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Flying Colors

**By Omayra Acevedo - Nature & Wildlife Photojournalist
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Close your eyes and imagine yourself walking through the forests of Chautauqua Park in Boulder, Colorado. It's early on a Wednesday morning; no one else in sight and the sweet morning smell of summer wraps around you like your favorite blanket. Suddenly, the loudest, strangest, buzzing sound startles you, but you can't seem to find a bee nearby. It's not until you have spent over fifteen minutes in search of the biggest Bumble Bee on Earth that you realize the buzzing sound was actually a bird. A Hummingbird!

It was my first summer in Colorado and I was taking my first hike in this colorful state; a hike that would help create the person I am. Never had I encountered so many wonderful scents of nature, countless diverse colors and bountiful euphoric sounds. I was in heaven; just me and the Hummingbird. I was so intrigued and inspired by this little creature that immediately after my hike I found myself at the library reading every book I could find on these fairy-like birds. Little did I know that the journey to discover more about Hummingbirds would take me through my first few steps in becoming a Wildlife and Nature Photojournalist.

Hummingbirds are the tiniest birds in the world with the strength and energy of a thousand birds! A Hummingbird's brain is 4.2% of its own body weight, the largest proportion in the bird kingdom. It will visit over 1,000 flowers in one day; its brain allows it to remember every single flower it has visited and how long it will take that flower to refill with nectar. This fact blew me away as I can barely remember what I did yesterday! Hummingbirds, also referred to as Hummers, can see and hear much better than humans, but they have little to no sense of smell. Just like in birds of prey species the female Hummer is generally bigger than the male. This is a good thing since she will need the extra muscle to do the entire nest building and caring for her young.

Hummingbirds, like most humans, do not mate for life. A male Hummer will mate with any female he can attract to his territory, and will bully any male until it leaves the claimed territory. Rufous Hummingbirds are infamous for this as they are the more territorial and temperamental of all Hummers. You can spot the Rufous primarily by the male's glossy orange throat. All male Hummingbirds display the most vibrant amazing colors in order to attract their female counterpart. An average Hummer will have about 940 astounding feathers. Those feathers are what help make the humming noise you hear as they "flap" their wings roughly 70 times per second. Technically, Hummers don't flap their wings. They rotate them in an oval figure eight pattern that allows them to hover, fly sideways,

forwards, backwards and even fly upside down.

My least favorite facts about Hummers are that most die within their first year, and most that die is due to our own negligence – what a shocker. Climate change and humans are their biggest threats. Due to habitat loss and destruction a lot of these incredible birds are vanishing. Climate change is another unfortunate cause of their demise. Climate change has caused Hummingbirds to alter their migrating patterns and some have been spotted in locations outside their normal range. This makes it dangerous for them to survive or find their way back home especially when you consider that some Hummers travel over 2,000 miles twice a year. These tiny birds are also great pollinators; helping spread the seeds of some of the most beautiful bright red, pink, orange and yellow wild flowers we find in Colorado.

I wish I could tell you what my favorite parts about Hummingbirds were, but I could no sooner choose a favorite star in the heavens. Everything about Hummers is truly magnificent. Their adventurous way of life, their colors, behavior, sounds and attitude toward other birds are what make this bird like no other. There are over 300 species of Hummingbirds, and about 12 of those travel through Colorado during the Spring, Summer and occasionally early Fall. To find a list of Hummers that migrate through Colorado visit:
<http://www.rubythroat.org/checklistsusstatesmain.html>.
 To attract these seasonal birds you can always place feeders with one part sugar to four parts water at a safe height, you can also leave your feeders out an extra week after spotting your last Hummer of the season as this can be utilized by injured or lost birds. Always, however, remember to bring in your feeders at night so that other wildlife can remain wild. It's incredible that the tiniest bird on earth has the biggest story to tell.

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/search/HummerNotes2.html>

<http://www.defenders.org/hummingbirds/basic-facts>

<http://www.worldofhummingbirds.com/facts.php>

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Soaking Wet In Colorado

By Marty Jones

Every day since early May, an incredibly cheerful robin has been singing from the top of a tree behind my house. Chee-oo-woot, chee-oo-woot, chee-oo-weet, chee-oo woot. He's the Gene Kelly of birds. Because for six weeks straight it's been snowing, hailing, spinning tornados, flooding, or pouring here in Denver. And this bird keeps singing in the rain. He may be the only living creature happy about Colorado's wet weather.

My neighbors and I no longer bother with the "Had enough of this rain?" conversation. It's an old and soggy subject. We just shake our heads at each other from our covered porches and garages. We all know the answer to several new-to-Colorado questions the deluge has sprouted. Think it'll rain today? Of course it will. Could we live happily in the rainy Northwest? Heck no.

When your homeland's "300 days of sunshine" has turned to "30-plus days of dreary," that's what happens. The record-breaking precipitation has fostered Seattle-like changes in typically sunny Colorado. Denver's cheery neo-folk acts and the high country's new-grass groups are breaking up and forming gloomy grunge bands. Statewide, sunscreen and hat sales have plummeted while raincoat and umbrella sales (a first-time purchase for many of us) have skyrocketed along with summer flannel and coffee.

Speaking of Seattle, native-son Jimi Hendrix's *Rainy Day, Dream Away* song — Ain't no reason to get up tight/Just let it groove its own way — has become a local

staple on radio and in clinical depression treatments. (So far, no medical marijuana shop has come up with a strain to beat the grey sky blues.)

Colorado's 250-plus craft brewers are also feeling the rain pain. They've been forced to pull their summer seasonal wheat beers and pilsners, and replace them with strong ales and darker beers that better match the weather and color of the clouds.

A new term — "dripping ceiling" — has entered the Centennial State lexicon as century-old homes sprout their first leaks, and a popular house feature has become an amplifier of a tired song played too loud. "It sounded like a thousand angry people banging on the house," said a newcomer neighbor when describing the sound of hail pounding her skylights. "I videotaped it for my friends back East."

Granted, the rain has brought a few bennies. Reservoirs are filling fast, this rain hasn't brought the huge floods and mayhem of 2013, and we're no longer bothered by "water only on request" policies at eateries. We no longer drink water, we absorb it through our skin and breathe it in via something called "humidity."

The water company's conservation-minded slogan of "Use Only What You Need" has also been replaced with "Go On, Use As Much As You Can." Kids now know what a "rainout game" is and will play baseball into Broncos season, and the empty ballpark of our perennial Major League losers has revealed the true nature of the team's

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But in the garden, where everything is growing, including weeds, once-hardy perennials seem slogged from May's snow and rain and June's hail and more rain. Listen closely and you can hear the columbines sighing: "Geez, enough already." On the eastern plains, Colorado's rivers are overflowing with water, and several million cubic yards of Kansas-bound mulch washed away from my veggie garden.

Meanwhile the state's weather has become a mushroomer's delight (my neighbor found edible meadow mushrooms popping up in her backyard), but a nightcrawler's nightmare, as they become easy pickings for anything with feathers.

Maybe the easy pickings is the reason that robin keeps rocking. As a singer myself, I'm impressed with his relentlessly clear tone and enthusiasm. He's the avian equivalent of Starbuck in *The Rainmaker*, who proudly proclaims, "I never regret singing." But as that thought hits me, so does another: That bird is the cause of this rain. He is the *Rainmaker*.

Yesterday — which almost qualified as the first precipitation-free day here in weeks — he was nowhere to be heard. Come to think of it, he's MIA for every break in the clouds. Bird, you're no harbinger of spring! You're a flying troublemaker that's turned our land lush and our drought-stricken friends west of the Rockies green with envy.

Like Batman's Robin, it's time you go where people need you. Can I send you down the high road with a song of my own? Chee-oo-woot, chee-oo-woot, go farther West, chee-oo woot. Chee-oo-woot, chee-oo-woot, try California.

Oop! He just left his stage. Is that a dot of blue in the sky behind his perch? Golden Staters, keep your eyes peeled. Help is on the way.

