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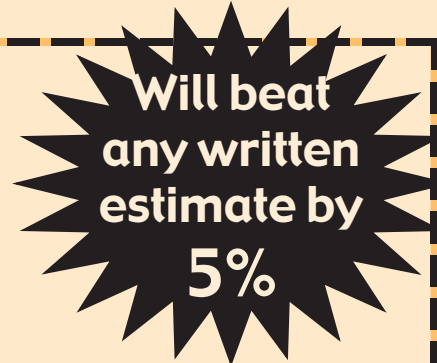
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The Sum

Article & Photos (Cover also) by Omayra Acevedo

Love, in general, is defined as an intense feeling of deep affection, or a great interest and pleasure in something. I define love as the sum of all experiences in life. Love can be seen in anyone, anything and everything. However, like most things worth having, love is truly powerful when it is left to take its natural course. I understand that a lot of things take effort and so can love. My mother and I shared a very special kind of love; though it only lasted 27 years, the strength behind it will last for the remainder of my life. The respect, appreciation and admiration I have for my brother, a healthy lifestyle, creativity, my cats and nature is also love. In my humble opinion, of course.

Love is colorful, multileveled and the most beautiful, heart-changing thing we will ever experience. Some of us prefer multiple experiences with numerous people. Some of us much rather be the number one in someone else's life, and others are content to live with the mere idea of that perfect love. Even in nature you can find monogamy, polygamy and extreme independence. Lions, walruses, dolphins and hyenas are some of the most polygamous

creatures in the animal Kingdom. The Bonobos Monkeys are said to be the most sex-crazed species. According to some studies, sexual intimacy is not only highly pleasurable for Bonobos, it is considered an important social tool within their troop. It reaffirms communal bonds, resolves conflicts, relieves tension and generally keeps the peace.

Monogamy might be considered a prized value in many cultures, but in the animal kingdom, it is believed that only 3 -5 percent of species are known to form lifelong partners. Macaroni Penguins, Sandhill Cranes, Seahorses, Eagles and Barn Owls are known to have only one mate at a time. Take flamingos for example, they tend to stay with the same companion and when living within a flock, they will all mate during the same period so that all of the chicks will hatch at the same time. The passion they share with their family and their colonies binds them together so deeply that it even influences how and when they live their lives. For the hopeful romantic in me, there's a certain type of beauty to this concept.

Wolverines, snow leopards, *(Continued on next page.)*

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Highlander Philosophy

Black Rhinos, skunks and the lionfish are found to be the most solitary creatures on earth. Nonetheless, the energy saved by being independent is what is used when mating season comes around.

Preferring to be alone doesn't mean one can't spend time and bond with others. It's just that we're more comfortable with our own company. I say 'we' because I am definitely an introvert and given the choice, I do prefer to be alone more times than I choose to be around people. Which is possibly why I love writing so much! It's just me, my cats, the view, maybe some music and my creativity.

The biggest symbol associated with love is the dove. You'll find it in valentine day cards, wedding decorations and anything pertaining to romance. Yes, doves do mate for life. Many things symbolize love: animals, Celtic knots, the color red, hearts, roses and sometimes jewelry. Regardless of your experience with love, it is the feeling and experience that

you remember more than an object. So, you see, love is as equally about living, happiness, health and beauty as it is romance. Love is the sum of all our experiences in life and



it is more than okay that we all feel it differently. What works for one person may not work for another. But I want to believe that we can all agree; whether it is for a moment or a lifetime, when true love does cross our path, it feels INCREDIBLE!



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Expect An Abundance Of Miller Moths

From CSU

If the swarms of flying insects infiltrating doorways, backyards and gardens the last few weeks are any indication, miller moth season in Colorado is here. Following four straight years of below-average numbers for the winged creatures, the insect should be noticeably more abundant in 2020.

“Flights of the moths crossing through into eastern Colorado on their annual migration to the mountains first became noticeable the first few days of May, much earlier than 2019, when noticeable numbers were first observed in late May,” the insect experts write in a fact sheet for CSU Extension.

Familiar to native Coloradans, “miller moth” is the common name for the adult stage of the army cutworm, a.k.a. *Euxoa auxiliaris*. They originate from fields across eastern Colorado and adjacent areas of western Kansas and Nebraska. Peak moth flights may last five to six weeks, generally starting the last week of May or early June. Already, the moths have damaged crops in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas.

If Front Range residents are swatting more moths than usual this year, they have relatively low moisture conditions in fall, winter and spring to thank, according to the CSU entomology team. It’s been drier this year than last, reducing the number of blooming flowers. Plus, a freeze in mid-April killed blossoms from plants that would normally be in peak bloom in early to mid-May. With fewer flowers available to the insects during their migration, they tend to concentrate in areas with larger numbers of flowering plants – usually, irrigated landscapes, including yards and gardens.

