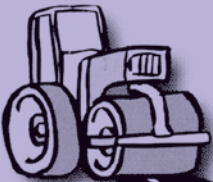


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*About the Cover:*  
**Gabrielle Louise - CD**  
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# Gabrielle Louise CD Release Tour

Dear Highlander Reader,

I'm thrilled to announce that this August I am debuting my new studio record, *The Bird in My Chest* and have scheduled a series of theater shows to support the release. In Coal Creek Canyon I'll be performing at the CCCIA **on Thursday, August 22nd**. Tickets are available in advance for \$12, and for \$15 dollars at the door. The link is already up to reserve a spot at [gabriellelouise.com/coal](http://gabriellelouise.com/coal) <<http://gabriellelouise.com/coal>> . For this CD release tour I will be accompanied by a great friend, guitarist and dobro player, David Kaye, of Washington Depot, CT.

I've been working on this record for roughly three years, taking a series of trips back to the east coast to work with engineer Tim Mitchell. Nearly ten years ago, in 2009, Tim and I released my first record, *Journey*, which we'd created together on weekends while attending Berklee College of Music in Boston. Since that time, Tim has gone on to work with legends like Bob Dylan, Sting, and Paul Simon, to name a few. I'm very proud to have been able to put together this project with him and appreciate him deeply for his dedication to the project.

*The Bird in My Chest* is a love record. That might not sound all that unique at first but, in the context of my body of work, typically social commentary songs or narrative storytelling songs, this type of intimate, self-exposing collection of music is in fact a rare bird. To enhance the intimacy of the project, I've published a small book of short stories and poems that were written at the same time as the music, many of which correlate to the content of the tunes or provide deeper insight into life on the road as a traveling troubadour.

I've included an excerpt from the book, a short story called *How Lucky We Are* (next page). I truly hope you enjoy this record and book and I look forward to seeing you at the show! Warmly, Gabrielle Louise

[www.gabriellelouise.com](http://www.gabriellelouise.com)

<<http://www.gabriellelouise.com>>

(Continued on next page.)

## The Bird in my Chest Artist Statement:

In a recent writing workshop I was asked to send a letter to myself from an 80 year old version of myself, an exercise to realign a person with their truth.

I struggled greatly with the task - feeling content with my current existence, unsure of how to advise my life direction from a far off, unimaginable future. In fact I didn't, and don't, desire to secure or shape my course; I am much more interested in the mystery of where I might end up with nothing but a little love and a little trust in my pockets.

The one thing that did come to mind was how I might see myself from that vantage point, with the power and simplicity of retrospect. I imagined looking back on my life and summarizing my existence with one word - A lover.

The Bird in My Chest is about keeping that identity well-fed and nurtured - the little alive creature that it is, pulsing and fluttering in my heart.



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## Highlander Personality

### How Lucky We Are

Renee, 85, has lived on the upper west side for 25 years. Before that she lived on the upper east side for 35 years. Before that she lived in Cleveland. She took one look at New York City and never wanted to leave again.

Now she's sitting by the picture window in a coffee shop on 86th and Amsterdam, tearing her favorite articles out of the New York Times. She folds them neatly and tucks them into her purse.

Five minutes later she takes them out to read again, unfolding slowly, intentionally. She spots me looking for a free table. "You're all dressed up for a concert!" She exclaims, taking note of my guitar. "Join me!" And so I do.

Renee puts down the paper and stares out the window blissfully - "People don't know how lucky we are," she says, shaking her head, crossing her arms against her chest. "Look at that! Would you just look at that sun crawling across the building! Look at that blue blue sky!" she unfolds her arms again and gestures wildly with both, conducting a street symphony.

Although you can only see a sliver of it through the canyon of apartment buildings, I have to notice that the sky IS bursting with saturation this afternoon.

Renee's wearing a black velvet hat from the 1980s and oversize square glasses that magnify her eyes marvelously.

Wisps of hair fall out in soft curves, tickling the shoulders of a red sweater as she whips her head around, taking it all in.

"Just LOOK at those beautiful people in their beautiful clothing, and all those the bright yellow taxis, and THAT, will you look at THAT?!?" She points to the glowing bricks on an old church. "I took one look at New York City and never wanted to leave again."

I'm not sure what to tell her, except that The Big Apple has never welcomed me with such youthful enthusiasm. She gets up from our table and stealthily fills her purse with something from the fix-it-yourself-coffee-station. Returning she leans in close to my face and unfurls a poker-hand of honey sticks. "These are good snacks!" she says. "And free!"

"May I have one?" Oh, yes, she says. "You get what you ask for, you know."

85 year old Renee in the black velvet hat and the square glasses squeezes my hand and gives me two. "Enjoy them!" she exclaims, walking away to make friends of another stranger. And so I do.

### August CD release Colorado Tour Dates: Everyday Joe's August 8th - Fort Collins

Four Mile Community Building August 15th  
Canon City

The Salida Steamplant Theater August 16th -  
Salida

Coal Creek Canyon Community Center (CCCCA)  
August 22nd - Coal Creek

The Mercury Café August 23rd, Denver

The Blue Sage Center for the Arts August 24th,  
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# Water History Documents Now Digitized

## CSU Water Resources Archive Digitizes More Than 43,000 Water History Documents

Over 100 years of Colorado water history - more than 43,000 pages of primary source materials related to water use in the state - are now freely available online. The CSU Water Resources Archive recently scanned, digitized and posted the items that include reports, images, oral histories and data, thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

This is the fourth such grant from the CWCB to the archive. The unique project took just under a year to complete and added material from 15 previously undigitized collections and 24 total collections to the archive's online offerings. Scanned materials relate to today's water issues, and include groundwater research and administration, snow hydrology, agricultural water use, the 1976 Big Thompson flood and early water leaders. Digitization also preserved more than 200 rare glass-plate images of Colorado and several thousand slides of dams and waterways in the western United States.


Searchable free access Patrons can browse documents or find specific items with simple keyword searches on the archive's website, <http://lib.colostate.edu/archives/water/>. Online access to archival materials is intended to aid those who want to educate themselves about water but who don't have the time or money to travel to Fort Collins to view

these historic documents.

Some highlights from the recently digitized materials include 41 oral history interviews from survivors and emergency responders of the Big Thompson flood, USGS Civil Engineer Robert Glover's diaries from 1923 to 1984, and data and reports from Colorado's portion of the six-state High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer study conducted between 1979 and 1981.

Those interested in Colorado history will also find 79 images of farms, towns and mountains in the 1890s from the Delph Carpenter collection particularly fascinating. The Water Resources Archive, part of the University Libraries, is Colorado's only repository dedicated specifically to preserving the history of water in the state and the American West. Most of the documents in the archive are unique and unavailable elsewhere.

Holdings, contained in nearly 2,000 boxes, cover more than a century of water history and provide access to the studies, debates and legislative deals that have shaped Colorado's water legacy. For more information, contact Patricia J. Rettig at the Water Resources Archive, CSU Morgan Library, [Patricia.Rettig@ColoState.edu](mailto:Patricia.Rettig@ColoState.edu)



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## An Unlikely Pair

By Melissa E. Johnson

*If you judge people, you don't have time to love them.*

~Mother Teresa

"You listen here little lawyer girl, I don't know what kind of little lawyer games you think you're playing, but you're rolling with the big boys now!" He boomed through the phone in response to my letter requesting that he produce certain documents to support our client's deal. Red-rage raced through my body, from the scalp down, touching my ears, and setting my chest on fire. How dare he speak to me this way, this two-bit, good old boy lawyer!

Only two years out of law school, I had been thrown into the fire with this deal to help my client purchase a restaurant and nightclub from a well-known business owner represented by none other than this J. Don Ridell, Esquire, now on the phone yelling at me! What I wanted to do was rip that guy a new one! Jump up and down and pound him on the head; tell him that I was a lawyer just the same as he and defend my right to vigorously represent my

client.