*Marty Jones is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, the column service of High Country News (hcn.org). He is a craft-beer promoter, publicist and musician, and lives in Denver.*

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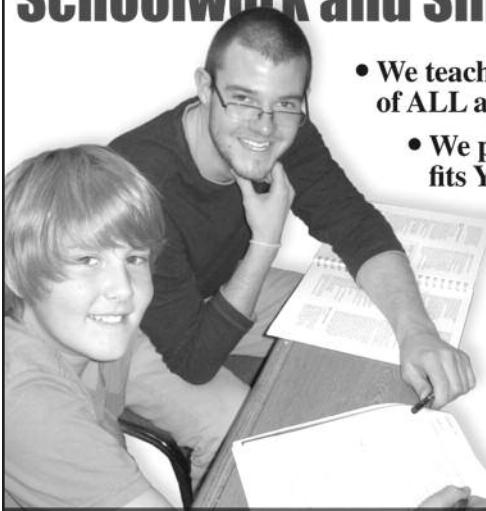
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New Fees For Fossil Fuel Extraction

By Elizabeth Shogren - HCN

Candidate for Democratic nomination tells Republican presidential hopefuls to heed scientists on global warming.

During her official launch speech last month, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton tossed out a big clue about the direction she would take the country's climate change policy. If elected, she vowed, she would seek to make the United States a "clean energy superpower" and pay for the transition in part with "additional fees and royalties from fossil fuel extraction."

Coming just days before Pope Francis's leaked appeal to address climate change grabbed headlines around the globe, Clinton's comments made little splash in the media. But that brief mention of new fees potentially has big implications, especially in the West, where most federal coal, oil and gas resources are located. Environmental groups quickly called her staff to try to glean details. So far there aren't any. But that phrase was the biggest hint so far that Clinton would pursue an untapped vein of climate politics.

To date, U.S. climate policies have focused on reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that come from burning

fossil fuels: the carbon dioxide that comes from tailpipes or power plant smoke stacks. At the same time, U.S. politicians have avoided policies that would make it more expensive to get fossil fuels out of the earth, an issue that is controversial because of the geopolitical downsides of imported oil.

Clinton has yet to provide details of the policy she envisions. "We have not rolled out huge specifics on this," Amanda Renteria, Clinton's political director, said. Still, the general principle is clear. When companies mine coal or drill for oil or gas on federal land, they pay royalties to the federal government. And while these fees give taxpayers a return on public resources, they don't reflect the enormous costs that the United States already pays due to the impacts of climate change — such as sea level rise, crop loss, air pollution and extreme heat and flooding. Clinton is talking about adding in fees to offset those costs and to potentially spur more renewable energy development and energy efficiency. Environmental groups hope that these fees will be high enough to keep some of the coal and hydrocarbons in the ground.

In her address, to several thousand supporters on New York's Roosevelt Island, Clinton acknowledged that many communities still rely on fossil fuel industries for jobs and tax dollars. But she said her administration would "ease the transition for distressed communities to a more diverse and sustainable economic future, from coal country to Indian country, from small towns in the Mississippi Delta to the Rio Grande Valley to our inner cities."

But industry representatives said it would be difficult for Hillary to square new fees for fossil fuel extraction with the main message of her campaign: support for workers. "These are precisely the workers who'll be hurt most by the contraction in the manufacturing and energy economy caused by taxing fossil energy," Luke Popovich, a spokesman for the National Mining Association, said. Clinton also appears willing to use climate change to differentiate herself from Republican rivals. "Ask many of these candidates about climate change, one of the defining



The image shows the exterior of Malone's Clubhouse Grill. The building has a modern design with large windows and a prominent entrance. A sign above the door reads "Malone's GRILL". There are some plants and flowers in planters in front of the entrance. The overall appearance is that of a casual dining establishment.

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Hillary Clinton speaks to a crowd at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, Iowa on June 14, 2015.

Courtesy Gregory Hauenstein

threats of our time, and they'll say: 'I'm not a scientist,' Clinton said. "Well, then, why don't they start listening to those who are?"

In fact, Republican presidential hopefuls vary a great deal when it comes to climate change. Some — Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum — express skepticism that global warming is real. Others — Floridians Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — dispute how much people cause the problem. Still others — former New York Gov. George Pataki and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham — acknowledge people's role and vow to address it in a GOP way.

Clinton's nod to climate change in her first big address points to the issue's likely prominence in the race to come. "I think there's no way this issue doesn't pop," Heather Taylor, director of Natural Resources Defense Council's Action Fund, the group's political arm, said. That could give Clinton an advantage. As HCN reported in May, Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, is a leader in climate policy and wants the issue to figure big in the campaign. Podesta told HCN recently that as it is now, taxpayers subsidize federal coal twice: Once in the low royalties companies pay and again through taxpayer-funded repairs of damage associated with climate change. When asked about a policy aimed at increasing the price of federal fossil fuels to keep some of them in the ground,

Podesta said: "I think it's pretty close to ripe."

Elizabeth Shogren is HCN's DC Correspondent.

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More Waterways Likely Protected?

From Elizabeth Shogren

The controversial Clean Water Act rule protects tributaries with any sign of water, no matter the flow.

The Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers released a long-awaited rule in late May that defines which streams and wetlands will be protected under the federal Clean Water Act. “Too many of our waters have been left vulnerable to pollution,” President Obama said in a statement. This rule will provide the clarity and certainty businesses and industry need about which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act, and it will ensure polluters who knowingly threaten our waters can be held accountable.

Congressional Republicans and some industry groups attacked the rule as an overreach by the administration that would hurt businesses and job growth. But EPA administrator Gina McCarthy said “given the impacts of climate change on water resources, such as drought in the West, it’s more important than ever to protect the clean water that we have.” Significantly for the arid West, the rule protects tributaries-no matter how frequently water flows in them-as long as they have signs of flow such as

beds, banks and high water marks. Nearby wetlands and ponds also would be protected. Ditches would be protected only if they behave like tributaries.

“If you still look and act like a stream, you’re a stream,” McCarthy said in a conference call with reporters. Some regionally specific water bodies such as prairie potholes and western vernal pools in California would be protected, but most playas would not, according to McCarthy. Playas, flat desert basins that at times become shallow pools, would be covered only if they are within a 100-year floodplain, or are near or flow into a stream, its tributaries or adjacent wetlands.

Opponents and supporters of the rule differed over whether this action expands the scope of the Clean Water Act. Some ephemeral streams, waters and wetlands were federally protected before a 2001 Supreme Court decision, under the justification that migratory birds use them; the new rule, in practice, likely will increase the number of waters and wetlands that receive federal protection.

The rule is intended to clear up confusion stemming from the 2001 Supreme Court ruling and another in 2006 that narrowed the scope of the Clean Water Act and sparked a lot of questions and litigation over which wetlands and streams were covered under federal law as Waters of the United States. Uncertainty following these rulings left many waterways and wetlands “vulnerable to pollution,” said Jo-Ellen Darcy, the assistant secretary of the Army for civil works.

“For ecologists and people who care about ecosystems, it’s a big victory,” said Ellen Wohl, a professor of geosciences at Colorado State University. “There’s enormous scientific agreement that little streams are very important.” Streams that do not contain water year-round still play important roles, providing nutrients, sand and organisms for bigger rivers. “From an environmental perspective, it’s wonderful,” Wohl added. “Scientifically, it’s very obvious these streams need to be protected.”

At issue is whether companies and individuals have to get permits before they pollute, fill in or destroy a waterway or wetland. In the wake of the 2001 and 2006 Supreme Court

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Republicans voting in favor.

