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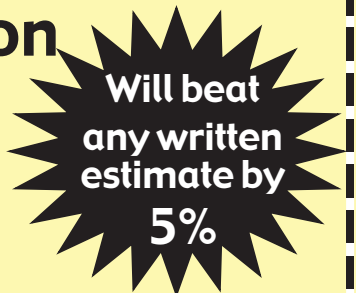
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About the Cover: Mountain Lion

photo by
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Cover Cat

Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Mountain lions are generally calm, quiet, and elusive. They tend to live in remote, primitive country with plentiful deer and adequate cover. Such conditions exist in mountain subdivisions, urban fringes, and open spaces. Recently, the number of mountain lion/human interactions has increased. This increase is likely due to a variety of reasons, such as: More people moving into lion habitat. Increase in deer populations and density. Presumed increase in lion numbers and expanded range. More people using hiking and running trails in lion habitat. A greater awareness of the presence of lions.

If You Encounter a Mountain Lion

People rarely get more than a brief glimpse of a mountain lion in the wild. Lion attacks on people are rare, with fewer than a dozen fatalities in North America in more than 100 years. Most of the attacks were by young lions, perhaps forced out to hunt on their own and not yet living in established areas. Young lions may key in on easy prey, like pets and small children. No studies have been done to determine what to do if you meet a lion. However, based on observations by people who have come upon lions, some patterns of behavior and response are beginning to emerge. With this in mind, the following suggestions may be helpful.

Remember: Every situation is different with respect to the lion, the terrain, the people, and their activity.

Go in groups when you walk or hike in mountain lion country, and make plenty of noise to reduce your chances of surprising a lion. A sturdy walking stick is a good idea; it can be used to ward off a lion. Make sure children are close to

you and within your sight at all times. Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one.

Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

Stay calm when you come upon a lion. Talk calmly and firmly to it. Move slowly.

Stop or back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack. Face the lion and stand upright.

Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you're wearing one. If you have small children with you, protect them by picking them up so they won't panic and run.

If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly. What you want to do is convince the lion you are not prey and that you may in fact be a danger to the lion.

Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have

(Continued on next page.)



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Highlander Wildlife

been driven away by prey that fights back. People have fought back with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and their bare hands successfully. Remain standing or try to get back up!

We can live with these incredibly efficient predators if we respect mountain lions and their habitat. To reduce the risk of problems with mountain lions on or near your property, we urge you to follow these simple precautions:



Make lots of noise if you come and go during the times mountain lions are most active: dusk to dawn.

Install outside lighting. Light areas where you walk so you could see a lion if one were present.

Closely supervise children whenever they play outdoors. Make sure children are inside before dusk and not outside before dawn. Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one.



Landscape or remove vegetation to eliminate hiding places for lions, especially around children's play areas. Make it difficult for lions to approach unseen. Planting non-native shrubs and plants that deer often prefer to eat encourages wildlife to come onto your property. Predators follow prey.

Don't feed any wildlife!

Keep your pet under control. Roaming pets are easy prey and can attract lions. Bring

pets in at night. If you leave your pet outside, keep it in a kennel with a secure top. Don't feed pets outside; this can attract raccoons and other animals that are eaten by lions. Store all garbage securely.

Close doors to all outbuildings since inquisitive lions may go inside for a look.

Encourage your neighbors to follow these simple precautions. Prevention is far better than a possible lion confrontation.

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Tips To Keep Cooler

Most mountain residents have not had to work very hard at staying cool until these last few years when we've been accustomed to the evening cool down and are caught off guard when that does not always happen and daytime temperatures are hotter than in the past. Due to warmer high altitude temperatures people need to be aware of the dangers from the heat and be reminded of how to save any thunderstorm or night time cool down for the next day.

Heatstroke is something that can occur when the body cannot tolerate heat and sometimes it can be fatal. Heatstroke is a condition caused by your body overheating, usually as a result of prolonged exposure or physical exertion in hot temperatures. This most serious form of heat injury, heatstroke, can occur if your body temperature rises. The condition is most common in the summer months. Heatstroke requires emergency treatment. Untreated heatstroke can quickly damage your brain, heart, kidneys and muscles. The damage worsens the longer treatment is delayed, increasing your risk of serious complications or death.

Heatstroke signs and symptoms can include:
 High body temperature. A core body temperature of 104 F (40 C) or higher, obtained with a thermometer, is the main sign of heatstroke.
 Altered mental state or behavior. Confusion, agitation, slurred speech, irritability, delirium, seizures and coma can all result from heatstroke.
 Alteration in sweating, in heatstroke brought on by hot weather, your skin will feel hot and dry to the touch. However, in heatstroke brought on by strenuous exercise, your skin may feel dry or slightly moist.

Nausea and vomiting: You may feel sick to your stomach or vomit. Flushed skin: Your skin may turn red as your body temperature increases. Rapid breathing: Your breathing may become rapid and shallow. Racing heart rate: Your pulse may significantly increase because heat stress places a tremendous burden on your heart to help cool your body. Headache: Your

head may throb. If you think a person may be experiencing heatstroke, seek immediate medical help. Call 911 to ask for local emergency services.

Take immediate action to cool the overheated person while waiting for emergency treatment. Get the person into shade or indoors. Remove any excess clothing. Cool the person with whatever means available: put in a cool tub of water or a cool shower, spray with a garden hose, sponge with cool water, fan while misting with cool water, or place ice packs or cold, wet towels on the person's head, neck, armpits and groin. Don't leave them alone until the danger has passed or medical treatment is provided. If you are alone and you think you may be suffering heatstroke be sure to call a neighbor, friend or family member to alert them of your condition and to ask for help until EMT's arrive.

