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About the Cover:

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Painting For The Love Of The West

The cover artwork is an original, one of a kind Pirnie (courtesy of owner Kelsey Kempfert) manipulated into a duotone. You can see it in color at the Highlander website www.HighlanderMo.com.

To get your own Pirnie you can go to www.larrypirniestudio.com and purchase or commission a Pirnie.

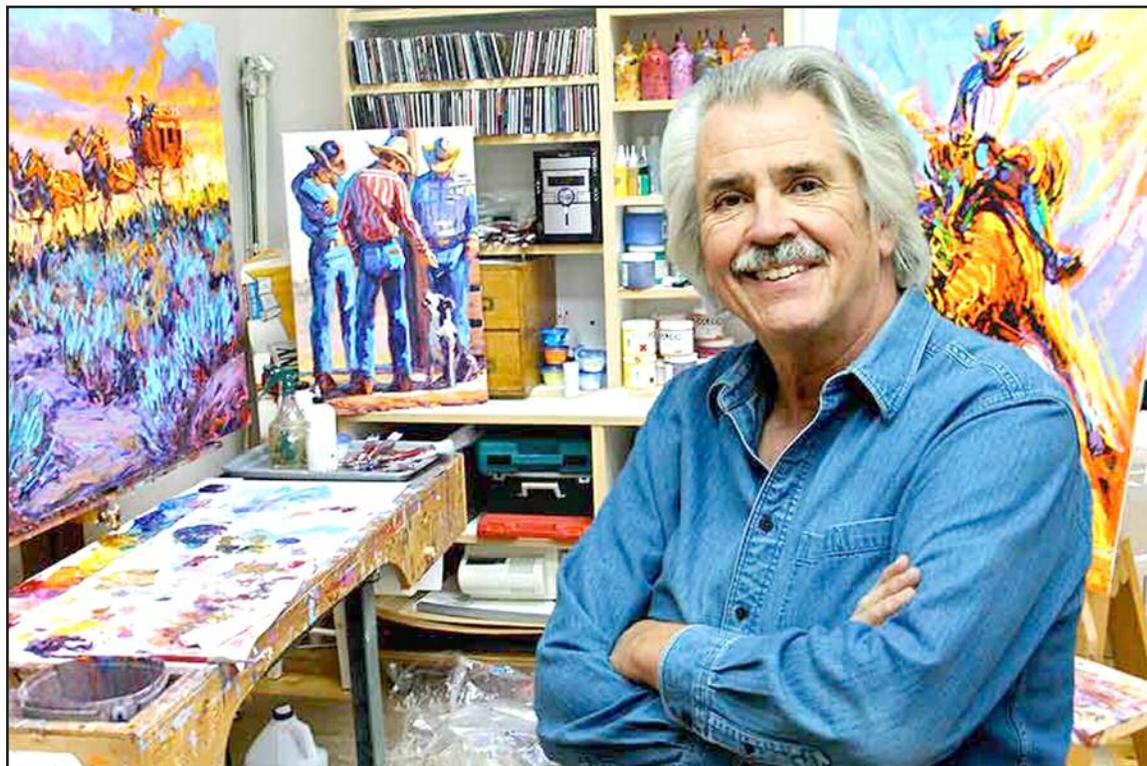
Larry Pirnie received a BFA degree from Pratt Institute of New York in 1963. Then in 1978 he moved to Montana to continue his artistic relationship with the West. People who love his work are attracted to the color orchestration in his paintings (you'll see better at the Highlander website - the cover in color).

Larry says, "Expressing my joy for the west is the energy behind the colors I use.

My work now is expressing my present relationship with

living in the West. No matter how much I explore different techniques and mediums, the subject of my pictures are always a mixture of my present realities and past fantasies with the west."

Pictured here is Larry Pirnie in his studio.



(Printed with permission from the Pirnie Art Showroom in Missoula, Montana.)



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A 'BIT' About Colic In Equines

Anyone who has a horse or has had a horse knows colic is a major concern in keeping your horse healthy and happy. This article endeavors to shed some light on this issue:

Dear Dr. Hassel,

Can you enlighten horse owners about what is currently known regarding sudden drastic barometric changes and the onset of colic in the equine?

Dr. Hassel's reply: It seems every one of us who works on horses believes in the weather change phenomenon inducing colic, but there is very little evidence that supports it in the scientific literature. There are a few small studies that support an association between weather changes and colic, but numerous studies that show no association. I am attaching a paper that provides a little background on weather-associated colic and their own findings in horses in Austria. (Reprinted here are areas of greatest interest from "Risk Factors of Colic in horses in Austria" – G.Kaya, I. Sommerfeld-Stur & C. Iben – Dept. of Veterinary Public Health, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Austria.)

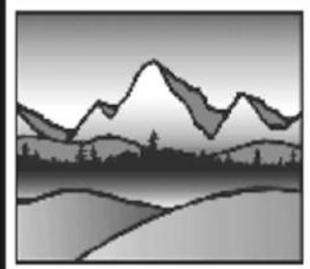
Bottom line is we all think weather influences prevalence of colic (particularly acute cold weather and impactions in

my experience), but there is not much scientific proof. Diana M Hassel, DVM PhD DACVS DACVECC, Associate Professor, Equine Emergency Surgery & Critical Care Department of Clinical Sciences, Colorado State University.

"Introduction: Colic is a common digestive disorder of horses. It is not a disease, but a generic form of abdominal pain (Pillner & Davies, 2004). Colic is an important cause of death in horses (Cohen & Gibbs, 1999). Until now, more than 100 articles have been published concerning colic risk factors. However, most of them concern risk factors specific for colic (Nolen-Walston et al., 2007). A review published in 2006 concluded that colic is complex and multi-factorial in nature. Management factors are alterable and affect the development of colic in horses. Feeding practices were long ago identified as a cause of colic.

Veterinarians frequently associate weather changes with increased frequency of colic, but most of the previous studies have been unable to find statistical proof of this (Nathaniel, 2005). A recent study (Cohen & Gibbs, 1999) found that weather change during a 3-day period prior to examination multiplied the risk of colic by 3.2 Hilyer et al. (2001) found that the seasonal incidence of horses with

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colic showed a trend towards an increased incidence during spring and autumn in the UK, and Traub-Dargatz et al. (2001) reported a higher percentage of colic cases in spring, in relation to summer or autumn in the USA.”

Upon reading the entire eleven page study (*call or email the Highlander for the entire study to be sent to you via emailed pdf form*) I find the most important factors include: worming frequency, water availability, feed quality and weather. It is incumbent upon horse owners to use due diligence and make sure their horses have access to water at all times. Wintertime surely makes this factor a challenge, especially when temperatures cause free water sources to freeze. Utilizing tank heaters and other means of allowing the horse to have easy access to unfrozen water is very important.

Regular and rotating worming agents is also a means of keeping the equine from building up an abnormal amount of worms in the system. Feeding mold-free hay is important as hay with mold spores can inject bacterial factors that limit the equine’s ability to digest feed properly.

Older horses often forget to drink plenty of water in winter, *according to my vet*, so he suggests offering a warm mash with a teaspoon of salt. Breaking up pellet food by soaking it in hot water for a bit before feeding can help the senior/or any equine digest dryer feed without taking away water already in the gut.

Also finding ways to water hay when feeding adds to the water a horse will get when trying to digest dry hay. This is very difficult in winter in Colorado as the hay can freeze and add to a horse’s discomfort when trying to stay warm when temperatures are below freezing. Use sunny days and try to feed little amounts in rubber tubs to simulate grazing and you can empty the ice out between feedings.

A key factor is to **NOT** change your horse’s feed all at once, to allow plenty of time for your horse to adjust – all changes to diet must be done slowly. Soaking any pellet food is not a drastic change as long as you keep the amounts you feed the same. You can also break up the amount you normally feed into two portions for a warm mash twice daily and that will add water to the diet.

Prevention is key, just as in humans – how much time you can spend using preventative methods will help you keep your horse healthy and happy under adverse or rapidly changing weather conditions. Even watching the weather forecast and applying these tips before the weather changes can help the senior/or any equine.

Keen observation of whether your horse eats at every feeding is a symptom to being alert to colic. Immediate intervention if they refuse food can save their lives. Watching your horse closely for any change in behavior is key to catching a possible colic and treating by identifying the need for a vet visit.

By A.M. Wilks

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Planning Today For Future Of Colorado's Rivers

By Abby Burk, Western Rivers Outreach Specialist for Audubon Rockies

Help protect our rivers and the birds, wildlife, & communities that depend on them.

In Colorado, water belongs to all of us. Our rivers are part of Colorado's culture and livelihood - carrying valuable water throughout the state providing for critical environmental, recreational, agricultural, municipal, and industrial needs. Study after study reports the same thing - we face a future with more people and less water to meet our growing demands. Even now, Colorado's rivers are often stretched too thin to meet all of these pressures. In an attempt to address our growing demands on limited water supplies, on December 10th 2014 the Colorado Water Conservation Board presented a first draft of the

inaugural Colorado Water Plan to Governor Hickenlooper. The Colorado Water Plan relies upon Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs). Colorado is divided into nine basins, each with their own BIP -management plans for basin water supply and demand, now and into the future.

A state water plan is a good idea, but we need to plan for the river future we want. Audubon and our partners have been deeply engaged in the water plan development. Some of the BIPs keep the door open for further development of new Colorado River supply. Recent research advises that diverting more than 20 percent of a stream's native flow can cause damage, and many streams in Colorado have far more water than that removed.