The vote came just two weeks after the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the new clean water rule, which would protect tributaries and wetlands no matter how seldom they hold water. As HCN reported, it also would offer protection for certain regional waters, such as vernal pools in California.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Oklahoma, the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said the bill to block that rule was part of his mission to prevent ‘EPA regulatory overreach.’ But Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-California, appealing to her colleagues to vote against the bill, said, “This is the environment committee not the anti-environment committee. Members of this Committee should understand that when we weaken the Clean Water Act, we are putting people in danger,” she said. The bill would make the agencies rewrite a more limited rule that would exclude many types of waterways and wetlands.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyoming, who authored the bill, said the new rule defined “waters of the U.S.” in an overly broad way that will give federal agencies authority to regulate private property across the country, burdening farmers and other landowners. “I expect nearly the whole country would be included,” he said.

Under his bill, a new rule would be crafted to protect rivers that are large enough for boats to navigate, but not every small waterway, pool or wetland. Inhofe said he was working with the GOP Senate leadership to schedule a vote in the full Senate but did not yet have a date. House Republicans also are working on a bill to reject the new rule.

Elizabeth Shogren is HCN’s DC Correspondent.

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Closing Time, Buffalo Migrate East Naturally

Patrols have been lonely the past week (*first week of May*), as the basin is nearly emptied of buffalo. Each day we seek out the company of the remaining group of bison that has been spending their time safe on the buffalo-friendly private lands of Horse Butte. Each year, the field season comes to a close and the majority of volunteers - those not staying on for summer tabling - spread to the four directions to pursue their passions elsewhere.

On Wednesday, the last caravan of field volunteers took to the road, heading east, for other projects, family time, jobs, and other pursuits. On that day, our scaled-back patrols in the field watched as the last large group of bison spending their time on Horse Butte packed up and headed east - slowly making their way back toward summer ranges in the park, larger herds, and the grounds of the rut.

Not to be left out of this seasonal closing, local Department of Livestock representative Bridger Cunningham went along for the ride, his truck slowly following the migrating group east along the bluffs of the Madison. We took the opportunity to talk with him, suggesting that, if we all just went home and came back tomorrow, the group would likely return to the park on their own, at their own pace, without stress, harassment, or tax expenditure. He even agreed that this would likely happen, though only laughed uncomfortably when we suggested that all of the herds that had made their way out of the park for the springtime would have, left to their own devices, also have returned to their chosen summer ground, without his involvement or oversight.

Eventually, lunchtime called, and the DOL truck turned to go, apparently satisfied that wild buffalo in Montana for one more day would not cause a catastrophe of rampant brucellosis. We turned to go as well, saying goodbye to the buffalo friends that we've spent the spring with, standing with them through abuse, learning from them during hard times.



This morning, the buffalo did migrate east into Yellowstone. This group was accompanied by one mature bull and as the group crossed US Highway 191 the bull stood in front of traffic while the herd safely crossed the road. The last in the group was an injured adult female. As the bull stopped traffic, the rest of the group waited for her on the other side of the road. After all were safely across, the bull joined them, and they all moved to their chosen summer country together.

The basin is lonely now, nearly empty of buffalo, and the camp is lonely now, nearly empty of our dedicated volunteers. Soon, though, the summer crew will take to tabling in the park, educating the masses of visitors of the plight of the buffalo, spreading the word to save the herd. **WILD IS THE WAY!** ~Cindy

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Non-Human Rights

Dear EarthTalk: What are so-called non-human rights? –
Richard Montcalm, Jenkintown, PA

Non-human rights is a term coined by animal welfare activist and lawyer Steven Wise, who has campaigned for three decades to achieve actual legal rights for members of species other than our own. His organization, the **Nonhuman Rights Project** (NhRP), is working “to change the common law status of at least some nonhuman animals from mere ‘things’ which lack the capacity to possess any legal right, to ‘persons’ who possess such fundamental rights as bodily integrity and bodily liberty, and those other legal rights to which evolving standards of morality, scientific discovery, and human experience entitle them.”

According to NhRP, nonhuman animals are still considered property in the eyes of the law. Even those animals that we know possess feelings, emotions and higher forms of intelligence—great apes, elephants, dolphins, whales—have no more legal standing than a shoe, a table or a car. “These are complex animals who have deep emotions, understand each other’s minds, live in complicated societies, transmit culture, use sophisticated communication, solve difficult problems, and even mourn the loss of their loved ones,” reports the group. “Just like humans.”

“But they are still considered property, poached and taken from their natural habitat, separated and held against their will, subjected to cruel experimentation, exploited for entertainment, sold on the black market, used, abused and treated like objects for our amusement and financial gain,” says NhRP, adding that such experiences can scar animals for life. “Yet the law affords them no rights, allowing humans to do with them whatever we want.”

Wise and company would like to see animals who are confined for use in research or entertainment have the opportunity to live out their days in a wildlife sanctuary with a hospitable climate where they can enjoy “bodily liberty” to pursue their free will. NhRP is working to first establish a legal precedent that nonhumans can have legal rights in the U.S. judicial system. The organization filed its first cases in New York State in December 2013 representing four individual chimpanzees being used in research labs and for entertainment purposes, and hopes to expand its caseload to other nonhuman species in the near future.

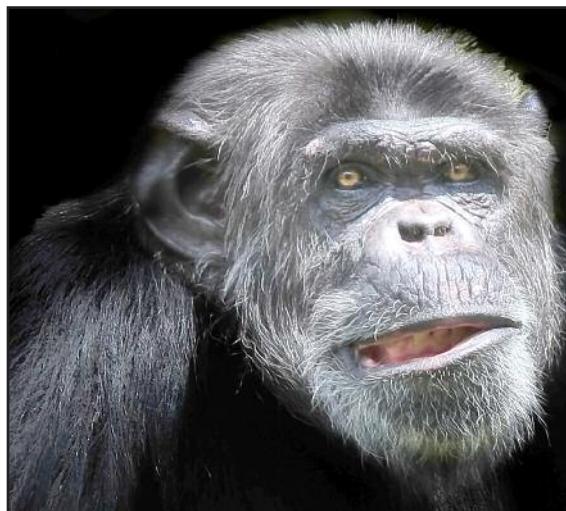
In the meantime, NhRP is looking for the help of volunteer lawyers, scientists, mathematicians and

predictive analysis professionals interested in lending their expertise to the fight for recognizing the legal rights of nonhumans. “Over the coming years, we will be filing as many cases as we can afford, so contributions are very important, too,” reports the group. “We also need funds to

help establish sanctuaries for the animals we’re working to free from captivity.”

Why should we care that animals have legal rights too? Steven Wise is fond of quoting Abraham Lincoln, who said: “In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free.” If we don’t want to live in a world where humans are enslaved, why should we tolerate similar treatment of our closest animal relatives and other sentient beings great and small? Whether or not the chimps he is

fighting for ever get to a sanctuary, Steven Wise will forever go down in history as the Abraham Lincoln of the non-human rights movement. *Nonhuman Rights Project*, www.nonhumanrightsproject.org. earthtalk@emagazine.com.



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Still Quiet At The Canyons Of The Ancients

From Kindra McQuillan - HCN

When local people first heard that President Bill Clinton wanted to designate a new 164,000-acre national monument in the red-rock desert of southwestern Colorado, many saw the new **Canyons of the Ancients** as a change for the worse. "We thought, 'They're going to start taking away our rights,'" says Rodney Carriker, who runs horse-packing trips on the public lands involved.

At the time, the Bureau of Land Management gave access to pretty much everyone: 95% of the land was leased for grazing and 80% for drilling oil and gas, as well as for deposits of carbon dioxide, which is injected into oil deposits to enhance their recovery; mountain bikers explored it largely unrestricted; and archaeologists raced against pothunters for the artifacts scattered across the rugged landscape.

Carriker and his neighbors believed a new monument would mean new restrictions, and they brought their fears to community meetings and the local newspaper opinion pages. Montezuma and Dolores county commissioners filed formal protests, joined by various user groups. "The folks who were against it were really passionate, even to the point of, at times, being a little threatening," recalls

archaeologist Mark Varien, who has worked in the area for 36 years. But Clinton, undeterred, designated the new monument in 2000.