Annoying as they can be, the moths won’t stick around forever. Flight activity of the moths will accelerate as the night temps warm. A warning, though:

Cool, wet periods might make the migrating moths stay a while. And just to confuse matters, Cranshaw adds, there is another moth event happening along the Front Range now – the adult alfalfa webworm, a smaller, mottled-gray moth that is very visible by day when walking across a yard.

Miller moth fast facts - Why are they called “miller moths?” Fine scales that easily rub off cover their wings. The scales reminded people of the dusty flour on the clothing of grain millers. What was the heaviest moth flight in recent history? Since at least the early 1980s, the heaviest, most prolonged flight of miller moths across eastern Colorado occurred in 1991.

What eats them? - They have many natural enemies, including predatory ground beetles, hunting wasps, and many birds. Grizzly bears in

Yellowstone are known to feed on large numbers of the fat-rich moths they find under loose rocks.

What are those swallows doing circling my car? A commonly observed phenomenon during miller time is swallows – which love to eat miller moths – congregating at road intersections. This can occur because moths that had sought shelter in car chassis are warmed by the engine and emerge while the cars are idling at a stop light.

How do the moths get inside a house? They avoid daylight and seek shelter before daybreak. Small cracks in doorways, garages and cars are perfect hiding spots. At night, they emerge to resume their migratory flights and to feed.

Why are moths attracted to lights at night? Moths, and many other flying insects, are confused by low-point light sources because they naturally use the moon or stars to orient their flights.

Are miller moths harmful? The caterpillar stage can be a pest for crops in the spring, and they can kill seedling plants. Mostly, the adults are just a nuisance. Moths in the home do not lay eggs or feed on household furnishings or food. If large numbers die in a home, there may be a small odor problem due to the fat in their bodies turning rancid. Large numbers can leave spots on walls from their meconia, which is waste stored during pupal development.

How do I control miller moths in my home? Seal obvious openings around windows and doors. Reduce lighting at night in and around homes. An easy trap to make is to suspend a light bulb over a bucket partially filled with soapy water (always use a grounded plug and extreme caution with any electrical device near water). Moths attracted to the light often fall into the water and are killed. **Moths are not very susceptible to insecticides.**

What is extreme fear of moths called? Mottephobia.

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Know Your Rights

By Valerie Wedel

What times we live in! Exciting, triumphant, terrifying or hopeful? Many of us may have watched and / or participated in protests for civil rights during June, 2020 in Denver, Boulder, or one of the many other communities we share. Have you found yourself recently called to take action? Civil rights are again, still, at the forefront of our news.

The Denver ACLU recently presented an online training titled “Lunch and Learn – Police Encounters.” The recording is available at: <https://youtu.be/3HVrCGETzME> This presentation was designed to teach civilian rights and responsibilities in a police encounter.

For those of us who are white, this may be something we never thought much about. Why would you need to know your rights? What rights would you be talking about? Police might pull you over for expired license plates, or speeding, or some other traffic violation. Given the stress of the police job, you may have been advised to turn on your car’s dome light at night, so an officer could see you clearly and know you are not packing a gun.

If you grew up as a white, middle class person in, say, Chicago or New York, it may never have occurred to you there could be any other reason to be pulled over. Or...

Those other reasons might happen to other people, who lived far away from your own neighborhood. Perhaps folk you saw on tv.

Perhaps this middle class person would have said she/he was not racist in any way shape or form. In fact, with a history of activism, one might have believed she or he was the opposite of a racist. Sadly there is another world, side by side with this one. A world we should all be aware of.

After many decades on this planet, with many black friends, still I only became aware of this parallel world just a few weeks ago. It is a reality where you walk out of your house on your way to work, and three police grab you, rough you up, and search your backpack. Looking for drugs, they say.

Or perhaps you are out for a jog. Running along the sidewalk, a police cruiser pulls up, blocks you, and police leap out. They point their guns at you, shouting and ordering you face down on the ground. They tell you a crime was committed nearby and you fit the description. After forcing you face down on cement at gunpoint, they eventually decide you are not a suspect after all. They drive off. Police state of eastern Europe? No. This is us - the United States of America.

Now let’s Imagine an alternate scenario: You are jogging, and a police cruiser pulls over. The police ask you courteously if you have seen anyone nearby matching thus and such description. They inform you a crime may have been committed in the area, and advise caution. They hand you a card with a number you can call if you see anything to report.

Now imagine what color each citizen might be for these scenarios. In the United States, it is a vanishingly slim chance that a white person will end up face down on concrete, with police guns pointed at him or her, simply while out jogging.

