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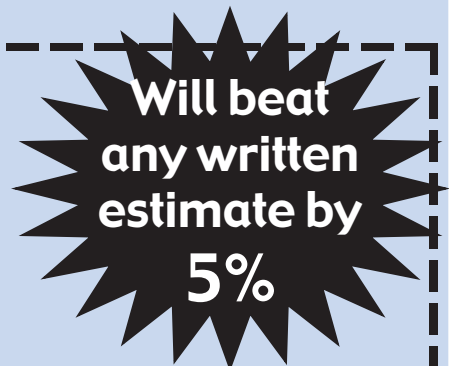
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About the Cover: Osprey giving a Red Winged Blackbird a ride on a nest stick. Photo by Jocelyn Anderson Photography. Prints & other photos available at her website: jocelyndersonphotography.com



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Osprey – Fish Hunter Hawk Of Legend

Story & Artwork by Valerie Wedel

Our wild cousin, Osprey, lives almost entirely on fresh fish (1). Ospreys fish by explosive dive bomb. They hover over water like a Star Wars Death Star, and then canonball down, talons outspread. Unique among other raptors, Osprey's can dive four feet under water, to "fish" out dinner. Being "fisherians," Ospreys live near water – ponds, lakes, rivers and streams.

We here in Colorado may or may not ever meet Osprey face to face. There are some nesting families here, who migrate in year after year, to raise babies. They build impressive nests, which, like red tail hawks, they return to year after year.

Osprey feet and talons are uniquely adapted to fishing. There are barbed pads on the sides of each foot to help hold onto wet fish. Also, an Osprey has one taloned toe on each foot that swivels. This is very unusual for raptors. This allows Osprey to grab a fish with two taloned toes in front and two in back, to hold it better. As well, once our Osprey has a good grip, he or she will orient a fish head first into the wind. This creates better aerodynamics (less drag) for flying.

Part of courtship behavior by male Ospreys involved bringing nest materials to a good building site. The cover photo is an adult Osprey, either wooing or nesting. Carrying large sticks in a taloned foot is typical. Believe it or not, Redwing Blackbird hitch hikers can be also!

(Pictured close up here by Jocelyn Anderson.)

A note about our feisty Redwing Blackbird singers – they are known for chasing off larger birds to protect their territory. The males will attack and annoy larger birds on the wing. The chase game may last well beyond the Redwing blackbird's territory (2). The little songster shown

on the August Highlander Monthly cover is almost certainly convinced he is chasing off the giant Osprey. The interested reader will find many tales of these little fighters actually riding the backs of larger birds, all to annoy and drive them off.

Our Osprey in the cover photo is a bit like a Saint Bernard dog being attacked by a kitten. He has no interest in eating the smaller bird, none at all. He is simply flying to his girlfriend, or his family nest. He may be divinely unaware of the little scrapper hitchhiking on the stick.

Osprey Hawks can migrate vast distances over land and open water. They chase the sun. They often live and raise young in North America in summer, and then return to Central and South America in winter. Only in certain parts of southern North America, such as parts of Florida, will Ospreys live year round.

If you look up and see a large, solitary hawk flying, that may be an Osprey. One of their migration routes follows our Rocky Mountains. Here in Colorado, you may also spot nests high in trees or on human-built platforms. Only near fresh water, with plenty of fish, will you see nests. Ospreys typically fly alone. So a lone, large hawk soaring overhead near fresh water here, during the summer, may be an Osprey.

Ospreys are very large birds. Their wingspan is typically five feet! They weigh about three to four pounds, and are usually about 21 – 23 inches long.

These raptors have been rescued from the brink of extinction. In the 1970's, the pesticide DDT had almost killed Ospreys off. When DDT was banned, these birds made a comeback. Since then, scientists love to study Ospreys. Tiny solar powered transmitters in teensy backpacks have been developed and are strapped to a few wild Ospreys each year. These devices tell scientists about Osprey migration routes (3). *(Continued on next page.)*





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Highlander Wildlife

Not to worry, dear bird lovers, the itty bitty backpacks fall off after 2-3 years, and do no harm. The satellite transmitter devices only weigh a few ounces. Thanks to this amazing technology, we know of one young lady, only three months old, who flew 2,700 miles in 13 days! One day in Sept., 2008, Miss Penelope Osprey launched from Martha's Vineyard, in Massachusetts. Alone, she flew all the way to French Guiana! (3)

In Poole's words, "...[Penelope] ... touched down in coastal Maryland and North Carolina for three days, lazed along the Bahamas for four, then blew through the Dominican Republic in 29 hours. At dusk she launched out over the Caribbean, flying all night and the next day to a tiny island off the coast of Venezuela. A week later she was exploring rain forest rivers in French Guiana, her home for the next 18 months." (3)

Via Google Earth, and the website <http://bit.ly/osprey-track> (4), the interested reader can follow some of these Ospreys as they back pack around the world. Native to our continent, as well as living internationally, Ospreys figure in Native American lore. Stories have been collected and retold here and there. (5, 6)

This is a story from people who originally lived by Mount Shasta, in Northern California. A story of the Achomawi People. *(Any mistakes in retelling are this writer's. She hopes to convey the spirit of an amazing story, in English...)*

Osprey and Sun's Daughter

Sun journeyed every day. When it was winter, he left his daughter home in their lodge. During summer, Sun's Daughter traveled with her father, in a basket on his back.

When Sun spoke of his daughter's future, Sun did not want his daughter to marry a poor man. He wanted her to marry a rich man, like Wolf, or Pine Martin, or even Coyote. Osprey got mad at Sun, because he talked in this way of poor people not being good enough for Sun's Daughter.

Osprey lived by Pit River (by Mt Shasta). One winter evening, Osprey started from the river and went all the way down to the ocean, to Sun's lodge. Osprey slipped into Sun's lodge and stole his daughter. He carried her on his

back in a basket, all the way to Coyote's lodge. Osprey made this trip on one night.

The next morning, Sun looked for his daughter. He did not know where she had gone. He could not find her.

Later that morning, Osprey took Sun's daughter and hid her, safe in a basket. He put her under some rocks in muddy water. He hid Sun's Daughter well, so that Sun could not see or find her.

Of course Sun searched and searched. He could neither see nor find his daughter. So Sun hired some men to look for her. He had a hunch she might be hidden under water. Sun hired the best swimmers and divers, to hunt for his daughter.

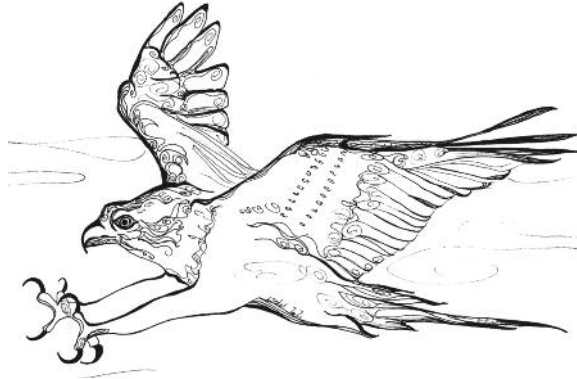
All the men searched and searched, until they came to Pit River. They took turns, some going here, and others going there. At Pit River, Kingfisher was the last man to search. He went slowly, slowly along the water. Over and over again he looked... At last, Kingfisher thought he saw something by some rocks, under muddy water.

Many people were going along by the water. They were watching as all the men searched for Sun's Daughter. The people saw Kingfisher take out his pipe. Kingfisher smoked tobacco, and blew it over the water. The muddy water became clear, because Kingfisher was a great shaman.

When the water became clear, Kingfisher leaped into the sky. Over the water he looked, and looked. Then he came back to the land, and again lit his pipe. This smoke he also blew over the water. Then, Kingfisher rolled up his tobacco pouch, and put away his pipe. At last, Kingfisher stood with his spear. He speared down into the rocks very carefully, until he felt the basket with Sun's Daughter. Then up came the basket. Sun's Daughter was rescued!