Today, 15 years after that designation, and five years after the BLM implemented a new management plan, much of that anger has died down. "(People) anticipated the most wicked things happening, and they haven't," says John Sutcliffe, a winemaker who lives across the road from the popular Sand Canyon trailhead. Little has changed on the ground. "We manage grazing the same, we manage oil and gas the same, and we manage recreation the same," says monument manager Marietta Eaton. "We use the same regulations and laws that the rest of the BLM uses. It's still a multiple-use area; we just have conservation now in addition."

The conservation overlay in the 2010 management plan has led to a few changes: The BLM has reduced the number of grazing permits by about one-fifth, and imposed stricter environmental and cultural oversight of new drilling proposals. Eaton says the agency has added a second enforcement officer and pursued a handful of conservation-oriented projects. These include restoring habitat for reptiles, removing non-designated roads, and cutting junipers around archaeological sites to reduce the risk of wildfire.

But with a budget that has remained basically flat at \$1.2 million per year, the agency is still working on the cheap. The visitor's center, for instance, is housed at the Anasazi Heritage Center, in a building deeded to BLM by the Bureau of Reclamation, and is staffed by volunteers. (The monument recruits about 200 annually.) People who live near Sand Canyon complain about cars from the tiny trailhead parking lot spilling onto the highway, but Eaton says traffic overall has grown very little, staying between 30,000 and 35,000 visitors per year. She doesn't know exactly how much visitation has increased, though, because the agency does not have the infrastructure, like monitored entrances, to formally track visitation.

Eaton says the monument is not that popular a destination. "People come to see *(Continued on next page.)*



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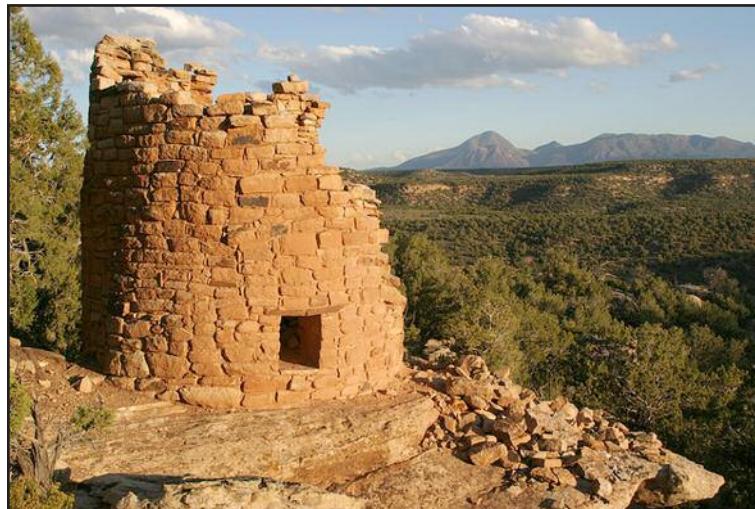


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Mesa Verde National Park," she says. "Then, if they've heard about **Canyons of the Ancients**, they might check out Lowry Pueblo or Painted Hand." The modest increase in visitation and attention brought by the monument designation may actually be helping protect the area's valuable archaeological treasures. Varien says the monument sees less large-scale looting than in the past, likely because looters fear greater scrutiny. "Of course, visitors are guilty of a little bit of what I call 'loving it to death,'" he says. "But I don't believe in management by secrecy. People need to learn from (these resources)."

On a recent spring day, a walk down the narrow path that leads to Painted Hand Pueblo on the north end of the monument is surprisingly quiet. Lizards dart from rock to rock, crossing lumpy soil darkened by the fungi, bacteria and tiny mosses and liverworts that form its living crust. Ahead, the ground falls off into a shallow canyon, where,



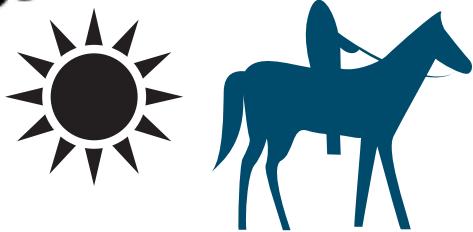
unmarked by signs, a circular stone tower rises, surrounded by rubble and bits of pottery.

A family of seven appears on the far rim, and two boys and a girl scale down a ladder of boulders, followed by a man with a younger boy who chatters enthusiastically about the Ancestral Puebloan people who lived here 800 years ago. The Francis family came from Riverton, Utah, to visit Mesa Verde National Park on their spring break, and today, on their way back to Utah, they're making a brief stop at Painted

Hand. Now they vanish over the lip of the canyon. Soon, there's just the fading sound of a car engine and wheels rolling away down an unseen gravel road.

Painted Hand Pueblo in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in southwest Colorado was designated by President Bill Clinton in 2000. Eric Miraglia/CC Flickr

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Can Waterfalls Really Make You Happy?

By Roddy Scheer

Curing Nature Deficit Disorder One Step at a Time

There just may be some truth to the rumor that being around waterfalls can uplift your mood, thanks to the so-called “negative ions” pervasive in such environments. The collision of water molecules with each other, such as at a waterfall or an ocean beach, causes the water to become positively charged, and the surrounding air to be negatively charged.

According to Pierce J. Howard, a Ph.D. and author of *The Owner's Manual for the Brain: Everyday Applications from Mind-Brain Research*, it makes sense that waterfalls can make you feel good, given that negative ions hitting our bloodstream can produce biochemical reactions linked to alleviating depression, relieving stress, and boosting energy.

“High concentrations of negative ions are essential for

high energy and positive mood,” he reports. “Negative ions suppress serotonin levels in much the same way that natural sunlight suppresses melatonin. Hence the



Iron Creek Falls, Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Washington, US. Credit: Roddy Scheer

invigorating effect of fresh air and sunshine and the correspondingly depressed feelings associated with being closed in and dark.” “The atmosphere we breathe normally is full of positive and negative ions,” he adds. “Air-conditioning, lack of ventilation, and long dry spells remove negative ions.”

“The best ratios of negative to positive ions are associated with waterfalls and the time before, during, and after storms,” says Howard. “The worst are found in windowless rooms and closed, moving vehicles.”

Our love of waterfalls only underscores the fact that people thrive when they are exposed to nature and the outdoors on a regular basis. A recently released study in the



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journal *Environmental Science & Technology* definitively linked exposure to nature directly with improved mental health, comparing the mental health of those who moved from city landscapes to greener, more natural settings with those who relocated in the reverse direction. Researchers found that those who relocated to settings with a higher exposure to nature were noticeably happier during the three-year study period.

"Environmental policies to increase urban green space may have sustainable public health benefits," they concluded.

In another recent study, researchers sampled the effects of nature on 537 University of Rochester students in both real and imagined situations, and found that individuals who spent time outdoors — or even just imagined themselves in nature — consistently experienced higher energy levels and increased feelings of happiness. Study participants who spent just 20 minutes outdoors a day experienced significant increases in energy levels as well as noticeable mood boosts. Even indoor plants played a role in helping study participants feel more energized.

Another way to look at it would be to consider our sedentary, indoor lifestyle to be a drain on our energy reserves and taxing to our mood and general sense of well being. In the landmark 2005 book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv coined the term "nature deficit disorder" to explain how our lack of time outdoors has led to behavioral problems in kids and adults alike. Louv's prescription? Spend more time outdoors (away from screens) interacting with nature and each other.

In case you needed another reason to get up off the couch or office chair and out into the woods on a waterfall hike, now you have it. You'll be sharper. You'll be more productive. You'll be invigorated. And you'll be happier.

*Roddy Scheer is the editor of EarthTalk.org and author of the recently released *Hiking Waterfalls in Washington: A Guide to the State's Best Waterfall Hikes*.*

Check out his Waterfall Hike of the Week and follow his other adventures on his blog, roddyssey.com...