It was shocking to realize I’ve been oblivious to this ongoing violence against people of color. Even my friends of color did not talk about this in front of me, let alone with me. Only in light of very recent events nation-wide are



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many white people becoming privy to “The Talk.” This is a talk that parents of color give to their children, to help keep them safe. As the ACLU presentation said, the only aim of a police encounter, in the eyes of a black parent, is for their child to get home safely, alive and in one piece.

To achieve getting home safely, alive and in one piece, know your rights. Watch the ACLU presentation. **One example – never run from police.** Instead, respond courteously if at all possible. Keep a level head. The ACLU presentation also discusses the importance of de-escalation – behaviors that help to calm a situation, and other people.

Another point from the ACLU video: No one has the right to stop you on the street and search your person, effects or vehicle without a search warrant. State clearly: “I do not consent to search.” Clearly stating this may not stop an illegal police search at gunpoint, but it does mean you are on record stating your rights. An attorney can later use this to help keep, or get, you out of jail. The position here is to never allow an unauthorized search of your self or possessions. Can you guarantee one of your friends or acquaintances did not leave something suspicious or illegal in your trunk? You may not know it is there, but if police find it, you could be arrested and held legally responsible.

If police stop you on the street, you also have the right to say (calmly and courteously): “Officer, am I being detained, or am I free to go?” If the police are not detaining or arresting you on the spot, then you are free to go. At that point you may firmly and quietly walk away.

Now, if you are white and middle class, imagine as a parent teaching your children this and more, in hopes they come home safely. Consider how we might heal and change. What action can we take, and continue taking, that

help make all our worlds better for all of us?

Several years ago I enjoyed a morning routine, of coffee in a shop in town, before work. It was a favorite place for police to hang out also. Initially this made me feel very safe. As time went on, I would often overhear senior officers asking younger officers if they were sleeping ok. More often than not the answer would be a quiet shake of the head. How were they feeling? The answer might be a shrug, or silence. As these conversations unfolded very quietly, it became apparent some, perhaps many, police appeared to be suffering from anxiety and trauma. They did not know if each simple traffic stop might turn into guns blazing, a driver firing away, in a fit of road rage or other insanity.

There are many great police officers, who deeply believe in protecting and serving the public good. They are willing to put their lives on the line for the rest of us. Just as many activists are willing to do. How wonderful then to see police marching peacefully, arm in arm with protesters, here in Denver recently. I believe this conversation is essential. When opposing parties walk arm in arm for a greater cause of peace and healing, there is hope and reason for celebration.

May we learn during this crucible of fire... May we be tempered in wisdom and compassion. Which feeling do you choose - exciting, triumphant, terrifying or hopeful?

Editor’s Note: While I agree and applaud Ms. Wedel’s research on this issue it cannot be stressed enough that a white person is ill equipped to know how people of color deal with discrimination and oppression in their daily lives. Law enforcement has long suffered from a fear of the unknown assailant, it is documented and yet not a reason for brutality or abuse of power against anyone.

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Just How Does One Enter Rocky Mtn Nat'l Park?

Article and photographs by Diane Bergstrom

We're in new territory everywhere including a new process to get into our backyard national park. A new normal is blazing trails within the national park system too. Crowded parks in other states, like Zion and Arches, are watching how effective, or cumbersome, the new timed entry permit system plays out in Rocky, which was first to go online with the system. Yosemite was next. The system serves to control crowded roads, filled parking lots,

Why bother? Well, if you're going to make the drive, you might as well improve your odds of getting in. On opening weekend, 70% of visitors complied with the reservation system while 30% showed up without a reservation. For those 30%, they were only allowed in if there were openings in any time slot. Some were flat out turned away. Permits are NOT sold at the entrances so you must print one before getting through the gate. Volunteers and employees at key visitor points are trying to assist visitors find openings but a closed time slot is still closed.



bustling trails and public areas in order to make a safer, more enjoyable experience for visitors while also complying with public health guidelines. This entry process is planned (*subject to change*) to stay in place through October, so if you intend to visit the park, you might want to take a deep breath and embrace the new and different approach. Being a park nerd, I'll try to help.

Reservations and a permit are required for park entry between 6 am and 5 pm. The cost is \$2 regardless of whether you have an interagency annual pass, a senior pass, or a RMNP pass. Think about it this way; the permit gets you through the gate and the pass gets you through the park. You'll need both. If you or your guests plan on visiting several days in a row, you will need to obtain an entry

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permit for each day. **TIP:** If you want to avoid the whole permit procedure, go before 6 am or after 5 pm. Right now, reservations are being taken for the remaining days in July through the month of August. On August 1, you can make reservations for the remaining days in August through September. You get the picture.