Sun was overjoyed. He looked his daughter over carefully, and washed her all clean from the kidnapping. His bright fire cleansed and healed, body and spirit. Sun paid the men who searched for her, giving them some of their payment in shells. Then Sun's Daughter rode on Sun's back in a basket, home to their lodge. Sun was so overjoyed to have his daughter back safely, he did not punish Osprey for stealing her. (5,6)

*References & Additional Reading: 1. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/overview> 2. <https://www.birdnote.org/explore/field-notes/2018/07/red-winged-blackbirds-attack> 3. Poole, Alan. *Backpacking Ospreys: Following their migration. Birdscope, July 15, 2010.* 4. <http://bit.ly/ospreytrack>. 5. <http://www.native-languages.org/legends-osprey.htm>-Osprey and Sun's Daughter (Achomawi, a California tribe, legend) - Fish Hawk and Scape Grace (Micmac legend about overly proud fish hawk caught in a lie) 6. <https://www.sacred-texts.com/nam/ca/aat/index.htm>*



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BoCo Launches Pilot To Reduce Package Pollution

Local food and beverage manufacturers invited to apply now

Boulder County, CO —With support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Boulder County has launched a pilot program to decrease environmental impacts associated with food and beverage packaging. The Boulder County Food & Beverage Pollution-Reduced Packaging Pilot will support manufacturers as they transition to pollution-reduced and sustainable packaging formats.

The pilot program is funded by the EPA Source Reduction Assistance grant program. Resource Recycling Systems (RRS), a sustainability and material recovery consulting firm with a location in Boulder, will facilitate the program.

“This program will find ways to reduce food packaging impacts by conserving resources at the start of the manufacturing process through the design of reusable, recycled, recyclable, bio-based, and compostable packaging,” said Tim Broderick, Senior Sustainability Strategist at Boulder County’s Office of Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience. “With 46% of all manufacturing in Boulder County being attributed to the food and beverage industry, there’s a huge opportunity here to support the creation of closed-loop products. We hope this program helps accelerate the local circular economy.”

The county is encouraging area food and beverage manufacturers of all sizes to apply to participate in the program. Selected businesses will receive up to \$10,000 in financial support for sustainable packaging related expenses, technical assistance from subject matter experts, access to tools to evaluate environmental and cost impacts associated with a packaging transition, and workshops where businesses can learn, collaborate, and meet with packaging experts.

To be eligible for the pilot program, businesses must be food or beverage manufacturers with headquarters or a business location within Boulder County. Eligible businesses may package their products directly or have a co-packager that they send the products to for packaging. The product packaging may take place outside of Boulder County.

“Boulder County’s food industry is renowned for its long-standing history of sustainable business innovation,” said Susie Strife, Director of Boulder County’s Office of Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience. “This is the perfect environment to launch a program that will inspire new ways of thinking about the potential and possibility of food packaging in reducing pollution and addressing the climate crisis.”

Eligible food and beverage manufacturers can apply to participate in the program. Applications close Friday, August 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time. For more information about this program contact Christian Herrmann at cherrmann@bouldercounty.org.

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Gross Dam Expansion Update

The last thing I wanted to be informing my readers about in this August issue is another crocodile tears lawsuit from Denver Water about the expansion of Gross Dam and Reservoir. The complaint starts off with untruths that Gross Reservoir is a hydropower project, but then that is the basis for them saying FERC's permit for an amendment pre-empts the 1041 permit application.

(4) Case 1:21-cv-01907 Document 1 Filed 07/14/21 COMPLAINT Plaintiff City and County of Denver, Acting By and through its Board of Water Commissioners, a municipal corporation of the State of Colorado (Denver Water) brings this action for declaratory and injunctive relief from Defendants- unlawful attempts to regulate Denver Water's expansion of Gross Reservoir and Dam, which has been ordered (another untruth) by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and is governed exclusively by federal law. Denver Water alleges as follows: NATURE OF THE CASE 1. Denver Water owns and operates the Gross Reservoir Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2035), a hydropower project regulated by FERC under the Federal Power Act (FPA) and consisting of Gross Reservoir and Dam and associated hydroelectric generation facilities.

(1, 2) The hydroelectric facilities were never in the dam and were never planned to be in the dam. They were always planned to be located hundreds of feet downstream from the dam. The original license issued Feb. 27, 1951 didn't actually permit the building of hydroelectric facilities, so it wasn't actually a hydropower license. (That's a technical but important point.) The license says the hydropower facilities would be built after a hearing, and there was never

a hearing, so the hydropower facilities were never authorized to be built under the original license.

(3)The original license expired April 30, 2000. A new license was issued on March 16, 2001, and that new license is the first license to permit the hydropower facilities - to be built separate and way downstream from the dam. That is crucial, because the policy of FERC at that time was to only permit the discrete hydropower facilities and not the dam and other diversion structures upstream from the hydropower facilities.

(1) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission made an exception to that policy because the dam and reservoir had already been licensed back in 1951 as a hydropower project even though there were no hydropower facilities authorized in the hydropower project license. Nobody objected to the license that way. Trout Unlimited (founded in the 1950's) argued the opposite direction. They wanted FERC to license all the diversion structures in the Fraser basin in order to force an environmental review including impacts on the Frasier and its tributaries. (There was no NEPA or CWA environmental review requirement back in 1951). They argued that if you're going to include Gross Dam and the reservoir in the license you should include the whole project, which includes all of the infrastructure in the Fraser basin.

FERC denied TU's request, saying that there were circumstances unique to the project otherwise it would have only issued the license for the hydropower facilities downstream from the dam and reservoir. Of course, those unique circumstances were that they had already issued a hydropower license for a project that wasn't a hydropower

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project. And they did that illegally because there wasn't and still isn't any federal statute authorizing FERC to license water projects.

(1)By reading the "Background" section of the new license is to see why FERC issued a license for a hydropower project back in 1951. Denver Water would be laughed out of court with its latest legal maneuvers when/if the court is informed about this history.

Let us hope TEG and Save Boulder County insist their lawyers: Eubanks & Associates, PLLC in D.C. use this information to shoot down this latest lawsuit. I thought I might just be giving heads up to possible virtual public hearings with BoCo Planning Department and September public hearings before the Commissioners regarding the 1041 application process by Denver Water. They may still happen so stay alert to those possibilities because we need to show opposition anytime we are able. Being a monthly publication has its limitations so check SaveBoulderCounty.com or TEG's websites for updates.

What I really need to inform readers of is that this mid July lawsuit against our Boulder County Commissioners by Denver Water is simply sour grapes by the utility and in keeping with their entitled mindset that they may run roughshod over Boulder County mountain residents in the guise that the 1041 permit is pre-empted by FERC's

permit. (In that permit FERC states Denver Water MUST get all local permits, the 1041 not given yet.) Historical facts listed here that show definite irrelevance of this lawsuit by way of important information in several legal documents.

It is proven by these historical facts and as recent as the year 2000 applications for hydroelectric in the existing Gross Dam that Gross was NEVER, let me repeat that for anyone in doubt, never a hydroelectric project. So any pre-emption factors are false. Gross Reservoir and Dam have always just been a water storage facility for Denver Water. And after the Two Forks proposed project was denied by the EPA: Denver Water set its sights on Gross Reservoir for more water to provide its suburbs with water and water supplies for urban sprawl. Which, by the way, goes against its own bylaws that state it should only be supplying Denver City and County residents with water supplies i.e. water leases to suburbs being only if supply allows.

(4)This newest lawsuit states that Boulder County has frustrated Denver Water's goals to start the proposed project by delaying approval of the 1041 permit (where many of the documents Denver Water has submitted are more than 15 years old). So that Denver Water's plans to do the necessary construction on (Continued on next page.)



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Highlander Issues

the roadways for the expansion project are delayed. My educated guess is that re-configuring of Hwy 72 and other arterials the utility plans to utilize for the expansion may have to happen in the Rocky Mountain winter above 7,000 feet. Oh, my gosh- small wonder they are frustrated because Coal Creek Canyon winter could grind those plans to an absolute halt. Which, by all accounts would keep them from following the FERC permit limitations and dates. Which I think FERC imposed on purpose, knowing the timeline would hinder Denver Water.

