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*January 2018*



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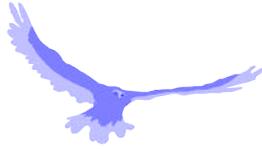
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# CONTENTS Pages

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**Anita M. Wilks**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
**Diane Bergstrom**  
*Emily Benson - High Country News*  
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*Buffalo Field Campaign*  
*Colorado State University*  
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*Ingrid Winter-Greenwood Wildlife Center*  
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*Frosty Wooldridge*  
*Anita Wilks*

<b>Environmental -</b>	Embracing Piece	5,6,7,8,9
<b>Issues -</b>	CO River v. BoCo Commissioners	10,11,12
<b>Observation -</b>	Perspective	13
<b>Environmental -</b>	Study Global Overpopulation	14, 15
<b>Issues-</b>	Western Officials Review Dam Safety	16, 17
<b>Tips -</b>	What to do if stranded in a winter storm	20
<b>Opinion -</b>	Wild Allegiance	21, 22
<b>Wildlife -</b>	The Kindness of Nature	23
<b>Health -</b>	Benefits From Massage	24
<b>Wildlife -</b>	Update BuffaloFieldCampaign.org	26
<b>Inner View -</b>	Invisible World	27, 28
<b>Issues -</b>	Wildfire	29,30,31
<b>Regional -</b>	Macho Moose - Lost - Bobcat Value	32, 33

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<b>REGULAR FEATURES</b>	
<b>Animals &amp; Their Companions</b>	18, 19
<b>Ad Index &amp; Telephone #'s</b>	34

## HANDY NUMBERS

COUNTY SERVICES	SCHOOLS
Fire & Ambulance .....911	Coal Creek K-8 .....303-982-3409
Jefferson County Sheriff.....303-277-0211	Drake Middle School.....303-982-1510
Boulder County Sheriff.....303-441-4444	Ralston Valley Sr High .....303-982-1078
Gilpin County Sheriff.....303-582-5500	Golden Senior High .....303-982-4200
Crescent Branch P.O.....303-642-0119	Nederland Elementary .....303-258-7092
Golden Post Office.....303-445-8900	Nederland Jr & Sr High .....303-258-3212
Golden PO Bulk Mail .....303-278-9235	Gilpin County. ....303-582-3444
Pinecliffe Post Office.....303-642-7358	<b>CANYON ORGANIZATIONS</b>
	Gilpin Community Center.....303-582-1453
Jeffco Animal Control.....303-271-5070	The Environmental Group TEGColorado.org
Boulder Animal Control .....303-441-4444	CCCWP.....303-586-1491



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# Embracing Piece

Article and photographs by Diane Bergstrom

Go little, go local, or go large because this earth is our home. We have 196.9 million square miles of options so everyone can commit to something, either once, occasionally, seasonally or ongoing. No act is too small, especially when accumulated and multiplied. My nonagenarian Aunt Lorraine uses coffee grounds instead of toxic insecticides to deter ants and takes long appreciative walks in Northern Minnesotan woods. John Muir wrote, "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." My friend Jane suggests simply sitting on the earth, and sending it love, would make a difference. "When people sit down and paint it, they really appreciate it," said artist friend Susannah who recommends plein air painting and nature journaling, "Get out where the sky is refreshing to the eye. In your own healing, you'll thrive." Todd, Boulder County Open Space volunteer specializing in raptor monitoring and starting his 28th

Piece. That's not a typo. If everyone included an intention in their new year's resolutions, goals, aspirations or simply to-do lists, to embrace and help a piece of earth this year, we could change it. The cumulative effort would make a positive flourishing difference. From your potted plants to the Great Barrier Reef, there is a place on the planet you could embrace, nurture and support. Support could be in any form; energetic, physical, cognitive, political and financial. Clarissa Pinkola Estes wrote, "Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely." Whatever, wherever, whomever, we put our attention on expands and flourishes. What if the one soul, or one of the souls, we choose to help is a patch of earth? What if each of us committed to a piece, anywhere from your backyard to the polar ice caps? There is a need and an opportunity everywhere.



season, said, "If everyone could (Continued on next page.)



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find that one special place that they love, they would become an advocate of it.” We all know what we unconditionally love, responds.

With little effort, you can start locally in your house and change your cleansers to non-toxic formulas. This will improve ground, air and water quality, plus augment your own health benefits. Environmentally-friendly alternatives are accessible throughout Boulder County stores and online. Even Costco carries my favorite laundry soap, Boulder Detergent. For your home and garden, choose plants, starters and seeds that are certified organic, or free of neonicotinoids which are systemic pesticides that contaminate every part of a plant and are partially responsible for the demise of our honeybees. Honeybees pollinate about every third bite of food you eat and it takes 60,000 bees to pollinate one orchard acre. No small task.

Remember a non-GMO rating does NOT equal an organic rating. If you want to act nationally, support *Earth Justice*, whose tag line is, “Because the earth needs a good lawyer.” They use the power of the law and have a current



appeal and lawsuit to ban the pesticides organophosphates that poison farm workers and those in use areas, including children who sustain brain damage from extremely low doses. Contact: [www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org), (800)584-6460. To learn of pollinator-friendly plants such as Purple Cornflowers, Lupine, and Sunflowers, check *Friends of the Earth’s* website, [www.beeaction.org](http://www.beeaction.org). You can also start a pollinator safe neighborhood project by consulting [www.beesafeboulder.org](http://www.beesafeboulder.org) or [www.peopleandpollinators.org](http://www.peopleandpollinators.org). Locally, The Living Seed Library is a project of **Restore**

**Colorado** and they provide education, consulting, and opportunities to receive and return heirloom, native and organic southwestern seeds. Contact: [sacredlifeseeds@gmail.com](mailto:sacredlifeseeds@gmail.com) or (720)722-4141; [www.livingseedlibrary.weebly.com](http://www.livingseedlibrary.weebly.com).

Do you want to create a sustainable garden? Take a local permaculture class,

consult the resources listed here, and learn how to support pollinators, both through plants and water (leave very shallow water dishes out in the yard and garden). Friends Jim and Marcia are investigating the creation of food forests (dense capacity gardening) and conscientious land use which suggests, in addition to many thought-provoking strategies, completing your plantings before erecting your buildings, giving plant and animal life a chance to thrive first. Consult [www.thebioasis.com](http://www.thebioasis.com). Do you want to shop local and support those who are growing food sustainably?



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Do you want to pick a park? Boulder County Parks and Open Space has a myriad of volunteer opportunities with different time



## Highlander Environmental

requirements. Your organization can adopt a county road and clean the roadsides twice a year. You can adopt a trail or a park, become a citizen ranger, do a one-time wild work project, arrange a half day group project, be a natural resource monitor, collect native seeds, be a volunteer naturalist or a wildlife master—to name a few. Contact: [www.bouldercounty.org](http://www.bouldercounty.org), (303)441-4889. To learn about individual and group volunteer opportunities in Rocky Mountain National Park, go to [www.nps.gov/romo/getinvolved/volunteer](http://www.nps.gov/romo/getinvolved/volunteer). In the summer, drop in opportunities lasting 1.5 hours will resume. Dates and times are posted online. Involve your kids in the Junior Ranger programs and activities. Interactive booklets are available at any entrance station. Most national park sites partner with a non-profit association which financially supports projects and research that federal budgets don't fund. The Rocky Mountain Conservancy supports RMNP. Their programs and volunteer projects can be found at [www.rockymountainconservancy.org](http://www.rockymountainconservancy.org), or (970)586-0108.

Ask your kids what piece of earth they would like to help. Perhaps they'd like to learn how to protect the habitat of their favorite wild animal. Engaging them now creates earth stewards of the future. A great child-engaging program, developed by famed *(Continued next page.)*

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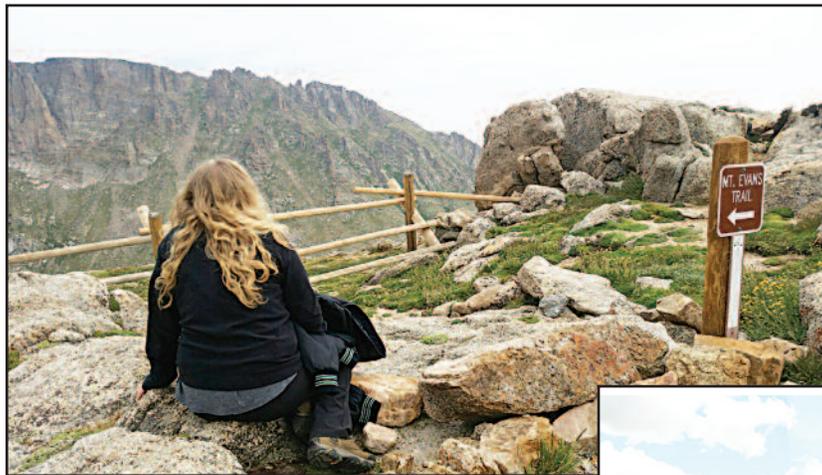


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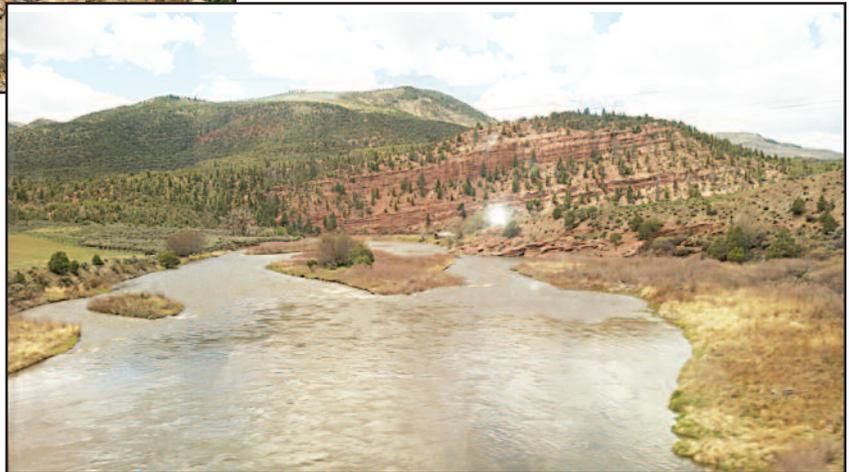

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Close to home, or canyon, issues include concerns of the detrimental effects of the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project. Please read Jeff Thompson's article on the topic in this issue for in-depth reporting and recommendations. Save Our St. Vrain Valley (S.O.S.V.V.) has built a community of Colorado front range protectors, mostly from Hygiene, Lyons, Longmont, and Boulder, to challenge a twenty year old Special Use permit issued to Martin Marietta to mine

primatologist anthropologist Dr. Jane Goodall, in *Roots and Shoots* which connects youth globally and locally to work on projects helping people, environments and animals. Each service project campaign also encompasses awareness of the patch of earth supporting the people, environment and animals. Contact: [www.root-sandshoots.org](http://www.root-sandshoots.org), (703)682-9220. Jane tells the young people, "You have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."



gravel in over 400 acres of the St. Vrain Valley. Contact: [www.sosvv.wordpress.com](http://www.sosvv.wordpress.com) or Like SOSVV on Facebook to stay notified of informational meetings.