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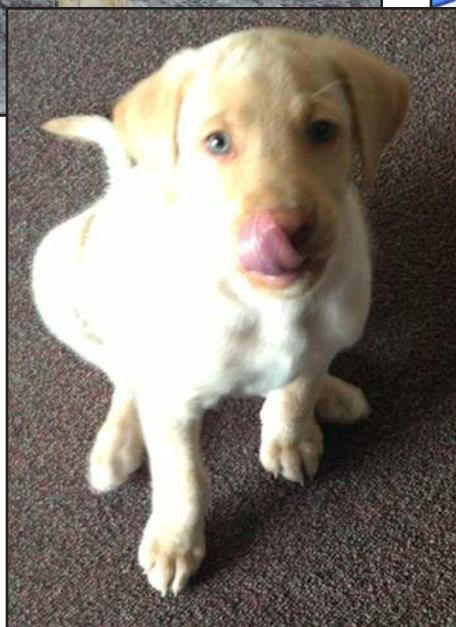
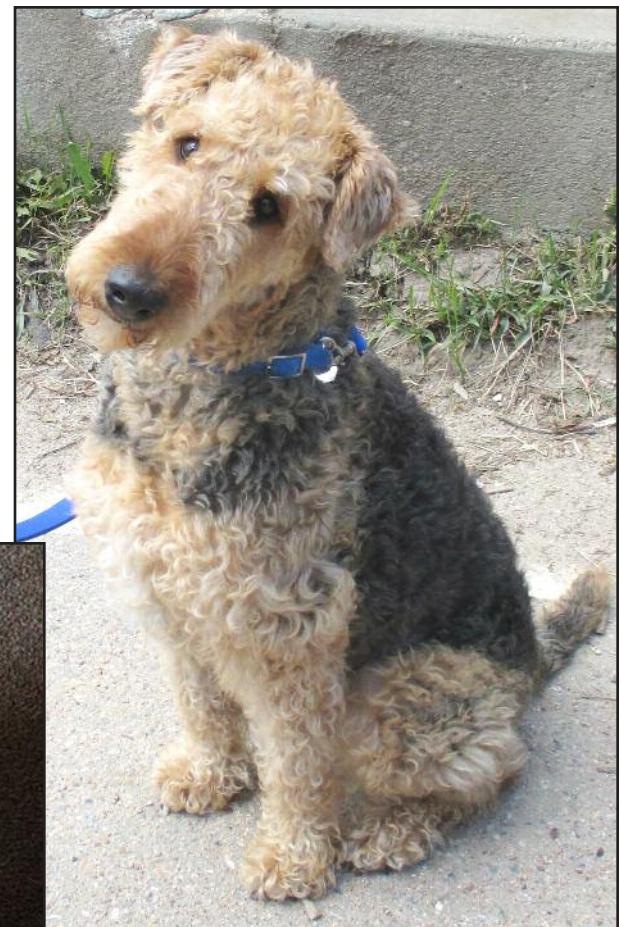
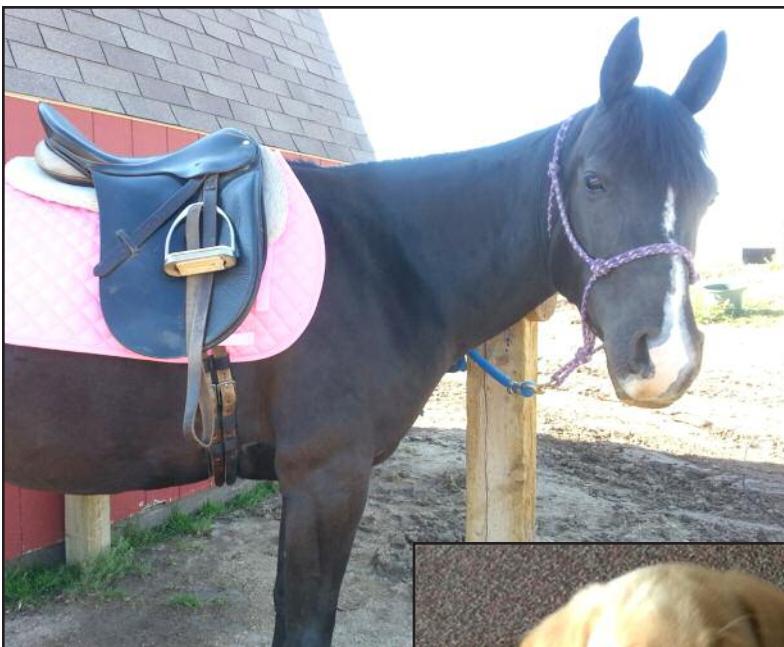


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Previous page top left:
Vaquaro.

At right: Chanel mugs for
photo while camping!

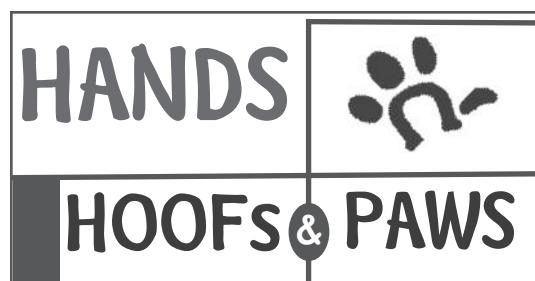
Bottom:
Pup practices 'don't talk to
strangers' outside Mtn
People's Co-op.

This page top: Starlite in new
saddle blanket.

Right: Lily the Airedale
Terrier poses for camera.

Bottom:
Buddy licks his lips for
a treat.

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Homeowners Insurance Review

By Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

Your home requires regular maintenance - and so does your homeowners insurance. Updates to your house and belongings can affect whether or not you're adequately insured. To make sure your home is properly protected, plan an annual homeowners insurance review to determine if you may need to adjust your coverage.

Why is it important? Sitting down with your agent for a thorough policy review will help you select a coverage amount that best meets your needs.

What will affect coverage? When you meet with your agent, discuss any improvements or changes you've made around your house over the past year.

Here are some situations that may necessitate updates to your coverage:

Home Renovations: Additions and remodels may increase the estimated replacement cost of your home. Even if it's just a small change, it is important to determine if the changes affect the replacement cost of your home.

Inventory Changes: Life-changing events, such as combining households or a child moving out, could increase or decrease the amount of coverage you need for

your personal possessions.

Safety Improvements: Adding a home security system can help you save on insurance premiums. Your agent can help explain additional discounts or endorsements available.

How do I select the right amount of coverage? State Farm recommends selecting a coverage amount at least equal to 100% of the estimated replacement cost - not the market value - of your home. The replacement cost typically differs from the amount for which you could sell your home because it factors in construction costs. These can change dramatically year over year due to labor supply and demand and the cost of building materials in your area. Market value varies based on market conditions, which can vary considerably from construction costs. The amount you paid for the house may have no bearing on the current replacement cost or market value.

To keep your coverage current with replacement costs, have the estimated replacement cost of your home updated and adjust your coverage to reflect the current estimate to rebuild your home. Visit State Farm for more information about how to determine the right amount of coverage for your home.



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Hessie Trailhead Weekend Shuttle Schedule

2015 Hessie Trailhead weekend shuttle began June 13, the **Nederland Park-n-Ride** is the new pick-up/drop-off location; and runs every 15 minutes.

Boulder County will once again run a free shuttle service on weekends and holidays this summer/fall to carry passengers from Nederland's RTD Park-n-Ride—1st and Jackson Street - downtown Nederland –to the Hessie Trailhead, a popular entry point for accessing the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area off of Fourth of July Road.

The Hessie Trailhead shuttle program began in summer 2012 to address the issue of increased parking and traffic congestion on the way to the trailhead. The shuttle schedule has been extended once again to include peak “leaf peeping” weekends in the fall. The shuttle schedule is included here.

Rather than driving directly to the trailhead, visitors are encouraged to take the RTD ‘N’ bus to Nederland from Boulder. The Town of Nederland wants to remind people that there’s a lot to do and see in town as well, so plan ahead and make a day of your trip into the mountains.

“We are excited to continue this popular summer program and want as many people as possible to take advantage of the FREE shuttle,” said Boulder County Multimodal Div. Mgr. Scott McCarey.