The newest Denver Tap propagandea released July 20th uses the FERC permit like a weapon against Boulder County as if we are in violation of FERC's Federal Authorities, when in fact it took FERC two years of hounding from Denver Water for them to issue the permit somewhat grudgingly and not an order that Denver Water go forward. In fact the timeline FERC put into the permit is almost impossible for Denver Water to


achieve and thus must be a message to Denver Water that they are wrong in their goals to use old outdated and environmentally unscientific methods such as expanding a reservoir and dam.




Gross Reservoir low water level April 2021

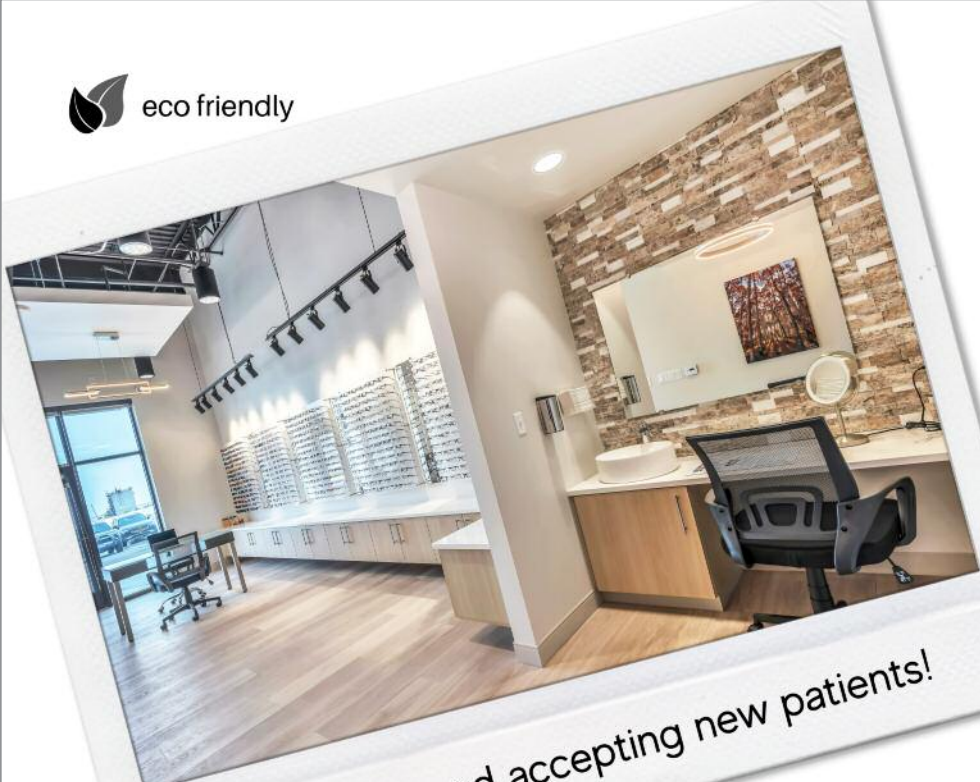
Before FERC issued their permit I followed nearly all the public communications between Denver Water and FERC. The records are rife with FERC's concerns that Denver Water's construction plans for an expanded Dam are questionable and will need constant supervision by FERC regulators. A good guess is that they don't want to expend the time,

manpower and money to babysit Denver Water's greedy goals to siphon more water from an already endangered river: the Colorado River. So, they made timelines nearly impossible to achieve and stated public comments would be allowed during the entire time the utility takes to apply and receive any and all local county permits






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i.e. the Boulder County 1041.

Since Denver Water wants to complain about delays it should name the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as it took forever to permit this project. A water storage project – not a hydroelectric one that Denver Water wants to ignore and use as their ammunition in a pre-emption legal battle in the courts.

This has been a long battle against a corrupt utility that refuses to back down. I can still see (*in my mind*) the faces of the young interns pointing to graphs and charts on easels at the first scoping meeting at the S. Boulder Rec. Center in 2003, unable to answer questions regarding details of the proposed project while older white men in suits stood nearby watching what they thought were stupid mountain hillbilly's soak in the inevitable destruction process of their community. I doubt they ever entertained the thought that we as a community would put up such a fight against a deep-pocketed utility that was used to getting its own way until Two Forks. At that same public meeting I saw our local TEG's long-time leader and yet this issue did not come to the forefront for the Environmental Group until ten years later.

As a canyon we have a history of fighting big corporations and utilities that want to harvest resources here even at the cost of our environment and our quality of life. I'm sure folks before me got tired of constantly being attacked by a seemingly never-ending supply of projects to oppose. I once was given good advice at a public hearing by a well respected resident, to not let this Gross project rule my life. Very good advice that I've tried to take and apply, but the surety of not having quiet or wildlife or quality air to breath and more than twenty minutes to town for more than five years just causes me constant emotional and mental trauma. These should be the Golden Years for many of us that chose our canyon for retirement or to work from home.

Which brings me to the nagging thought of a Class Action Lawsuit against Denver Water in the name of all residents for the actual damage to our physical and mental welfare in their efforts to go forward with this ill conceived and environmentally damaging proposed project. Could there be a civil litigator out there willing to take this on? We should all seriously consider using our frustrations to pre-emptively protect our health, property values, safety on our roads and work towards getting an injunction to stop this madness. I've always said: litigation not mitigation and it may be time to fight Denver Water where they live – hiding behind their retained legal staff.

(1.)Legal Source: Jeff Thompson. Document sources:
 (2.)FERC Applications for License, Project No. 2035 filed Dec. 1, 1949 and Mar. 16, 2001. 1041 (3.)Permit Application from Denver Water to Boulder County.
 (4.)Most recent Case 1:21-cv-01907 Document 1 Filed 07/14/21.
 By A. M. Wilks



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Equine First Aid

By Brittany Steffensen – Equi-First Aid Instructor

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My name is Brittany Steffensen and I have been on, around, and underneath horses

for over 30 years and recently started a company called *Open Air Equine* where I teach Equine First Aid clinics as a certified Equi-First Aid USA Instructor throughout Colorado and surrounding states. After realizing early on

that horses are prone to injury as it is their nature to flee from danger due to being prey animals, I set out to learn how to become my horse's first responder in an emergency and most importantly, share this knowledge with other horse owners and enthusiasts.

What really sets us apart from other first aid teachings is that each clinic offered by *Open Air Equine* provides an opportunity for all students to engage in hands-on bandaging utilizing horse patients. Each scenario is based on real-life



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abnormal, and proper bandaging techniques to stabilize a horse that has been injured. *(Continued on next page.)*

injuries that equine professionals have dealt with in the field. This opportunity to learn how to safely bandage and stabilize a horse not only prepares you for an unexpected injury but also builds confidence and an understanding of what it takes to respond with certainty in the first steps of a horse's recovery.

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CSU Ranch Mgt.

Ranches are critical to the Rocky Mountain region, serving as the West's water towers, food providers, land stewards and hubs of local economies and communities. With ranch managers now in high demand but in short supply, Colorado State University's new Western Ranch Management and Ecosystem Stewardship program is designed to help fill the gap and preserve this critical role. The new graduate-level program in the Warner College of Natural Resources builds on the expertise of college researchers, faculty and staff. Warner College professors have worked on sustainability and improving rangelands and the environment with ranchers, farmers and herders around the world, from Colorado to Mongolia.

"CSU and our college provide the perfect starting points for this new program," said Dean John Hayes. "We have an incredibly strong group of researchers in several departments, including ecosystem science and sustainability, forest and rangeland stewardship and in the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory in the Warner College. It's an honor to have been approached by members of the ranching community to launch this program and to partner with them."

A business, natural resource & place of retreat and respite

Ranch owners view the forests and rangelands on their properties through multiple lenses: as a business growing traditional and non-traditional livestock, as a place offering hunting and fishing opportunities, as a natural resource with forest management and preservation needs, and as a place of retreat for themselves and guests. Managing all these values requires a unique combination of knowledge, skills and experiences. The new program features academic and research components across the university, according to CSU Research Scientist Paul Evangelista.