Perhaps because we didn't have the luxury of time to dicker over such trivial things, and I didn't want to get fired, somehow, I found the will to simply restate my request. "No games here. My client wants to buy your client's business and they want to close fast. Now my guy wants me to give this deal my blessing and I'm not going to do it until you turn over those stock certificates and the corporate books." Click. He hung up on me.

I seethed. I knew I wasn't over-lawyering this stock purchase. If anything I wanted to slam on the breaks, take our time; what's the rush? But they had an agenda and I knew I would be committing malpractice if I didn't do some basic due diligence. So I stuck to my guns and called my client to tell him where we stood.

An hour later Mr. Ridell begrudgingly called back and told us to be at his office by noon. I had heard stories of this J. Don Ridell and other rogue lawyers who had had the run of the place long before it became a resort town with high-rise condominiums, nightclubs and top law firms. A criminal lawyer by trade, he was stepping up to handle a stock purchase for his best client, but until that moment I had never met him or had any dealings with him. Intimidated, I packed my briefcase and headed to his office.

I saw his boots first, wingtip leather all shined up with some fancy studs on them; and as my eyes traveled up to the top of his six foot-five head, I saw his jeans with matching studded belt buckle and bolo tie-the consummate cowboy, this one-made evermore complete by a headful of white hair and small strips of surgical tape in the corners of

both eyes supported by bruised, swollen pockets beneath. I relaxed a little, breathed deep, somehow comforted by the idea that this big bad man had just had some plastic surgery. He sized me up in my expensive little lawyer suit and off we went to his conference room, with barely a word between us.

As it turned out, his client didn't have the stock certificates we needed because he had transferred all of his stock to his 20-some grandchildren who were scattered all over the country. We wouldn't be closing any time soon, that was certain, but for the first time, appearances and judgments aside, we began working together to make this deal happen.

Later, we walked downtown to discuss pay-off of the business loans

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with the bank, only to return to a locked office. Brilliant! What now? My briefcase and car keys were inside, so I had to stick around and help him break into this one-story-brick-ranch-styled-home-turned-office. Sure, the ice had thawed between us that afternoon, but I wasn't prepared to shove his Wrangler - wearing butt through the conference room window.

There he was, stuck and distressed, bossing me around from that awkward bent-at-the-waist-crunch position he was sort of hanging in with one leg touching the office floor and the other bent at the knee, jammed in the window sill by that wingtip boot. I tried to contain myself but soon lost control to my laughter. I was laughing so hard and crying and pretty much useless to help this guy. Then he started laughing too...and farting...there, stuck in the window, which made me laugh even harder; him too. Yet something in his jolly laughter dislodged him from the window and he fell to the conference room floor. Within minutes I was in the office collecting my things and thanking him for an interesting afternoon.

We closed the deal-everyone was happy-and a real fondness had grown between Mr. Ridell and me in the process. But I never saw him again until the year that I

served as president of the local bar association, hosting an event for our judges and winding up my tenure there. He made me cry with his compliment, he actually praised my mind and told me that working with me on that deal had changed him, and he apologized for being such a jerk.

This fabulously crazy encounter between a cowboy barrister and a little lawyer girl became one of my great lessons, as I am again reminded that things are not always as they seem. We think people are one way and they turn out to be quite different. We make quick judgments based on superficial things and think we know all there is to know about each other, but we don't. Yet if we're open and willing to be surprised, and laugh at our differences, we just might find ourselves part of an unlikely pair.

*Above photo: Peace Wall Graffiti - Belfast, Ireland - MJ Johnson (2013)*

*Melissa is a writer, photographer, artist and lawyer. Read more on her blog at [www.HeartLaw.blogspot.com](http://www.HeartLaw.blogspot.com).*





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## Update - Buffalo Field Campaign

**BREAKING NEWS: Montana Proposes Some Year-Round Habitat for Wild Buffalo! Opportunity for public comment** is now available on Montana's proposal for some year-round bison habitat in both the Hebgen and Gardiner Basins, west and north of Yellowstone National Park. In response to the scoping comments you sent Montana last summer, on July 12, in the midst of America's summer vacation season, the Montana Departments of Livestock (DOL) and Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) released a very important Environmental Assessment (EA), **and the public has a short window of time to submit comments.**

While we are currently reviewing the document, our initial take is that a "Buffalo's Alternative" needs to be considered which welcomes both bull and cow buffalo, year-round, on all lands within the Hebgen and Gardiner Basins. A take action with talking points has been created for your convenience. We strongly encourage you to use our points as guidelines, and put things into your own words, ensuring your comments will hold far more weight. **Our website has the ability to take immediate action steps: click on those to comment before the Aug. 13th deadline.**

BFC Proudly Presents *In the Presence of Buffalo* by Dan Brister. BFC is thrilled to announce the publication of *In the Presence of Buffalo: Working to Stop the Yellowstone Slaughter*, the long-awaited published work by BFC's very own Dan Brister. Including a forward by celebrated grizzly bear and wildlands advocate, Doug Peacock, *In the Presence of Buffalo* is a unique and inspiring work which sheds intense light on the little known and highly inglorious history of Montana's livestock industry and explores the deep relationship between First Nations and their buffalo relatives.

Dan goes painfully deep at times, as he courageously shares honest personal accounts of losing his mother as a teenager, and his journey that ultimately led him to become one of the world's greatest champions of wild buffalo. The power of *In the Presence of Buffalo* comes directly from Dan's unique first-hand experiences and his incredible talent. Weaving historic documentation with the storied challenges the buffalo face and his own personal trials, Dan breathes new life into a traditional American theme. Every wild buffalo advocate should have this book.

**ORDER NOW!** Proceeds directly benefit Buffalo Field Campaign, and the first 100 copies ordered through BFC's web site will be personally signed by Dan! (Please note that we are awaiting shipment from the publisher. Please allow four to five weeks to receive your signed copy.)

More about the book and author: *In the Presence of Buffalo: Working to Stop the Yellowstone Slaughter* is Dan's powerful tribute to the gentle giants that still roam. This incredible, beautifully articulated work reveals so much more than the usual accounts of American buffalo that sheepishly ignore the conflict still taking place on the border between Montana and Yellowstone National Park. While numerous books about buffalo have been published, there is no other book like this one.

*In the Presence of Buffalo: Working to Stop the Yellowstone Slaughter*, absolutely stands alone, fearlessly exploring the controversial buffalo wars through not only contextual historic accounts but offers unique, intense



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personal first-hand experiences the author has had face to face with the gentle giants and those who seek to harm them.

Dan began his dedication to wild buffalo advocacy over sixteen years ago. While attending graduate school at the University of Montana in Missoula, an alert on a bulletin board caught his eye. It was a grim tally of wild buffalo that had been senselessly killed and a call for volunteers to stand in their defense. Each day he would check the board and the numbers would rise.

Cape Cod born and bred, Dan hadn't realized that wild buffalo still existed, much less that they were in dire straights. The buffalo called. Dan answered on a frigid, snowy Christmas night in 1997, which also happened to be his birthday. He drove his heatless 1970's-era Volkswagon bus through the cold night for 250 miles in treacherous conditions, arriving at Buffalo Field Campaign, entering into a world that would change his life forever.

Initially planning to volunteer for two weeks, he never left their cause. Sixteen years and thousands of hours in the field with wild buffalo have now passed. After his first experiences with the buffalo, Dan decided to complete his Master's Thesis on their struggle, and the result is his first published work.