Parking near the trailhead and on nearby roads such as 4th of July Road is extremely limited, and Boulder County Parks & Open Space rangers are responsible for enforcing

strict parking regulations in the area. Illegal parking can result in monetary penalties and towed vehicles.

Shuttle Service: The shuttle service began June 13 and runs from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays until the weekend of Sept. 12. On Sept. 12, the shuttle will shift to its fall 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. schedule on both days to account for shorter periods of daylight.

The shuttle will also run on summer holidays including Independence Day’s observed work holiday July 3, and Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 7). This year, the shuttle operation schedule has again been extended until Sunday, Oct. 4 to accommodate the peak autumn leaf season.

Details: Park & Catch the free shuttle at Nederland’s RTD Park-n-Ride at the intersection of 1st and Jackson streets - downtown Nederland. Take RTD’s ‘N’ route from Boulder and save yourself the hassle of driving your own vehicle.

Shuttle arrives approximately every 15 minutes. **Leashed dogs are welcome on-board the shuttle. Parking is for day use only; overnight users should make other arrangements.** If you would like more information, visit www.HessieTrailhead.com, or contact Andrew Barth at abarth@bouldercounty.org or 303-441-1032.



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Should States Be Protecting The Atmosphere?

From Joshua Zaffos

A youth-led climate action campaign in Oregon gets its days in court.

Kelsey Juliana's habit of turning off lights in empty classrooms earned her the middle-school nickname of "Eco-girl," she told Bill Moyers in September 2014. From hallway environmentalist, Juliana, now 19, ascended to courtroom crusader as a co-plaintiff with another Oregon teenager to force her state government to reduce carbon emissions and halt climate change.

In what's known as an atmospheric trust lawsuit, the teens have argued, since 2011, that the state government is responsible for protecting the planet and its atmosphere. The case is one of dozens in states across the country pressing for courts to recognize the atmosphere as a "public-trust" resource that governments are obligated to protect for the welfare of people. But courts, including a judge in Oregon, have mostly rejected that tack.

The public-trust doctrine dates back to ancient Rome and holds that natural resources – such as water, air, and wildlife – belong to the public and need to be managed and

preserved for the sake and benefit of humanity. Mary Christina Wood, a law professor at the University of Oregon, has suggested the doctrine extends to the atmosphere and climate, sparking a courtroom movement to sue states to address climate change. An Oregon-based nonprofit, Our Children's Trust, has run with the strategy, recruiting working with Juliana and other teenagers and spearheading lawsuits against states and the federal government.

Juliana's case seeks to force Oregon to reduce carbon emissions in line with broader goals within the environmental movement to lower global carbon levels to 350 parts per million, the level scientists say is necessary to avoid warming above 1 degree Celsius. The lawsuit claims that Oregon's carbon reduction targets, set in 2007, is far too modest by those measures; not to mention, the state is falling far short of achieving its goals.

But despite the Oregon roots of the atmospheric trust movement, at least one state judge is taking a very different legal view. Lane County Circuit Court Judge Karsten Rasmussen wrote in a May 11

(Continued on page 24.)

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Highlander Issues

decision, "This court questions whether the atmosphere is a 'natural resource' at all, much less one to which the public trust doctrine applies." The judge also denied that water, fish and wildlife, and beaches and shorelines qualify as public-trust resources, a narrow legal interpretation that received ridicule from critics and environmental law experts.

"The decision that was handed down is really an embarrassment to the judiciary," says Michael Blumm, a professor at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, who coauthored an amicus brief on behalf of the plaintiffs. Despite the latest setback in Oregon, Wood says the movement is "gaining tremendous momentum." Notably, this March, a New Mexico appeals court was the first to specifically recognize the atmosphere as a public-trust natural resource to be protected. Also, a 2013 Pennsylvania court decision, while not specific to atmospheric trust, overturned a legislative fracking measure because it violated the public trust and "inherent" environmental rights of people. That decision is a landmark for atmospheric trust cases in many states, Wood says, because many states' constitutions have similar language on the public's inherent rights.

The acknowledgment in New Mexico was a big win for the campaign, but the judges also ruled the state was

meeting its trust responsibilities through its air-quality law. "That's a step that judges really have to gnaw on a little more," Wood says. She believes atmospheric trust enables courts to go further and compel other branches of government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet carbon reduction goals that often just serve as unenforceable guidelines. She cites the civil rights and gay marriage movements as cases when legislatures failed to protect "the fundamental rights of citizens," but the courts stepped up to usher in change.

"Courts are still having a tough time figuring out their role in protecting the constitutional rights of youth to a habitable planet. They still think the legislatures will do their jobs," Wood says, adding that environmental laws have "failed miserably" in terms of averting climate change. Chris Winter, of the Crag Law Center, who represented Kelsey Juliana and the Oregon plaintiffs, says they will file an appeal of the decision.

In a press release, Juliana said the judge's opinion sent a "devastating message to all citizens that none of the three branches of government can be trusted to ensure our future." "We have to look at this case and campaign not as isolated in the courts, but as a real platform for the public to assert its rights," Wood says.

*Joshua Zaffos is a contributing editor for HCN.
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Get Rid Of Junk Mail

Dear EarthTalk: It seems like I'm getting more junk mail these days. How can I stop the deluge? - Grace Dixon, TX

First of all, you're probably right! Junk mail has increased to a massive scale in recent years, with the average American receiving 16 pieces each week. While this might not seem like much, it adds up to weigh an estimated 41 pounds each year, according to leading anti-junk mail organization, 41pounds.org.

What's more, 44% of it is never opened, though the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates only about 40% is recycled properly. This enormous waste of paper has triggered the U.S. Postal Service to install over 4,000 postal recycling stations around the country. From a financial perspective, nearly \$320 million of local tax money is used to dispose of and recycle of junk mail each year.

However, junk mail has environmental repercussions on a larger scale than individual inconvenience or waste of tax money. The paper for these mailings comes from more than 100 million trees each year. Not only does this cause deforestation it also creates an imbalance of the planet's carbon levels. While forests usually act as "carbon sinks" to maintain constant levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, chopping down these trees and converting

them into paper emits this stored carbon prematurely back into the atmosphere. On top of that, according to 41pounds.org, the carbon emissions from junk mailings each year are roughly equivalent to nine million cars.

ForestEthics.org, another leader in the charge against junk mail, estimates that junk mail produces 51.5 million metric tons of greenhouse gases each year.

Another negative impact of junk mail is the water waste it creates. As drought becomes an increasingly important problem across the country, Americans continue to waste upwards of 28 billion gallons of water on junk mail production and recycling every year.

Thankfully taking basic steps to get off mailing lists can easily reduce enormous environmental costs. By registering at 41pounds.org, junk mailings can be reduced by 80-95% for \$41. You can also opt out of these mailing lists at catalogchoice.org. By contacting dozens of these mailers, these organizations aim to eliminate junk mail waste.

After five years, 41pounds.org estimates "you'll conserve 1.7 trees and 700 gallons of water, and prevent global warming emissions." You must re-register every five years. 41pounds.org; www.41pounds.org; Catalog Choice, www.catalog-choice.org; Forest Ethics' "Climate Change Enclosed," donot-mail.org/downloads/ClimateReport.pdf. earthtalk@emagazine.com.



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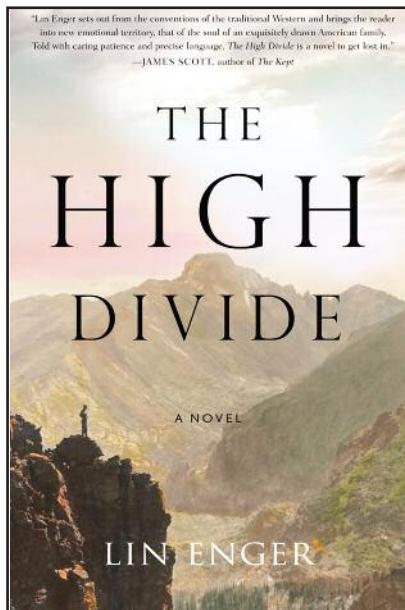
By Jenny Shank - HCN

The High Divide by Lin Enger - 332 pages, hardcover: \$24.95 Algonquin, 2014.