What makes a good plan? The plan must provide water security for both humans and the environment equally alike. The plan must support research, funding, and management programs for healthy rivers and riparian habitat -on both sides of the divide. Ninety percent of Colorado's wildlife depends on riparian habitat to survive. Our rivers and the wildlife and recreation they support face further pressures from development, climate change, and lack of knowledge.

National Audubon Society created the Western Rivers Action Network (WRAN) in 2013 to educate and advocate for healthy rivers at the state and federal levels, providing a way for local voices to be heard. Join us for a free webinar series in January as Abby Burk, Western Rivers Outreach Specialist for Audubon Rockies, presents and hosts guest presenters from partner organizations on environmental

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*Photo Caption:
Upper Colorado River,
Northern Rough-winged &
Cliff Swallows, by Abby Burk.*

- Jan. 21 - How Climate Change Could Influence River Flows (Tom Easley, Rocky Mountain Climate Organization)**
- Jan. 28 -Common Sense Solutions to Protect the Colorado River Basin (Drew Beckwith, Western Resource Advocates)**

and recreational paddling river health.

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January Lunchtime Webinar Series: Wednesdays @ 12-1PM (45 min presentation and 10-15 Q&A)

Join us from the comfort of your home or office **Wednesdays in January noon – 1PM for this new webinar series.** Abby will be hosting and presenting webinars that includes experts from around Colorado - from Audubon Rockies, American Whitewater, Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, and Western Resource Advocates on environmental and recreational river health. Email Abby for more information aburk@audubon.org.

Jan. 7 - Environmental Flows and Riparian Health (Abby Burk, Audubon Rockies)

Jan. 14 - Recreational Whitewater Flows and River Health (Nathan Fey, American Whitewater)



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Buffalo Field Campaign ~ www.buffalofieldcampaign.org

A Montana hunter killed another bull buffalo recently, bringing the total to five. One by one the buffalo migrate across Yellowstone's boundary, and one by one they are killed. Once again, there is not a single wild buffalo in Montana. The current hunt is no more than an extermination program set up to satisfy livestock industry's intolerance for this national icon.



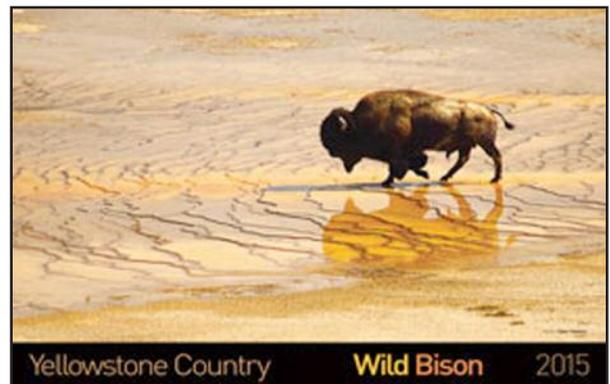
Government agencies plan to kill 900 to 1,000 buffalo this season through hunting and slaughter. BFC and Friends of Animals Wildlife Law Program filed an emergency rule-making petition to stop the slaughter but the government has yet to respond. Mild weather has so far stemmed large migrations, keeping the larger population of buffalo alive for now.

You can take action to support our petition to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list the Yellowstone Bison under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The USFWS has 90 days to issue a finding on whether the compelling ESA petition filed in November by BFC and

Western Watersheds Project leads a "reasonable person" to believe a listing is warranted. A positive finding means the USFWS will open a public comment period to allow citizens to contribute substantive information. The USFWS, however, is notorious for using lack of funding as an excuse to not list species that warrant federal protections. This is where Congress - and you - comes in. Congress can allocate the funding, and we need you to put pressure on them to do so.

Please contact your US Senators and Representative and strongly urge them to fully fund the Endangered Species Act and to designate the necessary financing to review the science for listing wild bison. More information about our ESA petition and about the Act itself is also available at our website.

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BFC's 2015 Wild Bison of Yellowstone Country calendar also makes a perfect gift! As you have come to expect, this 2015 Wild Bison calendar is a joyous celebration of this awesome animal, with breathtaking photos, interesting facts, inspirational quotes and poetry, and beautiful artwork. We are thrilled to bring you more photos from some of the best photographers both familiar and new, including the incredible images you have come to love from Sandy Sisti, Pam Talasco, Ric Kessler and for the first time, largely featuring the fantastic photographs of Tom Mangelsen. Celebrate the Wild Buffalo of Yellowstone Country 365 days a year! ORDER YOUR 2015 Calendar!

Making Wildlife A Problem

Dear Editor,

I'm writing regarding something I read in the Messenger that alarmed me and know that the Highlander is ecological. Wild Aware suggested a homeowner get someone to kill raccoons that were bothering a birdfeeder. After relocating the animals once they came back and so I'm wondering what should be done. It seems to me keeping the bird feeders in until the raccoons move on to another location would be the best fix. Tanya Wallace

Dear Tanya,

You're absolutely correct in that keeping the raccoons from eating bird food is the best solution and ecologically the wild raccoons have a place in nature. The bird food is a human made problem and since those folks must not have chosen birdfeeders that raccoons can't bother, (there are many that attach to glass and can be put up away from most wildlife) keeping the bird food put away is the solution.

I can say it is illegal to live trap and relocate raccoons without notifying the Department of Wildlife, but you didn't say whether that was done. Shooting any wild animal in a subdivision is problematic as you can't be sure your bullets will stay on your property and if they don't that is illegal and dangerous for your neighbors.

This issue is often not solved by relocation as the DOW must approve any location chosen and for raccoons it has to be within two miles of capture. It is my opinion that feeding the birds should not take precedence over protecting local raccoons.

We all need to work hard to prevent wildlife issues that end in any animal getting killed. Allowing bears to eat trash put out in only bags comes to mind. Driving faster than the posted speed limit on canyon roads can make it impossible to stop for deer, fox and other wildlife.

Making a banging noise with a couple of empty tin cans before you take your dog out at bedtime (or these days it is dark at 5pm) and keeping your canines close will help prevent problems. Mountain lions live up here so we must all try to prevent them from becoming a problem.

Making noise at night whenever out and about alerts most wildlife that you are there (and your dogs) so that wildlife can leave the area. It does not have to be loud enough to wake the neighbors, but in the wind loud enough and human enough to alert all wildlife. Editor

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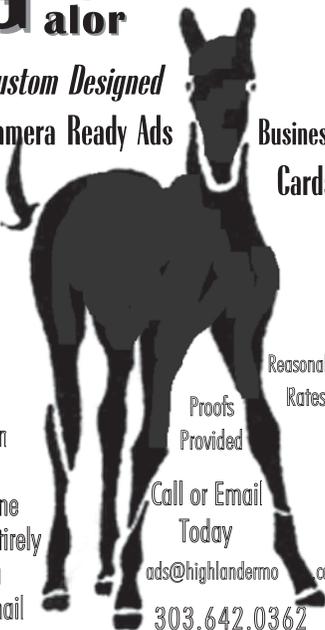
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Keystone XL Pipeline

By Russ Doty

I've usually admired David Brooks, New York Times columnist, and Mark Shields, campaign strategist and analyst, for their smart political opinions on public television. So it was sad recently to see their heads stuck in Alberta's tar sands over the highly controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which will surely be reintroduced in Congress this year. Pipeline supporters see the Senate's recent decision as little more than a speed bump; construction might be on hold for the moment, but they're determined to push it through.

TransCanada's pipeline would transport heavy crude oil 875 miles from underneath boreal forests in Alberta, Canada, through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, connecting with pipe lines to refineries in Oklahoma and Texas. From there, refined oil most likely would be sold to

lucrative markets overseas.

Republicans claim they'll pre-empt several administrative and judicial processes and force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline when they take control of the U.S. Senate this year, but that's not so easily accomplished. A Nebraska court might decide that the pipeline must avoid the Ogallala Aquifer; if so, additional environmental study will be necessary. Also underway are State Department reviews of more than 2.5 million public comments posted in 2014, plus consultations with eight federal agencies about whether the pipeline is in our national interest.

Don't think of the Keystone oil pipeline as inevitable!

Brooks confidently told viewers, "There is a big State Department series of reports - on the effect of the Keystone Pipeline. The economic damage, they found, would be none." Shields added, "This has to be the most thoroughly researched, meticulously studied idea - this pipeline - in the history of humankind."

Well, no, the pundits failed to mention that CardnoENTRIX, a consultant on early State Department reports, and Environmental Resources Management, the major consultant on the revised report, had worked for TransCanada. Both also had other oil industry consulting and trade group relationships. Nonetheless, the State Department's Inspector General found Environmental



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Resource Management's TransCanada relationship was "confidential business information," thus endorsing its redaction from documents disclosed to the public. The Inspector General also concluded that dues-paying membership in the American Petroleum Institute (a staunch lobbyist for KXL) was not a "disqualifying organizational conflict of interest." One has to wonder - at the very least - about current standards used to determine whether conflicts of interest exist.

Neither analyst mentioned what Canada's National Energy Board concluded, namely that 15 states in the American Midwest will experience a 10-to-20-cent per gallon increase in gasoline prices if the pipeline is built. Those U.S. fuel bills would increase because an oversupply of Canadian crude now refined for U.S. domestic use would be diverted to the Keystone pipeline for export. This will give oil producers like the Koch brothers (whose dark-money support is enjoyed by many elected officials), up to \$5 billion a year in additional revenue. That's great for the Kochs and their friends, but it will bog down our national economy, not boost it. Isn't this economic damage?