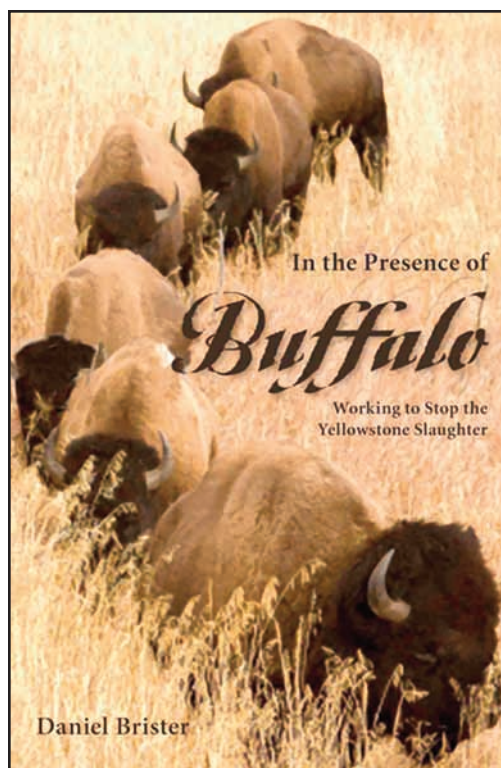
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their deep love of these gentle giants, and it is clear that the buffalo have touched their very souls. These calendars are great for your home or office, and make really fantastic gifts.

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comment before the Aug. 13th deadline.



*Westfalen Hof*



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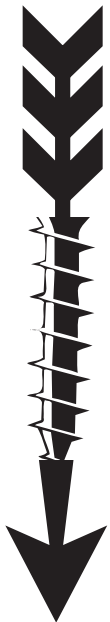


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## ***3 Feet Law - State Vet***

### **Letter to the Editor,**

RE: Follow the Three Feet Law Please. Sure, I'll give you three feet, even when you don't use the bike lane that was created for you. Sure, I'll give you three feet, even when you don't get over on a blind curve.

Sure, I'll give you three feet, even when you ride three abreast in the oncoming lane, and the one furthest to the inside is on your cell phone. Sure, I'll give you three feet, even when you are in my lane racing toward me downhill. I'll just keep giving you three feet. What will you do?

Marty F. GGC (*Highlander policy is to only print letters that are signed with complete names, but Marty makes such good points we made an exception.*)

**Editor's Note:** Bicyclists must follow the laws of the road just as motorists must do and ignoring the laws simply because you're on a bicycle is unacceptable too. Recently I was pulling my stock trailer out onto Hwy 72 at the Westfalen Hof and encountered several bicyclists flying downhill coming from Wondervu. They had to have been going faster than the 40 mph speed limit and came very close to slamming into my truck and trailer.

One of the cyclists in the rear of the pack was shaking his head at me - as if I was in the wrong...when clearly the pack was not in view when I began pulling out onto the highway. It must be a rush to let gravity pull you downhill on two wheels, going faster and faster, especially after the grueling climb up to Wondervu. But it would only have taken seconds for those same thrill seekers to end up as decals on my trailer.

Breaking the law on roadways is so common, especially tailgating - it is a statement that all who do it are desperately seeking direction, without thought for their own safety or that of anyone else - they do it not because the one in front of them isn't going fast enough usually, it is simply a bad habit and it too, is against the law.

### **Letter to the Readers,**

A note of concern was voiced to the Boulder County Horse Association that a couple of new horses in the community looked too skinny. In the event you see any animal you think may be neglected or abused you should contact the Colorado State Veterinarian at **303.239.4161**.

Horses that show rib or hip bones may in fact need veterinary care instead of more food. Regular worming or dentistry may be what the state vet will require of an owner with a too lean equine. Some horses are this lean after being on pasture that was eaten down.

A mare horse was struck by lightning and left a newborn foal, this is another example of the need for professional intervention as most folks don't know what the little horse really needs and to try and support an orphaned foal without veterinary help probably only prolongs its suffering. Editor



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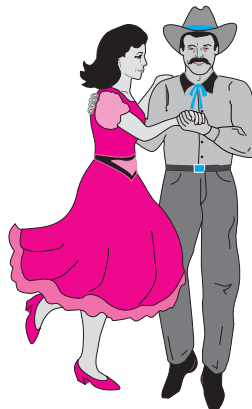
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# Corporations Without Allegiance Or Obligations?

By Mike Alberti - Remapping Debate

If American corporations are, as the Supreme Court ruled in 2010, citizens entitled to free speech and other rights from the nation, what corresponding obligations to the nation do these corporations have? “For individuals, we’ve always thought that citizenship entails a balance of rights and responsibilities,” said James Post, the co-author of *Corporate Responsibility: The American Story* and a professor of management at Boston University. “Does it still mean the same thing for corporations?”

The question of whether American multinational corporations have national obligations, and if so, what those obligations are, is “one of the most central and least recognized public policy questions of our time,” said James Post of Boston University. In an effort to find out whether American corporations are the kind of “citizens” that believe that they have national obligations, Remapping

Debate contacted the representatives of more than 80 corporations.

Most had no comment, a striking finding in and of itself. And among the corporate representatives who did comment, most were unwilling to say that their corporation had any obligations to the United States, let alone to define any such obligations with specificity. Moreover, representatives of some American multinationals said that their companies do not even identify themselves as being American in any sense except that they are legally incorporated and physically headquartered in one of the states of the U.S.

This has not always been the case. According to numerous professionals, the managers of American companies used to feel strong national and social ties. The disintegration of that sense of obligation raises crucial questions for policy makers as to whether and how to reinforce those ties, and as to what special privileges, if any, should continue to be offered to corporations that are nominally “American.”

According to Post, that question of whether American multinational corporations have national obligations, and if so, what those obligations are, is “one of the most central and least recognized public policy questions of our time.”

All American? Remapping Debate reached out to corporations of various sizes in a range of sectors, from huge, iconic multinationals like General Motors and Boeing to smaller, primarily domestic companies like JetBlue and RadioShack. The majority of the fifteen corporate representatives that responded said that their companies did consider themselves to be American.

“I think that most of RadioShack’s 30,000 employees would say that it is an American company,” said Kirk Brewer, head of corporate communications at RadioShack. “The brand has been part of the American landscape for a long time, and the roots of today’s company stretch back more than 90 years.”

When obligations went with benefits - For the vast majority of their history, American corporations were perceived by both the public and by corporate executives themselves as having a broad range of obligations - including national obligations - that competed with the goals of making profit or creating value for shareholders.

“The idea that a corporation exists solely to make money is actually quite new,” explained Ralph Gomory, a

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professor of management at New York University. The broader sense of corporate responsibility was starkly apparent during World War II, when many U.S. companies dramatically changed their operations to aid the war effort, Gomory said, but it also extended through the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. "Even in the early '80s, you would be more likely to hear a CEO talking about his responsibilities to the country or to his employees than his duty to the shareholders."

In practice, that broader sense of corporate obligation translated to self-imposed restraints on the way those companies interacted with their communities and with their workers, said William Lazonick, a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. "For example, up until the 1980s, CEOs were extremely reluctant to shut down factories and lay off a large number of workers," Lazonick said. "Mass layoffs were actually seen as a serious abnegation of corporate responsibility. It was understood that the company had a responsibility to its workers, and that if it failed, society at large would be on the hook for that failure."

Margaret Blair, a professor of law at Vanderbilt University, added that the connection between American companies and the nation as a whole was felt strongly by corporate CEOs, who "saw the corporate sector as one of the major forces that was working in the best interests of the country." Blair pointed out that in the period from World War II to the 1980s, it was far less common to see corporate executives lobbying the government for special rights and benefits, including lower taxes. "It was accepted that, if the United States was going to be a powerful economy and have a high quality of living, then the corporate sector needed to do its part to supply financial resources to the government," she said.

"There was no sense of it being the corporations versus the government. It was much more about everybody being in it together." "There's no doubt that we're a global company," said John Dern, vice president for public relations at Boeing, "but we are first and foremost an American company. We have deep roots in American history and the American economy, and having an identity

as an American company is very important for us."