The hows: First: create an account at www.recreation.gov. Click on the "Sign Up" tab and answer the few questions. You'll be sent a verifying email to create a password. You'll need this account password every time you make a timed entry reservation. **TIP:** it would also be helpful to have your park pass ahead of making a reservation, unless you intend to buy a day pass along with the permit. Note that it is taking 2-4 weeks to receive an annual or lifetime pass in the mail. Second: to get the timed entry permit, go back to



Highlander Information

www.recreation.gov, armed with your new password, and click on RMNP, then under "Reservations," click on "Tours and Tickets" box. On the next screen, click on "RMNP Timed Entry." On the right side of the screen, you'll see "Reserve Tickets." Fill out the prompts including the private vehicle entry, pass type, chosen date, and time slot. Once you enter the date, a box of time slots ranging from 6 am to 3 pm will appear with the number of permits available or the words "SOLD OUT." Choose your entry time. You will be prompted to enter your pass type, pass ID number, email and password before the checkout screens. *(READER CHECK IN: How are you doing? Need a break? Glass of water, or a beer?)* We're almost done. **TIP:** Timed entry permits are NOT sold at the park so you will need to go through this

(Continued on next page.)

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procedure before you get there. You'll receive an email confirmation and entry permit. Print out the entry permit and bring it with you to an entrance station. The automated pass lanes that previously allowed you to swipe your card pass for quicker entry are now closed, due to entry permit re-



quirements. If you are visiting outlying areas, i.e. Lily Lake, Longs Peak, you will need to display the permit on your dashboard. There are still bugs in the new system so be patient. A friend looked up accessibility a week in advance and some of the time slots posted "Not enough guests" while other time slots were blank. The park's website states you can enter, leave, and return all day as long as you entered during the allotted two hour time slot. **TIP:** Don't do this, unless you come back after 5 pm. Be prepared to come into the park and stay for your visit. Pack your lunch, beverages, sunscreen, clothing and supplies, so you do not need to exit and reenter unless

absolutely necessary. Coming, going, and coming back creates more congestion at the entrances and that's a goat rope no one needs. Yes, I said goat rope. It fits.

I hope this helps. Normally I would spend more space advising about road alerts, animal viewing, trails, and maintaining safe distances between you and wildlife, i.e. safety before selfies. I've also reminded people to leave your dogs, drones and marijuana at home. Remember that your fourth grader can still apply for a free family pass at www.everykidinapark.gov. Now my animal tip for you is to be very, very aware. For 2.5 months, the wildlife has had free range and got used to not having humans, buses, or

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cars around. More bears have been out and about, and large and small animals have used the vacant, now populated trails. They need some time to adjust too. Give them a lot of space. No food, just space. The shuttles are only allowing 15 riders per bus so expect wait time to climb on board. The entry permit does not guarantee a parking spot. Pack your patience and a mask, and be kind to the employees and volunteers. The park is doing more with less, under ever changing guidelines. They are currently working with fewer employees and volunteers than in previous years. For the first time in decades, volunteers no longer



receive a free annual pass for their efforts in providing thousands of hours to help the park and assist visitors. Rocky is now the third most visited park in the US, with over 4.6 million visitors entering last year.

Almost one million people visited RMNP park last July. The new entry system has its complications, benefits and pitfalls. I worry about the impact it will have on inclusivity of visitor diversity and other demographics. Time and reporting will tell. The ratings for the system have ranged from a full five stars for limiting overcrowding and improving the visitor's experience to "This is bull (*fill in the blank*)!" I fully appreciate how Tim Mosier ended his article for the *Estes Park Trail Gazette*, "I think one thing everyone can agree on when it comes to the awe-inspiring park that sits in our backyard is we would rather have it open with restrictions and reservations than to miss out on its beauty entirely."

Happy safe trails, everyone!

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HAULING & HARDSCAPES

Two Vulnerable Senators Flip On Bill

By Chris D'Angelo High Country News June 15, 2020

Ahead of the elections, two senators champion the Land and Water Conservation Fund, showing the political power of public lands.

This story was originally published by HuffPost and is reproduced here through the Climate Desk partnership.

Public lands activists and a handful of lawmakers have long pushed for full, permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal program established in 1964 that uses offshore oil and gas revenues to establish and protect parks, wildlife refuges, forests and wildlife habitat.

But anti-federal-land conservatives, appalled at the thought of more money being used to expand and improve the federal estate, have always stood in the way. The program has been funded at the full \$900 million allowed by law only twice in its history.

Now two vulnerable Republicans are among those championing a bipartisan conservation bill that would permanently and fully fund the LWCF, as well as allocate \$9.5 billion to address the mounting maintenance backlog at America's national parks. Sens. Steve Daines, R-Mont., and Cory Gardner, R-Colo., co-sponsors of the bill, are

claiming credit for the win after the bill advanced by an 80-17 vote in June.