If your chosen piece of earth involves streams and rivers, consider the local chapter of Trout Unlimited, Saint Vrain Anglers Trout Unlimited. Their mission is to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and watersheds through grass roots efforts and engagement. Contact: [www.svatu.org](http://www.svatu.org), Facebook, [www.coloradotrountunlimited.org](http://www.coloradotrountunlimited.org). To support the vital ecosystems of the oceans, consider legendary oceanographer Sylvia Earle's alliance *Mission Blue*, a coalition of over 200 ocean conservation groups and like-minded organizations. Sylvia refers to the ocean as the blue heart of the planet and has spent more of her life below the ocean's surface than above it.

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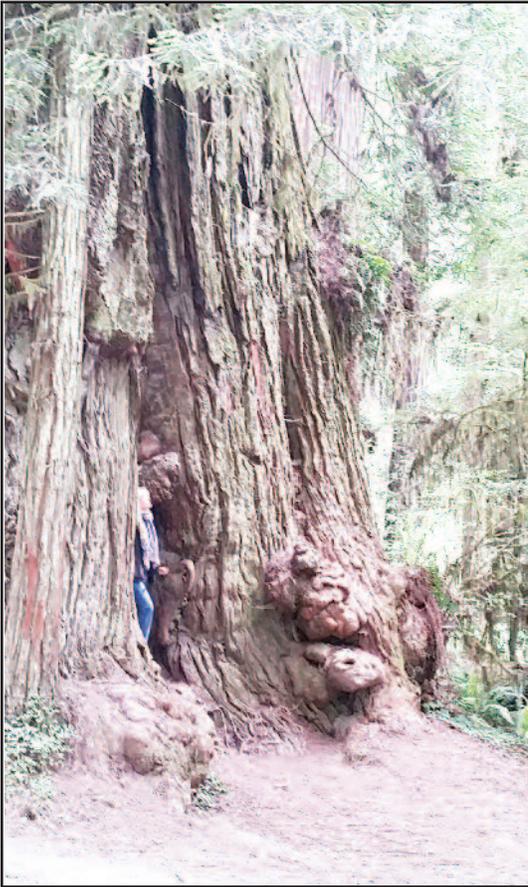


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of the agreement, and created reforms to drastically reduce carbon emissions in their communities. The participants want the world to know that a lack of federal leadership will not deter other leaders in the United States from meeting the Paris commitments. Get your organization, town, and local representatives to sign up and join the movement at [www.wearestillin.com](http://www.wearestillin.com).

Find the piece of earth you want to embrace and act now, for whether you act locally or act large, you will make an impact. Sow milkweed for the Monarch butterflies, buy organic vegetables from a local farmer, adopt a canyon road, work on state park trails, join an organization, write a check (evaluate charities at [www.charitynavigator.com](http://www.charitynavigator.com)), involve your kids, plant a tree, clean a stream, and spend time on your special natural place. A study of happy people suggested that a sense of purpose is part of the happiness matrix. Attending to your part of the earth with a developed sense of purpose will make you happier and the earth healthier. Here's to that resolution!

Another local effort with global ramifications to consider is the *We Are Still In* movement, a national response to the administration's backing out of the Paris Agreement, the first global commitment made by global leaders to fight climate change. Thousands of governors, tribal leaders, mayors, CEOs, business leaders, college and university presidents have signed a declaration to deliver on the terms

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&

Saturday, January 20th, 2018 @ 1PM

**BOTH in the CCCIA Hall**

**For all CCC residents to:**

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- Learn about how much of the Watershed Master Plan we've accomplished
- Help guide the future of CCCWP in the canyon

---

HOW CAN WE HELP?

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[WWW.CCCWP.ORG](http://WWW.CCCWP.ORG)

## CO River v. BoCo Comm

By Jeff Thompson

In September 2017, the press in Colorado and beyond had a field day reporting on a case filed in federal court, Colorado River Ecosystem v. State of Colorado. The case was brought against the state by several people associated with the organization Deep Green Resistance. They sought to act as “next friends” or guardians of the Colorado River Ecosystem because the river ecosystem cannot speak for itself, at least not in the language we humans use in judicial proceedings. Among other things, they asked the court to declare that the Colorado River Ecosystem possesses the rights to exist, flourish, regenerate, be restored, and naturally evolve.

The case was widely reported to be a first-of-its-kind case, but nothing could be further from the truth. It is not at all uncommon for the federal courts to accept the responsibility conferred on them by Congress to hear and decide cases brought by next friends or guardians when the injured party lacks the capacity to speak for him or herself. The right of the Colorado River Ecosystem to exist, flourish, regenerate, be restored and naturally evolve is explicitly recognized by Congress in the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act declares that its objective “is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.”

And, the State of Colorado is among the perpetrators of the most egregious harm to the Colorado River Ecosystem, as well as our constitutional system of government. The records clearly show that, under the guidance of the Office of the Colorado Attorney General, the State of Colorado deliberately deceived a federal agency, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, concerning its official position on the mitigation that would be necessary in order for the Army Corps to issue permits to the Moffat and Windy Gap water supply projects under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Under a state law, the applicant for federal permits for water supply projects like Moffat and Windy Gap cannot propose the mitigation necessary for issuance of the permits. The state takes that function away from the applicant and acts as the applicant’s representative on the issue of mitigation. The State of Colorado committed a federal crime by deceiving a federal agency about a matter that was material to the federal agency’s decision. It rigged the Army Corps of Engineer’s permitting process and undermined our constitutional system of government in order to cater to the needs of the powerful real estate development industry pushing those projects for obvious reasons.

Incredibly, last December, the Deep Green Resistance “next friends” of the Colorado River Ecosystem dropped the case. What I can make of the motion to dismiss is that

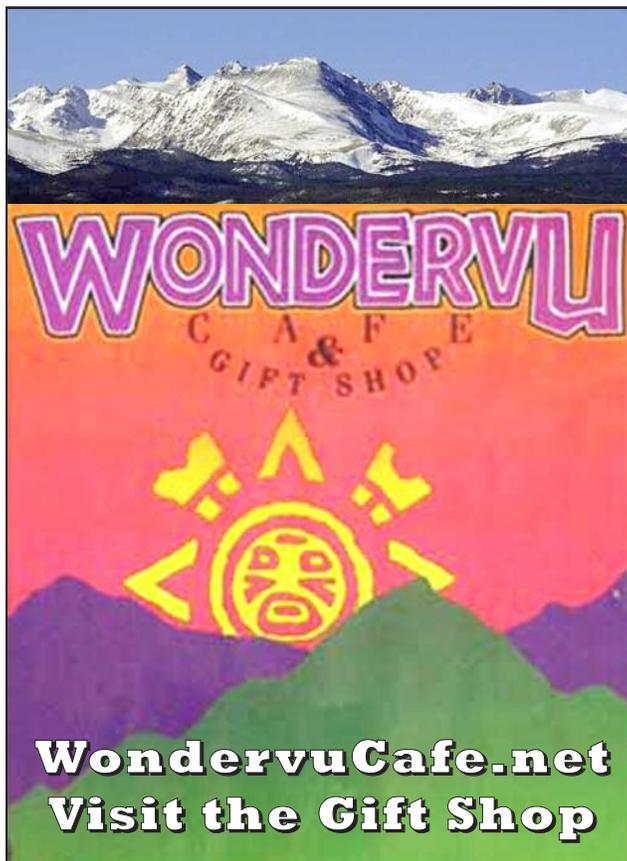
the “next friends” did not think the “conditions” were “appropriate” for the court to best “consider the merits” of the case. I don’t see how the conditions could possibly be more appropriate for that case. The Colorado River Ecosystem needs some new friends, and it needs them fast.