When asked what it was that made them American, however, most companies did not speak in terms of the permanent bonds between a nation and its citizens. Instead, some spoke of the history of their development, or talked in terms of statistical or legal information about their businesses (sales, employment, location of headquarters, or state of incorporation).

For example, when asked what makes the company American, a representative from Ford cited the fact that it "conduct[s] the vast majority of our research and development, produce[s] more than 2 million vehicles annually, and employ[s] more than 66,000 employees."

A representative from Whole Foods cited the fact that the company is incorporated in the United States, "does well over 90% of [its] total business right here in the U.S." and that "all of our Executive Team and almost all of our top 100 leaders...were born in the United States."

National obligations? When corporate representatives were asked directly whether their companies have national obligations, a few said "yes." For example, Greg Martin, the executive director of communications strategy and news operations at General Motors, said that GM does have "obligations to the country that go above and beyond our obligation to our

*(Continued on next page.)*



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## Highlander Issues

shareholders.” Some companies - even iconic companies like U.S. Steel - said that the question of whether they had national obligations did not pertain to them, because they do not consider themselves to be American at all.

Brewer of RadioShack said that while “it’s hard to imagine what RadioShack might do to act in the national interest...I am pretty sure we would never intentionally act against the national interest.” Jeff Noel, the vice president for communications and public affairs at Whirlpool, drew the line somewhat differently. Noel said that while the company has “a strong desire to be a responsible citizen,” it does not “have a duty or an obligation” to do so. Most commonly, companies refused to respond directly to the question.

In an email exchange, for instance, Remapping Debate asked Molly Donahue, a spokesperson for Caterpillar, whether the company considers itself to be American. “We are an American company that also operates globally,” she responded. When Remapping Debate followed up by

asking whether being American means that Caterpillar has any particular obligations to the United States, Donahue responded that the company had “no additional information to add as it relates to your question.”

Similarly, Allison Steinberg, a spokesperson for JetBlue, cited the company’s efforts to employ veterans as a factor that makes the company American. When asked whether that meant that JetBlue has particular obligations to the United States, however, Steinberg refused to comment further.

Chris Olert, a spokesperson for Consolidated Edison, said that the company does consider itself to be an American company, but when asked whether the company has any national or patriotic duties, he said, “Well, I wouldn’t say that.” Boeing’s John Dern said that “serving the country and its broad economic interests is important to us,” but “I don’t know if I’d call it in a patriotic way.” And some companies said that the question did not pertain to them, because they don’t consider themselves to be American at all.

Lynn Brown, vice president of corporate communications at Waste Management, which is incorporated in the United States but also operates in Canada, said that the company considers itself “North American.” Even some iconic American corporations took a similar line. For example, Courtney Boone, a spokesperson for United States Steel, said that the company does not consider itself to be an American company, but rather “a company with headquarters in the United States and operations globally.”

*(This article originally appeared on RemappingDebate.org an online public policy news journal. Reprinted with permission.)*



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# Food Safety & The Grill

By Melissa Wdowik - CSU

Food just seems to taste better when you cook and eat it outside. If you love grilling, you are not alone. This popular activity is at its peak in the summer, and it's important to do it safely - with food safety, that is. Your food-safe journey starts at the grocery store.

Put your cold food in your cart last, including meat, fish and poultry. Be sure to keep these separate from your other food by putting them in an extra plastic bag and placing them on the bottom shelf of your shopping cart. This prevents cross-contamination, which occurs when raw meat juice touches other food.

Head straight home from the store. If you're shopping on an especially hot day or you think you might make a stop on the way, take a cooler and ice with you to store the meat, fish and poultry. Once home, put meats in your refrigerator right away; separate them from other foods. If you won't be cooking them within 2 days, freeze them.

When you are ready to grill, food safety professionals recommend the following, adapted from [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov) and [www.fightbac.org](http://www.fightbac.org). Thaw frozen meat, fish and poultry safely in the refrigerator or microwave. Wash your hands with warm water and soap before and after touching food. Keep wet wipes or hand sanitizer near the grill if you can't wash up easily during cooking.

A marinade helps tenderize your meats and may protect you from carcinogens. Always marinate in the refrigerator to prevent the growth of bacteria, which thrive at room and outside temperatures. Discard marinade used on raw meats - don't brush food you are grilling with it - unless you bring it to a boil to destroy bacteria.

A better option: before marinating raw meats, set aside some marinade to use during or after cooking. Watch your plates. Once you transfer raw meat, fish or poultry to the grill, wash the plate well with dish soap and hot water, or place it in the dishwasher then wash your hands and get a clean plate for the cooked food. Monitor temperatures.

Preheat your grill. Once dinner is sizzling, check the food's internal temperature with a food thermometer. Beef burgers, roasts and steaks should reach 160 degrees. Poultry should reach 165 degrees. Most seafood should reach 145 degrees. Keep hot food hot on the side of the grill rack, in

the oven or in a slow cooker.

Keep cold food cold. Once your meat, fish or poultry are cooked, clean all surfaces before taking salads, fruits, vegetables and condiments out of the refrigerator. Use the Rule of Twos with leftovers; refrigerate food within 2 hours in containers less than 2 inches deep, and eat within 2 days.

## Editor's Note:

With the monsoonal moisture of late we can't let our guard down about fire safety when grilling outside in the mountains. Never leave your grill completely unattended, especially charcoal (*ashes can be hot for days so use caution for storage*) or when you're cooking off leftover food particles before you turn off a gas grill.

It only takes seconds for an unexpected gust of wind to blow your cooker over or the gas grill to flame up from fat burning and set the deck or house on fire. Be careful at all times to prevent a house or forest fire.

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## USA Pro Cycling Challenge Finish In Denver

The exciting conclusion to the third annual USA Pro Challenge, America's own version of the Tour de France, will take place on August 25, 2013 with eight thrilling laps on a 9.3 mile city circuit around the heart of downtown Denver. The event, Aug. 19-25, will be the most demanding bike race ever held on American soil. Racers will experience breathless altitudes day after day, bringing the danger and adrenaline of professional biking to elevations more than two miles high.

The 599-mile race will be across some of the most picturesque terrain in the world - the Colorado Rocky Mountains. And for the grand finale - Denver is the place to be! There will be a free festival in Civic Center Park with food vendors, cold craft beer, live music, an awards ceremony and a whole lot more. New this year, the course will open early in the morning for a 9K foot race, with runners encouraged to show their "Pro Challenge spirit" by wearing outrageous fan costumes.

Denver B-cycle will also offer a discounted day rate on August 25. Make Denver your home base for the weekend and take advantage of great hotel deals, available at [visitdenver.com/upc](http://visitdenver.com/upc). Five Great Spots to Watch the Action

- The Denver Circuit takes the best parts of the 2011 and 2012 Denver stages and combines them into a more action-packed, thrilling race. It still hits all the Denver highlights - LoDo, Larimer Square, Restaurant Row, City Park and Civic Center Park, while bringing back the thrills of peloton pack racing.

This year's race will start at approximately 12:55 pm and is expected to finish around 3:45 pm, with the awards ceremony to directly follow in front of the State Capitol building. Civic Center Park: The race starts and finishes here, in the shadow of the Colorado State Capitol building! The fan support in this spot is immense, and the energy is contagious. This is also where the awards ceremony will take place.

17th Avenue: The riders zoom down 17th Avenue, picking up speed as they make their way to City Park. Claim a spot at one of the many outdoor patios along "Restaurant Row" and watch for early breakaways while enjoying a cold cocktail! City Park: Pack a picnic and pick a sunny spot in Denver's own version of New York City's Central Park, enjoy the skyline, and cheer as the world's best pro-cyclists race for glory.

Speer Boulevard and Denver Center for the Performing Arts: Look for The Dancers - the 50-foot-tall sculptures located on the lawn of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts - and join the crowd along the stretch of



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Challenge is open to people of all ages and families are encouraged to run together. Prizes will be awarded for the fastest man and woman; however, as this run is associated with one of the biggest American professional cycling races, there also will be a prize for best costume.