A new Western Ranch Management and Ecosystem Stewardship specialization for the master's degree in natural resource stewardship is housed in the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship. A second facet fosters research on these working landscapes with the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) at CSU. The third leg is a partnership with CSU Extension and ranching-affiliated organizations to develop an apprenticeship program that builds knowledge and skills for a working ranch manager.

CSU Research Ecologist Paul Evangelista assisted with creating the new program. He said ranchers recognize that today's values, needs and technologies are different in many ways from those of their grandparents.

"Every rancher knows they have to diversify their operations to live with the land," said Evangelista, also an assistant professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability.

(Continued on page 17.)

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“This program is founded on establishing a basic ecological understanding of the land itself before deciding how to manage for it.”

The additional knowledge and pool of managers this program will produce can ensure that ranching practices continue working in tandem with ongoing changes in the land and in society.

A collaborative approach

The Western Ranch Management and Ecosystem Stewardship program is unique in that it is largely informed by the Rocky Mountain ranching community. Tim Haarmann, a manager at the Banded Peak Ranch near Chromo, Colorado, saw the need for a specially trained Western ranch manager because of the region’s diverse climate, ecology and natural resources.

“Colorado and the surrounding states are unique because of the Rockies,” Haarmann said. “We have a lot of ranches with varied elevations and topographies. These high elevation areas provide a unique set of challenges and opportunities for ranching.”

Haarmann earned a doctoral degree in ecosystems ecology from the University of New Mexico, worked for the federal government as a land manager, operated a personal cattle business and has been a ranch manager for the last 15 years. It’s unlikely that anyone more qualified could have approached Evangelista and CSU Professor Emeritus Bill Romme about organizing a formal program to develop ranch managers with a breadth of knowledge and experience.

This connection between ranchers and scientists became the first step in figuring out how to develop a community-led program that benefitted the landscapes and livelihoods of the ranching community while also fulfilling the university’s land-grant mission.

“CSU is doing an excellent job in providing a hands-on approach to experiential education,” Haarmann said.

“Ranchers don’t usually have the resources or ability to conduct the needed training or research and the university can offer this.”

The ranching community and CSU have already formed a unique partnership: All members of the program’s steering

committee work in or with the ranching community and will provide expertise, offer their land as classrooms, and even help fund the program through private donations, while the university provides the education and training for students.

“That says a lot about how invested the ranching community is with this program in belief and need,” Evangelista said.

A natural resource-ranching experience

Offering the program at the master’s degree level allows students to apply the backgrounds they’ve gained from past ecology, agriculture and natural resource courses and experiences directly on these ranches.

“Ranch management is multifaceted and complex,” said Tony Vorster, a postdoctoral fellow in NREL who helped to develop the program. “It forces you to bring all these different disciplines together. Ranch management and ecosystem stewardship can be intimidating topics, but all backgrounds add knowledge to these conversations and skills to related solutions.”

Vorster and Evangelista have firsthand experience applying their own scientific expertise while developing ranching skills during the program’s development. This varied from conducting a thorough landscape assessment to learning how to repair broken fences and equipment.

This exchange of knowledge is at the core of how the Western Ranch Management and Ecosystem Stewardship program will develop the modern Western ranch manager. Ranchers, natural resource professionals and academics will all learn something new. Evangelista said these private lands offer new and exciting conservation and management opportunities for land stewardship.

“The ranch owners we are working with are always finding new ways of doing things,” Evangelista said. “It’s a great way for science and management to come together.”

Editor’s Note: This particular group of ranches has decided to join together, and to ranch in an ecologically sound way. They offer access for this CSU project and have worked to manage for improved wildlife habitat. Becoming outfitters for private hunters in a sustainable way.



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Previous page top left: *Akhal Teke foals.*

Top right: *Sport horse filly.*

Bottom right: *Bridger & Bozeman.*

Bottom left: *Maggie from Pam.*

This page top left: *Ryder on his pony.*

Top right: *Ryder naps with crew.*

Middle right: *Flurken from Sam.*

Bottom left: *Chip driving, from Lisa.*

What Determines Your Car Insurance Premiums

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

You pay one amount for car insurance, your best friend pays another and your neighbor pays still another amount. What gives? Most insurance companies look at a number of key factors to calculate how much you'll end up paying for your car insurance.

Take a closer look at these factors that affect your car insurance premiums to clear things up — some of them also come with bonus suggestions for keeping costs down.

Factors that affect car insurance rates

Your policy and deductibles. When you are choosing your car insurance deductible and the coverage, the specifics play a role in your monthly payment. Generally, choosing a higher deductible means a lower monthly payment.

Choosing a lower deductible means a higher monthly payment. Any additional coverage you add typically gives you added insurance protection, depending on the claim, but will also add to your monthly cost.

One way to lower insurance costs is to review your policy with your insurance agent and eliminate any coverage you may not need, such as comprehensive coverage on an older vehicle, rental reimbursement or emergency roadside service.

What you drive

Car insurance providers often develop vehicle safety ratings by collecting a large amount of data from customer claims and analyzing industry safety reports, and they may offer discounts to auto customers who drive safer vehicles. The opposite can apply for less safe rides.

Some insurers increase premiums for cars more susceptible to damage, occupant injury or theft and they lower rates for those that fare better than the norm on those measures.

Driving vehicles that rate highly in terms of driver and passenger protection may mean savings on insurance. So before you head down to the dealership, do some research on the car you want to purchase. Does the vehicle that has caught your eye have strong safety ratings? Is this specific model often stolen? Knowing the answers to a few simple questions can go a long way toward keeping your rates low.

How often, and how far, you drive

People who use their car for business and long-distance commuting normally pay more than those who drive less. The more miles you drive in a year, the higher the chances of a collision — regardless of how safe a driver you are. To help offset how much you drive, consider joining a car or



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Check with your insurance company about a discount for driving less. Usage based car insurance like Drive Safe and Save™ by State Farm® might save you money when you drive less by using your car's telematics information.

Where you live

Generally, due to higher rates of vandalism, theft and collisions, urban drivers pay more for car insurance than those in small towns or rural areas.

Your driving record

Drivers who cause accidents generally pay more than those who have gone accident-free for several years. If you've been accident-free for a long period of time, don't get complacent. Remain cautious and maintain your good driving habits. If you are insured and accident-free for three years, you likely qualify for a State Farm accident-free savings.

And even though you can't rewrite your driving history, having an accident on your record can be an important reminder to always drive with caution and care. As time goes on, the effect of past collisions on your premiums will decrease.

Your credit history

Certain credit information can be predictive of future insurance claims. Where applicable, many insurance companies use credit history to help determine the cost of car insurance. Maintaining good credit may have a positive impact on your car insurance costs.

Your age, gender and marital status

Collision rates are higher for drivers under age 25, especially single males. Insurance prices in most states reflect these differences. If you're a student, you might be in line for a discount. Most car insurers provide discounts to student drivers who maintain good grades.

What are ways to help lower car insurance premiums?

Dropping unnecessary coverage, increasing your deductible or reducing coverage limits may help lower insurance costs. Your insurance agent can share the pros and cons of these options.


In some states, younger drivers are also able to take driver safety courses like Steer Clear® by State Farm that could lower your premium. Overall, it doesn't hurt — and might very well help.

Other typical discounts include those for good students, children no longer driving while away at college, insuring multiple vehicles, installing anti-theft devices, taking defensive driving courses and accident-free driving. See your local agent for a full list of discounts.

Using one insurance company for multiple insurance policies can lower your total costs. Combining the purchase of an auto policy with the purchase of a home policy, sometimes called bundling, can save you money.

Ask whether your insurer offers a discount for paying the six-month term in advance. There could also be savings for having your monthly payments automatically deducted, but check whether this will incur a fee from your bank or credit card company.

Finally, as always, it's a good idea to talk to your State Farm agent about what policies are best for you and your situation.



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A Reality Check On 30 By 30 Plan

By Wufei Yu June 23, 2021 High Country News

A week after Joe Biden became president, he signed an executive order that announced his commitment to protecting 30% of U.S. land and water — over 720 million acres — by 2030. The move brought cheers from conservationists and stakeholders who badly needed a break from the Trump era’s incessant environmental deregulation. Then, on May 6, the Department of Interior published *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful*, a preliminary report about what’s become known as the “30 by 30 plan” — and some of that initial excitement waned. Though the politically savvy report still offers hope for an equitable and sustainable future, Western and Indigenous climate activists and conservationists fear that it promises too much and could hamper conservation by trying too hard to please all the various land users.