The Boulder County Board of Commissioners seems intent that the State of Colorado not be the only perpetrator of harm to the Colorado River Ecosystem by means of deception. Many Highlander readers received what appears to be a **form letter or email** that begins “Dear Concerned Resident” in response to concerns raised by readers about “Denver Water’s proposed expansion of the Gross Reservoir Dam” (the Moffat Project). The letter/email states that Denver water must still receive approval of its hydropower license amendment application from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) before it can commence the project, and that Boulder County intervened in the FERC process. **The letter/email states:**

*Further, the County has explained to FERC that Denver Water must obtain the required county permits before it undertakes the project. Denver Water has not yet applied for a permit under Article 8 of the Boulder County Land Use Code (also known as a 1041 permit). In fact, Denver Water has publically taken the position*

*that it is not required to obtain a 1041 permit because of the FERC approval process. We hope and expect that Denver Water will do the right thing and submit an application to the county so that . . . the County Commissioners can conduct public hearings and review the application according to the criteria in the Code.*

Many of you will remember that, in 2012, Denver Water and Boulder County planning staff negotiated an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) regarding the Moffat Project to serve as Boulder County’s approval of the project in lieu of the 1041 process. The county commissioners placed the IGA on its agenda for a hearing right before Christmas, without giving the public the notice required by Article 8 of the County Land Use Code. Despite the insufficient notice, residents of Coal Creek Canyon and all over Boulder County showed up well prepared to object to the hearing being held on short notice, and the IGA. Much to the commissioner’s surprise, the hearing room was packed and the hearing lasted late into the night. The commissioners backed down on approving the agreement that night and scheduled another hearing for early in 2013. The same thing happened at the second hearing. The hearing room was packed with well-prepared county residents objecting to the (Continued next page.)



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## Highlander Issues

IGA, the hearing lasted late into the night, and the commissioners backed down again.

The only argument in favor of approving the IGA that seemed at least plausible was that, if FERC approved the hydropower license amendment application, the FERC approval would preempt the county's land use decision under Article 8 of the County Land Use Code (the 1041 permit). In that case, the county might as well take the substantial sums of money Denver Water offered in the IGA because it cannot use its 1041 land use powers to stop the project. That argument was based on what seems to be the county commissioner's policy on everything of late: There's Nothing We Can Do. But the preemption argument is not even plausible.

The preemption argument was supported by a July 2, 2008 memorandum to "Interested Parties" from Patricia Wells, General Counsel for Denver Water. The memorandum begins with the sentence: "FERC's preemptive control of all aspects of hydropower projects was first established more than 60 years ago." The memorandum goes on to state that "wherever FERC makes a determination, preemption occurs, because the state and federal government do not share authority on the same issue." In the hearings on the IGA, it was pointed out to the commissioners that the preemption argument would be valid if the Moffat Project were a hydropower project and not a water supply project. The hydropower aspects of the Moffat Project are only incidental to the water supply project. No one has ever asserted that the purpose, or a purpose, of the Moffat Project is hydropower.

It was pointed out to the commissioners that FERC has a longstanding policy of licensing only the discrete hydropower components of water supply projects. Under

FERC's policy, if it were to approve Denver Water's application for a hydropower license amendment, that approval would have no bearing on the water supply project and its impacts on Boulder County or the Colorado River Ecosystem. Accordingly, in its motion to intervene in the FERC proceeding, it would have been reasonable for Boulder County to point out that, under FERC's policy of licensing only the discrete hydropower components of water supply projects, its decision on the hydropower license amendment should have no bearing or preemptive effect on Boulder County's 1041, or Article 8, Land Use Code authority. It did not do so.

Instead, our county commissioners are telling us that they merely "hope that Denver Water will do the right thing" and recognize Boulder County's land use authority over the project, even though Denver Water has publically stated that it doesn't. **Why aren't the commissioners addressing the preemption issue directly and telling us that FERC's policy is to license only the discrete hydropower components or aspects of water supply projects, and that FERC approval of the hydropower license amendment will have no bearing or preemptive effect on Boulder County's 1041, or Article 8, Land Use Code authority?**

The commissioners may be setting us up again to use the bogus preemption argument to explain their approval of the project through an IGA. State authorities deceived the Army Corps of Engineers about a material element of their permitting process for the Moffat and Windy Gap projects in order to cater to the needs of the powerful real estate development industry pushing those projects. Under the circumstances, we would be naïve to not at least consider the possibility that the county commissioners are subject to

pressure from state authorities and the real estate development industry, both of which are pushing the Moffat Project. After all, all three county commissioners are in the same political party, or should I say party machine, as the state authorities pushing the project. The Colorado River Ecosystem needs some new friends and it needs them fast. The Boulder County Board of Commissioners can kill the Moffat Project if it wants to. It will take some integrity and fortitude our commissioners haven't shown so far, but there is no question that they can kill the project if they want to. Be the Colorado River Ecosystem's new best friends. Face down the bogus preemption issue and make them kill the Moffat Project.

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# Perspective

By Andrew W. Smith

*I don't know who or what I am. Nor, do you.*

*I don't know where I am.*

*I don't know why I am.*

*Supposedly, the earth orbits the sun  
at 67,000 miles per hour.*

*Maybe.*

*So, how fast is the solar system traveling  
through the galaxy?*

*How fast is the galaxy speeding through the  
universe?*

*What is the universe?*

*Am I the universe? Are you?*

*What is time?*

*I'm curious.*

*Why does our civilization  
have no noble goals?*

*Why destroy the intricate ecosystems  
that ensure our continued existence  
on the only known planet in the universe  
that harbors life?*

*Baffling.*

*I think I'll go fly fishing.*



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# CSU Joins Project To Study Global Overpopulation

From Jeff Dodge - CSU

A Colorado State University professor has joined forces with a faculty member in Sweden on an interdisciplinary project to study a “growing” problem: global overpopulation.

Phil Cafaro, a professor in CSU’s Department of Philosophy, and Frank Götmark, an ecology professor at the University of Gothenburg, have been awarded \$600,000 from the Global Challenges Foundation to study the environmental impacts of overpopulation worldwide. The project, based at the Swedish university, also will involve examining challenges associated with keeping population levels around the world from growing.

## Growth levels

Since 1950, the global population has grown from 2.5 billion to 7.6 billion, and the U.N. predicted in July that the number may increase to 11.2 billion by 2100. “That’s a worry for those of us concerned about protecting the environment,” Cafaro says. “How do you deal with that kind of population growth without cooking planet Earth? Better to avoid it in the first place.”

Population growth increases use of natural resources and overall consumption, he explains. This, in turn, amplifies environmental problems such as air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity and species extinction, and global climate change.

## Three areas of focus

In their study, “Research on effects of overpopulation and

ethical policies to reduce global population growth,” Cafaro and Götmark plan to look at three primary questions:

- What conditions and factors can reduce global population growth and, in the long run, provide a stable, sustainable world population?
- Which countries or societies have achieved population stabilization, and what policies have allowed them to achieve this?
- What measures against population growth are economically, socially and ethically acceptable, and can be recommended?

Among other topics, the research will identify policies to address population aging in developed countries without increasing overall population numbers; quantify how lowering population growth can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and explore the role migration policies play in stabilizing or destabilizing populations in sender and receiver countries.

## Shared interests

Cafaro says Götmark contacted him after reading his 2015 book, *How Many is Too Many: The Progressive Argument for Reducing Immigration into the United States*. Götmark, whose most recent research focuses on managing and preserving the biodiversity of oak forests in Scandinavia, shares many of Cafaro’s views on the environmental threats posed by overpopulation. Götmark has seen how population growth can lead to increased development and less habitat for birds and other wildlife, for instance.

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Cafaro says he realizes discussions about controlling population growth can be controversial.

“Population issues have become taboo in recent years,” he says. “We aim to change that through an honest discussion of the demographic choices facing countries around the world, and the environmental implications of those choices. Are there ways to be less coercive than setting a mandate on the number of kids you can have, like providing resources and education to those who want to have fewer kids? Or cutting back on immigration by making life better in the countries where immigrants are coming from?”

### Environmental sustainability

“Ending population growth is one key to creating environmentally sustainable societies,” Götmark adds. “We hope to contribute to that goal by studying policies in both the developed and developing worlds that have gotten population growth under control, highlighting best practices for doing so.”

The two-year grant will cover travel expenses, compensation for time spent on the study, as well as support for two research assistants who will be working on the project: Patricia Derer of Hungary and Jenna Dodson of the U.S.

“In the field of philosophy, this is a significant grant amount,” Cafaro says, adding that two others will contribute to the project as well: Carl Wahren, former head of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, who has done related work with the organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; and Karl-Erik Norrman, secretary general of the European Cultural Parliament, who has done development work with the United Nations and World Trade Organization. “We have these senior Swedish experts, on one hand, and research assistants in their 20s, so the project is intergenerational as well as interdisciplinary.”

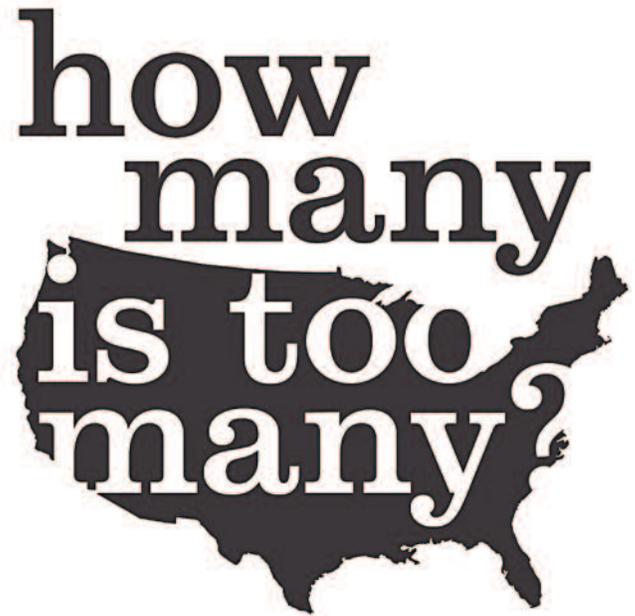
### About the foundation

The Global Challenges Foundation was founded in 2012 by Swedish financial analyst and author Laszlo Szombatfalvy. The Foundation’s aim is to contribute to reducing the main global problems and risks that threaten humanity, particularly climate change, degradation of

### Highlander Environmental

global ecological systems, politically motivated violence, extreme poverty and population growth. Visit its website at <https://globalchallenges.org/>.