All three winners will receive two passes to enjoy the final stage of the 2013 USA Pro Challenge from the hospitality tent, as well as the opportunity to appear on stage during the final awards presentation that day. Online registration is currently open. More information is available at [9ksprint.com](http://9ksprint.com). Denver B-cycle to Offer Discounted Day Rate on August 25th w/850-miles of paved, off-street bike trails and the first citywide bike sharing program in the nation, Denver is Cycle Town U.S.A.

On August 25, residents and visitors can see the sights of the city on two wheels with a discounted Denver B-cycle day pass for just \$5 (regular day pass is \$8). Just swipe a credit card and enter code 505 at the kiosk and start exploring! More than 800 shiny red bikes are available at 80-plus stations, conveniently located throughout the city near hotels, parks and attractions. More information about Denver B-cycle can be found at [DenverBcycle.com](http://DenverBcycle.com). Get started with these fun ride suggestions around the city.

*(Promotional photo by Coloradoan, 2012 race.)*

Speer Boulevard. Larimer Square: Denver's most historic block will offer one of the most thrilling viewpoints of the race, as the racers make some extremely tight turns around 15th and Larimer Streets. See who has the nerve to take it the fastest and claim the final prize in downtown Denver.

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# Stand Down From Western Wildfires?

By John N. Maclean

Tough questions are being raised about the deaths of 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots on the Yarnell Hill Fire in Arizona on June 30. They were physically fit, highly trained young men, and they deployed emergency tent-like "shelters" in hellish temperatures that likely topped 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. Burns and suffocation killed them, but were mistakes and bad policy also at fault? Could the fire have been tackled earlier, when it was smaller and easier to control? Were weather reports not radioed promptly enough? Were good decisions trumped by nature?

This deadly fire, like all the previous deadly fires, will be studied for years to come. But that's not enough. Three days after the deaths, the headquarters for the war on wildfires - in bureaucratic lingo, the National Multi Agency Coordinating Group - declared a temporary "stand down" for all wildland fire personnel. It's become a standard response to such tragedy - a requirement that firefighters stop working for a few minutes to mourn and reflect. That's also not enough.

It's time for a more lasting and meaningful stand-down in this war. The cost is too high, and the battle plans have not

kept pace with reality. With the increasing severity and size of wildfires, again and again we hear from firefighters, "These are the most extreme fire conditions we've ever seen." For those on the fire lines, climate change is a visible reality, not a Sunday morning talk show debate by people who spend their time in air-conditioned homes and offices. At the same time, millions more houses are exposed to wildfires than when the government began the war decades ago.

We send tens of thousands of young men and women out on the fire lines each year with the implied understanding that they will fight harder, and take greater risks, when homes are threatened. That's what the Yarnell firefighters were doing - trying to protect houses. Even with all the personnel, equipment and dollars we hurl at the flames - more than \$3 billion per year in federal spending alone, on average since 2002, according to the Congressional Research Service - we cannot catch up to the problem.

Safety practices have improved, but each year in rough numbers between eight and 30 wildland firefighters are killed in the war, including 14 on Colorado's Storm King Mountain in 1994 and 13 in Montana's Mann Gulch in 1949. It's a terrible toll in the families and the close-knit



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firefighting community, and no one would be surprised if the toll rises. And regardless of those numbers, there's a principle involved: Homeowners need to take more responsibility.

We need to encourage firefighters to exercise greater caution, even when buildings are at risk. Let the fires burn if firefighters judge it too risky to engage, and assure them that the nation will have their backs when the inevitable complaints pour in. Tell homeowners that we can no longer commit to saving their homes in extreme conditions. That would put more pressure on them to make their homes fire-resistant, and it would likely discourage future homebuilding in the most flammable areas. If people choose to live there, let them and their insurance companies accept the consequences.

The decisions about when to fight, and when not to, should be made by the firefighters themselves, from the ones on the front lines to the incident commanders to the top brass who set strategy. Most fires would still be fought, most houses saved, but the most extreme conditions - the record heat and drought, the most challenging winds and topography - would result in a shout: Stand down!

A friend just wrote me about a time she tried to stand down in extremely risky conditions: "I had a 20-person interagency crew in Idaho. ... I refused my crew's assignment and tried to reason why: same set up as Mann

Gulch, Storm King, et cetera. I was told, 'Fine, we'll have another crew take it.' I very boldly said, 'Either way, it's 20 dead people.'" Her stand triggered much discussion and a safer way was found. Every firefighter like her who just says "No" needs support from the fire community and the public.

My family has a northwestern Montana cabin that was nearly destroyed by wildfire in 2007. The cabin was built by my grandfather and his sons and has been a source of joy for five generations, but it is not worth the life of a single firefighter. I told my Forest Service district ranger that no firefighters should defend it. Fortunately, a wind change saved us in 2007. If the woods around here blaze up again this year, I am prepared to let the cabin go. Consider it the most effective insurance I can buy for the fire crews.

*John N. Maclean is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (hcn.org). He has written four books about lethal wildfires, most recently **The Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder and the Agony of Engine 57**, published last January.*

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# Another Highway Is Not The Answer

By Colby Poulson

It's no secret: The Wasatch Front in northern Utah, depending on the time of year, suffers from some of the worst air quality in the nation - and even the world. When the winter inversion sets in, those of us living between Ogden and Provo can barely see the mountains a few miles away, thanks to the smog-filled soupy air that fills the sky - air that we have to breathe. In an effort to try and improve the situation, everyone from environmental groups to Republican Gov. Gary Herbert has offered clear words of advice: Drive less often. Or, in the words of Bryce Bird, director of Utah's Division of Air Quality, "The things we need to focus on are driving less, driving smarter... (and) making sure we're using the transportation system as best we can."

So it's puzzling that our local government and the Utah

Department of Transportation support building a new freeway that would run through 120 acres of sensitive wetlands near the Great Salt Lake. And what is the rationale for this new highway, which would be called the West Davis Corridor? To make driving more convenient.

It's taking too long for people who live in northwest Davis County to drive back and forth to work in Salt Lake City. But instead of doing anything to promote public transportation or ride sharing, the transportation bosses want to build yet another freeway to speed things up. Please explain to me: How will that encourage people to drive less? The freeway would reportedly cost about \$600 million to build. Just imagine how much relief we could bring to both our commuter traffic problem and our air-quality problem if we invested that \$600 million in different transportation methods.

What if we put our money not into a new freeway, but instead, a light-rail system that would shuttle people quickly and conveniently to the already popular and efficient FrontRunner train system? It already carries thousands of passengers into and out of Salt Lake City each day. Opponents of public transportation argue that it's more expensive for some people to take the train to work than to drive. Imagine how \$600 million might affect the cost to consumers if it were used to help subsidize their trip.

Over the last several years, Utah's Transportation Department has done an excellent job of keeping the residents of Davis County fighting among themselves instead of considering the alternatives to a new highway. It does that by proposing several different routes for the



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freeway - all of which would go through existing homes and neighborhoods. Residents have been told: "This road is going to be built, and it's either going through your neighborhood or somebody else's. Which would you prefer?" In a panic, most residents have begun fighting their neighbors over whose backyard gets trashed. The resulting distraction has worked to the benefit of the Transportation Department and its contractors, enabling them to keep the real argument - "Let's not build this new highway at all" - hidden behind the painfully personal plea, "Please don't build it where I live." Local residents, however, are starting to wake up, and lately they've been rallying people to their cause.

Perhaps most alarming in all of this is the fact that Utah Republican State Sen. Stuart Adams, who serves on the Utah Transportation Committee and who has been a strong advocate for the West Davis Corridor, seems to have a conflict of interest between his role as a public representative and his role as a real estate investor. As a part owner in the Adams Co., a real estate development firm, Sen. Adams stands to make a healthy profit from new residential and commercial developments that will be strategically located with easy access to the new freeway.