Brooks had another inaccurate rationale for building KXL: "So if you follow the science, if you follow the research, the case for the pipeline is overwhelming." This claim overlooks science confirming the fact that use of pipeline-carried crude will cause a worldwide 200 parts-per-million increase in carbon dioxide, up from the current 400 parts-per-million, which is already causing extreme weather. The temperature increase resulting from rising carbon dioxide levels will in turn harm agriculture. Scientists note a 10-to-17 percent decline in wheat, corn, soybean and rice yields for every 1 degree Centigrade temperature rise during growing periods. As temperatures rise, our ability to raise food declines; overwhelming any beneficial effect that increased carbon dioxide can have on some plants. That's massive economic harm ignored by the so-called "thorough research."

Recently, six defense organizations warned that climate change could soon threaten U.S. security. The National Intelligence Council reported it will exacerbate global political instability and likely lead to increased terrorism resulting from conflicts over water, food and other resources, cause mass refugee migration resulting from sea level rise and desertification, and make severe weather worse. Our national interest thereby lies in preventing harm from the development of tar sands oil, not in facilitating it.

Exporting 830,000 barrels a day from Alberta's oil sands is not inevitable. By 2013, overall pipeline approval had shrunk in this country to 56 percent, and in Canada to 51 percent. What might sentiment be if commentators reported facts instead of sounding remarkably like oil industry shills?

Russ Doty is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column syndicate of High Country News (hcn.org). He is an energy attorney in Greeley, Colorado.



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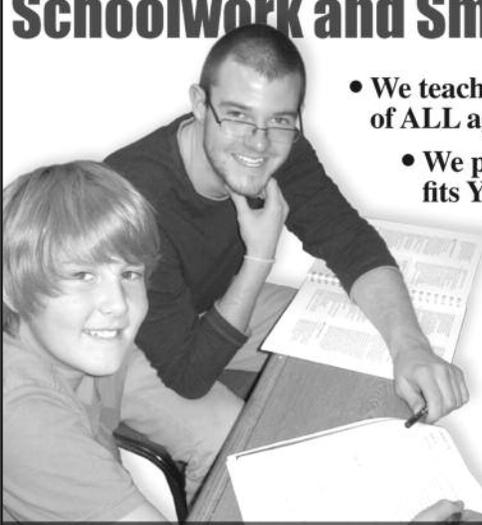


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Young Mule Stringer Keeps Profession Alive

From Krista Langlois

The sun is streaming through breaking storm clouds as Barrett Funka slips a halter over his quarter horse, Ellie, and leads her through a pasture outside Colorado's Raggeds Wilderness. Six mules trail dutifully behind as Funka, a baby-faced 27-year-old in a big cowboy hat, pushes through wet, waist-high grass, ticking off the benefits of his job: There's solitude ("Nothin' like plodding down a trail to make your mind think"), public education ("You work with a lot of people who don't know anything about stock") and the romance of doing a job that most people have forgotten exists.

Mule packer Barrett Funka prepares to load one of his six mules into a stock trailer outside western Colorado's Raggeds Wilderness this summer, after packing 500 pounds of trash from the area. "I'm 27 and single," he says. "I have

no reason not to keep doing this."

Name: Barrett Funka, Home base: "Hotel Horse trailer"
Job title: Animal packer, U.S. Forest Service, Region 2,
Official job qualification: "Ability to tie and fasten a variety of odd-shaped and unusual objects to a horse or mule in a safe manner."

500: Pounds of trash packed out of Colorado's Raggeds Wilderness- over the week of July 4th, 2014 5:5: Ratio of immediate family- members who work or have worked for the Forest Service.

The fire towers, ranger stations and switch-backed trails of the Forest Service were built with stock animals, Funka says — not all that long ago, "mules meant Forest Service." But over the past few decades, the number of stock in the agency has dropped dramatically, and today, only two regional offices employ pack strings. One covers the state of Montana. The other tends to a sprawling geography of grasslands, mountains, canyons and desert that spans Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota's Black Hills and two-thirds of Wyoming. Ten mules and two packers service the entire region. Funka — one of the last and youngest of his kind — is among them.

His story begins 17 years ago on his family's farm in western Pennsylvania, when he fell in love with a pair of mules named Maggie and Cookie. By the time he left home, Funka knew he wanted to work with the goofy, sure-footed animals, but the number of places where mules were still needed to pack supplies in and out of wild, roadless mountains was rapidly dwindling. To secure one

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of the few paid jobs in such a place, he began polishing his résumé with a singular goal: “To be really good at being outside. Especially in big places.”

His job skills — packing toilets and other trash out of the wilderness, traveling for days on horseback, and maneuvering a 30-foot stock trailer over mountain passes — can’t be learned in a classroom, yet he couldn’t have gotten the job without his forestry degree from the University of Montana. In most Forest Service jobs today, he says, “you don’t get hired because you have old, traditional skills. You get hired because you have a degree.”

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transient: Each summer, Funka travels non-stop across the five states, living out of his horse (Continued next page.)

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trailer and going wherever his services are needed — like a cowboy, but one who’s just as likely to sleep at a truck stop

as by a campfire. As he loads the mules into their trailer in the sparkling wet field outside the Raggeds, Funka’s already thinking about October, when he’ll drive up to Wyoming to hunt with his dad. “I’m like a ski patroller who spends his days off skiing,” he says. “When the season’s over, I’m just going to drive my stock back into the wilderness and disappear again.”

Funka leads a pack mule train across a meadow on the Calico Trail in Colorado. Photo courtesy of Sam Green, Cortez Journal.

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The Burden Of Being Different

By Jaime O'Neill

I'd just moved to a rural mountain community high in California's Sierra Nevada, a young father with two kids and long hair. It was 1970, the Viet Nam war raged on, and wearing long hair was often enough to provoke some people, who, on occasion, would target some hippie as the representative of everything they thought had gone wrong with the country.

We moved into a house outside of town, on Greenhorn Creek, a place that seemed to have been named in anticipation of my arrival. I was a greenhorn in more ways than one. I knew little about living so far from the urban and suburban sprawl, and I knew even less about the way things worked in small towns, places where who you knew was more important than what you knew.

Horrified that hippies had invaded his mountain retreat, my new neighbor, a beefy retiree from LA, began discharging a .12 gauge shotgun at all hours. He would watch me leave for work, and then begin a series of hang-up calls to my wife. When I asked that he not fire his shotgun so near where my children played, or so early in the pre-dawn hours, he said, "You're in the mountains now, hippie. Get used to it."

The harassment continued; the unease increased. I called the cops. There was no response. I researched local law and found that my neighbor was violating two provisions of county ordinances that made it unlawful to discharge a firearm within 100 yards of an occupied dwelling, or within 100 yards of a roadway.

No sheriff's deputies ever responded. Finally, I went to my boss, the president of the small college where I was teaching. I told him what was going on, that it was making it hard to focus on my work.

He spoke to the district attorney at the next Rotary Club meeting, the place where the town's movers and shakers gathered for lunch each week. Following whatever was said at the bar there, I got a call from the D.A.'s office. The secretary said her boss wanted to meet with me on Saturday morning.

When I was ushered into the district attorney's office, I found myself standing before a squat little man who didn't rise to greet me. He motioned me to a chair and said, "Mr. O'Neill, I hear you're having a spat with your neighbor. I thought we could settle it without getting things all complicated. I've invited your neighbor to this meeting, and he should be here any minute so we can resolve this."

"But," he continued, "before he comes I wanted you to know that I am a fair man. When I look out this window and see a nigger with a white woman on the street that makes me sick. But if that same nigger gets charged with a crime, he'll get the same treatment as a white man."

He stared at his hands clasped on his desk before him.

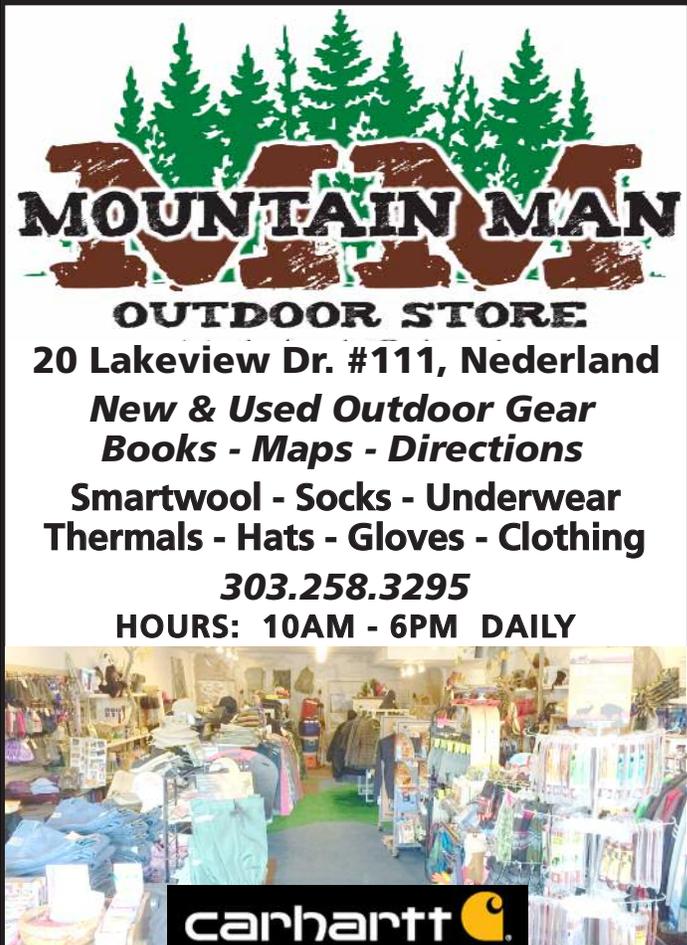
"By the same token," he said, "I hate long hair on a man. Long hair is for women. But you need to know that you'll get fair treatment from me, nonetheless."