*The Department of Philosophy is in CSU’s College of Liberal Arts.*



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# Western Officials Review Dam Safety

By Emily Benson – High Country News

Following a series of intense winter storms last February, a section of the main spillway at California's Oroville Dam cracked and crumbled, opening a huge hole in the chute. Water pummeled the exposed dirt and rock below, eroding chasms in the hillside and the spillway, about 70 miles north of Sacramento.

As officials struggled to keep more of the spillway from disintegrating over the next few days of rainy weather, the reservoir continued to rise. Eventually, it spilled over a second, never-before-used emergency spillway, a lip of concrete that funnels water down a bare hillside, which also began to wash away. That, officials feared, could undermine the side of the reservoir itself, which would send catastrophic floodwaters careening, uncontrolled, toward the communities below.

More than 180,000 people living downstream of Oroville Dam — the tallest dam in the U.S. — were evacuated on Feb. 12. In the following days, the rainstorms eased, dam managers were able to keep water off the emergency spillway and the reservoir walls held.

To avoid the risk of further erosion, however, both spillways needed to be patched up before this winter. By early last November, following months of 'round-the-clock work, the California Department of Water Resources announced that Oroville was ready for the rainy season, though final repairs will take another year. And the consequences of the incident could last far longer: Its sheer scale means it has the potential to affect legislation and policy, as did earlier disasters at other dams. Safety officials

in California and across the West are already reassessing spillways, updating disaster plans and refining evacuation maps, hoping to prevent a repeat of Oroville — or worse. Structural failures were the immediate cause of the Oroville catastrophe. The main spillway has successfully handled larger flows than what it saw last February. While it's not yet clear exactly why it broke apart, some researchers say part of the blame lies in poor design and shoddy maintenance — and that those problems could have been addressed. An independent group of dam experts is investigating what went wrong, with a final report expected by the end of 2017. An interim report released in September notes that there was preexisting damage and repairs at the area that first crumbled. Weaknesses there could have allowed water to get beneath the spillway, potentially blasting apart the concrete from below.

Administrative failures — problems with inspections or regulations — may share the blame for what happened at Oroville. A patchwork of agencies meant to prevent such problems regulates dam safety in the United States. Federal agencies like the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers oversee inspection and maintenance at their own dams. Dams that belong to the state, like Oroville, or a utility company or other non-federal entity, are typically under the jurisdiction of a state agency; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is also involved in dam inspections at non-federal dams with hydropower projects they license, including Oroville.

Experts say it's too early to judge how much dam safety policies at both state and federal levels will ultimately

transform because of Oroville. Some states, however, are already reviewing structures and safety procedures in the wake of the catastrophe. California's Division of Safety of Dams is evaluating spillways at 93 dams that are similar to Oroville. And in June, the state passed legislation requiring regular updates to emergency action plans — basically, blueprints for how to deal with disasters — for dams that could cause major destruction should they fail.

Other states are also reviewing emergency plans. In Montana, officials are revamping how they create evacuation maps, says Michele Lemieux, the dam safety program manager at Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. "(For) most of our dams, and actually



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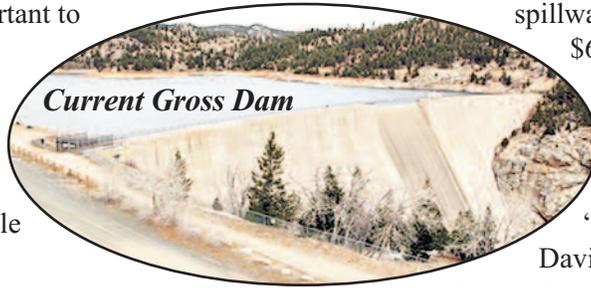
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most of the dams in the country, all the evacuation maps are for this catastrophic failure of the dam,” she says. Those are crucial, but it’s also important to have flood maps for a range of emergencies — including, for example, the collapse of a spillway — which might not produce as much flooding as a full dam failure. “You don’t want to get people out of the way that don’t need to be removed,” Lemieux says.



**Current Gross Dam**

In Colorado, Oroville confirmed that dam safety officials were already on the right track, says Bill McCormick, the chief of dam safety at Colorado Division of Water Resources. There, the big test came in 2013, when widespread flooding in north-central Colorado driven by torrential rain led to the failure of about a dozen small dams. Nobody was hurt or killed as a result of the failures, “but they did get people’s attention,” McCormick says. (Several people died elsewhere during the flooding.) Another wet season in the spring of 2015 made clear the need to plan for different levels of flooding and dam releases. “Our main lesson from Oroville is that we still need to be vigilant,” he says, “but we’re doing the right things.”

Federal regulators are waiting for the results of the independent investigation into the Oroville incident before deciding on any regulatory changes. David Capka, the director of the division of dam safety and inspections at FERC, says the spillway collapse at Oroville is the biggest dam safety incident he’s seen during his career. “If there are things we need to do to improve, then we want to know it,” says Capka, who became the acting director of the division last January, just a month before the Oroville fiasco. “Nobody who was involved in that incident ever wants to go through something like that again.”

In California, workers are putting the finishing touches on recent spillway repairs at the dam. The main spillway isn’t used every winter; water managers only need it when there’s too much water to be released through Oroville’s other outlets. While this winter’s rain forecasts for northern California are uncertain, the region regularly experiences wild swings in precipitation. “We needed to make sure that we had systems in place for this year,” says Erin Mellon, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Water Resources.

This winter, the spillway should be able to withstand as much as the maximum flows of last February, about 100,000 cubic feet per second. (Following additional repairs next year, it should be able to handle 270,000 cubic feet per second.) Construction crews are also refurbishing the emergency spillway. Next year, officials plan to line part of the bare hillside with concrete, something environmental groups warned was necessary more than a

decade ago. Between emergency repairs and long-term reconstruction, the final tab for the work at both spillways is expected to be more than \$640 million, some of which will come from federal funds.

In planning for the future, managers must also grapple with the effects of climate change. “California is a good example,” says David Freyberg, a hydrologist and water resources engineer and professor at Stanford University. “As we switch from snow to rain, that really changes the game for how reservoirs are operated.”

Most large dams were built to withstand extreme weather, but the guidelines for water releases around storms need to catch up to reflect changing conditions. If they don’t, incidents like Oroville, and the enormous price-tags that come with them, could become more common.

For both officials and private citizens, what happened at Oroville was a dramatic reminder of the importance of dam safety regulations. “There is a lot of thought going on right now about what kind of (dam safety or inspection) changes might be needed,” Freyberg says. “This scared a lot of people.”

*Emily Benson is an editorial fellow at High Country News.*

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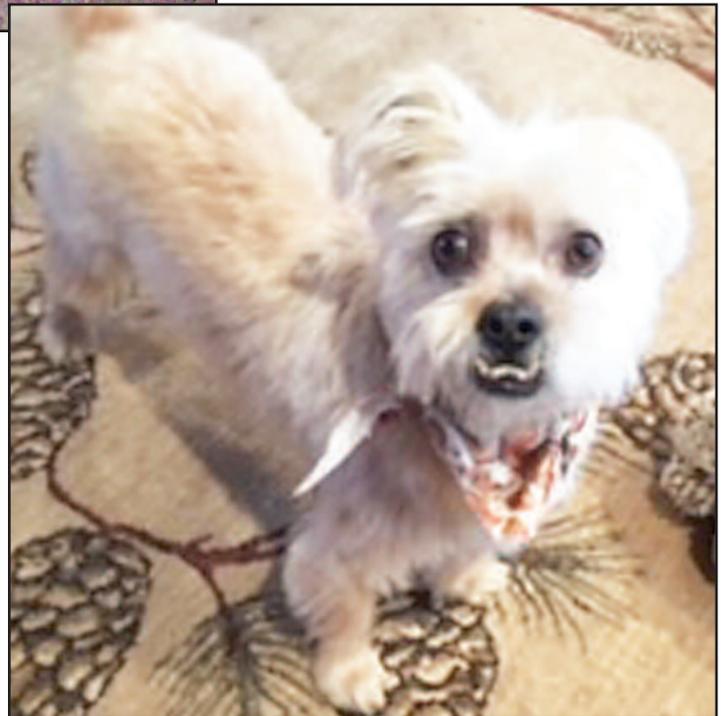
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*This Page top:  
Front yard Moose from Jon M.  
Bottom right: Jonas.  
Bottom left: Two pups look up,  
(sorry I may have lost their names)!*

*Next page top left: Cat from Diane.  
Bottom left: baby Sheltie, Ollie.  
Right: Targhee & Teton.*

