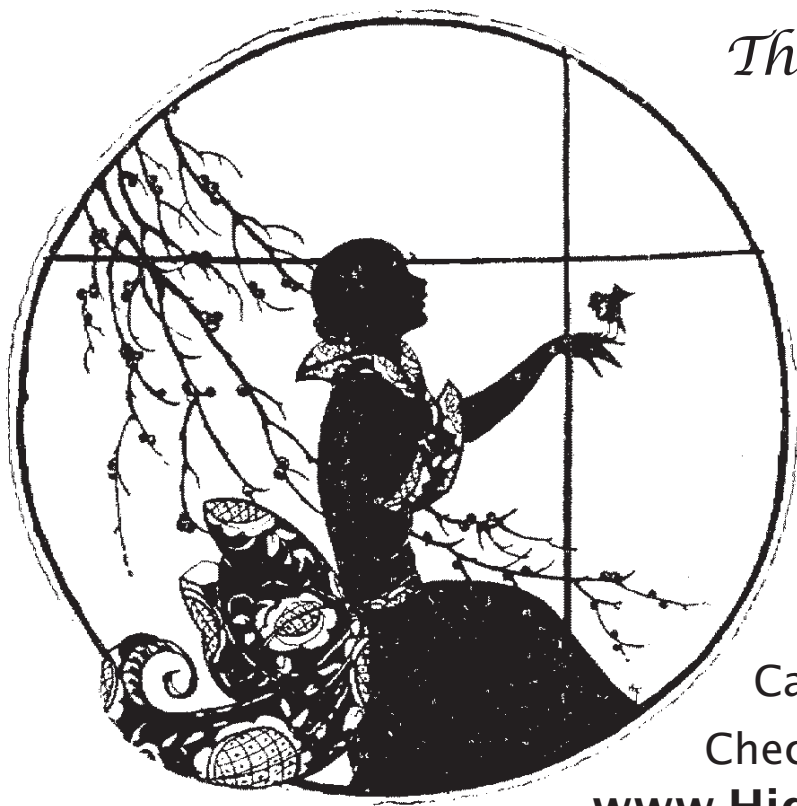
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Brighton, CO 80601**

Event Schedule:

4:30 p.m. | Registration, Dinner & Entertainment

6:30 p.m. | Meeting, Election Results, Prizes

More information at www.unitedpower.com



Save Trees with Paperless Billing

United Power members who no longer wish to receive a printed bill in the mail can sign up for Paperless Billing with SmartHub. If you are not currently a SmartHub user, the registration process is simple and allows you immediate access to view your account details, make payments online, make account updates and sign up for services like Paperless Billing.

Sign up for Paperless Billing:

- From SmartHub, select My Profile from menu options
- Select Update My Printed Bill Settings from options
- Toggle Printed Bill Status button from ON to OFF to stop receiving printed bills
- Click Yes to confirm

Once you are enrolled, a paper bill will no longer be mailed to you. To sign up without SmartHub, call our Member Services department at 303-637-1300.



Member Services: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

EGGSTRAVAGANZA - Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 13th 10:00am to 12:00pm

CCCIA Hall 31258 Coal Creek Canyon



223 Copperdale Lane
Impressive Remodel - 1.09 Acres
2 BD/ 3 BA 2,436 sq.ft. **\$469,000**



1111 Elysian Field Dr. #D. Lafayette
Condo backs to Coal Creek Open Space
1 BD/ 1 BA Top Unit 826 sq.ft. **\$250,000**



616 Tunnel 19 Road
Divide/Gross Dam VIEWS! 8.9 Acres
3 BD/ 3 BA 3,319 sq.ft. **\$850,000**



**BUY OR SELL A HOME with
Kathy or Janet & USE
the moving truck for FREE**



Coal Creek Canyon
Gorgeous Log Home - 1.82 Acres
4 BD/ 4 BA 3,817 sq.ft. **\$1,100,000**



216 Debra Ann Road
Remodeled Mtn Home - VIEWS
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,800 sq.ft. **\$390,000**



200 The Lane Road
Spectacular Remodeled Mtn Home
3 BD/2 BA 1,423 sq.ft. 2.44 Ac. **\$429,000**



9321 Nile Court
Amazing Hm, Prairie & Mtn Views
3 BD/ 4 BA 5,362 sq.ft. **\$695,000**



114 Old Logging Road
Gorgeous Remodeled Mtn Home - VIEWS
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,429 sq.ft. **\$535,000**



249 Rudi Lane
Custom Post & Beam 2.26 Acres
2 BD/ 3 BA 2,975 sq.ft. **\$420,000**



11648 Overlook Road
Custom Log Home 1.82 Acres
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,104 sq.ft. **\$400,000**



386 Chute Road
Perfect Horse Property 4.13 Acres
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,920 sq.ft. **\$420,000**



266 Aspen Drive
Remodeled Thruout, Engulfed in Aspens
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,036 sq.ft. .95 Ac. **\$445,000**



Coal Creek Canyon
Custom Log Home - 4.2 Acres
3 BD/ 4 BA 3,300 sq.ft. **\$900,000**



11773 Hillcrest Road
Private, Cozy Mtn Retreat Remodeled
2 BD/ 2 BA 1.15 Acre **\$349,900**



33867 Ave De Pines
Beautiful Log Sided Hm - VIEWS
1 BD/ 1 BA 2.8 Acres **\$275,000**



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