Heatstroke can happen with no outward signs too. From personal experience the only symptom I had was tunnel vision just before I felt the need to lie down (*but I couldn't speak*) and then I fainted. Unfortunately I was with folks that didn't know what to do, so they kept me sitting upright until the paramedics arrived that put me prone on the floor. Keeping a heatstroke victim (or any unconscious person) upright or even slightly propped up can drop their blood pressure dangerously. It is best to lay them down on their left side in case of vomiting.

In the emergency room it took over six hours
(Continued on next page.)



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Highlander Health for my blood pressure to return to normal. The day was extremely hot and while I used the air conditioner in my vehicle it didn't prevent the heat from causing a heatstroke when I went inside. Once a person has suffered a heatstroke they can be more susceptible to it unless steps are taken to prevent another episode.

As the global climate changes we will have to learn to adjust and the ways that are the best and environmentally friendly are passive adjustments. If your home is cool in the morning then keep it shut up to save those lower temperatures. We can all adapt in simple yet profound habitual changes: make note of how the sun travels across the rooms/windows in your house. Close any curtains to keep out the daytime sunshine BEFORE it shines inside. Close windows where the air temperature outside is higher than it is inside. Keep doors and

windows closed during the warmest times of the day, unless clouds or thunderstorms drop outside temperatures to below inside ambient temperatures, then open them to allow natural cooling. (Fans are helpful to bring in cool air.)

Avoid using your kitchen oven or even the stovetop for extended periods to cook during a hot day. Utilize a slow cooker, microwave or outdoor gas grill when it is extremely hot or opt for cold meals. Don't use your clothes dryer until late evening hours or hang wet laundry on hangers around the house if you don't have a clothesline (or string a rope across a room to hang wet clothes on). Anything you can do to keep your house cool until sunset or a thunderstorm and cloudy skies cool the air.

Never keep doors or windows (unless a second story without decks) open after you go to bed as wildlife can take the opportunity to get in your house. Kitchen windows can attract wildlife and

if you are cooking fragrant foods it could attract bears even during the day.

Defrosting frozen foods in a sink near a window can attract a bear anytime (which may encourage you to defrost frozen foods inside the refrigerator as is suggested by health providers).

When you are outside during the hottest part of a summer day you should try to prevent over heating with simple precautions: such as wearing a wet bandana or hat (re-wet often, maybe with water from an ice cooler) on your brow or around your neck. You can drop a bandana/hat in a cold mountain stream or even chuck off a shirt to wet it in the creek then put it back on totally wet. These tricks to keeping cool can work well to prevent heatstroke.

If you find yourself in a situation of working in hot conditions it is more important to prevent body overheating than the normal person tolerating the heat or walking outside during hot weather. Keep hydrated by drinking plenty of water (cold water works best) and even splashing your upper body with water can help prevent over heating as it can cool your body with

the evaporating water simulating sweating.

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It is easier to prevent heatstroke than to treat it so prevention is the best medicine. Once the human body has to react to over heating it goes into an involuntary mode and often is difficult to reverse. Children and our elders that are showing any signs of heatstroke should be laid down with cold compresses, put in the shade or taken inside AC supported shelters

without wasting any.



Remember, once you feel thirsty you are already dehydrated - try to prevent that and you are already halfway to preventing heatstroke. Make sure your animal companions always have fresh cool water. When doing outdoor chores and summertime recreation take time to sit

immediately. Long-term medical effects can be life threatening so should not be minimized by short-term symptoms. Heatstroke is serious for any age humans, canines and equines. My dog goes to the shower and gets in (*pictured here*) if she is too hot, knowing I will run the cold water on her. I also save the shower water in the tub and she lies down on the cold porcelain to cool her underside. We have a game with the garden hose and she loves to get wet with water outside too, using a spray for the few plants we have

down in shade or a cool building, rest and rehydrate before going on. You will likely need to drink twice as much water during summertime activities than you normally would.

I honestly think my heatstroke was caused by rushing to an appointment and not taking the time to stay hydrated.

Rescue volunteers will thank you in advance for not needing their help by following these simple preventative measures.

(Source: Mayo Clinic Website) *By A.M. Wilks*

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Shift To Green Energy... Obstructed

By Jonathan Thompson June 9, 2022 HCN

A whole host of factors has thrown the transition away from fossil fuels to more sustainable forms of energy off track.

The delayed retirement of a New Mexico coal plant illustrates the West-wide challenges facing more sustainable energy economies. On summer nights, I have long made pilgrimages to a high place in southwestern Colorado we call The Point, simply to sit and take in the view. I had plans to make the trip again this July to celebrate a recently expanded vista. I would drive my trusty 1989 Nissan Sentra along undulating country roads, past hay bales casting long shadows over the fragrant green stubble, past houses and double-wides dwarfed by the big late-model pickup trucks parked next to them. Finally, beyond the last dryland bean field, I'd gingerly make my way beyond the old drill pad to a clearing on the rimrock next to a stand of piñon and juniper. The smog-orange end-of-day light would reflect warmly off the faded aluminum of the Budweiser, Coors and Keystone Light cans discarded by long-ago partiers from

nearby Cortez, and illuminate the desiccated condom hanging from a tree branch, like the molted skin of a latex lizard.