As *The High Divide* opens in 1886, Gretta Pope's husband, Ulysses, a U.S. Army veteran, has been missing for six weeks, leaving her with two sons to raise, past-due rent, and no idea about where he might have gone or when he'll be back. An odious landlord begins to circle Gretta, demanding payment in more than money. Then Gretta's son, 16-year-old Eli, intercepts a letter to his father from a woman in Bismarck, suggesting that Ulysses recently visited her. Eli sneaks out of the family home in Sloan's Crossing, Minnesota, and hops a freight train west to find his father, but his sickly 9-year-old brother guesses his plan and follows. Meanwhile, Gretta embarks on her own travels and investigations.

Minnesota novelist Lin Enger switches to the perspective of a different family member in each chapter, updating us on their individual odysseys and making it clear that the members of this family love each other deeply and want to be together, even though their lack of communication has split them apart and left them wracked by doubts about everything.

The boys and Gretta are astonished to learn that Ulysses re-enlisted after the Civil War and served in Custer's 7th



Cavalry Regiment, which was notorious for killing women and children in Indian villages. Ulysses' recent erratic behavior appears to spring from his secret past; he is clearly haunted by something that happened when he was in the military.

As she seeks her husband, Gretta rebukes herself for not delving into Ulysses' past sooner: "If only she had been able to summon the strength to draw the poison out of Ulysses. ... But she had been raised to believe that a man's burdens were meant for him alone to carry."

In *The High Divide*, the West is swiftly transforming from a savage, bloodthirsty land into a settled place where the only remnants of the bygone, unfettered West are the buffalo bones that litter the prairie, which men scavenge for quick money. And yet this changing land will serve as a proving ground for Ulysses' growing sons.

In clear, vivid prose, Enger describes the family's journeys, expanding the story of the search for one man into an investigation of the West's conscience at a time when men had recently decimated its native peoples and fauna and were just beginning to reap the consequences. In the process, he tells a tender story of love, sorrow and the quest for redemption.

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Part 9 - Overpopulation & Plastics

By Frosty Wooldridge

Plastic onslaught in an ocean of grief of our streams, river, lakes and oceans; deadly, ugly, and immoral.

"Plastics will prove the worst, most insidious invention of humanity. Plastics kill everything and anything in their path on all four corners of the planet. Plastics kill without violence, without warning and without provocation. Plastics float, sink and never break down. Of all of humanity's folly on this green planet, plastics take the trophy for man's inhumanity to all other life on Earth."

Part 9 of this series cannot help but sicken your sense of humanity's moral and ethical decay on this planet. Not to mention its outright denial of reality. This plastic onslaught stands alone as the worst invasion ever perpetrated on all other creatures on Earth. While I respond to many religiously righteous people and many people who think they know what they talk about—I am chagrined at the arrogance of those who defend unlimited human growth in the face of our accelerating carnage, slaughter and butchery of the natural world around the planet.

Marco Torres, March 26, 2013, wrote in www.Prevent-Disease.com: "Overpopulation is a radical and dangerous myth promoted by elite and international societies. The unproven notion, as Malthus believed, that higher wages and welfare should be withheld from the great unwashed because he believed that these two factors would allow the poor to survive and exponentially breed, thus compounding the overpopulation problem. "Overpopulation is a misnomer. A problem that exists only in dramatically erroneous theories that are not mathematically based. It is simply one of the most flawed concepts right up there with global warming.

The theories are based on myths, not science or accurate statistical correlations or causation principles."

In reality, Malthus said, "The power of population is so superior to the power of earth to produce subsistence to humanity that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race."

Those of us that possess greater understanding can only shake our heads at the insanity of humanity's folly. To take Malthus several steps further into the accelerating nightmare of overpopulation on this planet—let us address the 80,000 human made chemicals our species injects into the land, air and water 24/7. How does Torres speak to that nasty reality?

Answer: he ignores it. How about the most insidious aspect of humanity's inventions—plastics? Torres ducks out along with all pro-growth advocates. They never deal with the undercurrent of human devastation on this planet.

The deadly reach of humanity as its plastics attack the bird life on Midway Island, seemingly so far away from human encroachment, that such an onslaught of human-made rubbish couldn't reach it. But it does, and the avian and marine life suffer excruciating deaths from having their guts loaded with every form of plastic tossed out into the oceans without any responsibility whatsoever.

You've seen this sickening disregard of the natural world, how do we account for ourselves as a species? How do we change this ugly, nasty and deadly assault on Mother Nature? You've heard about the lethal plastics invading the guts of the birds, but what about below the ocean waters? Let me tell you with my 50 years of scuba diving around the planet, it's even more deadly. (Continued next page.)



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(Golf balls found in the ocean spell out “trash” and the rest of the detritus represents a tiny, tiny fraction of the amount of plastic trash discarded into our oceans and washed up on shore. It will take millions of years after the human race departs the planet for all our crap to degrade.

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In the meantime, it will continue killing millions of unsuspecting species.) Photography by Greenpeace

Turtles eat Styrofoam so much so; they cannot submerge to find their food. Dolphins and whales get caught up in drift nets to the point of strangulation, suffocation and horrible deaths. The tiny plastic pellets (nurdles) by the billions upon billions now infect the ocean food chain. Even that horror cannot be seen but it operates everywhere in the oceans.

Almost 10 years ago, the popular TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey exposed the 100 million ton plastic floating garbage patch the size of Texas desecrating an area of the Pacific Ocean. The “Great Pacific Garbage Patch” covers all other oceans of the world with an average of 46,000 plastic bottles and debris floating on every square mile of ocean water. That plastic kills millions of creatures above and below the surface.

Did the world press come to the rescue? Did the president of the United States and leaders of all other countries in the world call for a world .25 cent deposit/return law to stop the deluge of plastics entering our natural world? Did ordinary citizens take action to make it happen in free countries? Did Pepsi, Coke, Coors, Budweiser, Kentucky Bourbon, KFC, McDonald's, Burger King, Chipotle's, Pizza Hut, Toys R US and other top beverage and plastic-selling companies stand up to demand deposit/return laws for all their products. Did CEOs of Ford, Chrysler, General Motors, Kroger, Publix, King Soopers and Safeway make any attempt to stop plastics from entering the natural world?

Answer: not a single damned pathetic one of them stood up to promote a plan to stop the destruction of our oceans. In fact, I know one of them personally, Peter Coors of Coors

A black and white graphic for Mountain Muffler. It features the word "MOUNTAIN" in a stylized, blocky font. A sunburst or starburst shape is positioned above the letter "M". Below the letters "TAIN", there is a drawing of a muffler with a mesh end. The entire logo is set against a black background with a decorative border of white stars.

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Colorado in 1974 and 1988. I asked him why? He said to me in a letter, "It's only an 8% waste stream...." When you take 8% and apply it to trillions of plastic containers, you come up with the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch." I call Peter Coors a "pretend environmentalist."

(In third world countries, people toss everything as if they still lived in the Stone Age. They walk in it, through it and throw more into it. Don't laugh, Americans, Canadians, Europeans and Australians all toss their trash into the oceans, along roadsides, in parks, in rivers, in lakes and into streams. The human race as a whole proves itself pretty pathetic.)

Thus, the onslaught of our oceans rips at the foundation of all of life. To think that we stand ready to add another 3.1 billion of our kind within 37 years. And guys like Marco Torres tell us that human overpopulation remains a myth, a charade and a misnomer. To that, I conclude he continues breathing but remains "intellectually vacant."

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 eight 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

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Reforming The Endangered Species Act

From Elizabeth Shogren

The administration's proposal is aimed at warding off a GOP overhaul of the law.