In order to tackle three challenges — the disappearance of nature, climate change and inequitable access to the outdoors — the report laid out a locally led, science-based and collaborative road map toward achieving “30 by 30.” As part of it, the Biden administration invited farmers, ranchers and fishermen to get involved, promising to

maintain ranching in the West “as an important and proud way of life.” The report also acknowledged the conservation movement’s discriminatory past, including its appropriation of Native American ancestral land and neglect of communities of color, and it vowed to work toward a more inclusive future.

“It’s exciting,” Kay Bounkeua, New Mexico deputy director of The Wilderness Society, said. “Now we are talking about following the lead of local voices. We are thinking about not only the strong science but also the traditional knowledge that Indigenous people have been using to take care of the lands.”

Many conservationists pointed out, however, that, according to the *America the Beautiful* report, farming, grazing and logging could count as conservation under the 30% designation if the land is managed with “the long-term health and sustainability of natural systems” in mind. While many support this approach, others strongly disagree. Andy Kerr, an Oregon-based conservationist, said: “Real conservation doesn’t have room for commercial logging and grazing.” These lands are not dedicated to the preservation of biodiversity but instead to extractive commodities, he explained.

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Some worry that the voluntary conservation programs on working lands are temporary and “only kick the can of problems down the road,” said Ashley McCray Engle (Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Oglala Lakota), a policy coordinator at Indigenous Environmental Network, a grassroots nonprofit that advocates environmental justice for Native American communities. Under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program of U.S. Department of Agriculture, for example, land is exempted from agricultural use for 10 to 15 years. The conservation work on the land, however, can halt after that.

And while Indigenous environmentalists are pleased that the Biden administration made tribal consultation a priority in this plan and also helped to kill the Keystone XL pipeline project, ongoing fights over industrial projects and treaty responsibilities continue to weaken Indigenous people’s trust in the federal government.

Recently, peaceful protesters, mostly tribal members, were met with riot gear and brutal police tactics in northern Minnesota at the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline project, which passes through delicate waterways and damages ancestral tribal lands. “You reap the land continuously. But after a while, there’s not much more you’ll be able to take,” said Bennae Calac (Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians), founder of the 7G Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to cultivating future Native American leaders, and whom the Biden administration consulted with before drafting the recent report. The recent conflicts in Minnesota could undermine the administration’s commitment to tribal consultation, she said: “How much can you stand behind what you just stated back in January or what this initiative (“30 by 30”) means?”

To fulfill its conservation goals, the federal government needs Western states to take the lead. Historically, most conservation projects happen on the region’s public lands. So far, two states have hopped on board. Nevada became the first to pass legislation adopting the conservation goal, while California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order that will establish listening sessions with tribal members and private landowners regarding the project. Polls conducted by FM3 Research and New Bridge Strategy in eight Western states show that over 80% of voters support creating new national parks and monuments, wildlife refuges and tribally protected areas. Designating new national monuments is one of the ways to reach the “30 by 30” goals, and places like



Volcanic tuff rock makes up the stunning landscape in Leslie Gulch, one of the most popular recreational destinations in the Owyhee Canyonlands of Oregon.

Photo by David Moskowitz.

the Great Bend of the Gila in Arizona, Avi Kwa Ame in southern Nevada and Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon are promising contenders since they already have strong local and tribal support, said Aaron Weiss, deputy director at the Center for Western Priorities, a nonpartisan conservation organization.

“The report definitely takes a broad and widely encompassing view of what conservation is and can be. There’s no conservation plan that’s going to please everyone all the time,” Weiss said. “Now is where the hard work on the ground comes in, working with land managers and tribes to come up with plans and necessary adjustments.”

Wufei Yu is an editorial intern at High Country News.

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How To Bring Homes To People – ADU's

By Jessica Kutz July 8, 2021 High Country News

Today, some of Tucson's downtown barrios are mere ghosts of their former selves. Many of the longtime residents of these historic neighborhoods, who were primarily Mexican Americans as well as Chinese and African Americans, have been displaced twice in the last half-century.

The first time was in the 1960s, when hundreds of adobe homes were bulldozed in the name of urban renewal. In their 2010 book *La Calle*, Tucson historian and author Lydia Otero described how the barrios were demolished for a slew of city-approved projects that catered to a growing white suburban population: a multilevel parking garage, a convention center and a police station. Single-family homes with carports and front yards became the preferred style of desert living. Before long, sprawl would overtake the urban landscape.

Now it's happening again, as moneyed newcomers flock to the remaining neighborhoods and gentrify them. Compounding the problem is the fact that Tucson, like much of the rest of the country, is facing a housing crisis.

Prices have risen by nearly 27% over the last year, due in part to low interest rates and a pandemic-inspired influx of transplants from other states. More than a third of the city's residents are "housing cost-burdened," spending more than 30% of their income on housing, according to research compiled by the University of Arizona MAP Dashboard project. The same trend is playing out across the West. In order to increase the housing stock, policymakers are increasingly turning to accessory dwelling units, or ADUs — extra units on property typically zoned for single-family houses. ADUs can come in the form of cottages or casitas, or be attached to the existing house, like basement apartments. Though they're clearly not a solution to the crisis, housing advocates across the region see ADUs as a way to help prevent the displacement of communities by gentrification. They can provide an extra source of income for homeowners struggling to pay rising property taxes, as well as giving renters more affordable housing options.

TUCSON CITY OFFICIALS kicked off the rezoning process to allow for ADUs last November. The Arizona city is a relative newcomer to the growing trend: California and

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Oregon passed statewide laws in 2019 to encourage ADU construction in response to their own housing crises, having legalized the units many years before. Cities in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Washington are trying to encourage ADU development by making them easier to build and permit.

But critics say this approach can backfire. In a series of public meetings held in May over Zoom, Tucson residents shared some common concerns. Many fear that ADUs could be converted into short-term rentals like Airbnbs, or that investors will simply purchase the properties in order to turn an even greater profit. Furthermore, ADUs are often too pricey for low-income homeowners to build. In Seattle, for example, in 2017, most ADU permits were acquired by already-wealthy homeowners, according to the Urban Land Institute. And while ADUs do provide more affordable options in high-priced cities, they are often still out of reach for low-income residents.

Housing advocates like Sharayah Jimenez believe the solution is to prioritize low-to-moderate-income residents (earning approximately \$51,000 for a family of four) in the rollout of ADU development. Jimenez is the founder and principal designer for the architecture firm CUADRO. As part of Tucson's ADU stakeholders' group, she is focused on making sure the benefits flow to the city's remaining historic barrios and to the Southside, the mainly

working-class Latino neighborhoods where she grew up. "What I'm hoping to do is work with homeowners to teach them how to develop their lots themselves with these ADUs and add value to their homes, (as well as) get the funding and the loans they need to make the improvements to stay in their neighborhoods," she said.

"There are ongoing conversations in the city about how we might better support BIPOC homeowners to do those types of projects."

In Denver, Colorado, an ADU pilot program could soon provide a blueprint for how to reach such residents. Run by the West Denver Renaissance Collaborative, which includes the city and county of Denver and the Denver Housing Authority, the initiative has spent the past year assisting low-to-moderate income residents in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. The program provides between \$50,000 to \$75,000 in cost savings to homeowners who build ADUs, along with technical assistance and pre-approved designs. In addition, the city is offering \$30,000 loans that do not have to be repaid if the owner agrees to rent the unit at an affordable rate for 25 years. "Building ADUs requires a fair amount of money that a lot of families don't have upfront," said Renee Martinez-Stone, the initiative's director. For that reason, residents who are at risk of foreclosure or facing equally dire financial circumstances have the *(Continued on next page.)*

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Highlander Issues

option to join a community land trust, a nonprofit that essentially holds onto the land, removing it from the private market. They can then use that equity to invest in financing the remaining cost of building an ADU.