The Point is not exactly wilderness, but the high promontory affords an unrivaled view of the Four Corners region, all unfurled below it: The twin humps of the Bears Ears, the jutting shapes of Monument Valley, the sharp edge of Cedar Mesa. And maybe, on a clear day, I could see Navajo Mountain. One day, maybe.

Clear days, however, are rare in these parts. For five decades, a fleet of coal-burning power plants has relentlessly spewed smog-forming, planet-warming and health-harming pollutants into the Colorado Plateau's air, obscuring the landforms. One of those energy behemoths, the San Juan Generating Station in northwestern New Mexico, was supposed to go dark on June 30th, the lost energy generation replaced by a quartet of solar installations, marking a big leap toward a more sustainable energy future. Thus, my desire — and hope — that I could soon bid adieu to at least a portion of the smog.

But now the Public Service Company of New Mexico, the state's largest utility and the facility's operator, says that one of the two

remaining units on the plant will have to continue operating through the summer to keep the lights on. All of which means I've had to postpone my party. Which is a bummer. But far more worrisome are similar delays regarding the energy transition — not just in the Four Corners region, but across the West.

5.6 million Metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted by the San Juan Generating Station each (Continued on page12 .)

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year.

(Source: Environmental Protection Agency)

1,355 Tons of sulfur dioxide emitted by the San Juan Generating Station in 2020, less than one-fourth of what it emitted in 2013, prior to upgrading pollution controls and shutting down two of four units.

(Source: New Mexico Environment Department)

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) announced its plans to ditch coal by shutting down the San Juan plant and divesting from other plants in 2017. Two years later, New Mexico passed the Energy Transition Act, which codified coal's exit, provided a financial safety net for affected communities and gave regulators the power to require PNM to replace the lost coal power with renewables. PNM contracted with developers to build four solar plants with battery backup around northern New Mexico, all of which were slated to be online this summer.

PNM is just one of a raft of utilities making similar plans. The Salt River Project, which serves the Phoenix metro area, shut down the

hulking Navajo Generating Station in 2019.

Other major coal plants, from Utah to Nevada and Montana to Colorado, have closed, are on the chopping block or are slated for conversion to cleaner-burning fuels. The transition away from coal has been underway since 2008, and it really gained momentum during the first year of the pandemic, when power consumption dropped, coal-burning plummeted, and a slew of new solar and wind proposals were put on the table.

In early 2021, the energy transition was barreling along, and I was planning my clean-air party. But last summer arrived hot and dry, and a handful of factors collided in such a way that it derailed the transition — at least for a while.

They include: Climate Change: Yep, the biggest disruptor of the energy transition is the very thing the transition is supposed to avert. The ongoing drought that spans the West has significantly diminished hydropower supplies for two years running. Hoover Dam's hydroelectric turbines are a mere shadow of their former selves, Glen Canyon Dam could lose all of its hydropower abilities in the next year or so, and California's

hydropower plants are nearly running on empty. And then there's the heat: Air conditioners are power-guzzlers, and during extreme heat events, the demand on the grid shoots up. And when decreased supply crashes into increased demand - well, it's never great.

The supply chain: And now you may be asking, What about all those solar and wind projects in the pipeline? Well, they're still in there, but the pipeline is clogged. Supply chain constraints and inflation have made it tough for developers to get the parts they need, and even when they were available, they were prohibitively expensive, as anyone who tried to build or remodel their home in the last year probably discovered. That caused construction delays and, some, outright cancellations.

Geopolitics: In February, Auxin Solar, a tiny California solar panel manufacturer, accused China of dodging U.S. solar tariffs by funneling its goods through other countries, such as Malaysia, Cambodia and Vietnam. The Biden administration launched an investigation. If it finds the allegations are true, it could retroactively slap tariffs on already-



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imported equipment, crippling the solar industry. To avoid such a fate, many developers have halted purchases of the equipment in question while the investigation proceeds, causing further delays and putting the kibosh on some projects.

Cali-politics: In California, residential installations had already slowed down due to a state proposal to slash compensation rates for solar that is sold back to the grid, and perhaps even slap an additional tax on rooftop solar. That proposal is still pending. Put all of this together, and you've got a recipe for making dirty air that will linger longer than expected. To fill the electricity void left by diminishing hydropower supplies and rising heat-related demand, utilities have little choice but to turn to power generated by burning natural gas — a fossil fuel that emits greenhouse gases when extracted, processed, transported and burned. That extra demand for natural gas, in turn, causes the price to increase, which then makes coal more cost-competitive and therefore desirable to power-strapped, profit-hungry utilities. In 2021, after a decade of decline, coal consumption shot back up to 2019 levels. Arch, the huge energy corporation that owns mines in the Powder River Basin and

western Colorado, says **Highlander Issues** it expects to sell even more of the stuff in 2022.

Meanwhile, in New Mexico, none of the solar projects intended to replace the closed San Juan plant are yet online, thanks to interminable construction delays. PNM was thus faced with the prospect of having far less power on its grid than its customers needed and inevitably undergoing power outages. Although PNM says it tried to find other power on the open market, it wasn't able to, in part because other utilities across the region are in the same pickle. So, it now plans on shutting just one of two units on the plant on June 30th and running the other until the end of September, which should be the end of the hot season. If the hot season ever ends, that is, which it won't if we keep burning coal.

33% Amount of hydropower capacity Hoover Dam has lost due to falling levels in Lake Mead.

(Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

18% Amount the price of utility-scale solar photovoltaic equipment increased between 2020 and the end of 2021.