The Obama administration in May proposed increasing the role states play in decisions about whether to list animals and plants as threatened or endangered. The announcement comes as congressional Republicans have vowed to overhaul the Endangered Species Act and have been pushing legislation to reduce protections for individual species, including the greater sage grouse and lesser prairie chicken.

The proposed rule by the Interior Department and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would require people who want to petition the federal government to list a species to first send petitions to whatever state agencies manage the species in question. If the state responds within 30 days with data, such as population counts or comments, these would need to be included with the petition when it's sent to the federal Fish and Wildlife Service. Today petitioners don't need to provide any data, and state input comes later in the process, such as during the 12-month review that starts if the federal agency finds that listing a species might be warranted.

The proposal also would include changes to make the listing process more transparent to the public, more

reflective of science and more responsive to voluntary conservation efforts. It also would do away with petitions for multiple species. "These actions will make an effective and robust law even more successful, and will also reinforce the importance of states, landowners and sound science in that effort," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which represents state agencies, applauded "the intent" of the proposal because they see it as increasing state influence in decisions on listing rare species. But environmental groups quickly opposed it, saying it would make it harder to protect rare animals and plants. "The reason these species are in trouble is because something failed at the local and state level," Jamie Rappaport Clark, president of Defenders of Wildlife and a former director of the Fish and Wildlife Service under President Clinton, told HCN. She added that the Obama administration has been too deferential to states.

The administration's proposal seemed aimed at appeasing Republican congressional leaders who say they plan to overhaul the act, but have yet to draft legislation to do so. Obama administration officials made the case that the Endangered Species Act is working and does not need a legislative fix. The 40-year-old act has prevented more than

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99% of the species listed from going extinct. Over the last six years, almost two dozen species have recovered, been taken off the list or been proposed for removal. Also, more than a dozen imperiled species that were candidates for listing under the act have been bolstered by conservation efforts and no longer need to be listed.

But GOP critics seemed unlikely to be assuaged. House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said he was glad the Obama administration acknowledged the problems with the petition process under the Endangered Species Act. But he's skeptical that the Obama administration could be trusted to fix the problem. "I don't buy it," he said. A spokeswoman for Sen. James Inhofe, who chairs the Senate Environment Committee, said the senator still plans to draft a bill to fix the problems that Republicans see with the act.

"As it currently stands, too many of the (Fish and Wildlife Service's) listing decisions are being driven by litigation settlements that were conducted in a manner that left the public without a voice while the science has been simultaneously short circuited," Inhofe, R-Oklahoma, said in a statement following a recent Senate hearing on the act. Inhofe specifically complained that the federal government listed the lesser prairie chicken, despite efforts by Oklahoma and four other states to conserve the bird.

In May, the House voted to remove protections for the

lesser prairie chicken and delay listing of the greater sage grouse for ten years. These provisions were part of the National Defense Authorization Act, and the White House voiced its strong opposition to these measures. Obama threatened to veto the legislation if these provisions are in it when Congress sends it to him. The Senate has yet to vote on its defense bill, but expects to in June. Public comments on the proposed rule will be accepted for 60 days following its publication in the Federal Register, probably later in May. The Federal Fish and Wildlife Service did not have a timeline for when to expect a final rule. *Elizabeth Shogren is HCN's DC Correspondent.*

Carl's Corner

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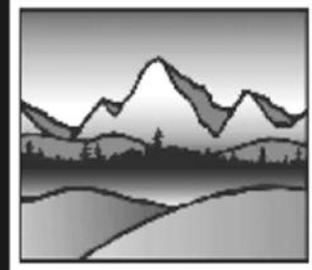
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RESTAURANTS

Malones Clubhouse

JULY
2015

POWER UPDATE



Your Small Change Makes a Big Difference

When you round up your monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar, you provide assistance to worthy organizations and needy families in your community.

Sign up today: check the box on your next United Power statement, click on 'your Community' online at www.unitedpower.com, or call a Member Services Representative at 303-637-1300.



June 16 Outage Caused by Vehicle Accident, Downed Pole

Members in the Golden Gate Canyon area experienced a lengthy outage on June 16th caused by a vehicle accident. The outage began at about 6 a.m. when an automobile hit a pole and downed power lines. Crews worked diligently to restore power, but due to the nature of the accident and remote location of the equipment, some members were out of power for most of the day. United Power thanks our members for their patience during this lengthy outage.

The safety of our members and employees is a top priority at United Power, and we urge you to always use caution around electrical equipment. Power lines carry high voltage electricity and you should always assume that utility lines are "live" - or energized - and keep far away from them. If you happen to be in a vehicle and wires have fallen on or near it, stay in your vehicle and tell others not to touch the wires or the vehicle.

Anyone on the ground who touches your vehicle could be in danger. If the vehicle is safe and is not on fire, stay in the vehicle until an emergency responder indicates it is safe to get out. If you must leave due to other hazards, jump clear of fallen lines. Don't touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Land with feet together and hop away with both legs together. Always call 911 in emergency situations.

Immediately report any fallen, low hanging, or smoking wires to United Power, the police, or fire department. United Power is available 24 hours a day to help you.



Energy Star Rebates



To help you make the most of your energy, United Power members can receive rebates on the purchase of NEW Energy Star® qualified appliances. Rebates are available on select refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers and dishwashers. United Power will also provide a recycling credit when you have your old refrigerator or freezer hauled away and recycled. To learn more, visit www.unitedpower.com. Please review program details very carefully.

Energy Star Appliance	Rebate
New Energy Star® Refrigerator/Freezer	\$40
Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling	\$75
New Energy Star® Clothes Washer	\$40
New Energy Star® Dishwasher	\$30

July 4th Celebration-Pancake Breakfast



11488 Ranch Elsie Road
Impeccably Maintained Foothill Property
2 BD/ 3 BA 2,080 sq ft. \$370,000



952 Milo Circle #A
Herthwood Townhome
4 BD/ 3 BA 1,568 sq.ft. \$235,000



221 Jennie Lane
Beautiful Log Home
3 BD/ 3 BA 1,908 sq. ft. \$380,000



33811 Skyline Drive
Contemporary Mountain Home
4 BD/ 4 BA 3,171 sq.ft. \$445,000



5 Debra Ann
"Sky High" Private Retreat
3 BD/ 3 BA 3,525 sq.ft. \$434,500



11851 Spruce Canyon Circle
Immaculate Ranch Home
3 BD/ 3 BA Remodeled \$484,500



1068 Indian Peaks
Opportunity Knocks!
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,736 sq.ft. \$359,000



439 Wright Street #22
Updated Townhome w/Mountain Views
2 BD/ 3 BA 1,855 sq.ft. \$238,000



11561 Inspiration Road
Located in peaceful setting.
4 BD/ 4 BA 3,148 sq.ft. \$269,000



102 Rowena Place
Perfect Parkside Location!
3 BD/ 3 BA 1,588 sq.ft. \$364,000



33382 Sidney Road East
Complete Remodel
3 BD/ 2 BA \$359,000



1414 Mountain Pines
Meticulous Log Home
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,640 sq.ft. \$486,000



12423 Knox Street
Incredible Crofton Park Cottage Home
5 BD/ 4 BA 2,660 sq.ft. \$360,000



34685 Stanton Drive
Home Sweet Home
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,008 sq.ft. \$274,900



126 Lichen Lane
Flat 1.46 acre, gorgeous Horse Property!
5 BD/ 3 BA 3,116 sq.ft. \$409,000



0 Lillis Lane
Two building sites and much more!
5.04 Acres \$79,000



2126 Apex Valley Road
Majestic Setting on Upper N. Clear Creek
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,406 sq.ft. \$284,900



601 Camp Eden Road
Amazing City & Mountain Views!
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,013 sq.ft. \$374,000

LAND FOR SALE

TBD Rudi Lane W-.73 Ac. \$40K

33966 Nadm - 1.08 Ac. \$75K

0 Damascus - 1.86 Ac. \$44,900

11547 Shimley - 1.15 Ac. \$29K

19 Ronnie - 0.7 Ac. \$74K



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