Almost on cue, my neighbor entered. We had an uncomfortable back-and-forth. I left feeling hopeless.

My neighbor had been the campaign manager for the D.A. when he ran for office. I also learned, through one of my students who worked in the courthouse, that after I left, the D.A. told my neighbor to knock off the harassment. He was getting pressure from the college president, it was making him look bad at Rotary, and if my neighbor didn't quit, the D.A. would be forced to let me file a complaint.

That happened in the high country of California, not down on the flatlands of Ferguson, Missouri. It happened more than 40 years ago, not this year. I was a young white college teacher with long hair, not an unarmed 18-year-old black kid, without clout or connections.

When it comes to good ol' boy networks, the shadowy way things work, the endemic prejudice that rots the soul of this nation, and the perversions of justice endured by people who aren't in the loop, the French phrase still applies: "The more things change, the more they stay the same." *Jaime O'Neill is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column service of High Country News (hcn.org). He writes in Calif.*



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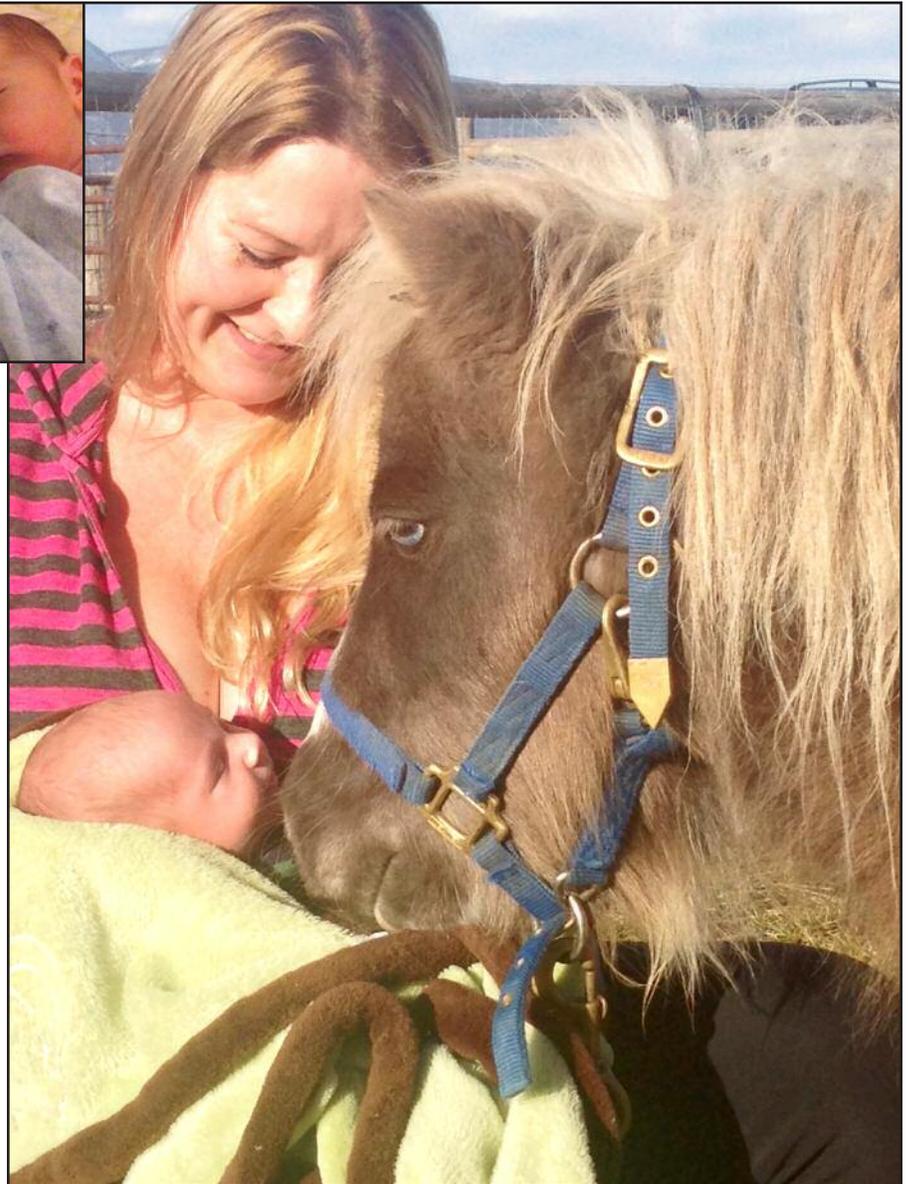
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At Left: Kelsey hugs horse & rides stallion Tay with halter.

Top: Cerra loves packing box.

Bottom: Lil'Bit.

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Top Left:

Cerra points to Ryder!

Right: Kelsey introduces

Ryder to his Pony!

Middle Left: Ryder already

knows how to flirt!

Bottom:

Chanel says Congratulations to Kelsey for new baby, Ryder!



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West's Biggest Water Agencies Finalize Agreement

From Matt Jenkins

As the Colorado River grinds into what could be its 15th year of drought, the West's biggest water agencies are finalizing a major new agreement to boost water levels in Lake Mead, on the Arizona-Nevada border. Water bosses will likely announce the deal at the annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference, which was held recently in Las Vegas.

Under the so-called Pilot Drought Response Actions program, which would begin this year, urban water agencies in California, Arizona and Nevada hope to use a number of methods to add between 1.5 and 3 million acre-feet of water to Lake Mead over the next five years. That's roughly as much water as 3 to 6 million households use in a year. Those "protection volumes" are designed to keep the water level in the reservoir from sinking below 1,000 feet above sea level, at which point Las Vegas will

have difficulty withdrawing its share of the Colorado River from the reservoir, which could set off a humongous water fight before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thanks to increased demand, the drought and climate change, the Lower Basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada use more water each year than is released from Lake Powell, the major upstream reservoir on the Colorado River. Thus, each year, Mead drops lower.

"That's the underlying driver to the risk in the Lower Basin," says Chuck Cullom, the Colorado River Program Manager for the Central Arizona Project, which supplies water to Phoenix, Tucson and Arizona farms. "This agreement is a first step to address that."

Without it, conditions will likely soon be bad enough that the U.S. Secretary of the Interior will have to declare an official shortage, thereby cutting back water deliveries to the Lower Basin states — and perhaps more ominously, effectively taking control of the river there. According to the most recent projections, there's a 25 percent chance of that happening in 2016, and better-than-even odds it will happen in 2017.

The new agreement is the latest chapter in the ongoing effort to stay ahead of the drought on the Colorado. Back in 2007, the Colorado River states signed a deal for managing shortages if the drought continued. At that time, computer models suggested the risk of hitting critical elevations in Lake Mead "really wasn't very large," says Terry Fulp, the director of the federal Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River region. "It was in the 1 to 2 percent range through 2026."

But by May 2013 — when it was becoming clear that this was one of the worst droughts in the past 1,200 years — Reclamation officials realized that the severity of the drought had outstripped the assumptions underlying the 2007 agreement. "We've seen a drought much worse than what we had analyzed," says Fulp. "And when we reassessed the risk, the chance of getting (to critical reservoir elevations) was quite a bit higher."

At a Western Governor's Association meeting in Park City, Utah in late June 2013, government officials met with representatives from the Colorado River states and began what turned into a year-long effort to negotiate the Drought Response Actions program. California's Colorado River oversight board approved the Memorandum of

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Understanding for the program last November; the Central Arizona Project board approved it recently. Nevada's Colorado River Board has voted, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which supplies Los Angeles and San Diego, and Southern Nevada Water Authority, which supplies Las Vegas, has voted recently.

Under the program, water agencies in Arizona, California and Nevada will also carry out a series of in-state water swaps and operational adjustments to put more water into Lake Mead. But most significantly, the program provides a framework for farms in the Lower Basin states to play a much bigger role in buffering the cities against deepening drought. In Arizona, nine irrigation districts near Phoenix have already agreed to "forbear," or give up, 160,000 acre-feet of water over two years — nearly half of the total amount of water Arizona is hoping to put into Lake Mead. The bulk of that farm water will come from the Central Arizona, Maricopa-Stanfield and New Magma irrigation and drainage districts, with the remainder coming from the Tonopah Irrigation District; Roosevelt Water Conservation District; Queen Creek and Hohokam irrigation and drainage districts; and BKW Farms and Kai Farms.

The Drought Response Actions program is the second big Colorado River program launched in 2013 that looks to farms as an emergency reservoir. That summer, Metropolitan, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Central Arizona Project, Denver Water and the federal government launched a separate Colorado River System Conservation program. Those agencies are currently examining more than a dozen forbearance bids from farms and irrigation districts along the lower river. That program will spend about \$11 million to generate roughly 75,000 acre-feet of water for Lakes Mead and Powell over the next two years.