(Source: Solar Energy Industries Association)

(Continued on next page.)

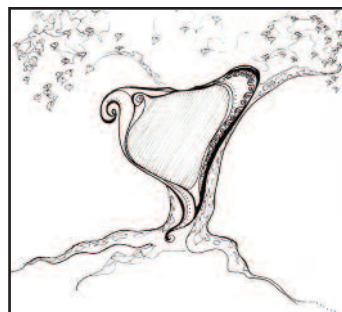


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90% of utility-scale solar panels that are imported from Asia.

What happens after that is still unknown. One company hopes to keep the plant running (and polluting and indefinitely delaying my smog-free jamboree) until it can scrape up the cash (\$1.4 billion, at least) to install carbon capture equipment.

But Mike Eisenfeld, energy and climate director for the San Juan Citizens Alliance, says that's nothing but a pricey pipedream that grows less and less plausible as the company misses critical benchmarks and the plant's closing date grows nearer. When I told him I was getting anxious about the energy transition and the solar delays, he told me not to worry:

The setbacks are temporary, and the solar developers would get around the obstacles and

break ground within a few months. "These solar projects are a solution," he said. "They'll usher in a new era in the Four Corners." And maybe I'll be able to hold my clean air party, at last.

BREAKING: Just as we were about to go to "press," we got news that the Biden administration has declared a 24-month tariff exemption for the four Southeast Asian countries being investigated. That should thaw the solar equipment import freeze and allow the projects it had delayed to resume. Biden also invoked the Defense Production Act to spur domestic solar panel manufacturing, which seems a tad more productive than the previous administrations' protectionist approach, according to reporting by Canary Media.



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Noise Impacts Of Deep Sea Mining

By Karen McVeigh July 12, 2022 HCN

A new report shows that noise from just one mine could travel more than 300 miles across the ocean.

This story was originally published by the Guardian and is reproduced here as part of the Climate Desk collaboration.

Noise pollution from proposed deep-sea mining could radiate through the ocean for hundreds of kilometers, scientists predict, creating a “cylinder of sound” from the surface to the sea bed. An analysis by scientists from Oceans Initiative in the U.S., the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in Japan, Curtin University in Australia and the University of Hawaii, published in the journal Science, has found that noise from one mine alone could travel 500 km (more than 300 miles) in gentle weather conditions.

Seventeen contractors with exploration licenses are looking at the possibility of mining the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ), an area spanning 4.5 million sq km between Mexico and Hawai’i, which has abundant mineral-rich lumps known as polymetallic nodules.

Scientists estimated the noise impact if each of these mining companies launched one mine in the CCZ. They found that noise levels in a radius of 4-6 km from each mine could exceed thresholds set by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, above which there are risks of behavioural impacts on marine mammals. Marine mammal species, known to be sensitive to noise, are found throughout the CCZ, including endangered migratory baleen whales and deep-diving toothed whales. Many deep-sea species — about which very little is known — are believed to use sound and vibrations to navigate, communicate and detect predators in the absence of sunlight. Underwater noise is likely to “disrupt ecosystems,” said the authors of the paper, which was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

“The deep sea houses potentially millions of species that have yet to be identified, and

processes there allow life on Earth to exist,” said Travis Washburn, a deep-sea ecologist at AIST. While much work remained to be done on the impact of noise, he said, there was still an opportunity to understand and mitigate them before they occurred.

The impact of noise (Continued on next page.)

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Highlander Wildlife

pollution from deep-sea mining is “understudied and overlooked,” according to the report, whose findings have implications for mining regulations, drawn up by the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

The Pacific island of Nauru has said it plans to start deep sea mining and invoked a UN rule two years ago that could force the ISA to complete the regulations enabling deep-sea mining by next July. The Science study follows widespread concerns from governments, corporations and environmental organizations that the science and governance of deep-sea mining remains inadequate for prospecting to go ahead.



A family of humpback whales in the National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Maui, Hawai'i. Cetaceans are highly sensitive to noise. NOAA

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Moving ahead without rigorous and transparent standards in place “would represent the start of a large-scale, uncontrolled experiment,” said the report. The authors urged the ISA to use the “precautionary principle” and, in the event of exploitation of the deep ocean, ensure only one or two mines are operating at a time until the impact of noise pollution is fully understood. Their analysis used noise levels produced by existing industrial processes, such as dredging, oil and gas exploration, as proxies for deep-sea mining. The findings suggest that if all 17 contractors were to operate one mine each, it would cause elevated noise levels over an area spanning 5.5m sq km – far larger than the European Union.

Craig Smith, co-author and professor emeritus of oceanography at the University of Hawaii, said: “If our modelling is correct, it could require rethinking of environmental regulations, including the number of mining operations allowed within the Clarion-Clipperton Zone.”

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Companies are currently required to study the areas where mining is proposed and compare them with control areas within their sites where no mining will take place. These are known as “preservation reference areas.” Each contractor has up to 75,000 sq km. “Our models suggest that nowhere in ... the whole 75,000 km sq is free from noise impact,” said Smith. “It might require changing the regulations, so that the control areas are further away. “We have not been able to do the studies, but if mining operations went on simultaneously, it might have a big impact on a whole bunch of organisms.”