Ads for several of the developments claim that the property for sale is extremely valuable due to "excellent access to a future North Legacy Highway" (another name

for the West Davis Corridor), and that this access will make the commercial developments a "significant commercial node." This conflict of interest has led groups such as the Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment to call for Adams' resignation from the Transportation Committee.

If lawmakers really want Utah citizens to drive less in order to improve the quality of our unhealthy air, they should promote solutions to traffic problems that don't involve encouraging people to drive more. A new freeway would destroy homes and neighborhoods, seriously impact the wetlands that are so important to the millions of birds that spend time in the Great Salt Lake area, and worsen the air-quality problem we suffer from along the Wasatch Front. We've already made the investment into a solid public transportation option with the FrontRunner. Let's build on that instead of going backwards to the "build more roads" mentality that we've made so much progress towards leaving behind.

*Colby Poulson is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (hcn.org). He is a businessman and commuter in the Salt lake area.*

Editor's Note: Does this story bring to mind any local similarities? The points made ring true for the Toll Road adjacent to Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge, that a few are so adamant to build even though our local air quality will suffer during construction and long after.

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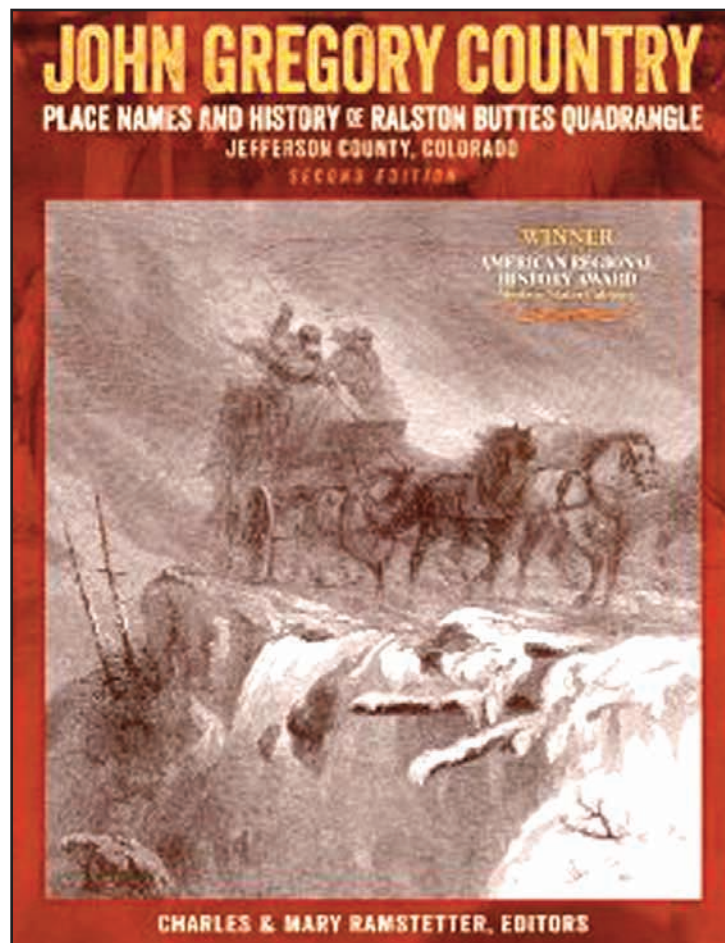
The 2nd and last edition of the highly acclaimed *John Gregory Country* book is out. This second edition, at 390 pages, adds over 100 pages of new material and pictures. It sells for \$34 with photos made better with technology.

This wonderful and rare find for our local history and place names is professionally edited by local commercial cow-calf operators and long time residents of Golden Gate Canyon, Charles and Mary Ramstetter. The first edition was great, but this second edition puts this book in the 'must have' section of your personal library.

The stories are priceless: many are funny and entertaining, but many are so factual they reflect the wildness of those olden times. It is great to have period pictures of the places and people the book refers to and can serve to entertain the entire family for many sessions. While history can often be dry and hard to pass on to younger folks, this book has all the elements to take young readers and adults back to a time where the places we live in today had that rough rawness not found in text books.

I recommend this book to anyone, especially to locals who could read it and then go see the places talked about in the book. Experience the difference a hundred years can make. Share with your children how places got their names and how time changes some things and not others.

If you like this book you would also love Mary Ramstetter's *El Dorado Trilogy* (previously reviewed in the Highlander) *Over the Mountains of the Moon; Down in the Valley of the Shadow; Ride, Boldly Ride* - historical narratives of the American West, 1846-1869. With colorful characters and events so real you can hardly wait to read the next book. The wholesale distributor for C Lazy Three



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John Volckens, Charles Henry and a team of fellow researchers imagined it. Then they built it. The CSU researchers have engineered a new paper-based analytical device unlike others in the burgeoning class: Similar to a thermometer, the device accurately quantifies a pollutant of interest by the distance red fluid travels up a tiny test channel. That means there's no need for additional instruments to calibrate results.

Start your engines, citizen scientists. Volckens thinks that, if his team can get the innovation to market, you'll be able to assess environmental health without the need for lengthy and expensive laboratory tests. All with a little device called the 'Chemometer'. "This is an empowering technology," said Volckens, an associate professor in the CSU Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Services. "It's a piece of paper that does complex chemistry for you. It costs 200 times less than a laboratory test, the analysis takes 15 minutes at the site of interest, and to do the analysis you don't need more than your naked eye with minimal training."

The CSU team describes its invention in a paper recently published in the journal *Lab on a Chip*, published by the Royal Society of Chemistry. They write that their innovation offers new capabilities. "Paper-based analytical devices represent a growing class of elegant, yet inexpensive, chemical sensor technologies designed for point-of-use applications," they write. "We describe here a simple technique to render PAD measurements more quantitative and straightforward using the distance of color development as a detection motif."

Collaborating with Volckens are Henry, professor in the Dept. of Chemistry; David Cate, a doctoral student in Biomedical Engineering; and Josephine Cunningham, an undergraduate student in Chemistry. Another collaborator is Wijitar Dungchai, of King Mongkut's Univ. of Technology in Thailand, who developed the device's chemistry as a visiting scholar in Henry's laboratory. Henry said the team's device will be especially useful in developing

countries, where people could test for a range of widespread environmental pollutants on their own and have the test data needed to call for action to improve safety.

"The shared knowledge this type of technology can bring could be game-changing," Henry said. "We can test for all kinds of metals, all kinds of chemicals, all kinds of biomarkers for personal healthcare. This could have far-reaching impacts." The team hopes its paper-based analytical device can be commercialized through a new spinoff company, Access Sensor Technologies, LLC.

Think the new device sounds like a more sophisticated version of a home pregnancy test or litmus paper from science class? That's right, Volckens said. Those technologies are the forerunners of today's deceptively simple paper-based analytical devices. "There's some pretty cool, nerdy chemistry going on in this little channel," he enthused. "All we have to do is change the reagents, and we can test for virtually anything."



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## Oval Intention

By Kim Todd/High Country News

In the buttery early morning light at Tuolumne Meadows, my 8-year-old son and I contemplate a heap of fabric and jumbled poles. We'd woken early to claim a good campsite, but only now do I recall the difficulty of assembling my father's ancient tent. He and my daughter are still sleeping, miles away. The instructions vanished long ago. I've done it before; threading the poles was once as easy as lacing my boots, but I've forgotten everything except how I talked myself through: "Just remember, it is completely counterintuitive." Like a squashed spider, a sinking boat, our efforts list and crumple.