Though similar, the two programs are separate. The water purchased under the Colorado River System Conservation program will be earmarked as shared "system water" that remains in Lakes Mead and Powell. The Drought Response Actions program water will also be used to boost levels in Lake Mead, but will ultimately be diverted for use by the agencies that paid for it. The System Conservation

program, while smaller, also allows agencies to pool their money to buy water from a wider geographical area. That includes Mexico, which can now participate in such deals thanks to Minute 319, a U.S.-Mexico treaty amendment signed in 2012.

"The System Conservation agreement contemplates pooled actions, meaning that we put money into a shared bucket, and we will fund programs wherever they are," says Cullom. In contrast, he says, "the (Drought Response Actions) MOU is about what each individual agency can do on their own," within their respective states.

Both programs will help reservoirs from reaching critically low levels and, water managers hope, could be expanded into longer-term programs. Yet they still won't provide anything close to what's needed to decisively pull the Colorado System out of its decade-and-a-half long nosedive.

As Fulp puts it: "We're not making water here."

Matt Jenkins is a contributor to High Country News.

Editor's Note: The Moffat Collection System Project when denied permits, could add 18,000 acre feet to help generate that 75,000 acre feet of water to help Lakes Mead & Powell. Another good reason for Denver Water to actually conserve water instead of just raising water rates.

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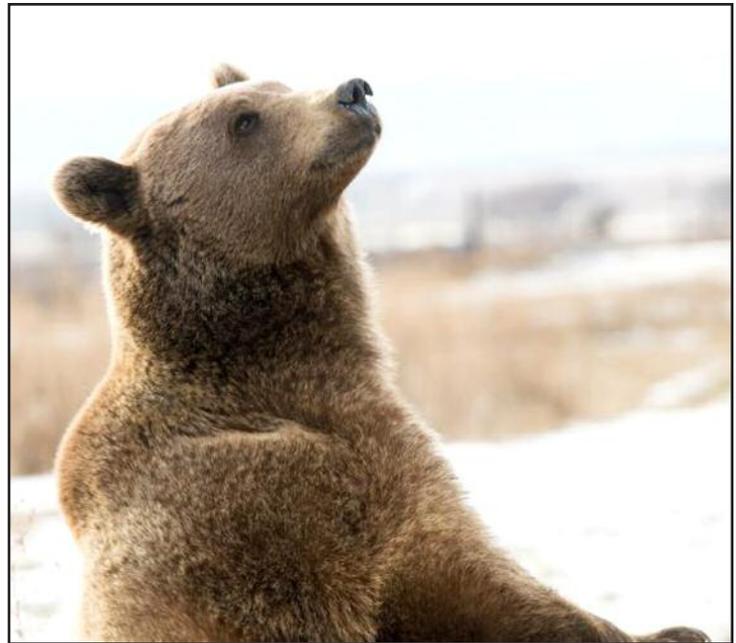
Grizzly Patient Settling In At New Home

From CSU

Marley the grizzly bear has come a long way since she was rescued from life in a concrete pen in Georgia and transported to a refuge in Colorado, where it then grew clear that she was horribly lame and suffering from two broken elbows.

Last February, Marley became one of CSU's most celebrated patients when she came to the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital for surgery to clean, repair and heal her fractured joints. Nine months later - after convalescing for many weeks indoors - Marley is fully recovered and roaming a 20-acre natural habitat at the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, Colo., where she will live out her life in historic grizzly territory.

Recently, a CSU veterinary team visited the Wild Animal Sanctuary to check on Marley's progress. The group found a healthy bear nosing through dry prairie grasses in a biting wind - a very different sight from the anesthetized creature on an operating table, with an open and draining wound over one badly infected broken elbow. Now, the only sign of her medical ordeal is the fur on her forelimbs: It had been shaved for surgery and has regrown



with honeyed highlights.

"Marley is adapting wonderfully," Rebecca Miceli, director of animal care at the Wild Animal Sanctuary, told the CSU team. "As she continues to grow and recognize the freedom she has here, she will flourish."

A video/photo package about her story is available at <http://col.st/p5WqE>.

From rescue to refuge - CSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital for nearly two decades has provided intensive medical care for large carnivores living at the sanctuary on the plains northeast of Denver. "If they need any higher form of veterinary medical care, we provide that," explained Dr. Terry Campbell, the CSU exotics veterinarian who oversaw Marley's case.

Marley recovered at the sanctuary clinic, entertained by a flat-screen television tuned to cartoons to help her acclimate to noise. With visits and advice from CSU Equine Ambulatory and Avian, Exotic and Zoological Medicine services, Marley slowly relearned how to use her front legs and adapted to her outdoor habitat, which she

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shares with 10 cubs and their two mothers, who were pregnant when rescued. (The sanctuary does not breed its animals.)

“CSU has been immensely helpful,” Miceli said. “They have been a key factor in the recovery of a lot of our animals, and we couldn’t do it without their expertise and knowledge. Now Marley is acclimating to life outside, interacting with other bears and eating a diet of vegetables, fruit, grain and meat.

Marley is more of a wallflower than a social butterfly,” Miceli told the CSU visitors. “The six youngest cubs keep her on her toes, and teach her to be playful.”

Dr. Sarah Higgins, a veterinary intern who is gaining additional exotics training at CSU, said she came to learn how to work with patients like Marley. “When you come into an environment like this,” Higgins noted while watching Marley amble, “you have to base your examination on what you’re seeing: Marley’s interactions with us, with her environment, and with other bears. It requires a different type of problem-solving and collaboration with different veterinary specialists to correctly diagnose and treat these large carnivores.”

A meaty partnership - Higgins said CSU’s partnerships

with zoos and similar organizations offer a unique learning environment for her as a young veterinarian.

“You get a taste of everything from wing trims and vaccinations to advanced surgeries,” Higgins said. “There’s no typical day for an exotics veterinarian.

Partnerships like this provide students the opportunity to watch the medical care of animals beyond traditional domestic animals,” Campbell said. “Our students get a

better look at the complexities and collaboration involved when working with exotic animals.”

The CSU veterinarians and sanctuary caregivers said Marley and the other bears rescued in Georgia likely will live many more years, as many as 20 in Marley’s case. “My guess is they felt like they’ve died and gone to heaven compared to where they were before,” Campbell said.



More information about the Wild Animal Sanctuary is available at (303) 536-0118 or by visiting the Wild Animal Sanctuary www.wildanimalsanctuary.org website. They work to restore dignity and freedom to the wild animals. You can also watch a Virtual Tour or go visit in person at 1946 County Road 53, Keenesburg, CO. Directions and details are also on their website.

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Public Lands Measures

From Jodi Peterson

12/12/2014 update: The Senate passed this bill today, 89-11. It now goes to President Obama, who's expected to sign it. The must-pass, \$585-billion defense spending bill now before the Senate also includes about 70 public-lands measures. That's the biggest package of public-lands bills since the huge omnibus act of 2009 (which designated 2 million acres of wilderness, among other things). The Senate is expected to pass the defense bill this week.

But it's decidedly a mixed bag – with one hand, it adds about 250,000 acres of designated wilderness, while with the other hand, it transfers 110,000 acres into private ownership. It creates half a dozen new national parks, but appropriates no extra money to run them. It gives one Indian tribe more control over land, while taking sacred sites away from another tribe. It protects hundreds of thousands of acres from mining and drilling, but tells the Bureau of Land Management to fast-track grazing and energy permits.

Despite the significant and painful compromises, most big green groups see the bill as an overall win, especially given prior Congressional inaction on conservation bills. But nearly 50 other environmental organizations, including WildEarth Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity, think it's a net loss, and have sent a letter to Congress requesting that the lands measures be stripped from the defense bill.

The Great Falls Tribune reports: Calling the public lands package a "stealth" provision driven by provincial political considerations, the groups say the bills will result in logging, mining and grazing in exchange for modest wilderness protections. ...

Other conservation groups are standing by the public lands package in the defense bill, despite misgivings about individual provisions ... "Groups are free to draw their own conclusion, and I agree that there are problematic measures included," said Bozeman-based Peter Aengst, senior regional director for the Wilderness Society's Northern Rockies region. "But overall we are supporting the package as it will secure significant conservation gains."

Here's a listing of some of the major public-lands proposals in the defense bill. **LAND TRANSFERS-** Transfer more than 2,000 acres of public land in Arizona to mining giant Rio Tinto for the Resolution Copper mine, a deal the company has pursued for a decade. In return, the company would convey 5,000 acres to the federal government. But the land where the mine would be located contains sites sacred to the San Carlos Apache, and they and environmental groups oppose the swap, which failed two previous votes in the Senate.

Transfer 70,000 acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest to the Sealaska corporation (made up of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Natives), mostly for logging and development. But more than 150,000 acres in the Tongass would be conserved for salmon habitat and wildlife.

Return 5,000 acres of coal reserves to Montana's Northern Cheyenne tribe, which they lost to a surveying error in 1900. The current owner, Great Northern Properties, would in exchange be able to mine outside of the tribe's land. Another

932 acres of tribally owned land would be placed in trust (but omitted is 635 acres near Bear Butte, a sacred site, that was included in an earlier version of this act).