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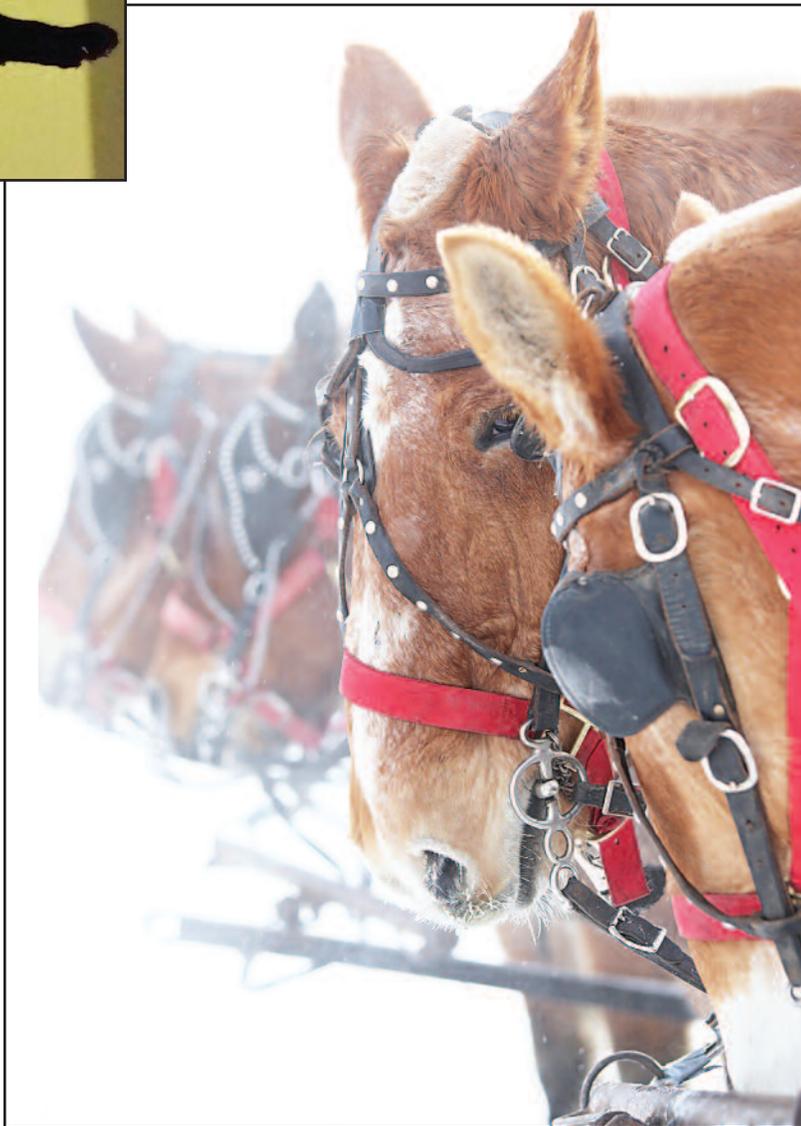
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# What To Do If Stranded In A Winter Storm

From Jim Plane - State Farm Insurance

Few people like driving through a snow storm, and most heed warnings to stay off the roads when a storm is bearing down. But even the best-prepared and expert drivers can get stuck. If it happens to you, here are some important reminders:

### Be prepared.

While the best first step is prevention, some storms come on quickly. If you do get stranded, keeping a few essentials in your car can help keep you comfortable while you wait. Some useful items to keep on hand include an ice scraper and brush, drinking water, blankets, and high-energy, nonperishable food.

### Stay inside.

If possible, pull off the highway and turn your hazard lights on or tie something bright to your car's antenna to signal that you need help. Then wait inside your car until help arrives to avoid exposure to frostbite and hypothermia.

### Call 911.

If you have a charged phone and reception, call for help and describe your location as best you can.

### Clear the tailpipe.

Make sure there's no snow covering your tailpipe in order

to prevent carbon monoxide buildup inside the car. Check the tailpipe periodically to ensure that fresh snow isn't blocking it, always watching for oncoming traffic before exiting your vehicle.

### Keep moving.

Staying active inside your car will help you keep warm. Clap your hands and tap your toes to keep your circulation moving and prevent frostbite.

### Drink up.

Dehydration can make you more susceptible to the effects of cold. If there's no drinking water inside your car, melt some snow inside a bag or other makeshift cup to stay hydrated.

### Rev your engine.

Provided you have enough gas in your tank, run the engine for about 10 minutes every hour to keep the car warm. Turn on interior lights when your engine is on so you can be seen inside your car.

### Don't overexert yourself.

Cold weather puts your heart under added stress. If you're not used to exercise, shoveling snow or pushing a car could put you at risk of a heart attack.



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# Wild Allegiance

By Geneen Marie Haugen

When I stopped standing in school for the national anthem and Pledge of Allegiance, no one noticed. Not only was I not famous, I wasn't even popular. But it was already clear to me — almost 50 years ago — that I was primarily a citizen of a planet, not of a nation, especially not a nation that used young people as fodder in a baffling war, a nation that diminished women and demonized people of color, although I would not have used that language then. Still, I knew enough to be disturbed by the images of war and the civil rights movement that I saw on television and *Life* magazine.

Maybe the knowledge that I was basically invisible gave me the courage to resist the flag-waving agenda. Perhaps I was slightly odder than other 16- or 17-year-olds. I'd grown up a little wild and a little dreamy, by a lake in the remnant forest of Washington state, and so I felt allied with the earth, with land and creatures. This was well before the first Earth Day in 1970, and long before the language and concepts of biodiversity and ecology became widespread.

The times have changed. In recent months, sports players, protesting racial injustice, have made headlines for "taking a knee" during the national anthem. I admire the courage it takes to risk one's career in public dissent. Sometimes I feel like a privileged coward. I seldom attend events that include the national anthem or flag allegiance, so I have few occasions to risk not standing.

Since the breakdown of civil discourse and rise of anonymous Internet bullying (and worse), it's now risky to be regarded as "unpatriotic" — a word with multiple interpretations. For some, patriotism involves protecting water or the integrity of wild ecosystems, or creating resilient communities; for others, it means strip-mining or clear-cutting to create jobs. Some patriots focus on the common good; for others, self-interest may be primary. In the rural West, patriotism may run in the Cliven Bundy direction.

Disparate views and voices clash with intent to dominate, intimidate or silence the less powerful. Respectful listening is no longer a high priority, if it ever was. Yet democracy depends on the flourishing of a spectrum of voices. I write letters to government officials; I sign petitions; I make modest donations.

For years now, though, my opposition to the politics and policies that undermine our life-support system has shape-shifted into a different kind of participation in the world — a kind of deep listening to the wild earth, where, it turns out, biodiversity is robustly expressed by an orchestra of wild voices.

Over decades, the bio-acoustic engineer Bernie Krause has recorded natural sound habitats all over the world. His careful listening led to the discovery that creatures vocalize in relationship to one another, in a *(Continued next page.)*

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## Highlander Opinion

specific frequency and timeframe — or acoustic bandwidth — in which their voices can be heard. Krause proposed the once-radical idea that, if a species' particular vocal niche is lost, the creature can no longer survive in that ecosystem, and will move on, or die out. Today, many of the once-thriving wild habitats that Krause has recorded have gone mute, overcome by human activity.

In our tweet-infested social media maelstrom, dominant voices are often mistaken for those that contribute meaningfully to the cultural conversation, mistaken for offerings that nourish our collective ecosystem. In divisive times, it's challenging to refrain from demonizing those with different views. It's easy to regard others as uninformed or somehow deficient. Easy, and about as fruitful as adding motor oil to compost.

Healthy ecosystems include predators and prey, grass and grass-eaters, bacteria and hosts. Is there a more ecologically coherent response to our moment than bludgeoning one another with opinions, shouting over the shy ones, cordoning off those whose views disagree with our own?

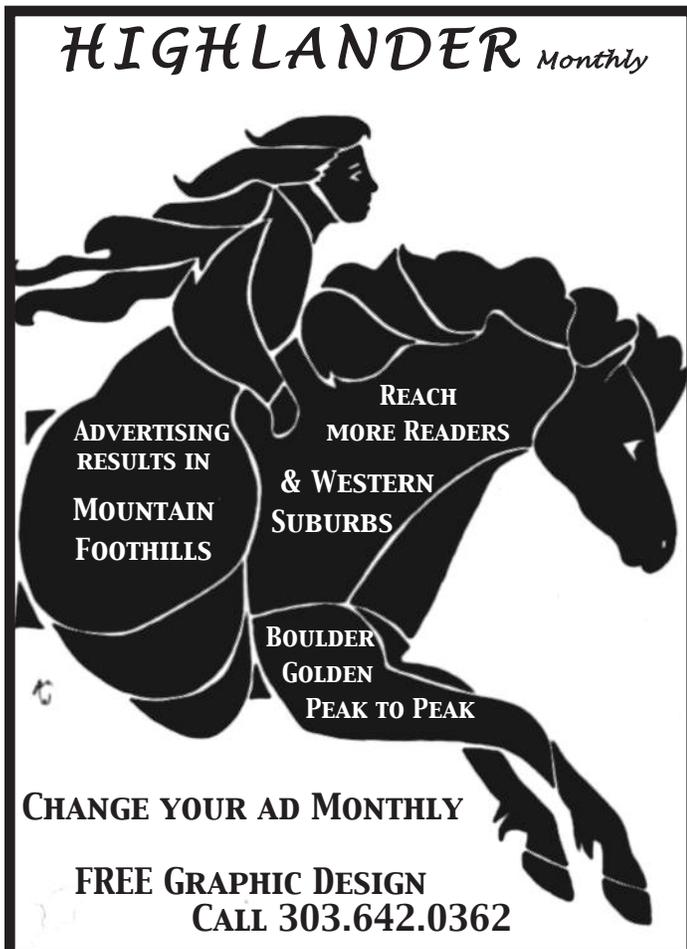
I want to honor the quiet speech of the most vulnerable. I want, especially, to honor and offer wild prayers for the continued howls, creaks, grunts, chitters and caws of the Others. Somehow, nearly 50 years ago, I recognized that

my primary allegiance was to the wild Earth — not to a nation-state or flag. I did not have Gary Snyder's poet-philosopher sensibilities, or even his poem *For All*, which may not have been written yet. But when I came across the poem decades later, I resonated, and still do, with Snyder's vow:

**I pledge allegiance to the soil  
of Turtle Island,  
and to the beings who thereon dwell  
one ecosystem  
in diversity  
under the sun  
With joyful interpenetration for all.**

When the trail disappears in rubble, or when there are a thousand plotlines to choose from, or when the conditions are divisive and the dominant voices are clashing, it's essential to have some kind of compass, some allegiance, to steer by.