Eventually, two grizzled Yosemite veterans lend a hand. After their suggestions and several more tries I remember: The longest and shortest poles flare out like flower petals before the mid-length ones, finally, logically, overlap in the middle. Triangles upon triangles. Almost 40 years old, the tent shows its age in details that would be shunned by

contemporary weight-conscious backpackers; six poles, instead of two or three, pass through metal rings rather than fabric sleeves. But it pops into shape, suddenly youthful, and crouches on the ground, bark-and mustard-colored like a beetle or frog, taut and ready to scuttle off.

One of the guys pats it affectionately and says, "It should be in a museum." The first geodesic tent, designed to distribute tension evenly over its surface, the Oval Intention tempted my father through a display window in Berkeley, Calif., in 1976. Berkeley is populated by tinkerers, do-gooders, visionary and demented engineers. If the city had a patron saint, it might be Buckminster Fuller, popularizer of the geodesic dome. To Fuller, it represented the embodiment of his desire to do "more with less," as much a philosophy as an architectural feat: wedding grace and strength, promoting energy efficiency, hinting at a utopian future.

My father already had a tent: a nylon cylinder held up by a string tied between two trees. As a child, I refused to enter it, and his friend asked, eyebrow raised, "You let your wife sleep in that?" I suspect the geodesic tent cost a lot, even marked down for a streak in the fabric. But the salesman assured my frugal father: "It's the last tent you will ever need to buy."

Campers go into the woods to experience limitless space, then carve it back down to a manageable size with a patch of cloth. The Oval Intention was the tent of my childhood. My sister, parents and I camped in Montana, Colorado and Wyoming, and the tent was where we sat out rainstorms, yelled at each other for letting mosquitoes in, read Nancy Drew and told stories in the dark about girls who wandered away from their parents and the adventures they had.

I learned how to improvise by watching my father use a beer-can tab to fix a broken pole, and learned to take care of gear by helping him brush off every pine needle and campfire ash as he rolled the tent to stow in its tattered stuff sack. A decade later, when college friends and I borrowed the tent for a road trip, my father demonstrated the set-up on the front lawn of our house on a busy Berkeley street. The tent had been on the grass only five minutes before a man stopped. "Is that an original North Face Oval Intention? Can I have a look?" He stuck his head eagerly through the half-zipped door.

Now I am introducing my own children to camping, borrowing the



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tent yet again for their first trip to Yosemite. After a searing hot day on the crowded valley floor, we retreat to the site and my father inspects our handiwork. A pole has come apart, segments reluctant to lock. Like the tent, my father is not a product of our disposable age. As the kids and I crawl sun-drunk through the flap, he stands outside in the dusk with a tube of lubricating oil, easing the metal together.

In his sleeping bag, my son plunges into unconsciousness in midsentence about Half Dome, holding my hand with marshmallow-sticky fingers. My daughter breathes deeply, a stack of books as her pillow. Perhaps they are dreaming of scaling mountains. Or perhaps they have slipped into the tent museum, where yurts made of willow poles and yak wool hunch in a cavernous room, still smelling of the Mongolian steppe; an

early Boy Scout pup tent flaunts complex diagrams on the interpretive sign; a big top for the flea circus, small as a

pea, comes equipped with a magnifying glass; a silk chuppah flaps in the back courtyard; the big transparent one drifts up high, hot plastic searing onto the stars. They wander through the mazy halls, marveling at all the landscapes to explore, all the promises of shelter. Kim Todd's most recent books are *Sparrow* and *Chrysalis: Maria*

*Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis*. This essay originally appeared in an issue of *High Country News*.

(Photo of a 70's Northface Dome tent, though probably not the Oval Intention mentioned in the essay.)



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## Helium Rising In The West

By Marshall Swearingen/High Country News

Near the middle of the Utah-Colorado line, a two-track winds into dry hills where rusty pipes poke from the sagebrush, marking cement-capped natural gas wells. Wildcatters drilled here in the 1920s, but abandoned the holes after striking mostly nitrogen and helium instead of hydrocarbons. Now, Denver-based oil and gas company Flatirons Resources wants to tap the area again - this time for the helium. In March, the federal Bureau of Land Management approved the company's plan. It's the first time the agency has permitted a helium-only well, and the decision signals the rising importance of the inert gas, essential for a variety of high-tech applications, such as manufacturing fiber-optic cable, cooling MRI machines and performing certain types of welding.

The U.S. holds about 40% of the world's estimated helium resources. More than a third of the global supply comes from the BLM-operated Federal Helium Reserve near Amarillo, which taps a mother lode stretching from Texas to Kansas. The Reserve's dominance of the market has long suppressed private development of helium, though refineries in Utah and Wyoming produce some as a byproduct from natural gas extraction.

But with the Reserve now nearing the end of its life just as rising demand heightens global shortages, helium-focused drilling is emerging in the West. "In 20 years," predicts Joe Peterson, assistant field manager for helium operations at the Reserve, most U.S. helium "will be coming from those Western areas."

Starting in World War I, when the U.S. Navy extracted helium for floating dirigibles, the federal government was the U.S.'s only major producer. In 1960, the Bureau of Mines created the Federal Helium Reserve to store the gas for Cold War rocketry and welding, pumping billions of cubic feet of it from private natural gas wells into an underground pocket of rock.

By the mid-'90s, the funds borrowed to construct the Reserve had ballooned into a \$1.3 billion debt, and Congress passed the Helium Privatization Act hoping to amend the situation. The law mandated that the BLM - which had taken over for the Bureau of Mines when that agency dissolved in 1995 - sell off the helium stockpile to repay the debt, at which time the Reserve's funding would end.

The sell-off came with unintended consequences. Congress pegged the helium price high to repay the debt. But demand from high-tech industries pushed market prices above the Reserve's, making it the most desirable supplier and slowing down private development, says Janie Chermak, professor of economics at University of New Mexico. The private helium industry struggled for other reasons, too.

"It's a lot of work for a little bit of gas," shouts Nick Bradshaw, superintendent of Castleton Commodities International's Paradox Midstream gas plant, over the rumble of compressors in the facility's helium refinery. The maze of pipes and gauges chills a mix of nitrogen, helium and traces of other gases to 340 degrees below zero to liquefy the nitrogen so the helium gas can be siphoned off. Tanker trucks then take the gas to another plant where it's liquefied for distribution.

The Paradox plant, tucked in the red-rock hills south of Moab, Utah, started refining helium from nearby natural gas wells in 1992. When that field declined, the plant started pulling high-nitrogen gas from fields as far away as Colorado. Paradox is small compared to the West's biggest helium producer, an ExxonMobil natural gas refinery in southwest Wyoming, which pumps out a fifth of U.S. supply.

The Paradox plant shut down its helium facility in 2011, even though demand was high. A nationwide shale-gas

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drilling boom had slashed natural gas prices. With few wells being drilled, the plant was operating at a fraction of capacity and couldn't cover helium production's fixed costs. The rise of shale gas - which contains no helium because the small, buoyant molecules escape from porous shale - hit production of helium-containing gas especially hard. Where helium is found, typically within impermeable domes of rock, it's mixed with nitrogen and carbon dioxide, and contains fewer hydrocarbons than shale gas - an unattractive blend when natural gas prices slump. But in February, with refined helium prices nearly quadrupled since 2000, CCI resumed production. "With the shortage, people (wanting helium) kept coming back to us," Bradshaw says. Praxair, a helium distributor, "put a deal in front of us to make (restarting the helium plant) worthwhile."

The prospect that the Federal Helium Reserve, now almost out of debt, could close this year has compounded the global helium shortage - caused mainly by mechanical problems at plants in Algeria, Qatar and the U.S. - and sparked an outcry from industry. "To put it simply, without helium, we cannot operate," a semiconductor manufacturer told the House Natural Resources Committee in February.

In response, the usually-divided House voted 394-1 for the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act, which would extend the Reserve's life (about three years at current drawdown rates, more if the rate is slowed), base its prices on the market and reserve some helium for government use. That bill and a similar Senate bill are sitting in the Senate Committee on Energy and

Natural Resources.