Seattle, Washington is also looking for ways to remove financial barriers to ADU construction, said Nick Welch, a city planner. Plans to roll out a loan program targeting low-income homeowners were put on hold during the pandemic, but, he said, “there are ongoing conversations in the city about how we might better support BIPOC homeowners to do those types of projects.”

For residents like Ruby Holland, a housing activist in Seattle, ADUs feel like one of the last chances to prevent further displacement in the city’s Central District. Holland grew up in the district, home to the city’s last stronghold of Black residents. Today, she lives in the house her parents bought decades ago, in the days of redlining. Back then, she said, the neighborhood had a majority Black population. Now, however, Black people make up just 20% of residents. So, three years ago, Holland started a neighborhood group, Keep Your Habitat, whose mission is to teach Central District residents how to hold onto their properties by transforming parts of their current homes into ADUs — converting basements into apartments, say, or building backyard cottages, even renting their yards for parking. “I feel that whatever investors could do with our property in terms of ADUs, we can do ourselves, (so we can) keep this in our family and have intergenerational wealth,” she said.

Holland’s efforts took on new urgency in 2019, when the city passed the Mandatory Housing Affordability legislation. Though her house fell outside its boundaries, many of her neighbors were affected by the legislation, which allowed single-family homes in parts of the city to be redeveloped into multifamily units. She calls it “redlining in reverse,” because ever since it passed, her neighbors have faced increasing pressure to sell to developers, even as their property taxes have increased. Holland fears that this type of policy is intentionally forcing the city’s last Black residents out of Seattle. But

Stephanie Velsasco, a communications manager with the city, defends the MHA as a tool to increase affordable housing, “not (one) that is actively displacing households.”

BACK IN TUCSON, Jimenez hopes to incorporate ADUs into the community before it’s too late. It’s already happening informally in the Southside, where a majority of work has been done without permits. “We have no data on this, but we think that there’s a very large number of these unpermitted units already in existence. So part of our work is to make sure that those homeowners who have already done this have a clear path as to how to get their units (permitted),” she explained.

Rather than penalize the new additions, she hopes the city can find ways to promote them by educating current homeowners about their options and empowering families to hold onto their lots in the face of rising property taxes, much as Holland is doing in Seattle. Otherwise, she explained, homeowners in low-income communities of color often don’t realize the value of their land. “They sell too early, and they get ripped off, and then somebody comes in and does what they probably could have done themselves,” she said.

She applauds how many of the already-built units have been created in what she calls a “barn-raising fashion,” in which family and neighbors help people build their units to keep costs low. Often the new ADUs are used to house relatives. “People are already responding to the housing crisis on their own,” she said. “The city is just now catching up to that.”

Jessica Kutz is an assistant editor for High Country News.

Editor’s Note: Recently in the news is the housing issue in Grand County, not enough affordable places for workers that support the tourism and hospitality industries. There is now talk that businesses may be forced to provide such housing for their workforces. This ADU or even tiny house efforts could do a lot to take out the sting for business owners should the county enforce such regulations. Any housing mandate should also be sure to include the ethics of maintaining respect for the people that need the housing.

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Update: BuffaloFieldCampaign.org

On the Buffalo Trail is brought to you during trying times here in Nez Perce Country. Wildfires dominate the landscape and their smoke fills the air. Many subsistence gathering and fishing opportunities have been missed due to the extreme weather events we're experiencing in the Pacific Northwest. These events have long been forecasted by climate change experts. If you monitor the news, you will see these extreme events are taking place around the world.

With the daily temperatures we've realized so far, the summer of 2021 will go down as the hottest on record for the world. As my air conditioner struggles to keep pace with the blistering heat outdoors, I consider the potential climate change impacts to Yellowstone bison. These extreme weather conditions should give renewed impetus to act for Yellowstone bison and the ecosystem on which they depend. Time is not on our side.

The Campaign understands the immediacy required to build resilience against the impacts of climate change and habitat degradation. As a keystone species, wild bison can support the resilience of the ecosystem thereby increasing the capacity of other species to persist in an uncertain future. Coincidentally, bison also require large intact ecosystems to maintain their genetic diversity and resilience against environmental impacts. Currently, they do not have access to enough of the Yellowstone Ecosystem, nor is their population large enough to withstand the impacts of climate change or human impacts. More must be done to protect wild Yellowstone bison.

As with any ecosystem, all species within fulfill a specific niche. The Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Central Herd of bison have historically possessed such a relationship. This symbiosis must be restored, fostered, and protected. The Central Herd of bison continues to persist in their ancestral homelands. Yet the important lifeways of the Central Herd are being severely hindered by the Inter-agency Bison Management Plan. Montana and federal agency actions are crippling the ancient wisdom of the terrain beyond the park boundary.

During these uncertain times, we must drive home the



message to our elected officials that the natural world deserves protection. It is becoming all too common for us to write concerning a diminished future wrought by climate change impacts. Society must come to grips with the fact that today's extreme weather events are showing us that time is now. Climate change is here. We will continue to educate the world on the needs of the Yellowstone Ecosystem and the wild bison living there. Like many communities, wild bison populations are experiencing climate adversity and extreme weather events. We will use our collective voices to call for positive change. I hope you, your loved ones, and the natural places near your home are faring well.

For the Buffalo, James Holt Sr.

Executive Director, Buffalo Field Campaign



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A Maverick Forest Ecologist

By Claire Thompson May 18, 2021 High Country News

Suzanne Simard changed our relationship to trees; a maverick forest ecologist relates her scientific journey — one that follows in the footsteps of traditional Indigenous knowledge.

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest Suzanne Simard 368 pages, hardcover: \$28.95 Knopf, 2021.

A healthy forest hums with aboveground stimuli: deer shuffling through dead leaves, breezes ruffling conifer needles, squirrels dropping seeds. The trees, while they appear to stand still, play an important role in this synergy, which can feel almost sentient. Below the surface, fungi connect with tree roots and with each other, facilitating a flow of communication and allowing the trees to share energy, nutrients and intelligence.

“We have always known that plants and animals have their own councils, and a common language,” Robin Wall Kimmerer, a renowned biologist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, wrote in her seminal text *Braiding Sweetgrass*, in 2013. “In the old times, our elders say, the trees talked to each other.”

It took centuries, but Western science has finally begun to recognize this traditional knowledge, thanks in large part to the work of Suzanne Simard, a forest ecologist and professor at the University of British Columbia. In her new memoir, *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, Simard details her quest to prove that trees share resources like carbon, nitrogen and water via underground networks of mycorrhizal fungi, a give-and-take that boosts the health of the whole forest. In emphasizing the importance of biodiversity and interdependence in forest ecosystems, Simard’s findings threatened common logging-industry techniques like aggressive brush removal and clear-cutting — what she and a colleague called the “fast-food approach to forestry.”

The idea that trees, instead of simply competing for light, might actually communicate and even cooperate was easy to dismiss as junk science, especially coming from a young female researcher. Other foresters tried to intimidate her and suppress her work. Simard’s candid and relatable account shows how difficult it is for an outsider to push the boundaries and retain credibility in an insular and unforgiving field. Her studies have attracted criticism, and her story, in more ways than one, suggests that science and industry have a long way to go when it comes to recognizing other forms of knowledge.

A descendant of French Canadian homesteaders in British Columbia’s interior, Simard was one of few women in the logging industry in the early 1980s. She wondered why the weeded, monoculture tree crops were so sickly compared to the remaining old-growth woods. “In my bones,” she writes, “I knew the problem with the ailing seedlings was that they couldn’t connect with the soil.” It seemed obvious that standard forestry practices were not good for the forest’s long-term health. But she knew she’d need “rigorous, credible science” to prove herself and her hypotheses to the men who directed government forestry policy.

Simard transitioned to working with the British Columbia Forest Service, investigating weeding effects in clear-cuts. A sense of duty drove her to speak out against wrong-headed practices — like removing native shrubs from tree plantations to reduce competition — and continue her research. Then, in 1997, *Nature* published her study on the way trees share carbon via fungal networks. Though government forestry policies didn’t change immediately, her paper received worldwide press and encouraged a new generation of scientists to pursue similar lines of inquiry. It’s not until the book’s final chapter that Simard explicitly lays out the connections between her work and the long-held wisdom of Indigenous traditions. She explicitly describes how her findings echo the teachings of tribes like

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FINDING THE MOTHER TREE

Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

SUZANNE SIMARD

dominated fields — it is an urgent priority as climate change upends ecosystems.