*Geneen Marie Haugen is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She is a writer who also guides for Animas Valley Institute (www.animas.org) in Durango, Colorado.*



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# The Kindness In Nature

By Ingrid Winter



*Early in the morning  
 a single white pelican  
 is floating  
 in the middle  
 of the lake  
 The enormous beak  
 resting  
 on his chest  
 which billows out  
 on either side  
 like a plump, fluffy pillow  
 made of feathers and down  
 which-  
 come to think of it-  
 is exactly  
 what it is*

*and I marvel  
 at the kindness  
 of nature  
 (which, we all know,  
 can be so harsh at times!)  
 to provide  
 a built-in resting place  
 for a heavy  
 hardworking  
 body part!*

*Photo Courtesy Alexa Boyes.  
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# Benefits From Massage

From CSU

## Massage may aid muscle regrowth, even in an opposite limb

Massage could increase the regrowth of muscle tissue after an injury — even when applied to the opposite, uninjured limb — according to researchers from Colorado State University and the University of Kentucky.

In a paper published recently in *The Journal of Physiology*, the researchers showed that muscle grew faster after a massage because the making of protein in cells was improved. They also showed that when one leg was massaged, the muscle in the other, non-massaged leg also grew faster.

Muscle is lost very quickly during periods of disuse, such as during bed rest or a hospital stay, and it is extremely difficult to grow back, especially in older people. Massage is an easy-to-use treatment with very few side effects that can lessen pain, decrease anxiety and stress, increase flexibility, improve immunity, and increase blood flow. But its value for muscle regeneration had not been demonstrated before.

## Groundbreaking result

Karyn Hamilton and Ben Miller, faculty members in CSU's Department of Health and Exercise Science who were first authors on the paper, say the concept that massaging one limb might also lead to benefits in another non-massaged limb is groundbreaking.

"For instance, if you injured one leg and couldn't massage it because of that injury, we now have evidence suggesting that massaging the other non-injured leg could lead to benefits in the injured leg," Hamilton said. "That's a novel finding with potentially very important implications." The researchers used rats that underwent a period of inactivity to decrease muscle mass, then were allowed to recover. During the recovery period, the rats were massaged by a device that applied pressure to the muscle in a highly controlled manner. Massage was applied every other day for a week, and researchers analyzed the muscle for the size of muscle fibers, making of proteins, presence of other cells (for example, muscle stem cells), and communication in the cells that programs them to grow. "While this first study only involved rats, we are hopeful that it will have similar implications for humans," Miller said.

The research team is just beginning similar studies with human participants as part of research taking place at the University of Kentucky.

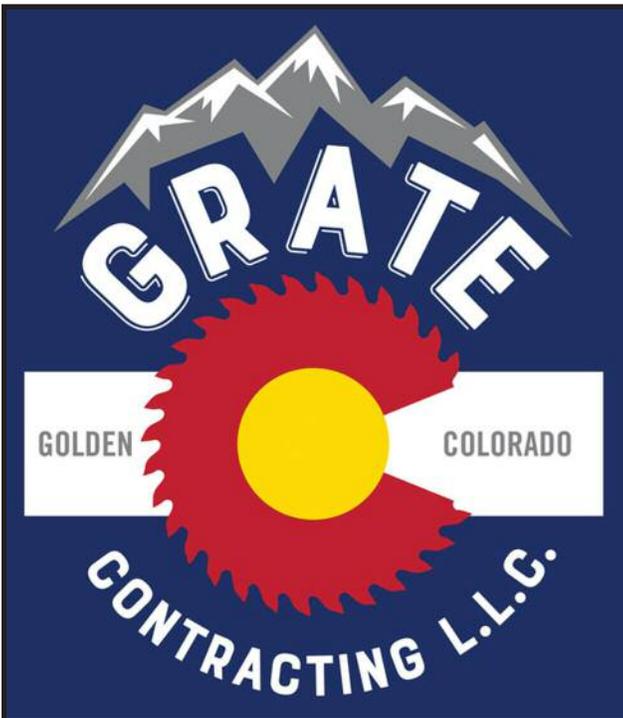
## Real-world relevance

"This research project demonstrates how Dr. Miller, Dr. Hamilton and their colleagues are using sophisticated techniques for assessing basic muscle physiology to address practical questions with real-world clinical relevance," said Barry Braun, head of the Department of Health and Exercise Science at CSU.

The intervention was only used during recovery after muscle loss. The researchers used massage every other day, since that's what is used in a clinical situation, but it is unknown if more frequent massage would result in even greater benefits. In addition, the work was only performed in healthy adult animals, and it is important to see if it will also work with older ages and in the presence of diseases associated with aging.

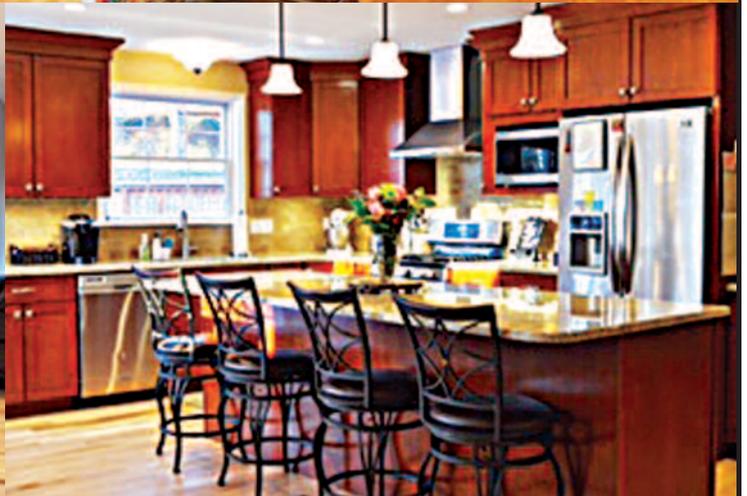
"We foresee that massage could be used in situations where other treatments, such as exercise, can't be applied: in the intensive care unit and in patients who are under non-weight-bearing orders after orthopaedic surgeries," said Esther E. Dupont-Versteegden, one of the investigators at the University of Kentucky's College of Health Sciences.

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than \$13,872 and qualifying BFC for an additional \$10,000 in matching funds. All in one day!

We don't know how many other people raised funds for us on Facebook yet, but we do know of a few that raised an additional \$1000.

Buffalo Field Campaign is everyone, everywhere, who cares about wild bison and takes action on their behalf. We felt the power recently when so many of you stepped up to support BFC on Giving Tuesday in our efforts to protect wild bison and their habitat. The approximately \$25,000 raised will directly fund our work in the field and in the policy arena fighting for the buffalo's right to roam. Thank you so much from everyone at BFC! For Wild Bison! Ken Cole Exec. Director Buffalo Field Campaign

It is still important to contact the authorities that control what happens to the bison in Yellowstone, so call them and share your opinion that they aren't livestock and should not be treated as such. Also you can **TAKE ACTION** on our website.

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## *Invisible World*

*By Frosty Wooldridge*

Much of life in every civilization revolves around money, power and status. Some youngsters enjoy instant success from their parents while others begin in poverty. Everyone learns the ways of the world by the time they reach 18.

They understand the inequities, discriminations and biases. Some let their beginnings define them while others take action to change them. Let's face it; we all make comparisons.

I am reminded of a sewing circle of old Catholic women. All carried great pride in their sons.

The first mother said, "I am so proud of my son. He became a priest so when his parishners address him, they say "Father."

The second mother proudly spoke up, "My son became a bishop so when his flock addresses him, they say "Your grace."

The third mother bragged, "My son became a cardinal, so when his parishners address him, they say, "Your eminence." ("High nobility")

The fourth mother straightened her frock while squaring her shoulders, "Well, my son is 6'2" and a Personal Trainer. When he walks into a room, the women gasp, "My God!"

No matter what your "station" or "status" in life, in America, you can rise from the ashes of your youth to become president of the United States. That's been proven time and again.

What propels such success by individuals? First of all, make the positive assumption and understanding that "life" supports you. The energies of life and the universe get behind you and assist you in flourishing your well-being. Once you understand that fact, you may utilize the powers of living to engage your ultimate triumphs.

What does that mean as far as application?

No matter your origins whether rich, poor or in-between, you must change your thoughts toward the positive. That, in turn, changes your words to evolving concepts. As you pick up speed with a mind-set and word-set change, you re-arrange the energy of your mind toward fulfillment.

Understand that "good" works in your life. Feel gratitude for your opportunities. Stand for excellence in all you say and do. Open to the healing energy of living. Meditate daily. Accept that you move forward in perfect harmony with living.

While many religions preach wickedness and evil, in the 21st century you enjoy the ability to learn, grow and evolve. Seek the golden thread of truth of the oneness, infinite and divine in you. Remember that thought creates form in your life.

*(Continued next page.)*

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## Highlander Inner View

The way you think becomes the way you live.

### How to proceed toward success and happiness

While many see limitations in their lives, and that becomes a habit, you must engage the “high watch” in your mind. Disengage from the “old stories” of defeat and frustration.

“My parents didn’t do this or that... I got beat up...I failed because the teacher disliked me....”

Guide your thoughts until they become positive all the time. You maintain total control of your life’s ship and you captain it toward your destination.

Empower your new story by changing your old vision to a new vision. What do you really want to do with your life? What job would give you joy and energy? Create it; live it; realize it. You grow into the hero of your life by your thoughts and actions.

Realize an invisible world of energy moves through you, for you and with you. It thrives with the attitudes and actions of your mind. Tune out negative “old thinking” and move toward greater abundance in your mind, health, work and achievements.

What hero inspires you? Read about his or her trials and tribulations. How did that hero succeed? What gave them the power to triumph? Do you want to find love? Read Marianne Williamson’s *A Return to Love*.

Want to live a dynamic daily life? Read Dan Millman’s book: *No Ordinary Moments*.

Want to live a life of adventure? Read and activate the five



concepts and six practices in *How to Live a Life of Adventure* by Frosty Wooldridge. Also, *Living Your Spectacular Life*.

Take these ideas and apply them to your daily life. You will find that an invisible world of caring propels you to your ultimate happiness.

#### Editor’s Note:

I once heard someone say, “We can pick our thoughts just as easily as picking out the clothes we’re going to wear, each and every day.” Wish I could remember who said it, but the message resonated with me....