WILDERNESS - Rocky Mountain Front: 275,000 acres of public land protected in western Montana, including 67,000 acres added to the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wildernesses (this would be the state’s first new wilderness in 30 years). At the same time, though, wilderness study area protections would be released on 14,000 acres in southeast Montana, and other wilderness study areas would be assessed for oil and gas extraction.

Columbine-Hondo Wilderness: 45,000 acres in the Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico. Alpine Lakes Wilderness: Expands that 394,000-acre Washington state wilderness by 22,100 acres, and designates sections of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers as “Wild and Scenic.” Hermosa Creek: Protects the 108,000-acre Hermosa Creek Watershed in the San Juan National Forest in southwest Colorado. Wovoka Wilderness: 48,000 acres in Lyon County, Nevada. Also transfers 12,500 acres to the town of Yerington for economic development around a copper mine. Pine Forest Range Wilderness: 26,000 acres in northwest Nevada.

NATIONAL PARKS - The National Parks Traveler summarizes the parks-related parts of the bill, which include: Create the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Designate the Coltsville National Historical Park in Connecticut. Attach a preserve of 4,070 acres to Oregon Caves National Monument. Establish Tule Springs National Monument near Las Vegas to preserve ancient fossils. Transfer the 90,000-acre Valles Caldera National Preserve in New Mexico from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service. Expand Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi. Consider historical designation for the trail of the African American Buffalo Soldiers, sent from San Francisco to guard the newly created Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks in the early 1900s.

Require the NPS to study other sites to possibly include in the park system. Prevent the NPS from giving donors naming rights to parks or facilities, endorsing the donor or their products or services, or calling them “official sponsors.” And for the NPS Centennial in 2016, the treasury will mint special collector’s coins that will raise money for the National Park Foundation. Groups such as the National Parks Conservation Assoc. are elated at what they’re calling a “monumental” expansion of the parks system, as are communities and businesses near the new units.

The National Parks Traveler notes, though, that all those new and expanded parks require more money to operate – and the bill provides no new funding: For the National Park Service, already billions of dollars in the red with its maintenance and operations budget, and cutting staff in crucial areas such as cultural resources, to be asked to add seven new national park units, adjust the boundaries of nine units, and re-designate two of those units, without any new funding, is incredibly poor legislating by Congress and will not enhance, but rather degrade the overall system.

This is not to judge the worthiness of the prospective units as part of the National Park System, but rather to point out the fiscal absurdity in play. Congressional Budget Office figures

show it would cost the Park Service at least \$75 million over a five-year period to get these units up and running, and millions more to operate them on an annual basis. At the same time, the Park Service’s maintenance backlog has crept up to \$11.3 billion, and some of those needs are critical.

Coincidentally, the defense bill does include a \$75 million appropriation - to support Ukraine, where nearly 4,500 have been killed since last spring in a civil war.

OTHER PROVISIONS - The Grazing Improvement Act would automatically extend grazing permits on public lands from 10 to 20 years, and allow those permits to be renewed even before environmental review is complete. This provision, says conservation groups, will further degrade the sagebrush plains that the greater sage grouse depends on, thwarting its conservation and increasing the need to list it under the Endangered Species Act. (The “Cromnibus” spending agreement would further harm grouse by preventing Interior from putting Gunnison sage grouse or greater sage grouse on the endangered species list for another year.) And this version of the grazing act omits provisions that would have allowed voluntary retirement of grazing permits in Oregon and New Mexico.

The Cabin Fee Act would put an upper limit on federal fees charged to lease cabins in national forests. A BLM pilot program to speed up the process for oil and gas permits would become permanent. Irrigation districts would be allowed to develop hydropower on Bureau of Reclamation ditches and canals.

The defense bill and all its provisions, good, bad and really ugly, isn’t quite a done deal yet. But every public-lands bill within it has already been reviewed in committee and 30 have passed the House, while seven have passed the Senate. “The top Republican on defense issues, Sen. Jim Inhofe, said that there’s lots in the bill to dislike but said objectors were going to have to swallow it because it’s too late to alter the legislation,” writes Burgess Everett at Politico.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, ranking member of the House Natural Resource Committee, is also urging its passage: “We don’t need to start over, working on the same bills in a new Congress.” But a few conservative senators are still promising a fight over public-lands “pork.” And White House press secretary Josh Earnest told the Washington Post that “we’re going to evaluate the whole package” before President Obama decides whether to sign the bill.

Jodi Peterson is the managing editor of High Country News.

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Speaking Art To Power

By Matthew Irwin - HCN

A unique blend of personal narrative, stream-of-consciousness and art criticism, *Undermining: A Wild Ride Through Land Use, Politics, and Art in the Changing West* by Lucy R. Lippard is hard to classify. 200 pages, softcover:\$21.95 The New Press, 2014 But it all adds up to a satisfying look, from an unusual angle, at the harmful effects of resource extraction on tradition, ecology and human health in the American West.

Curator and activist Lucy Lippard's new book initially resembles a fine-art volume: Beautifully reproduced images of gravel pits, landscapes and artworks fill the top halves of its pages; captions scurry along the bottom like footnotes. Lippard's own words cut through the middle like a vein of granite. She writes about works that criticize land use while acknowledging that artists themselves have also exploited the land, at times treating it like just a giant canvas.

"There is a point where artists too must take some responsibility for the things and places they love, a point at

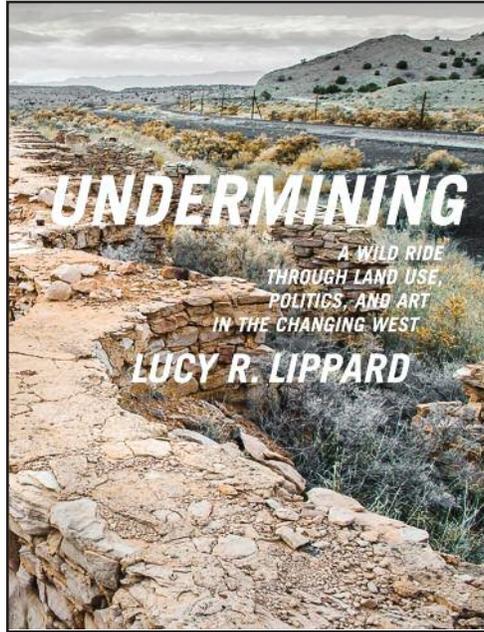
which the colonization of magnificent scenery gives way to a more painfully focused vision of a fragile landscape and its bewildered inhabitants," Lippard writes.

The text reads less like art criticism than an extended account of Lippard's own quarrel with the West's extractive industries and the global economy that empowers them. Readers familiar with Lippard's 1997 book *Lure of the Local* will recognize her tendency to approach impossibly large subjects through the details of her own immediate circumstances. Here, she considers the scope and unrelenting nature of resource extraction through digs — for gold, gravel, mica, oil, natural gas and uranium — around her hometown of Galisteo, New Mexico.

She records often-futile local efforts to thwart powerful multinationals and the politicians who support them. One of the most poignant sections describes the struggles of Native Americans to protect their sacred sites, even as the tribes remain susceptible to the influence of money.

Lippard doesn't flinch from the complexity of these issues, noting that some tribal members have been willing to accept the health risks of uranium mining simply because they need jobs.

Yet Lippard — an art critic who spent decades in the "Lower Manhattan activist/avant-garde art community" — credits Native artists with successfully challenging what she calls her own "Yankee predispositions" regarding art and culture. Native artists help inspire *Undermining's* final call for art as a form of resistance, one that creates awareness of problems while building consensus about how to solve them. "Of course art cannot change the world alone," she concludes, "but it is a worthy ally to those challenging power with unconventional solutions."



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Part 3 - Overpopulation

By Frosty Wooldridge

No species can get away with this

“Unlimited population growth cannot be sustained; you cannot sustain growth in the rates of consumption of resources. No species can overrun the carrying capacity of a finite land mass. This Law cannot be repealed and is not negotiable.” Dr. Albert Bartlett, www.albartlett.org, University of Colorado, USA. Dr. Bartlett speaks around the world with his brilliant presentation: “Arithmetic, population and energy.” You may access his YouTube presentation or visit his website to view the entire presentation.

In his lecture, both humorous and sobering at the same time, Bartlett presents audiences with irrefutable science as to the end result of “exponential growth.” We humans, thinking we enjoy some kind of dispensation from reality or the Pope for that matter, continue adding 80 million of ourselves annually, net gain. Again, we pro-create another one billion of ourselves onto this finite planet every 12 years. Already at an unsustainable 7.1 billion, we expect to reach 10 billion by mid century—a mere 37 years from now.

Each year, the United States adds 3.1 million people, net gain, to its current 315.5 million population. In 1963, America featured a manageable 194 million people. American women averaged 2.03 children each. We citizens chose to stabilize our population based on our water, energy, resources, quality of life and standard of living needs. Our population would have leveled out at 255 million by 1990. However, our U.S. Congress decided to import over 100 million immigrants and their subsequent children from 1965 to 2007. Currently, we gallop along the path to add another 100 million by 2035 and 138 million to reach 438 million by 2050.