“We are on the cusp of passing the most historic conservation legislation in 50 years,” Daines said during a news conference on Capitol Hill. “And isn’t it ironic that it will take public lands to bring a divided government and a divided nation together.”

In March, Daines and Gardner announced they had secured an about-face from our current President, a long-time foe of the LWCF who has worked to weaken safeguards for nearly 35 million federal acres. The administration’s budget proposal for 2020 called for all but eliminating funding for the LWCF, from \$156 million down to just \$7.6 million. During a meeting at the White House in February, Gardner told the President that passing a public lands bill would be the biggest conservation win since President Theodore Roosevelt established national parks, refuges and forests across the country in the early 1900s, The New York Times reported recently. Invoking Roosevelt was apparently all it took to get the president to change his stance. The Interior Department has said it is creating “a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt;” a bold claim that simply does not match reality. The President has not been shy about who he thinks should get credit for this moment.

“I am calling on Congress to send me a Bill that fully and permanently funds the LWCF and restores our National Parks,” he wrote in a March post to Twitter. “When I sign it into law, it will be HISTORIC for our beautiful public lands. Thanks to @SenCoryGardner and @SteveDaines, two GREAT Conservative Leaders!” It’s a message he and his team are sure to push between now and November.

Both Daines and Gardner are relatively new to the fight to protect the LWCF, and neither have particularly notable environmental records - earning lifetime scores from the League of Conservation Voters of 6% and 11%. Gardner, while a member of the House of Representatives in 2011, voted in favor of an amendment to an appropriations bill that would have drastically cut the LWCF’s already low funding. In 2015, Daines voted (Continued on page 16.)

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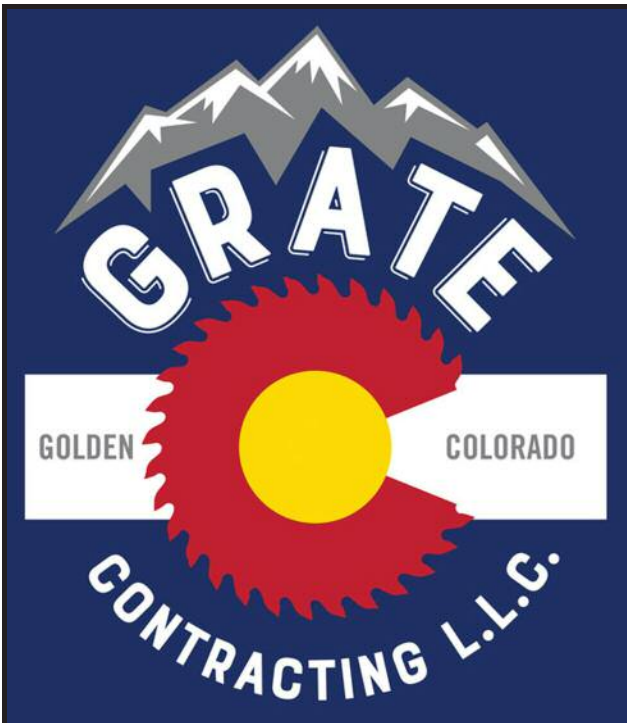
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against reauthorizing the program. And in June 2018, hours after participating in a press conference calling for full and permanent LWCF funding, they both voted in favor of a spending cuts package that, among other things, would have slashed \$16 million in LWCF funds from the U.S. Forest Service.

Environmentalists and public lands advocates have applauded the two lawmakers' recent work on the LWCF and embraced the opportunity to secure permanent program funding, but it's hard not to see this newfound support as little more than a gift to two Senate allies facing tough bids for reelection. Daines is facing Montana's Democratic governor and former 2020 presidential candidate Steve Bullock, and Gardner is likely to square off against former Colorado governor and 2020 presidential contender John Hickenlooper. **Roll Call** named Gardner the most vulnerable Republican senator in 2020.

"It is a desperate attempt to convince their constituents

that they aren't working on behalf of corporations and that they care about what the American people care about," said Jayson O'Neill, director of public lands watchdog group Western Values Project.



The Rocky Mountains from the Flathead Nat'l Forest in Montana, which is one of hundreds of projects around the country funded by the Land & Water Conservation Fund. U.S.F.S. N. Region / CC via Flickr

The oil and gas sector has been a top-five contributing industry to both Daines and Gardner over their careers, according to Center for Responsive Politics data. "The fact is we worked long and hard with local conservation groups and public land enthusiasts around the country to build support where it never existed before."

In a speech on the Senate floor, Sen. John Tester (D-Mont.) called the LWCF "the most important conservation tool we have at the federal level" and a key driver of Montana's outdoor recreation economy. "These victories did not happen magically overnight," he said. "The fact is we worked long and hard with local conservation groups and public land enthusiasts around the country to build support where it never existed before. And our years of work finally broke the dam earlier this year when the President and Sen. McConnell reversed their opposition to this legislation because of overwhelming bipartisan momentum that we built on the ground. I welcome their change of heart."

Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., another longtime champion of the LWCF, told *HuffPost* that many people were surprised by the sudden reversal. "But I say let's seize this opportunity - this is a historic chance to realize the vision of the LWCF, and we should take it," he said in an email. Udall added that the LWCF was a bipartisan creation - his father, former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, played a large role in establishing the program - and he's excited to

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see bipartisan support for it so many years later.

“There will be a time and a place for politics and campaigning soon enough,” he said. “We will keep having the conversation about the administration’s unending attacks on conservation, our public lands and the environment more broadly. But right now, let’s just get this done for the American people.”

Record vs. rhetoric -Efforts to boost fossil fuel extraction, mining and other development have dominated this administration’s public lands policy, often to the detriment of conservation. The administration has led the largest rollback of national monuments in U.S. history, carving out more than 2 million acres from a pair of protected national monuments in Utah, and opening a 5,000-square-mile marine sanctuary off the East Coast to commercial fishing. It has weakened key conservation laws that protect land, water and air, including the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. And it has repeatedly hosted anti-federal-land advocates and even tapped fierce critics of federal land management for powerful government posts.

Supporting this President and his anti-conservation agenda at seemingly every turn have been Gardner and Daines. Daines even signaled he’d back William Perry Pendley, the acting director of the Bureau of Land Management who has extreme anti-environmental views and spent his career lobbying for the sale of federal lands, if the President were to officially nominate him for the post. Gardner has so far avoided taking a stand on Pendley, but touted his relationship with the President and his own role in the administration’s controversial decision to move BLM headquarters to Colorado.

“These things happen because the current President and I work together for Colorado,” Gardner said at a rally in February in Colorado Springs.

Protecting public lands and maintaining them under federal control has proven to be a winning platform in Western states. Likewise, the LWCF is extremely popular - 74% of Americans support fully funding the program, according to a 2018 poll by the National Wildlife Federation.

Daines and Gardner appear to have realized that they need a conservation victory to point to going into the 2020 election. It remains to be seen if this will give them the boost they need to secure another term.

Jessica Goad, deputy director of Conservation Colorado, said she is “thrilled” about the public lands bill and Gardner and Daines deserve credit. But she stressed that environmental leadership requires far more than supporting the LWCF, noting that Gardner has yet to back the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act, or CORE Act, which would protect approximately 400,000 acres of public land in the state. An analysis by her group last year found that Gardner has voted against the environment 85% of the time since he became a senator.

“Colorado voters are really smart,” Goad said. “They are well-informed on the environment, and I think passing LWCF is just the start for voters.”

In an interview with *E&E News*, a spokeswoman for Gardner’s campaign accused Democrats of being “more interested in playing politics than protecting public lands” and of attempting to “distract from the fact that Gardner accomplished something they failed to do for decades.”

Chris D’Angelo is a reporter for HuffPost, based in Washington, D.C.

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Previous page top left: *Josie from Lisa.*

Top right : *Denise's boys in New Zealand.*

Middle left: *Butters from Lisa.*

This page middle left: *Arabians from Diana Cantey.*

Bottom right: *Heather with Dillon Ray and mini's.*



Summer Maintenance For Your Home

From Jim Plane - State Farm Insurance

Rising temperatures and glorious sunny days make summer an ideal season for getting work done around the house. Whether you're cooling off indoors or working on one of your many projects, take the time to perform some simple, routine home maintenance. You'll have a safer home if you catch problems and wear-and-tear before they become hazards.

Keeping cool inside

Ceiling fans provide an energy-efficient way of circulating cool air. Dust them if needed and balance any wobbly blades by tightening loose screws. For additional energy efficiency, check windows and doors for air leaks and seal with weather stripping or caulk as needed.

Home exterior care and landscaping

Take advantage of the warm weather and wash the outside of your windows and clean the siding. While it might be tempting to use a pressure washer, a garden hose is best to avoid potentially damaging the exterior of your home. Apply a coat of fresh paint if needed, and repair any damaged vinyl or aluminum siding.

Be aware of termites while you're outside inspecting your home. Termites can easily go undetected until significant damage has been done. Look for telltale signs like flaking

wood or mud buildup and tunneling systems in the exterior wood of your home. Professional pest control inspections are recommended if you have any suspicions of possible infestation.

Well-tended landscaping and a trim and tidy house are as welcoming to guests as the smells of a barbeque. Garden beds look their best when mulched and weeded. Summer annuals can be induced to produce more flowers and bloom longer when you deadhead them. Removing spent flowers also prevents the plant from going to seed. Check garden plants, trees, and shrubs for insect infestations. Unhealthy plants should be removed so that others may thrive.