Even if the Reserve stays open, its role is waning along with the fields it taps. New helium sources are expected in Russia and Qatar, while U.S. helium production is moving westward. A Big Piney, Wyo., natural gas and helium plant is expected to be completed this year, and could produce about a tenth the amount of helium currently supplied annually by the Reserve. And if the Utah helium-only project succeeds, it may become a model for others.

Lack of private helium development in the past creates challenges for the industry now, says Scott Sears, a third-generation oil and gas man whose company, IACX Energy, will refine the helium from the new Utah well. The process for leasing helium on federal lands is cumbersome from lack of use, he says. Also, oil and gas companies, whose drill rigs and pipelines are necessary for growing helium production, tend to focus on hydrocarbons and overlook the gas's value.

Meanwhile, Sears is quietly scouting possible locations for other helium projects in Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Montana, trying to get ahead of the competition. "My pitch to the oil and gas guys is, 'Hey, it's fun out here ... helium appears to be going nowhere but up,'" he says. "And the other side of me is saying, 'Shoot, maybe I should shut my mouth.'"

*This story originally appeared in an issue of High Country News (hcn.org).*



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# *Glen Canyon Dam's Evaporating Hydropower*

*By Emily Guerin*

Ever since water levels in Lake Powell started dropping in 1999, the last time the reservoir was near full, I'd heard a lot about the infamous bathtub ring-the white band of minerals and salts that separates the current lake level from the high water mark. So I was looking forward to seeing it for myself when I headed out on a rafting trip down Cataract Canyon, below the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers, recently. What stuck me most as I floated down the river was not the ring, but the inhospitality of those re-emerging shorelines. Oozing silty beaches that sucked you in up to your knees, eroding sandy cliffs and thickets of tumbleweeds were a staple of the lower third of the trip, where the river merged with the reservoir. At the takeout, what used to be a short, gravelly boat ramp has become a long slog up a sandy hill to a parking lot that was once on the shore. Perhaps the only upside of the lake's recession was the widespread die-off of tamarisks stranded tens of feet above the new, lower waterline.

The government entities that manage Glen Canyon Dam and sell the power its turbines generate are also distressed

at Lake Powell's retreat, albeit for economic and political reasons. According to the Bureau of Reclamation, in May the reservoir was only 48% full, and is expected to drop 11 feet before September, ending the summer at 44% capacity. Severe to extreme drought in much of the Colorado River's watershed, plus record heat, isn't exactly helping.

Despite the dismal conditions, Glen Canyon Dam is still discharging 8.23 million acre-feet of water this year (measured from Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30), as it does every year that lake levels stay above approximately 3,650 feet (the exact levels were decided in a 2007 environmental impact study designed to address water storage issues on the Colorado River in times of drought). But there's a 50-50 chance that the lake will soon drop below that height, triggering a lower water release next year. If that happens, it would be the first time since Lake Powell's creation that less than 8.23 million acre feet of water will pass from Glen Canyon Dam, according to Bureau of Reclamation spokesperson Lisa Iams. "It's not a promising statement about the hydrology that all of us face," she said. "The realities of drought and climate change are increasing."

Glen Canyon Dam was constructed primarily to store

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Colorado River water, helping arid Western communities, industries and farms weather drought and dry seasons. But it plays a role in the Western electrical grid, too: Its eight generators can produce up to 1,320 MW of electricity, and the dam helps supply power to 5.8 million customers. Although it's a relatively minor player in the West's energy supply, its generators can ramp up quickly, helping to match sudden surges in electricity demand or drops in production from renewable energy generation.

Drought is bad for electricity generation at Glen Canyon Dam for two primary reasons: One, when lake levels are low enough to merit a smaller release (like they could be this coming year), less water goes through the turbines, producing less energy. That hasn't happened yet, but the dam has already seen a reduction in electricity generation. Here's why: Lower water levels mean there is less pressure on the water as it passes through the turbines. "As our lake level drops, the same volume of water going through the dam generates less electricity," explained Jason Tucker, facility manager for Glen Canyon Dam. "The deeper the water, the more energy there is for making electrical power."

As a result of the reduction in power generation, Western Area Power Administration, the government body that sells

Glen Canyon's electricity, has told its buyers to expect less electricity from the dam, according to spokesman Randy Wilkerson. Elsewhere in the West, drought has actually raised the price of hydropower. Decreased electricity generation from Missouri River dams has forced WAPA to buy power on the open market to fulfill its obligation to customers in eastern Montana, the Dakotas and eastern Colorado (WAPA's contracts with buyers of Glen Canyon's electricity don't require the agency to do this). Customers in the Missouri River basin now see something called a "drought adder" on their electricity bills, which shows what percentage of the rate hike is due to drought.

Living in an increasingly warm, dry West, it's good to keep in mind the connection between energy and water. Whether it's the millions of gallons used to frack gas wells, cool nuclear power plants or drive turbines in dams, water is never too far behind the flick of a switch.

*Emily Guerin is a correspondent at High Country News. Cross-Posted from HCN, the author is solely responsible for the content.*

Editor's Note: This steadily increasing lack of water in the Colorado River has been ignored by federal, state and local officials in the efforts to increase the size of local Gross Reservoir, which is fed by the very same endangered river.

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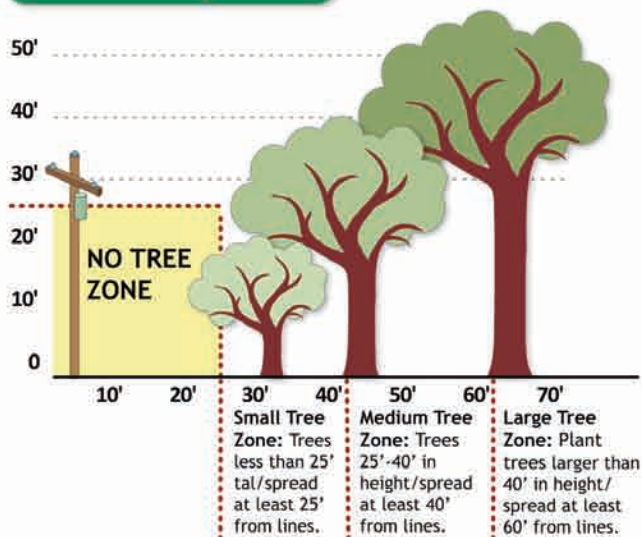
## Shading Your Home Safely

Nothing adds a more stunning touch of beauty to a home than beautiful trees lining yards and shading living spaces. However it's important to remember that power lines and trees don't mix. While utility easements seem like attractive, open spaces to fill with trees, the consequences for planting in these areas are difficult for the utility and the tree. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind when planting trees.

- Before planting anything in your yard call 811 and have someone locate the utilities on your property. This will make the planting process safer, and help you avoid an unnecessary power outage.
- Avoid overhead power lines — always. Trees that grow into power lines are a danger to everyone. They can start fires and can pose an electrocution risk. Trees that grow into power lines need to be aggressively trimmed back, which is stressful on the trees. Avoid this problem in the future, by avoiding overhead lines when planting trees.
- Today's sapling can be tomorrow's mighty oak. Consider the type of tree you're planting and what the final growth pattern will be for the tree. Ask about the final height and width of the tree at maturity. Even a tree placed away from power lines can grow into the lines if the tree has a large crown shaped top.
- Consider using trees to lower your costs for heating and cooling your home. A leafy tree is an excellent source of shade for a sunny side of your home in summer. Additionally, when the leaves come down in the fall, you can enjoy some added solar gain from the sun warming your home. Most communities in United Power's territory now have arborists on their staff — so contact the city or a local nursery for more information on what trees work best for your home.

If you have a tree that is growing into our lines near your home, please call United Power at 303-659-0551 so we can arrange for a tree trimming crew to cut the tree back. Tree trimming is just one of the many ways United Power is working throughout our territory to keep our system safe and more reliable.

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