Gradually, policy evolved to tolerate a greater diversity of native plants in British Columbia’s managed forests. But, more importantly, Simard’s work contributed to a shift toward more holistic ecological thinking across institutions, a sea change whose impacts will become clearer as younger scientists achieve new understandings of biodiversity.

Simard is optimistic. One of the most intriguing branches of her later research involves the way trees warn each other of disease or drought. What Simard, and the Secwepemc, call Mother Trees — the biggest, oldest trees in a grove — act as vital hubs in this communication network, passing messages and sustenance to their offspring and neighbors. It is this collaboration, this sharing of intelligence and resources within a diverse forest community, that makes resilience possible. “The forest is wired for healing in this way,” Simard writes, “and we can help if we follow her lead.”

Claire Thompson is a seasonal trail worker in Washington’s Cascades and a graduate student at the University of Montana, where she is pursuing a master’s in environmental studies and a certificate in natural resources conflict resolution.

the Secwepemc Nation, in whose ancestral territory she grew up and did much of her research.

Simard’s decision to place these revelations at the end of her story reflects the chronology of her own understanding; her acceptance evolved in parallel with mainstream recognition of the importance of traditional ecological knowledge to contemporary forestry. The fact that different traditions can arrive at the same truth solidifies that truth’s veracity, but Simard’s story also shows how rare effective communication between traditions has been, and still remains. Inclusive stewardship is not merely a worthy goal for women like Simard who want to make it in male-

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Improve Water Habits In The Home

Run a full dishwasher with an Energy Star-certified dishwasher (if possible) that are 30% more water-efficient than other models. Pre-washing dishes isn't required with most dishwashers, but if you have a septic and leach field remove organic materials from your dirty dishes.

If you ditch handwashing and run full loads of dishes instead, you can save 7,000 gallons of water annually. You'll also get back time and energy to spend on another post-dinner activity – here are some habits to try at home.

Steam rather than boil vegetables

Steaming your vegetables saves water and makes your vegetables more nutrient-rich. This is because boiling water causes nutrients to leak out, making your veggies less healthy in the process.

Soak rather than rinse your pots and pans

For items too big or dirty to make it into the dishwasher,

skip the rinse and soak them to remove food buildup and stains. Rinsing your pots and pans requires running water, which can waste gallons of water per week.

Take quick showers rather than baths

Bad news for tub enthusiasts: a full bath uses up to 70 gallons of water. On the other hand, short showers can cut up to 45 gallons of that waste. Please, by all means, keep rinsing off — just replace that 30-minute soak with a five minute shower.

Turn off the faucet as you brush

While brushing your teeth twice a day is important (and we can't emphasize this enough), turning the faucet off during your teeth cleaning can save 10 gallons of water per day. Use a cup, rather than your hands, to rinse your mouth out once you've finished brushing to save even more water.

Only flush when necessary

Did you know that the average American uses the most water when flushing the toilet each day? Experts recommend only flushing number 2, but if that doesn't fit your comfort level just avoid discarding random items down the toilet. Stick to human waste and toilet paper.

Install a high-efficiency toilet

Older toilets use anywhere from 3.5 to 7 gallons of water per flush. If you're flushing 10 times a day, that's up to 70 gallons of water per day from your toilet alone. Installing a high-efficiency toilet cuts this water use down to 1.28 gallons or less per flush. *(You can also put an object in the toilet tank that displaces water, yet flushes as you need it to.)*

Check pipes and appliances for leaks regularly

Don't waste 105 gallons of water on leaky bathroom appliances. These appliances or pipe leaks are a major

waste of water, and the worst part is that you're not aware you're using it.

Use cold water for your washes

Ninety percent of energy during the laundry process is used heating the water. Opting for cold water whenever possible, and warm when some heat is necessary, will save on energy costs. Turning down your hot water tank is another good way to conserve energy: Try setting it to 120 degrees or lower. A household can save \$40 annually by making the switch from hot to cold water washes.

Run full loads

Resist the urge to run a laundry load when you have a few dirty items. Running full loads instead of half loads can save 3,400 gallons of water annually, according to the EPA. This habit also requires less work and time

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in the laundry room.

Reuse towels before washing

Reuse bath and hand towels two or three times before tossing them in the laundry, hanging them to dry in between washes. Blue jeans are another item that doesn't need to be constantly washed. In fact, they'll likely last longer the less they see the machine.

Upgrade your appliances

A household saves \$380 per year by upgrading to Energy Star and/or WaterSense appliances, plus sometimes rebates are available.

Take the laundry room, for example. Energy-efficient washers can save up to 7,000 gallons of water per year. High-efficiency water heaters use up to 50% less energy.

Hang your clothes on a drying rack

Saving energy saves water, too. Hanging your clothes is a great way to both limit your dryer usage and prevent shrinkage. And in our dry climate adds humidity to your home.

Lawn or Garden

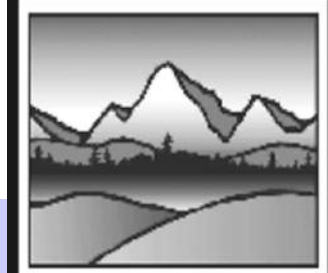
Spend less time and energy watering your lawn by making smart plant purchases. Removal of sod and replace with xeriscaping is best. A little bit of research can go a long way to find the best native and/or drought-tolerant plants. Drought-resistant plants, such as aloe and

geranium, can survive with less rainfall and watering. Native plants are already accustomed to the climate and natural rainfall. While you'll still need to maintain them, they should require a lot less work than exotic plant species.

Harvesting rainwater (**which became legal in Colorado**) is a natural irrigation method that collects rain in a barrel for you to reuse on your yard or garden. Some states, such as Texas and Rhode Island, even offer a tax incentive. Other states have particular laws about the practice, so make sure to do some reading before you collect. Another important reminder is that rainwater harvesting can pose a health problem if the water is consumed, so always keep your barrel somewhere safe from small children and pets with a lid to prevent mosquitos.

Adopting small habits can have a big impact on your water footprint. And conserving water at home isn't just good for the planet, but for your wallet, too. You can save an average of \$140 on your water or electric bill each year by reducing your water consumption to less than 1,000 gallons per month. Energy-efficient upgrades often pay for themselves in less than a year through your water and electricity bills, and they can also reduce your monthly home insurance premiums.

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Education Needed To Prevent Vandalism

By Jessica Douglas May 24, 2021 High Country News

Petroglyph vandalism is not a victimless crime
Indigenous archaeologists say more protective measures
and education are needed to prevent future vandalism.

In late April, at the site known as Birthing Rock near Moab, Utah, vandals defaced thousand-year-old petroglyphs, scrawling the words “white power” and other obscene graffiti across the red sandstone. Only one of the boulder’s four petroglyph panels remained unscathed. The vandalism came just a few weeks after a rock climber bolted climbing routes over petroglyphs near the Sunshine Slabs, north of Utah’s Arches National Park. “I think people view these (incidents) as a victimless crime, and they are not.”

The recent acts of vandalism are a reminder of the need for greater protection and more education about public lands, Indigenous archaeologists say. “A lot of people have no clue about contemporary Indigenous peoples and their connection to archaeological resources,” Ashleigh Thompson (Red Lake Ojibwe), a doctoral candidate in archaeology at University of Arizona and an avid rock climber, said.

When the pandemic forced Americans to shelter in place, public lands provided a much-needed refuge. But with increased visitors came an uptick in vandalism. Although overall visitation to national parks dropped in 2020, partially due to numerous park closures in the pandemic’s early months, more than 15 parks set new records. Visits to Arches National Park increased by nearly 70% during part of 2020 compared to previous years. In January 2021, visitation at Canyonlands National Park was up by 100%, which according to a National Park Service press release, resulted in “extended wait times to enter the park, illegal parking creating safety and resource preservation issues, and visitors walking in and along roadways to access viewpoints and trailheads, creating unsafe conditions.”