Any plants should be watered in the morning to allow the water to soak through the soil throughout the day in order to completely nourish their root systems. Trees provide shady ambience and should be well cared for to avoid potential damage to your home. Keep their branches pruned and at a safe distance from your home to avoid storm-related damage. Inspect trees for signs of decay, such as cracks or hollowed limbs, and keep branches clear of your home and power lines. Arborists or tree care professionals can assist with the cutting and removal of large or high limbs.

Also, before planting additional trees and shrubs in your yard, take into consideration the plant's size when mature and whether or not roots might intrude upon underground pipes or paved surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways.

Garage upkeep

Hazardous materials such as paint and solvents should be disposed of properly. Don't store heat-sensitive or combustible materials in the garage, as the temperature will be rising throughout the season. Inspect the floor for grease spots from leaking car fluids, and have your car serviced promptly if you find any.

If you have children, instruct them not to go in the garage unaccompanied. Store your hand tools and power tools behind a lock and key. Fertilizers, weed-killers, and pesticides should be stored out of a child's reach or behind a locked cabinet. You might also consider organic gardening, which employs nontoxic alternatives to these poisonous chemicals.

Driveways and walkways

Inspect the pavement for cracks and holes, and remedy them. This goes a long way in preventing accidental slips, trips, and falls. It also works to avoid larger repairs or resurfacing in the future. If you see weeds popping up between cracks in the pavement, resist the urge to pull them up. You'll remove the upper part of the weed, but the root system will remain intact and new growth will return within a few weeks. For a cost-effective solution, boil water in a kettle, carefully carry the kettle outside, and pour the water on any weeds to kill them off for the season.

The poster features a large sunflower in the center. At the top, it says 'Serving the Peak to Peak Community since 2016' and 'Follow us @NEDERLANDFARMERSMARKET'. The main text reads 'JULY OPEN-AIR MARKETS' in a banner, followed by 'SUNDAYS 10AM - 2PM' and 'Live Music: July 12 - Eric Stone, July 26 - Sean Bryant'. The location is '80 East 1st Street (Parking Lot)'. It includes a note: '*Order produce & artisan items every Mon-Wed from nederlandfarmersmarket.org'. At the bottom, there are three callouts: 'Visit food & craft vendors onsite', 'Pick up pre-ordered produce boxes*', and 'Please wear your mask'. A small logo for 'THANKS TO OUR JULY SPONSOR' is in the bottom right corner.

But It's A Dry Heat

From CSU

Climate change and the aridification of North America

Discussions of drought often center on the lack of precipitation. But among climate scientists, the focus is shifting to include the growing role that warming temperatures are playing as potent drivers of greater aridity and drought intensification.

Increasing aridity is already a clear trend across the western United States, where human-caused climate warming is contributing to declining river flows, drier soils, widespread tree death, stressed agricultural crops, catastrophic wildfires and protracted droughts, according to the authors of a Commentary article online published May 19 in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

At the same time, such anthropogenic warming is also driving increased aridity eastward across North America, with no end in sight, according to climate scientists Bradley Udall of Colorado State University and Jonathan Overpeck of the University of Michigan.

“The impact of warming on the West’s river flows, soils, and forests is now unequivocal,” write Udall, senior water and climate scientist at the Colorado Water Center, and Overpeck, dean of the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. “There is a clear longer-term trend toward greater aridification, a trend that only climate action can stop.”

The Commentary article responds to a PNAS paper, published May 11 by Justin T. Martin of the *U.S. Geological Survey* and his colleagues, that showed how warming is causing streamflow declines in the northern Rocky Mountains, including the nation’s largest river basin, the Missouri.

The Martin et al. study used tree-ring records to analyze

the 2000-2010 Upper Missouri River Basin drought and concluded that “recent warming aligns with increasing drought severities that rival or exceed any estimated over the last 12 centuries.”

The study details the mechanisms of temperature-driven streamflow declines, and it “places more focus on how anthropogenic climate warming is progressively increasing the risk of hot drought and more arid conditions across an expanding swath of the United States,” according to Udall and Overpeck.

The Martin et al. study also highlights the way temperature-driven aridity in the West is typically framed in terms of episodic drought. Many water and land managers, as well as the general public, implicitly assume that when returning rains and snowfall break a long drought, arid conditions will also fade away.

But that’s a faulty assumption, one that ignores mounting evidence all around us, according to Udall and Overpeck. Emissions guarantee continued warming

“Anthropogenic climate change calls this assumption into question because we now know (Continued on next page.)



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with high confidence that continued emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere guarantees continued warming, and that this continued warming makes more widespread, prolonged and severe dry spells and droughts almost a sure bet," they write.