I also practice pulling positives from negatives, just as if we are learning opportunities from obstacles. I too, believe we create our lives - everyday and year. If you don’t like something about your life, change it instead of complaining about it. Lauren Bacall said: “Never complain, never explain” - good philosophy. Have a Happy New Year!

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# Wildfire

By Dale N. Bosworth and Jerry T. Williams

It's not the way we fight wildfires in the West that's the problem. The problem is the way we manage our fire-dependent forests.

Since 2000, 154 wildfires in the region have cost over \$20 million each to control. Many of them cost several times more. Together, these costliest fires, which were less than one-tenth of 1 percent of all Western wildfires in the period, cost more than \$9 billion to fight. If you factor in property losses, natural resource damage and environmental impacts, the true costs skyrocket, but they are rarely measured or accounted for. What can't be ignored is that these unprecedented wildfires tell us we need a much better land-management strategy.

In the aftermath of 9/11, the federal government established a commission to recommend ways to prevent future terror attacks. Among other findings, the commission's report faulted leaders for a "failure of imagination," citing a system that was hamstrung by convention.

We face a similar predicament with the West's wildfires. Nearly every summer, the wildfire season exceeds our imaginations, as each "worst-ever" disaster soon eclipses its predecessor. In the past 20 years, most of the 11 Western states have suffered their worst wildfires on record —

several states have done so more than once. At a time when firefighting budgets have never been higher, the West is experiencing its worst wildfires since it first organized for fire protection more than a century ago. If the aim is to protect life and property and minimize natural resource damage — and to do so at the lowest possible cost, without compromising firefighter safety — then we are headed down the wrong trail.

We need to be exploring more imaginative approaches. Protection of human communities ultimately matters most, but sometimes we are simply unable to save homes. Despite state-of-the-art gear, training, determination and other resources, firefighters are rarely able to control the worst wildfires until they get some relief in the weather or a break in the fuels. Neither can managers deal with the compounding effects of climate change, deteriorating forest conditions and uncontrolled residential development at the wildland-urban interface. The West remains tethered to an unworkable protection strategy that is stalled at a dangerous impasse, while costs, losses, damages and deaths all keep mounting.

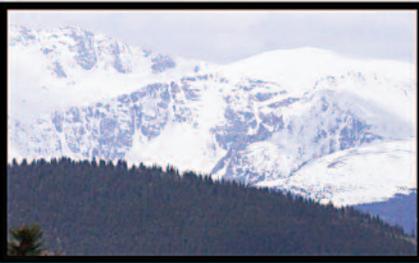
Imagine a credible commission tasked with investigating the West's wildfire problem. Its members would examine the full range of contributing factors. They would probably conclude that the West's wildfire (Continued next page.)

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## Highlander Issues

problem is much more than a firefighting challenge — that it is, fundamentally, a failure to manage fire-dependent forest ecosystems at appropriate intensities, intervals and scales. They would find that many of today's worst wildfire disasters are, ironically, occurring in drastically altered forests that tolerated fire better and burned much less severely 100 years ago.

A century of fire suppression and take-the-best-and-leave-the-rest logging has brought us to this place. But in confounding ways, our contemporary budgeting practices, regulatory controls, land management plans and market forces are often at cross purposes with the most effective means to protect the West's fire-prone forests. Here's why:

- Budget appropriations provide almost unlimited funding for wildfire control but starve budgets for wildfire mitigation.
- On national forests, managers are required by law to meet certain regulatory standards for proposed actions aimed at reducing wildfire risks. Yet in the absence of these actions, wildfire impacts that are often far worse are exempt from any analysis of their effects.
- Depending on the way fire-prone landscapes are managed, wildfire risks can become high, but national forest plans don't require that those risks be identified or considered before plans are implemented.
- In most places, thinning the forest understory needs to precede prescribed burning. Yet few markets exist for small-diameter trees and deadfall, even when the true cost of wildfires could easily justify subsidizing their removal. We need to develop and encourage more of these markets. As this woody material continues to accumulate, wildfire risks only grow, and the business of firefighting becomes ever more lucrative.

Historian Barbara Tuchman, in her book, *The March of Folly*, observed that governments often remain stubbornly addicted to a counterproductive course of action. They pursue the unworkable, she said, sacrificing the possible.

We all know that the West's wildfire problem is getting worse, but we have been slow to confront this reality. Unable to envision future threats and explore solutions across the full range of contributory factors, we cling to an untenable position. Bound to convention, we are left to suffer the next unimaginable disaster.

It is time for a commission on wildfire.

*The writers are contributors to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). Dale N.*

*Bosworth is a retired former chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Jerry T. Williams is a retired former national director of fire and aviation management for the U.S.F.S.*

### **Firefighters, your next mission might be local**

**By Lorena Williams**

The devastating Eagle Creek Fire in Oregon's Columbia Gorge had been burning for weeks when I came upon a vehicle parked illegally within the fire-closure area. A middle-aged woman stood alone at the overlook's railing.

As a wildland firefighter assigned to educate the public while keeping them out of the fire closure, I stopped to talk. I began the conversation by offering some general information: The 48,000-acre blaze was largely beneficial to the land, I said, leaving a healthy mosaic of low-intensity burn patterns. And though it had not been sparked naturally, the fire would improve the long-term health of the gorge.

I was optimistic, a veteran firefighter desensitized to ashfall and overblown news reports. So I smiled and waited. It was her turn to acknowledge that she was inside

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a closed area, apologize and drive away. Instead, she looked out at the blackened canyon and said: “I just never thought this could happen. It looks terrible.”

Only then did she tell me that it was her home we were looking at in the canyon below. Remarkably, the fire had spared it, but now it was surrounded by a monochrome moonscape. Her horses had been returned to their pasture, but on the first day of the fire, this woman had bravely loaded them into a trailer as embers drifted around them, the advancing flames threatening to block her escape.

Now, as she drove away from the overlook, it occurred to me that this conversation should never have happened. How was it that a homeowner in the urban interface had never considered wildfire a possibility?

This kind of naiveté is dangerous. It leads many homeowners to fail at undertaking responsible preventative maintenance. But I, too, had been thoughtless in my insistence on the inherent good of fire, which both ignored the human factor and obscured more accurate truths. Fire may be a sign of rebirth, but it is also a bringer of ruin. Wildfire throughout much of the West is overdue, but when it finally comes, its magnitude often exceeds the adaptive limits of an ecosystem. Species depend on fire, but they also go extinct because of it.

What if this homeowner and I had discussed fire in her neighborhood before the inevitable happened? Educational efforts like the Firewise Communities Program effectively

help people build safer neighborhoods in vulnerable areas by developing community action plans and providing free online tools. But they can’t reach everybody. This puts the onus of education on neighborhood locals who have the knowledge and tools to help make a community fire-wise. That means wildland firefighters themselves — people like me.

Most wildland firefighters don’t engage with the public that often, and we tend to be tight-lipped about our jobs. We see communities burn, policies and tactics fall short, and we wrestle with our own guilty love of wildfire. We are either criticized for lack of success or action, or placed on pedestals as heroes. This kind of attention is overwhelming for thousands of folks who’d rather just disappear into the woods and do their jobs.

We must resist our desire to blend into the trees, however, and take responsibility to help the family whose cedar shake roof is matted with pine litter, or to clear brush around the elderly couple’s porch. You could even argue that firefighters are morally obligated to take such voluntary actions.

Perhaps more important than physically helping our neighbors, we firefighters must talk about fire and even begin a community discussion (like this one). The agencies that employ us will never reach an audience oblivious to the risk of wildfire, and Firewise Communities Programs still don’t exist in many places. But when a neighboring firefighter clearly explains to the resident whose beautiful home is tucked deep inside a forested canyon that fire will find him sooner or later, that homeowner is more likely to respond and create defensible space.

A friendly discussion at a neighborhood picnic might have better prepared that woman in Oregon for the possibility of a devastating wildfire. Not every neighborhood or even town can be spared, as we recently witnessed in California’s tragic wildfires, yet we can improve our odds through action.

Firefighters need not become champions of the Firewise Communities Program or get embroiled in their friends’ defensible space issues in order to make a difference. Simply providing the web link to the “Firewise Tips Checklist for Homeowners” can give your neighbors a starting point. Explaining the dangers of stacking a woodpile against the house or allowing gutters to fill with debris just might be enough to save someone’s home.

In turn, homeowners living in the forest must consider fire a probability, much the way folks building houses on the seaside have to reckon with hurricanes. Wildland-urban interface dwellers don’t have the luxury of assuming that a natural disaster will not affect them. Forests evolved with fire; now, homeowners must make an effort to do the same.

*Lorena Williams is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She is a writer and wildland firefighter based out of Durango, Colorado.*

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# Macho Moose-Lost In Dark Canyon-Bobcat Value

From Betsy Marston – High Country News

## ALASKA

It's better not to mess with a macho moose when he's in the mood to make whoopee. As Alberta Laktonen watched from across the street, a rutting bull moose head-butted her

Toyota Prius and then turned its attention to her mailbox, whirling around to crash its antlers against the metal. Both targets remained standing, though the car suffered an estimated \$5,600 in damage, reports *The Week* magazine. This is actually typical behavior for a young bull seeking a mate, said a spokesman for Alaska's Department of Fish and Game. "Basically, it means their hormones are raging."

## COLORADO

For Katelyn Zak, 29, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Beth Rittenhouse, 28, from Boulder, Colorado, a day hike had unintended consequences. The women, who had never met, were each hiking solo on the Dark Canyon loop not far from Crested Butte. They ran into each other on the trail as the sun was setting and the night was getting cooler. And that's when they realized they were in a fix: They were miles from their destination and thought they might be lost. But they got lucky, says *Colorado Central Magazine*: "They stumbled upon an outfitter's drop camp, complete with a tent, firewood, cots, food and a lighter, where they spent the night." And the next morning, they met two locals who gave them food and directed them back to the trailhead, where, by another coincidence, they found their cars parked side by side. "It was bizarre, absolutely bizarre," commented Mount Crested Butte police officer Matt Halverson, in the *Gunnison Country Times*.