The authors, who were unable to find peer-reviewed data on the noise levels of the few deep-sea machines that have been tested, also called for transparency. “We urge contractors to release in a timely manner information on sound-source characteristics of all seabed-mining components,” they wrote in the report. Their findings are likely to underestimate noise levels, the scientists suggest, because the machines they modelled operate in shallower water. They were also likely to have missed acoustic energy generated by heavier deep-sea machines, as well as support vessels’ pumps and other sound sources.

The ISA is tasked with protecting the marine environment from “serious harm” from sea-bed mining. While it has recommendations for assessing noise impacts, it has yet to define what constitutes serious harm, including unacceptable noise levels, according to the report. In a statement, the ISA said: “The effective protection of the marine environment is guaranteed through requirements for environmental baseline studies and environmental impact assessments and monitoring, as set out in exploration and future exploitation regulations.” Test mining and testing of mining components require an environmental impact assessment, of which noise measurement is included, it said, adding that testing will provide a “better understanding of the potential impact of noise” on the deep sea bed and deep sea biodiversity.

Karen McVeigh is a senior news reporter for the Guardian. Before that, she freelanced for the Times following a five-year stint as The Scotsman’s London correspondent.

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Can Colorado Solve Its Ozone Problem?

By Jim Robbins, KHN July 7, 2022

A year after health officials issued a record number of alerts for high ozone levels on Colorado’s Front Range, federal and state officials are trying to rein in the gas that can make outdoor activities a health risk. But new Colorado laws aimed at improving air quality along that urban corridor east of the Rocky Mountains aren’t expected to do much to directly reduce ozone, according to experts charged with bringing down the levels. “These are not the magic bullets that will bring us into compliance, but they will be helpful in reducing emissions,” said Michael Silverstein, executive director of the Regional Air Quality Council, the lead air-quality planning organization for nine counties of the Front Range.

In the most recent legislative session, Colorado lawmakers passed three bills aimed at improving air quality: One replaces highly polluting diesel buses with electric buses, another provides funding so residents can access public transportation free of charge for a month during the high-ozone season, and the third creates a system to alert the public to toxic emissions released from industrial sources.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s proposal to reclassify nine counties of the Front Range, including Denver, from “serious” violators of federal ozone standards to “severe” violators would bring more significant change, Silverstein said. (The EPA’s “nonattainment” classifications begin with “serious” and then move to “severe” and “extreme.”) But other health experts say neither the federal nor the state actions will be enough to truly safeguard public health.

“At some point, you are just putting Band-Aids on, and this feels like that,” said James Crooks, an air pollution researcher at National Jewish Health, a Denver hospital that specializes in respiratory disorders. “Better to have the Band-Aids than not, but it’s not going to solve the problem.”

Ozone is created when chemicals emitted into the atmosphere via vehicle exhaust, oil and gas development, and wildfires are baked by the sun. Ozone pollution that exceeds federal limits is a stubborn problem in Mountain West valleys, especially in Phoenix; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Salt Lake City; and Denver. The Front Range has one of the worst ozone problems in the country. Last year, health officials in the counties east of the Rocky Mountains issued “ozone action day alerts” on 65 days from May 31 to Aug. 31, peak season for ozone. That’s the highest number re:record-keeping began in 2011.

The EPA determined that over the three-year period from 2018 to 2020, average ozone levels over eight hours on the Front Range were 81 parts per billion. The (Continued on next page.)

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Highlander Issues federal limit set in 2008 was 75 ppb, but the current one, set in 2015, is 70 ppb. Under the proposal to change a nine-county area of the Front Range from a “serious” to a “severe” violator, the region would have to meet that standard by 2026. A final decision on the proposal is expected from the EPA this fall. “Ground-level ozone remains one of the most challenging public health concerns we face, affecting large numbers of Coloradans and their families,” EPA Regional Administrator KC Becker said in an April news release announcing the proposed change.

Crooks said that 70 ppb is a difficult goal to achieve and that it isn’t low enough to protect public health. Indeed, no level of ozone is safe, he said. “We might be able to muddle through and get to 75,” said Crooks. “But 70 is going to be really hard to do without decarbonization,” which means replacing gas and diesel vehicles with electric vehicles.



A hazy day at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Preserve in Denver. Simon Foot / CC via Flickr

One challenge of reducing ozone is trying to control the emission of ozone precursors from myriad sources. Thousands of oil and gas wells are along the Front Range, some in suburban neighborhoods, and their emissions, along with vehicle emissions, are the primary sources of ozone. Complicating the matter is that 1/2 to 2/3rd of the ozone that plagues the Front Range comes from outside the state, some from as far away as Asia. The background levels of ozone - naturally or human-created ozone that originates from outside the region - can be as high as 60 ppb. Another problem is the wildfire smoke that blankets the state each summer. And rising temperatures, a result of climate change, are causing more ozone to be produced. Ground-level ozone is the same chemical as the ozone that is high in the atmosphere, but up there, it provides a crucial shield that protects the Earth from harmful ultraviolet rays.

On the ground, the odorless gas can cause shortness of breath and stinging in the eyes and can trigger asthma attacks. It predisposes people to pulmonary inflammation and coronary damage. Globally, more than 1 million premature deaths were caused by high ozone levels in 2010, a study found. Ozone and other pollutants may also increase the risk of hospitalization and death for people infected with COVID-19, according to a recent study. Air pollution hits children, older adults and people who work outside the hardest.

Jim Robbins is a veteran journalist based in Helena, Montana.