In 2013, cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Denver, New York, Houston and many more feature horrific traffic congestion, toxic air pollution, crippling environmental problems and loss of quality of life. Infrastructure crumbles, massive unemployment prevails, poverty swells and no one can figure out how to solve our enormous problems. (Do you think the United States, Canada, UK, Europe, Australia or any country can solve their traffic gridlock by adding greater population via endless immigration? Will those countries be able to solve their toxic brown cloud air pollution? What is the obvious

answer?) www.123rf.com, free stock photography
Nonetheless, Congress imports another 100,000 immigrants every 30 days. They arrive from already



overloaded countries around the world. Note: they come from the 80 million added people annually around the globe. They, in turn, birth 900,000 babies annually. (Source: Dr. Steven Camorata, www.cis.org) Thus, the United States adds, from population momentum, immigration and birthrates—3.1 million annually. (Source: *US Population Projections by Fogel/Martin, PEW Research Center*)

Unlimited population growth cannot be sustained - What did Dr. Bartlett mean by the statement: “Unlimited population growth cannot be sustained?” What does he mean by “exponential growth?” (Continued next page.)

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Highlander Worldview

Exponential growth means that some quantity grows by a fixed percentage rate from one year to the next. A handy formula for calculating the doubling time for exponential growth: a survey of Boulder, Colorado residents about the optimal size for growth returned a result that most residents thought that a growth in population at the rate of 10% per year was desirable. Ten percent/year may not seem innocuous but let's see how these numbers would add up: Year 1-60,000 Year 2-66,000 year 3-72,600 Year 4-79860 Year 5-87846 Year 6-96630 year 7-106294 Year 8-116923. So in seven years, the population doubles and by then 10,000 new residents per year move to Boulder. (or any city)

Exponential growth, in general, is not understood by the public. If exponential use of a resource is not accounted for in planning - disaster will happen, i.e. water shortages, energy depletion and resource exhaustion. The difference between linear growth and exponential growth is



astonishing. (Eventually, even Boulder, Colorado will sport traffic with exponential growth. Pretty stupid wouldn't you say?)

The residents of Easter Island, after they pursued exponential growth for decades, collapsed and caused the extinction of their entire civilization. In other words, they ate themselves out of house and home. Every civilization faces the same

fate if it continues exponential growth. Unfortunately, in 2013, the United States heads down the exact same path as Easter Island. Grow, grow, grow! No Plan A, no Plan B, no reasonable understanding of its predicament! A small percentage of power elites that lead our country lack any conceptual understanding of "exponential growth." Thus, they encourage ever greater population growth. Millions of American citizens ride in the same boat and espouse endless population growth—as if the problems we already face can be solved by such arrogance and stupidity.

Dr. Bartlett also said, "Can you think of any problem in

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any area of human endeavor on any scale, from microscopic to global, whose long-term solution is in any demonstrable way aided, assisted, or advanced by further increases of population, locally, nationally, or globally?" Can you? Can anyone? Answer: no! We cannot clear up the toxic brown clouds hovering above our cities by adding more people, more cars and more exhaust chimneys to those cities. We cannot solve the acid rain or acidification of our oceans by adding more people, homes and cars. We cannot create more fresh water for the seven states now experiencing droughts and low water supplies by doubling their populations. Georgia and Florida already suffer water shortages, but expect to double their populations by mid century. We cannot grow more food when every added American destroys 25.4 acres of arable land, which grows our food, to support that person once they arrive in this country—called "ecological footprint." (Source: www.allspecies.org)

Dr. Bartlett said, "No species can overrun the carrying capacity of a finite land mass. This Law cannot be repealed and is not negotiable." So what are we doing to ourselves as a species? At present, we race along making a pact with the "devil" in what we call a Faustian Bargain or, we keep adding people and burning up our resources for the luxury of the moment; as if tomorrow will never come. When tomorrow eventually arrives, we shall face a Hobson's Choice. You won't like his choice! We will have exacerbated our situation to the point that only two choices remain available: we get to choose Door A which, when we step through it, we plummet over a cliff. Door B allows us

to fall into quicksand with no lifeguards. In other words, our civilization faces collapse and we're all screwed with no choices.

(Aren't cities like this (*previous page*) getting to be beyond ridiculous? At what point do we stop growing cities past 36 million concrete entombed human souls? When do we grab our humanity back?) Photo by, www.123rf.com, free stock photography

As Dr. Bartlett said, "The law cannot be repealed and is not negotiable." The Law of Gravity gives you an idea of what it's like to fall over a cliff with no parachute. At some point, the United States faces the inevitable consequences of Dr. Bartlett's rendition of "exponential growth." Too damned bad we weren't listening.

If you would like to make a difference, please join

these organizations for the most effective collective action you can take: www.CapsWeb.org ; www.NumbersUSA.org ;

www.TheSocialContract.com ; www.Fairus.org

*Frosty Wooldridge has bicycled across six continents - from the Arctic to the South Pole - as well as ten times across the USA, coast to coast and border to border. In 2005, he bicycled from the Arctic Circle, Norway to Athens, Greece. In 2014, he bicycled coast to coast across America. He presents **The Coming Population Crisis facing America: what to do about it.***

*www.frostywooldridge.com. His latest book is: **How to Live a Life of Adventure: The Art of Exploring the World by Frosty Wooldridge**, copies at 1 888 280 7715/ Motivational program: **How to Live a Life of Adventure: The Art of Exploring the World by Frosty Wooldridge**, www.HowToLiveALifeOfAdventure.com*



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What 4-H Teaches Kids About Food

From Tay Wiles

In a new book, *Raise: What 4-H Teaches 7 Million Kids & How Its Lessons Could Change Food & Farming*

Forever, Mother Jones senior editor Kiera Butler writes

about the century-old organization that teaches kids—via local chapters across the country—how to raise livestock and grow food. While writing the book, she learned about the origins of 4-H, the agribusinesses funding much of its curricula today, and how agriculture education is changing. Butler has never participated in 4-H, but first became interested in the program when she wandered over to the livestock barn at the Alameda County Fair in Northern California, and saw “nine-year-old girls leading around



giant, hulking cows and kicking ass in the showroom.” High Country News recently spoke with Butler about the book.

High Country News: Will you explain how 4-H was established and how land grant universities (institutions that received federal funds through the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890) played a role?

Kiera Butler: 1902 or 1903 are the years that people trace it back to. People at land grant universities were developing new ways of farming, using specially branded seeds and tractors and industrializing. Farmers were wary of these new methods. So, as a way to reach the farmers and gain their

trust, the universities started clubs for kids. They (would) encourage kids to grow two plots of corn — one plot with the old kind of seed and the other with selective breeding. The parents would see how well the kids’ plots were doing, and they would emulate those methods for themselves. It’s a very clever way of getting ag science into the general farming public.

HCN: You write about how companies like Monsanto and DuPont play a role in shaping what 4-H kids are learning. Where’s the influence of these companies in 4-H today?

KB: 4-H is housed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture but there’s a fundraising non-profit arm, the National 4-H

Council, which, in the last five to 10 years, has stepped up its courting of corporate donors. So Monsanto, Cargill, DuPont and other big (agricultural) companies have contributed in various ways. It’s anything from DuPont-sponsored biotech curriculum, to volunteer programs where company employees might volunteer with a local 4-H chapter for a day.

Agendas of agribusinesses occasionally make their way into 4-H curriculum. In the biotech curriculum sponsored by DuPont, there are copious links back to the DuPont webpage. There’s one about chocolate milk because what makes your Nesquik dissolve into milk is soy lecithin — a product produced by DuPont. So the lesson is: “Learn about



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soy lecithin, and also, enjoy chocolate milk.” The influence is definitely there and pretty obvious.

HCN: You spent a lot of time with 4-H families to research this book. Did they have opinions about these companies funding 4-H curricula?

KB: What 4-H looks like depends on the community that a particular club (is in). It’s not the National 4-H Council telling them exactly what they have to learn. There’s a curriculum that National 4-H Council publishes and people use them. But I think that probably if you looked at 4-H clubs where the hogs are raised in the middle of the country, you’d probably see different hog-raising practices than you’d see here in California.

HCN: I’ve read that Wal-Mart is also a funder of 4-H curricula. Is that true, and if so, what impact does that have on the organization?

KB: I’d have to check that, but I think they have funded 4-H in the past, if not currently. A lot of companies think of this as an investment in future employees. They see this massive youth development program promising to train a whole work force in science and tech skills. And if the companies can influence what seven million kids are learning, the values that they’re being taught, that’s an excellent opportunity from the company’s perspective. I don’t think it’s necessarily a bad thing. But if they’re learning about how great soy lecithin is and forming positive associations with this particular biotechnology, for better or for worse, they’re going to bring those values with them as they go through school and enter the workforce.

HCN: In the book, you discuss sustainability, and you quote a 4-H-er saying that, “No one is willing to admit that the fundamental purpose in teaching kids to raise animals, and to produce animals for market and a sustainable community, got lost somewhere.” Will you explain this?

KB: In order to achieve what some people have described as “Arnold Schwarzenegger pigs,” there’s a lot of pressure for these kids to use things like ractopamine, and

other feed additives that have hilarious names like Sumo and Explode. First of all, it can be bad for the animals’ health. But also, the meat doesn’t taste very good. So, I think that Sally was saying in that quote that the original goal of making an animal that tastes good and is responsibly raised has been lost in this contest to make the

biggest, prettiest pig.

HCN: Has that followed what’s going on in mainstream America in terms of growing foods for size and transportability, but without much flavor?

KB: In some ways, judging trends for livestock shows follow culinary trends. It used to be that judges were looking for pigs that were

all muscle and had very little fat, which was back in the ‘90s low fat craze era. But now that bacon is having this incredible moment, judges favor pigs that have big bellies.