A hunter near Vail, Colorado, was less fortunate in October. He'd spent several days in the backcountry before successfully bagging a large 6x6 bull — meaning one with a total of 12 antler points. He'd made several trips to his truck to pack out the elk, says the Vail Daily, but on the final one, he discovered that a thief had made off with his trophy elk's antlered head.

There's a \$1,000 reward for helping to find the culprit: Call 800-972-TIPS or go online at TipSubmit.com.

On the other hand, Gail Binkley, editor of the *Four Corners Free Press*, learned a lot about neighborliness after a sudden squall swept through Cortez. She and her husband were at home, when suddenly "there was a loud crack!" close by: A microburst had ripped a 50-foot-tall blue spruce completely out of the ground, yanking the tree's roots up from under the concrete driveway. The fallen giant completely enveloped her car and blocked the front door. Binkley barely managed to squeeze



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out, only to find the porch filled with broken limbs and bristly needles.

Then something wonderful happened: “People started appearing” — not her immediate neighbors but folks from blocks away. “Everyone oohed and aahed over the giant tree. And then they set to work.” In short order the volunteers chain-sawed the tree’s strewn limbs while other people she’d never met arrived in pickups to carry off the wood, destined for the landfill the next day. Before long, her car was freed, she could open her front door and the tree had been reduced to a stump. Says a grateful Binkley: “They didn’t know me, what religion I was, or what political affiliation I might have. They asked nothing in return. They simply saw an opportunity to help, and took it.”

### ARIZONA

Facts have found a fan in Susan Bolton, a senior U.S. District Court judge for Arizona. In a recent ruling, she said that despite receiving a pardon from President Donald Trump, former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio may not tell the world that he was never criminally convicted. Arpaio had been charged with illegally ordering his department to target and arrest anyone who looked

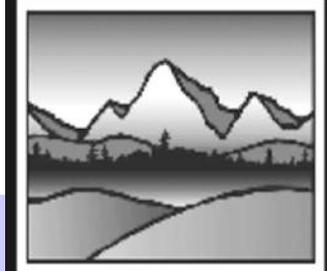
Mexican-American, and despite being ordered by a judge to stop, he continued his “racial profiling,” reports the *Arizona Star*. But Bolton, whom a colleague describes as an “impeccable judge,” said that a presidential pardon does not mean that Arpaio can expunge his criminal record. “The power to pardon is an executive prerogative of mercy, not of judicial record-keeping,” Bolton wrote, and a pardon does not “revise the historical facts of this case.” Arpaio, who served no time in jail because of Trump’s pardon, has said he will sue to have Bolton’s decision overturned.

### THE WEST

Is a live bobcat worth a thousand times more than a dead one? Absolutely, says *Biodiversity and Conservation*, an international science journal. True, a hunter or trapper in Wyoming pays \$130.53 for a license, and might earn \$184.64 by selling the pelt.

But a bobcat living freely for a year in Yellowstone National Park is such a valuable tourist attraction that it has a value of \$308,105.00. This analysis of the economic impact of wildlife came from two nonprofits, **Wyominguntrapped.org** and the international **Panthera.org**, dedicated to preserving wild cats.

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Angels w/Paws-Cat Rescue pg 14 303.274.2264  
Mtn Dog Whisperer pg 7 303.447.0275  
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## ART

The Silver Horse - pg 24 303.279.6313  
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## AUTOMOBILE

Carl's Corner pg 19 303.642.7144  
Kysar's Place Inc. pg 15 303.582.3566  
Mountain Muffler pg 6 303.278.2043

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ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 15 303.258.3132  
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Peter Palombo, Surveyor-pg 23 720.849.7509  
RedPoint Construction pg 22 303.642.3691  
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Michelle Marciniak, CPA pg 19 303.642.7371  
Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 33 303.642.0433

## CHILD CARE

Eagles Nest Early Learning pg 5 303.582.0895

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MidTown Chimney pg 21 303.670.7785

## CLOTHING

Mountain Man Store pg 16 303.258.3295  
The Rustic Moose - pg 24 303.258.3225

## COMPUTER SERVICE & REPAIR

Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 33 303.642.0433

## ELECTRIC

United Power - Inside back Cover 303.642.7921

## ENTERTAINMENT

Jaime Mezo - Cozumel Scuba Diving pg 23  
KGNU Radio pg 31 303.449.4885

## ENVIRONMENTAL

The Environmental Group - tegcolorado.org

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Silver Eagle Excavating pg 32 303.642.7464

## FARRIER

Forbes Farrier Service pg 32 303.642.7437

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High Timber Mtn Tree Serv. pg 9 303.258.7942  
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The Silver Horse - pg 24 303.279.6313  
The Rustic Moose - pg 24 303.258.3225  
Nature Photography Notecards pg 18  
Wondervu Gift Shop pg 11 303.642.1258

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Nederdance pg 32 303.258.9427

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Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393  
Red-Tailed Tree Service pg 20 941.879.3942  
Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 13 303.653.7967  
Redpoint Construction pg 22 303.642.3691

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## INSURANCE

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## LIQUOR

Mid-County Liquors pg 21 3093.642.7686  
Underground Liquor pg 9 303.582.6034

## MUSIC LESSONS

Guitar-Ukuele in CCC pg 5 303.642.0582  
Piano Lessons in CCC pg 30 303.642.8423

## PLUMBING

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## PROPANE

Peak to Peak Propane ins cov 970.454.4081  
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Century 21 Golden West pg 6 720.434.2600  
Mock Realty-Kathy Keating -Back cov 303.642.1133  
Summit Up Property Mgt. pg 8 303.618.8266

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Wondervu Cafe pg 11 303.642.7197

## RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 15 303.258.3132  
B & F Mountain Market pg 12 303.258.3105  
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393  
Mountain Man Store pg 16 303.258.3295  
The Silver Horse - pg 24 303.279.6313  
The Rustic Moose - pg 24 303.258.3225

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Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

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Doctor Water Well pg 18 303.438.6669

**JANUARY  
2018**

# POWER UPDATE

## **Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp** Steamboat Springs, Colo. July 14-19, 2018

United Power is now accepting applications for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp to be held July 15-20, 2017 just north of Steamboat Springs, Colo. The primary objective of this camp is to provide an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. Interested students must complete an application, be 16 years of age or older, and have their primary residence in United Power's service territory.

Applications can be found at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) under the 'My Community' tab.

**Applications must be postmarked by January 12, 2018.**

**UNITED  
POWER**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## **Bundle Up for Winter Storms**

Are you ready for winter's cold grasp? We may not have seen much winter yet, but snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms, but being prepared can make a world of difference. United Power recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintry blasts.

### **Winterize Your Home**

Winter storms wreak havoc on your home. By winterizing your living space, you'll be prepared for extreme cold and hazardous conditions.

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation, or cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.



### **Prepare a Winter Survival Kit**

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. United Power crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- Food: Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person.
- Medication: Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- Identification: Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- Other items: First Aid Kit, blankets, warm clothing for every family member, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

Customer Service: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

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

We will open the book. Its pages are blank.  
 We are going to put words on each page.  
 The book is called Opportunity and its  
 first chapter is New Year's Day.  
 Wishing YOU ALL the best in 2018.



**941 Indian Peak Road**  
 Fabulous Mtn Retreat w/5 Car Garage  
 5 BD/ 3 BA 1.09 Acres **\$745,000**



**15 Debra Ann**  
 Beautiful-Raised Ranch w/Private Pond  
 4 BD / 3 BA .8 Acre **\$522,000**



**33848 Ave De Pines**  
 Fantastic Mtn Home w/City Views  
 4 BD/ 3 BA RV Garage **\$484,000**



**29845 Spruce Canyon**  
 Amazing Updated Mtn Hm w/VIEWS  
 3 BD/ 3 BA 2.37 Acres **\$499,000**



**29373 Spruce Canyon**  
 VIEWS - Remodeled - Over 3 Acres  
 3 BD / 3 BA **\$564,000**



**722 8th Ave., Longmont**  
 Circa 1910 Old Town Charming!  
 2 BD/ 2 BA Oversized Garage **\$349,000**



**91 Wagon Wheel**  
 Privacy w/Lots of Potential - Well  
 800 sq.ft. Cabin 1.45 Acres **\$84,000**



**11536 Coal Creek Heights Drive**  
 Panoramic Divide/City Views!!  
 3 BD/ 3 BA 3.3 Acres **\$599,900**



**69 Aspen Drive**  
 Nicely Remodeled - Main Floor Living  
 2 BD/ 1 BA .57 Acre **\$339,000**



**10827 Brook Road**  
 Sunny & Bright! Separate Cabin Included!  
 3 BD/ 2 BA 0.8 Acre **\$379,000**



**174 Aspen Meadow**  
 Spectacular Hm, Golden GT ST Park  
 4 BD / 3 BA 2.5 Acres **\$525,000**



**32596 W. Inspiration Road**  
 Complete Remodel w/ Views + Office!  
 3 BD/ 2 BA 1.18 Acres **\$349,900**



**194 Wonder Trail**  
 Charming Cottage w/Super Views!  
 1 BD / 1 BA **\$249,900**



**702 Copperdale Lane**  
 Sweet Ranch Style Home w/ Office  
 2 BD / 2 BA 1.05 Acres **\$349,900**



**249 Rudi Lane**  
 Post & Beam Constr. - Passive Solar  
 2 BD / 3 BA **\$399,900**



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 WITH Kathy Keating or  
 Susan Peterson and USE  
 the moving truck for FREE**



**Kathy Keating,**  
 CRS, ABR, GRI  
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 303.642.1133

For additional information and photos:  
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