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Stream Case: Use Of State-Owned Resource

By Ben Goldfarb HCN June 2022 +Image credit

The first rock hurtled past Roger Hill’s head and plunked into the Arkansas River on a summer day in 2012. Hill, then 71, stood hip-deep in the flow, clad in waders and clutching his fly rod. Atop a steep bluff, a woman - whose name, Hill later learned, was Linda Joseph - glowered down at him. Hill was trespassing on private property, Joseph shouted, and flung another rock. “If she’d hit me with a baseball-sized rock from 50 feet up, honest to God, it would have killed me,” Hill recalled.

Hill retreated, but the dispute was only beginning. The next time he waded to his favorite spot, some 20 miles upstream of Cañon City, Colorado, Joseph’s husband, Mark Warsewa, left a note on Hill’s car that threatened him with arrest. Hill stayed away, but in 2015, two of his buddies returned to fish. Warsewa emerged from his riverfront home with a handgun and fired a shot in their direction. The bullet struck the surface a mere 15 feet from the anglers.

Although Warsewa got 30 days in jail for his stunt, the issue that sparked the conflict remains unresolved: Who owns the beds of Colorado’s rivers?

From a river-access standpoint, Colorado is among the West’s oddest states. Federal law dictates that the beds of “navigable” rivers — waterways once used as highways for commerce - belong to the states, which, in turn, generally allow boaters and anglers to use them. Idaho, for instance, grants public access for “all recreational purposes,” including angling on foot, on any river capable of either carrying cut timber or “being navigated by oar or motor.” Washington permits fishermen and other members of the public to wade streams deep enough to float “a bolt of shingles.”

By contrast, Colorado has historically denied that it even has navigable rivers. In 1912, the state’s Supreme Court opined that the state’s waterways - steep, rushing, canyon-bound — were “nonnavigable within its territorial limits.” By that logic, the beds of even major

rivers belonged not to the state, but to the owners of adjacent private properties, who often didn’t look kindly on the intrusions of the hoi polloi. When, in 1976, a group of rafters drifted past a ranch that abutted a shallow stretch of the Colorado River east of Kremmling, they were convicted of trespassing for having the audacity to occasionally bump the bottom. In the aftermath, many of the state’s landowners and recreators struck a delicate, informal agreement: You could float through private land, but you couldn’t touch bed or bank.

Hill, however, prefers to do his fishing on foot. In 2018, he sued Joseph and Warsewa for access to the Arkansas where it flowed past their property; later, he added the state of Colorado to his suit. Contrary to conventional wisdom, Hill believes, the Arkansas River was historically navigable, and its bed (Continued on next page.)

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Highlander Issues thus belongs to the public. And while his case applies only to the river that locals affectionately know as the Ark, it could ultimately affect waterways throughout Colorado, where the public has never craved outdoor opportunities more. “We don’t have enough quality recreational opportunities to satisfy demand today,” Hill told me. “There are waters I’ve wanted to fish for 50 years, and I’ve been denied the use of a state-owned resource.”

One April morning I met Hill at a public easement on the Arkansas River near the town of Buena Vista, 60 miles upstream from where he’d been pelted with rocks. Hill’s face was sun-chapped, his silver hair tousled by the spring gusts that bedevil Colorado’s anglers. He wore wading boots from the gear company Patagonia,

which had caught wind of his case and sent some supportive swag. Hill hoped the new footwear would keep him upright in the Ark’s stiff flow. “When you read my obituary, the first line is going to be, ‘A man his age should have had better sense than to wade the river where he did,’” he said. Hill fished with an admirable economy of motion, a precision to which my flailing limbs could only aspire. He cast crisply into seams and riffles, chewing gum and stripping line in metronomic rhythm. Although few fish were rising, he tied on a dry fly of his own making - the design of which, he informed me, was strictly off the record - and coaxed a bite from a lovely brown trout freckled in vivid red and black. “There’s one looking up, at least,” he said as I netted his fish.

Hill was adamant that he had a right to the river. His rationale was rooted in the “equal-footing doctrine,” a legal principle that, in theory, granted Colorado ownership of any river that was navigable at statehood in 1876. But was the Arkansas truly navigable? Hill scoured newspaper archives and found dozens of references to industries employing the river as a commercial highway. In 1813, a beaver trapper named Ezekiel Williams canoed down the Ark with bales of pelts, and in the 1870s,

railroad companies floated thousands of wooden ties from the river’s headwaters to the town of Pueblo. “If building a railroad ain’t commerce, I don’t know what’s commerce,” Hill said. Hill has not yet had the opportunity to present his evidence, though. After he filed suit in 2018, his case bounced between jurisdictions as the defendants, including the state, contested his standing. In January 2022, Colorado’s Court of Appeals finally ruled that Hill had standing to take the case to trial. The



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ramifications could be immense: If a court eventually decides that conveying railroad ties and pelts makes the Arkansas navigable, then other rivers in the state — the Yampa, the Roaring Fork, the Dolores and the Colorado, to name a few - may also qualify. “There’s a lot of places where people could apply this legal precedent and consider similar challenges,” said John Gale, conservation director for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.



Roger Hill fishes at a public easement on the Arkansas River near Buena Vista, 60 miles upstream from where he'd been pelted with rocks.