HCN: How will 4-H look in the future; what’s changing for the organization?

KB: I see in California a lot more interest in sustainable livestock raising. I’ve heard so many people express the desire to have a (new) category at fair, with organically raised or consumer satisfaction in mind. There’s also a big push to do a lot of science, technology, engineering and math; making robots or learning about GPS.

And the international stuff is also interesting. (4-H is now becoming widespread in Ghana.) It remains to be seen whether these 4-H clubs will really take off in Africa in a big way. Agriculture in general in Africa is changing so fast, so it will be interesting to see whether 4-H shapes it the way it shaped agriculture here in the United States.

Tay Wiles is the online editor of High Country News.

She tweets @taywiles.

Photographs of California 4-Hers by Rafael Roy.



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30 Years With The Forest Service

By Susan Marsh

After working for the Forest Service for 30 years, I finally had to write a book about it - especially about some of the painful lessons I learned. Here are just a few of them. It will come as no surprise that it wasn't easy being a woman in what was, and remains, a man's domain. Nor was it easy being a resource professional in one of the fields of study known within the agency as a specialty. Specialists, or "ologists," were considered narrow in focus and sadly misinformed about the relative importance of scenery or wildlife in the context of meeting targets. I was a preservationist in the midst of managers who wanted to roll up their sleeves and Do Something.

I soon learned that a bureaucracy like the Forest Service values loyalty to the "outfit" above all. One has to be a team player, and in order to play on the team it is necessary to embrace a worldview shared by one's teammates. So I

learned to hunt elk and go ice fishing, to head for whichever bar offered country music and scantily clad waitresses, and to keep my cards close to my chest.

"Never let 'em know what you're thinking," one district ranger advised. While mulling the need for such a motto, I took the advice of a different ranger whose loyalties matched my own. "My first priority is to the land," he said. "Then to the public for whose benefit we're managing it. Finally, to the outfit."

This got my friend in a lot of trouble. When he tried to reduce the number of cattle in a battered little watershed in Montana's Ruby River drainage, his boss refused to support the action. Even though evidence was strong that the stream banks would benefit from having fewer hooves in one small area, reducing cattle simply wasn't a viable option. The permittee would complain to his congressman and the governor, both personal friends.

Where most rangers would have backed off, Dan fought.

The poor condition of a stream within his district caused him personal pain, and if he didn't try to fix it, he felt he wasn't doing his job. His boss disagreed, saying: "Your job is to get along." The bitter lesson I learned from Dan was that you could ruin your career if you tried too hard to do the right thing.

After three decades with the Forest Service, there remains one lesson that still surprises me: I still cherish a strong sense of loyalty to the agency, however flawed it is, and to the high-minded principles on which it was founded.

My desire to defend it arises when I hear someone complain about how the local district doesn't do one thing or another, or at least can't do it right. If you only knew how hard it is, I want to



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say. I react each time I witness yet another effort to privatize the public land, to hand it off to the states, to divide it up among interests that seek only to exploit it. As humanity continues to leave its heavy footprint across the planet, the national forests and other public lands become all the more precious.

The stereotypical government worker draws a salary without having to try very hard. It is true that I have encountered my share of drones over the years, but the people who represent the Forest Service to me are like Dan: They gladly work nights and weekends, if necessary donating their annual leave at the end of the year. They care deeply for the land and want to make a contribution to the greater good.

Working for the agency is more of a vocation than a job. A wise-ass adage holds this definition of success for a conservation-minded employee: It's not the number of projects you accomplished, but the number of bad ideas you successfully scuttled. Most of my Forest Service

*you
could ruin
your career if
you tried too
hard to do the
right thing*

heroes scuttled plenty of dumb ideas.

The Forest Service is far from perfect, and I would agree with those who say it is less effective than it could be. But it gives me comfort to know how many of the people within it are driven by the loyalties once articulated by my mentor, Dan. My hat is off to them.

Susan Marsh is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column service of High Country News (hcn.org). She lives in Jackson, Wyoming, and her latest book is A Hunger for High Country.

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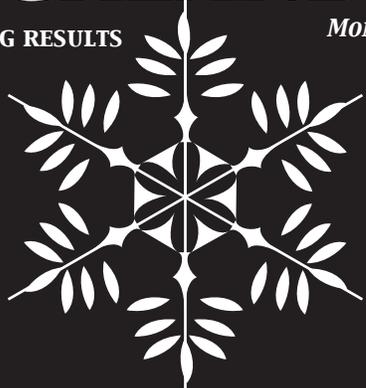
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Only on KGNU Community Radio | www.kgnu.org | 303-449-4885



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JANUARY
2015

POWER UPDATE



Small Change Has a Big Impact

It's only small change—an average of 50 cents per month—but when you multiply that by the thousands of generous United Power members who participate in Operation Round-Up it makes a BIG difference in your local community.

Operation Round-Up funds don't just go toward utility bills. Round-Up has provided funds for local fire departments, community health clinics, youth programs, food banks, needy families and many other worthwhile causes.

Put your small change to work!

Sign up on your next bill statement, online or by calling 303-637-1300.

**UNITED
POWER**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Free Trip to D.C.

United Power is now accepting applications for the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour to be held June 11-18, 2015. The cooperative will pay all expenses for this unique opportunity for three local students to experience our nation's capital first hand. This experience will allow students to gain a better understanding of American History, see government in action, develop leadership skills, and gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives. United Power's Youth Tour is open to high school students 16 years of age or older and whose primary residence is in United Power's service territory. Applications are available under the 'your Community' section at www.unitedpower.com. For more information contact United Power's Community Outreach Specialist at 303-637-1334.

Applications must be postmarked by January 12, 2015.



Cooperative Youth Tour

Washington, D.C.
June 11-18, 2015

We May Have Money for You

United Power is attempting to issue unclaimed capital credit refunds to members who received electric service from the cooperative prior to 2012. If you were a customer up to December 31, 2011, you may be eligible to receive a capital credit refund.

What Are Capital Credits?

Cooperative members periodically receive capital credit refunds, based on their electric use during a specified time period. The amount you will receive is based on the amount of power you used, and the rates paid for the time period being retired. If the customer is deceased the credits may be claimed through the estate.

Who May be Eligible for a Refund?

- If you were a United Power member for any period of time through December 31, 2011 and have moved out of the United Power service territory.

- Accounts of a deceased member may have funds due and the credits may be claimed by the estate.
- Current members may be eligible and all current members are encouraged to look at the list, especially if:
 - You have recently moved,
 - Changed your name,
 - Added your name to an existing account, or you
 - Did not cash a capital credit check issued in 2011 or earlier.

Am I Due a Refund?

To find out if you are due a refund, visit www.unitedpower.com, click on 'Member Tools' and look for the 'Capital Credits' page to view the entire list of unclaimed capital credit accounts. Lists will also be posted in the lobbies of our three offices.

Additional instructions if you find your name on the list can also be viewed online.

Customer Service: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

May your 2015 year be healthy & prosperous!

NEW LISTING!



1055 Divide View
Simply Striking at Every Turn!
3 BD/ 5 BA 4,732 sq.ft. **\$669,000**



636 Divide View
VIEWS of Divide & City Lights!
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,836 sq. ft. **\$319,000**



76 Wonderland Avenue
Convenient Location
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,674 sq. ft. **\$187,500**



635 Divide View
Shines with Pride of Ownership
3 BD/ 2 BA 2968 sq.ft. **\$349,900**



6302 W. 93rd Ave.
Lovely Place to call Home!
2 BD/ 1 BA 960 sq.ft. **\$187,500**



14391 W. 56th Place
Great Candelight Neighborhood
4 BD/ 5 BA 5,264 sq.ft. **\$571,500**



19 Ronnie
Well and Septic already installed
.7 Acre lot **\$74,000**



64 Damascus
Beautifully wooded & flat building site
1.86 Acres **\$44,900**

REMODELED!



30 Wonder Trail
Charming Mountain Cabin!
1 BD/ 1 BA VIEWS! **\$129,000**



0 Hilltop Road
Great Solar Lot!
2.8 Acres **\$84,000**



10 Leon Lane
360 Degree Divide & City Views
3 BD/ 2 BA 1813 sq.ft. **\$369,900**



129 Debra Ann
Gorgeous Buildable lot
.76 Acre lot **\$39,000**



11648 Overlook Road
Enjoy Foothill Views
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,104 sq.ft. **\$274,900**



77 Ramona
Flawless Retreat in the Mountains
3 BD/ 3 BA 3516 sq.ft. **\$489,400**



8819 Blue Mountain
Breathtaking Views of Blue Mtn Valley!
3 BD/ 4 BA 3173 sq.ft. **\$549,000**



29538 Loomis Way
Snow-Capped Views
3 BD/ 3 BA 4.65 Acres **\$539,000**



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2126 Apex Valley Road
Majestic Setting on Upper N. Clear Creek
3 BD/ 2 BA 1406 sq.ft. **\$289,900**



601 Camp Eden Road
The "cool factor" at elevation
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,013 sq.ft. **\$394,000**

LAND LISTINGS

33966 Nadm 1.08 Ac. - \$75K
0 Damascus 1.86 Ac. - \$44,900
11547 Shimley 1.15 Ac. - \$29K
TBD Rudi Ln W .73 Ac. - \$40K



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Broker Associate
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