“What we’ve been seeing in Utah across all land agencies — the Park Service, the state parks, the Bureau of Land Management — is we do have an increase in tourism. And we are seeing a commensurate increase in damage to archaeological sites,” Elizabeth Hora-Cook, an archaeologist for the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, said. “And when we see that more people equals more damage, we know that the same proportion of people are not receiving the message of how to visit sites with respect.”

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Land Management and nonprofits like Friends of Cedar Mesa have campaigned to raise awareness and educate the public. Hopi archaeologist Lyle Balenquah believes there needs to be ongoing localized education about visiting archaeological sites throughout Utah. “You can’t just hold one workshop, one Zoom panel session, and call it good,” Balenquah said. “There’s always new people coming into these sports and being introduced to the regions in general. There has to be people out in the field speaking to people as much as possible.”

But even when educational resources are available and widely promoted, the information doesn’t always reach its intended audience. Tourists may not know how to visit archaeological sites respectfully.

When rock climber Richard Gilbert scaled Sunshine Slab, he thought the petroglyphs he bolted over were just modern-day graffiti. In a story from **Climbing Magazine**, Gilbert took a photo of the three routes he had bolted and posted the route information on Mountain Project, a website that catalogs climbing routes across the world. One of the captions read, “Graffiti — There is a good amount of graffiti on this route, PLEASE do NOT add to it!”

Some non-Natives fail to understand the importance of places like Birthing Rock and Sunshine Slab because they have no idea what the sites mean to Indigenous people, Angelo Baca (Diné/Hopi), a doctoral student in

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anthropology at New York University, said. From an Indigenous perspective, petroglyphs are seen as relatives. “They’re alive. They have their own spirit and they have their own agency and should be respected,” said Baca, who is also the cultural resource coordinator for Utah Diné Bikéyah, a nonprofit that strives to preserve and protect the cultural and natural resources of the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute and Uintah Ouray Ute tribes.



Much of the land in Utah, as in many Western states, is owned by the federal government. When an act of vandalism occurs, the complex web of federal, state and private ownership leaves tribes with few means to pursue a legal case, said Clark Tenakhongva, vice chairman of the Hopi Tribe and co-chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. As a result, he said, perpetrators are rarely held accountable. “These are the obstacles that we continuously have to fight.”

Often there is a disconnect between the way Indigenous people and non-Native people view and experience the landscape, Thompson said. “There is a settler-colonial attitude that not just climbers, but outdoor recreational hikers and mountain bikers, have, that make them feel entitled to claim whatever they want, regardless of climbing bans and what the Indigenous peoples in those areas think or want.” Many non-Native visitors don’t realize that the public lands they enjoy were created at the expense of the original inhabitants, who were forcibly evicted, Thompson said. “Indigenous people have been murdered, battled, and removed, so that settlers could have access to these lands.”

The BLM is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the

arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the vandalism. If you have any information concerning this vandalism, please contact BLM Law Enforcement at 435-259-2131 or 800-722-3998. You can remain anonymous.

Jessica Douglas is an editorial fellow at High Country News and a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

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Power Update

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2021

Common Causes of Summer Outages

The summer is not an ideal time to worry about the possibility of power outages, but they are still possible. United Power monitors its system for outages, and potential outages, 24/7 so it can immediately respond when one occurs to quickly restore power to affected members. Here are some common causes of summer outages:

- **Wildlife** — Despite United Power's best efforts, animals seem to have the innate ability to locate, and interact with, substations, poles and electrical boxes. The cooperative takes proactive measures to guard against animal related outages, including avian protection on its wires and deterrents to protect ground equipment. These measures not only help prevent outages, but also protect the wildlife. Unfortunately, some animals are small enough to sneak by these defenses and get into equipment. Rodents and snakes like to hide and nest in equipment, creating the potential for outages.
- **Weather** — Severe weather can spring up at any time in the mountains. High winds and lightning storms may contribute to outages. Most of United Power's poles are equipped with technology that helps redirect lightning current away from transformers. In situations where these are not present or fail, other elements down the line will "break," hopefully containing the outage or preventing it entirely. However, it does not guarantee an outage will not occur.
- **Falling Trees/Branches** — United Power monitors trees near primary power lines throughout its territory. These proactive measures help to minimize outage risks where possible, but cannot prevent them entirely. Falling tree limbs are yet another potential outage risk for our members. If you notice a limb hanging dangerously close to primary power lines in your area, please contact United Power at www.unitedpower.com/vegetation.
- **Vehicle Accidents** — It's impossible for United Power to account for the behavior of drivers traveling through its service territory. Occasionally, an accident may temporarily interrupt service to members when it involves one of the cooperative's poles, utility boxes or, very rarely, a substation.

Members can report an outage by calling our outage line at 303-637-1350 or by logging into their account online or through the free United Power mobile app.



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.

Sign up for Paperless Billing:

- Visit www.unitedpower.com/smarthub.
- From SmartHub, select My Profile from menu options
- Select Update My Paperless Settings from options
- Toggle Paperless Status button from OFF to ON to stop receiving printed bills
- Click Yes to confirm
- On the United Power app, you can enroll in paperless by toggling Go Paperless in Settings.

Once you are enrolled, a paper bill will no longer be mailed to you. Register for SmartHub online at the link above.



Thanks to members like you, United Power is 100,000 meters strong.

Celebrate this historic achievement at an Open House Celebration at our new Carbon Valley Service Center.

AUGUST OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION
28 9 a.m. – Noon
Carbon Valley Service Center
9586 E I-25 Frontage Rd, Longmont

"Behind Every Meter is a Cooperative Member."

United Power Coal Creek Office
5 Gross Dam Road | Golden, CO 80403

Member Services: 303-637-1300
Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921



Payment Kiosk Location



EV Charging Site (CHAdeMO, CCS/SAE)



www.unitedpower.com



Mountain Fest - Park & Rec

Sat. August 7th, 12pm – 5pm

CCCIA HALL 31258 Coal Creek Canyon



24 Ronnie Road

Panoramic Divide & City Lights Views
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,432 sq.ft. .95 Ac. **\$749,000**



6 Car Garage

Coal Creek Canyon

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



29805 Highway 72

Private Mtn Home w/Walk-out 8+ Acres
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,496 sq.ft. **\$739,800**



NEW LISTING

2874 S. Beaver Creek Road

Updated & Furnished 2 BD/ 1 BA
+ sep 453 sq.ft. Bunk Hs. **\$380,000**



11628 Ranch Elsie

Log Home w/Outdoor Entertaining
4 BD/ 3 BA 3,284 sq.ft. **\$914,750**



1209 Camp Eden

Remodeled Kitchen-Oversized Garage
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,288 sq.ft. **\$595,000**



A Must See

3497 Coal Creek Canyon #18

Adorable Summer Cabin
3 BD/ 1 BA 1,184 sq.ft. **\$229,000**



NEW LISTING

126 Signal Rock

Lovely Landscaping/Divide Views
2 BD/ 3 BA 2,024 sq.ft. **\$575,000**



2663 Lump Gulch Road

VIEWS & Backing to National Forest
4 BD/ 3 BA 3,749 sq.ft. **\$699,000**



11711 Spruce Canyon Drive

Cottage in the woods. 1.37 Acres
3 BD/ 1 BA 1,287 sq.ft. **\$595,500**



SOLD!

Vacant Land

1257 / 1316 Chute Road

Secluded 5+ acres, Divide, City,
and Gross Dam Views **\$139,000**



SOLD!

11440 Inspiration Road

Amazing Views at Road's End
3 BD/2 BA 2,341 sq.ft. 1.5 Ac. **\$572,000**



Coal Creek Canyon

Luxury Mountain Living 59.4 Acres
4 BD/ 5 BA 3,661 sq.ft. **\$1,744,750**



Coal Creek Canyon

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



SOLD!

85 Valley View Drive

Breathtaking Divide & Lake Views
4 BD/ 4 BA 3623 sq.ft. 1+Ac. **\$775,000**

Compass is a licensed real estate broker in Colorado and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.



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