Most displeased, perhaps, are riverfront property owners. Among the entities who filed briefs opposing Hill is the Colorado arm of Jackson-Shaw, a Dallas-based development company that purchased nearly two miles of land along the Taylor River near Gunnison in 2007 to create a “private fly-fishing property sanctuary.” Jackson-Shaw is no stranger to access disputes: Even rafting through the development, the company’s chairman has written in the past, is akin “to someone walking across your front lawn on a short cut to the grocery store.” In its brief on Hill’s case, the developer noted that it made “substantial financial investments” in enhancing fish habitat on its Taylor property; modifying privately owned riverbeds and controlling who gets to fish them, the company added, represents the “lifeblood” of dude ranches and private angling clubs. A victory for Hill, it wrote, would cast a “dark cloud” over riverbed owners around the state. *(Jackson-Shaw and its Taylor River development didn't reply to my requests for comment.)* “If we were to win, it would upset the claimed rights that some of these landowners have to keep the public riff-raff off what I consider to be public streams,” said Mark Squillace, Hill’s pro-bono attorney, who is a professor of natural-resources law at the University of Colorado Boulder.

“It’s not the wading itself **Highlander Issues** that’s the key here,”

Scanga told me. “It’s the basis upon which you get the right to do that. It raises a whole bunch of potential legal issues in the future - big ones.” This preponderance of cases testifies, I think, both to the murkiness of river law, and to the hoary philosophical differences about the nature of rivers themselves — who they’re for, what they even are. Are riverbeds

a category of land like any other, subject to privatization and *(Continued on next page.)*



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Highlander Issues enclosure? Or are they fundamentally unlike land: shared spaces for spiritual renewal and joy, rendered so precious in the West by their scarcity that it would be unjust to deny the public their pleasures? It's no coincidence, perhaps, that the current slew of stream-access cases arrives at a fraught moment in recreational history, one in which we've sought the solace of rivers more desperately than ever. The public's appetite for fishing — an activity that is, after all, inherently outdoors and socially distant - spiked during COVID-19; so many anglers hit Western waters that one writer dubbed the situation "Rivergeddon." Hill recently visited a prime spot on the South Platte River, only to find cars parked bumper-to-bumper along its bank. "The good waters are just mobbed," Hill told me this April as we paused to change flies on the Arkansas' banks.

Whether Hill will have the chance to finally try his case remains unclear: That very day, the state

had petitioned the Colorado Supreme Court to deny him standing, arguing that the appeals court had "reward(ed) trespassing" by finding in his favor. The Supreme Court is currently considering the petition and is expected to rule soon; if it upholds the lower court's decision, Hill could bring his case to trial as early as this fall. "I'm determined I'm going to win, but God knows how long it's going to take," Hill said. He squinted at the minuscule mayfly pattern in his hand and jabbed his line at its eye. His vision wasn't as keen as it used to be, he admitted, nor his fingers as steady. I offered assistance, but Hill waved me off and bent back to his fly. "I won't let the son of a bitch beat me," he said.

Ben Goldfarb is a High Country News correspondent and the author of

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

Editor's Note: Good luck to Hill, from an old Arkansas river rafter for many golden years.

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Climate Change & The Economy

Dear EarthTalk: Is climate change actually good for the economy, given all the clean-up/restoration jobs severe weather is creating and the employment surges in green energy?

– P.B., New Haven, CT

While climate change might benefit the economy overall, we would rather not have to deal with it at all. Strangely enough, climate change does produce jobs and boost the economy as we struggle to make ourselves more resilient to its ravages. Some would argue that the renewable energy sector owes much of its success to the climate crisis. According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, renewable energy use has increased by 90% since 2000, around when the climate crisis became mainstream. Now the industry is worth billions of dollars and provides hundreds of thousands of jobs. According to a report by Advanced Energy Now, U.S. clean energy investment increased by 20% from 2018 to 2019, reaching a competitive value of \$78.3 billion. Meanwhile, a 2020 report by the National Association of State Energy Officials found that wind and solar energy were responsible for some 544,000 jobs in 2019, whereas the fossil fuel industry was only responsible for 214,000 jobs. Legislation produced in response to climate change can also boost the economy and provide jobs. In a blog post released by the White House, the federal government outlines the importance of investing in infrastructure associated with transportation and power not only as a means of combating climate change but also to strengthen the economy. Their infrastructure brief released in November 2021 refers to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, legislation that focuses \$1.2 trillion towards infrastructure that improves everything from power grids to public transportation.

There are also those who clean up and restore locations destroyed by natural disasters like hurricanes, which according to the Environmental Defense Fund have increased in frequency by three times since 1900 because of

the climate crisis. However, despite all the economic positives associated with the climate change response, the environmental and public health “risks” still far outweigh the potential economic “benefits.”

Editor’s Note: The deniers to climate change are responsible too. Risks are now severe damage.



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MidTown Chimney pg 24 303.670.7785

CIGARS

Foss Company pg 3 303.963.5693

CLOTHING

The Rustic Moose - pg 8 303.258.3225

The Silver Horse - pg 8 303.279.6313

COMPUTER SERVICE & REPAIR

Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 28 303.642.0433

DRIVEWAYS/ GRADING SERVICES

Benchmark Land Care pg 18 303.485.1001

B & H Asphalt Paving ins cover 303.810.0531

Rock Creek Civil, LLC pg 23 720.583.4555

ELECTRIC

United Power - Inside back Cover 303.642.7921

FARRIER

Forbes Farrier Service pg 26 303.642.7437

FIREWOOD & FOREST MANAGEMENT

High Timber Mtn Tree Serv. pg 5 303.258.7942

Lumber Jacks - pg 20 720.212.1875

Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 10 303.653.7967

Rock Creek Civil, LLC pg 29 720.583.4555

GIFTS

The Silver Horse - pg 8 303.279.6313

The Rustic Moose - pg 8 303.258.3225

GROCERIES

B & F Moutain Market pg 6 303.258.3105

Golden Farmer's Markets pg 29 June 4th to Oct 8th

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Benchmark Land Care pg 18 303.485.1001

B & H Asphalt Paving ins cover 303.810.0531

Caribou Painting pg 13 303-641-7964

EDISON Builders pg 19 512.775.5800

Golden Gate Electric, LLC pg 16 303.520.0966

Grate Contracting pg 11 303.579.9519

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 10 303.653.7967

Redpoint Construction pg 7 303.642.3691

Rock Creek Civil, LLC pg 23 720.583.4555

HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 12 303.570.2013

INSURANCE

Jim Plane-State Farm- pg 27 720.890.5916

LIQUOR

Foss Company pg 3 303.963.5693

Mid-County Liquors pg 18 303.642.7686

Underground Liquor pg 13 303.582.6034

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano & Harp in CCC pg 13 303.642.8423

REAL ESTATE

Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 9 303.642.7951

Mock Group-Kathy Keating -Back cover 303.642.1133

RESTAURANT

Wondervu Cafe pg 14 303.642.7197

RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 25 303.258.3132

B & F Moutain Market pg 6 303.258.3105

The Silver Horse - pg 8 303.279.6313

The Rustic Moose - pg 8 303.258.3225

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Universal Lending Corp. pg 12 303.791.4786

ROOFING

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Structures America ins cover 970.420.7100

TAXES

Karen Schwimmer, CPA pg 19 303.642.0628

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 21 303.421.8766

New Fire Prevention Procedures

Red Flag Warning Procedures in Effect this Summer

To address the growing fire risk in Colorado, United Power has put in place new operating procedures. One of the latest precautions the cooperative has implemented is a Red Flag fire prevention procedure. The National Weather Service issues a Red Flag Warning when warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds are expected. When combined, these conditions produce an increased risk of fire danger. This alert is issued as a weather advisory and is often mentioned during the weather segment on local news.

When a Red Flag Warning impacts United Power's service area, the cooperative will adjust system settings and operating procedures to immediately stop the flow of power if any interference is detected. What this means is if a tree or foreign object contacts a power line, a substation device will open automatically and remain de-energized until a United Power crew has patrolled the power line. If no cause is found and no hazard has been reported, system operators will close the device and restore power. Crews will then patrol the line a second time. Inspecting energized lines may identify an issue and prevent another outage.

These extra safety measures rely on our crews to complete labor-intensive inspections rather than remotely connecting to automated field devices, which may increase the duration of outages. United Power is committed to providing safe, reliable electric service to members, and recognizes extended outages are inconvenient. If an outage occurs during a Red Flag Warning, crews will work quickly and safely to restore power.



United Power reminds members to report any power issues and outages. In many cases, member information can help our crews narrow their focus and identify the cause of an outage.

Members who experience an outage or observe anything that seems out of the ordinary concerning power lines or electrical equipment should do the following:

- Stay clear of downed trees, downed power lines, or damaged equipment.
- Report outages by calling 303-637-1350 or online at www.unitedpower.com/outage.
- For additional information, monitor our live outage map at www.unitedpower.com/outage.

More information about United Power's fire mitigation plan and vegetation management efforts are available on the cooperative's website at www.unitedpower.com/fire-mitigation.

Paperless Billing

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.



Make Sure Your Contact Info is Up-to-Date

United Power uses recorded phone messages to deliver important notifications, such as preplanned outages or scheduled maintenance. If your contact information isn't up-to-date, you could miss these notifications.

You can check and update existing information by logging into your SmartHub account at www.unitedpower.com or by calling the Member Services Team at 303-637-1300.

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 6th, 12pm - 4pm

CCCIA HALL 31258 Coal Creek Canyon



Price Adjustment

44 Linn Lane

Magical Timber Frame Home- 2 Car Gar
3 BD/ 4 BA 2,243 sq.ft. **\$899,900**



33492 Coal Creek Canyon Drive

Wondervu Cafe - Canyon's Favorite
Mexican Restaurant



NEW LISTING

283 Chute Road

Ranch Style, Barn/Corral & Views -13.12 Acs.
3 BD/ 3 BA 4,148 sq.ft. **\$1,395,000**



NEW LISTING

201 Skyline

Nestled Among the Aspens - 1.15 Acres
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,110 sq.ft. **\$659,900**



NEW LISTING

30052 Seaver Drive

Great End of Road Location - 3.75 Acres
3 BD/ 2 BA 3,298 sq.ft. **\$849,000**



SOLD!

7971 Towhee Road - Parker

The Timbers at the Pinery - 4 Car Gar
5 BD/ 5 BA .51 Ac 4,984 sq.ft. **\$1,532,000**



NEW LISTING

302 Foxtail Drive

View of Mount Evans - 1.01 Acres
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,976 sq.ft. **\$549,900**



NEW LISTING

33950 Skyline Drive

Gorgeous Mtn Home w/Outstanding Views
4 BD/ 3 BA 2,556 sq.ft. 2.54 Acs **\$899,900**



NEW LISTING

17268 Hwy 119

Roy's Last Shot - Black Hawk's Favorite
Saloon & Restaurant **\$3,500,000**



NEW LISTING

101 Chute Road

Nicely Treed, Privacy, Meadow, Rock
Outcroppings 16.21 Acres **\$405,950**

Vacant Land

Call for a Market Valuation GREAT TIME TO SELL!

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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