"Greater aridity is redefining the West in many ways, and the costs to human and natural systems will only increase as we let the warming continue," Udall and Overpeck write.

Anticipated impacts in the Upper Missouri River Basin mirror changes already occurring in the Southwest, where the trend toward warming-driven aridification is clearest. Rivers in the Southwest provide the only large, sustainable water supply for more than 40 million people, yet flows

have declined significantly since the late 20th century. Declining flows in the region's two most important rivers, the Colorado and the Rio Grande, have been attributed in part to increasing temperatures caused by human activities, most notably the burning of fossil fuels.

Multiple processes tied to warming are likely implicated in the observed aridification of the West, according to Udall and Overpeck. For starters, warmer air can hold more water vapor, and this thirsty air draws moisture from water bodies and land surfaces through evaporation and evapotranspiration – further drying soils, stressing plants and reducing streamflow.

Frequency of dry spells to increase

But the atmosphere's increased capacity to hold water vapor also boosts the potential for precipitation; rain and snow amounts are, in fact, rising in many regions of the United States outside the Southwest. However, the frequency and intensity of dry spells and droughts are expected to increase across much of the continent in coming decades, even if average annual precipitation levels rise, according to Udall and Overpeck.

"Perhaps most troubling is the growing co-occurrence of hot and dry summer conditions, and the likely expansion, absent climate change action, of these hot-dry extremes all the way to the East Coast of North America, north deep into Canada, and south into Mexico," they write.

"Other parts of North America likely won't see the widespread aridification and decadal to multi-decadal droughts of the West, but will nonetheless continue to see more frequent and severe arid events – extreme dry spells, flash droughts and interannual droughts will become part of the new normal," according to Udall and Overpeck.

"Unfortunately, climate change and this aridification are likely irreversible on human time scales, so the sooner emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are halted, the sooner the aridification of North America will stop getting worse."

Editor's Note: Recent increase in telecommuting could be one answer if this trend is continued for those that can work from home. Be part of the solution to help solve this.

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Alternative Living Encampments

By Peter Rice May 7, 2020 High Country News

Advocates fear they're a stopgap solution that could become permanent.

encampment located in Las Cruces, New Mexico, people experiencing homelessness have a safe place to pitch their tent, protected from the wind and rain by three-sided sheds.

Paul Ratje/High Country News

Last year, Jose Morales found himself homeless, sleeping behind a Walmart in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The former machine operator and occasional landscaper had lost his housing in Anthony, a small town that straddles the Texas-New Mexico border.

Needing a place to set up camp, he selected the site behind Walmart so he could keep a low profile while being close enough to ask for help if he needed it. "I was looking for a place to feel safe," he said.

One day, after stopping at the nearby El Caldito soup kitchen for a meal, Morales heard about a possible opportunity for improved shelter: Camp Hope. A formalized encampment for people experiencing homelessness, the facility is run by the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, a nonprofit that provides an array of housing, case management and other social service programs for the local homeless population. After a brief intake process, Morales secured a campsite on the sprawling campus at the southern edge of town.

Camp Hope is about an acre in size and consists of a few dozen campsites spaced out in neat rows. Most of the tents are set up inside individual shed-like structures that help keep out the wind and rain. There's an on-site kitchen, running water and bathrooms. For someone in Morales'

situation, being at Camp Hope was a big improvement.

He also feels much safer than he did behind the Walmart. He no longer has to worry about being discovered or harassed by landowners or police. At regular meetings, he and his fellow residents hash out rules. At Camp Hope,

those include prohibitions on open fires and smoking inside tents. The encampment is fenced, and Morales participates in 24-hour security patrols around it. "It's a nice



place for the next step."

Theft is not unheard of, but Morales feels comfortable leaving his tent and his bicycle to work temporary jobs in town during the day. He's received help with acquiring a driver's license and is looking forward to one day getting a permanent job and home.

Formalized encampments like this are popping up in other cities around the West. Aberdeen and Olympia, Washington, have set up new encampments in recent years, and Spokane and Durango, Colorado, are also thinking about transitional living options. The benefits are clear: It's a quick, cost-effective way for cities to provide a safe and sanitary alternative housing option for people experiencing homelessness. Still, housing advocates worry that it's merely a Band-Aid, taping over a much larger societal problem. Worse, they fear it diverts political capital away from the search for a lasting solution.

THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS HAS overwhelmed the West. States like Washington, Oregon, Nevada and California are dealing with large homeless populations; an estimated 150,000 people live without permanent housing

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in California alone. Addiction, mental illness, rising rents and limited shelter beds all push a slice of that population to seek refuge outside. People have to sleep somewhere, after all, but laws generally prohibit camping on either public or private property. With no official authorization, those in need improvise shelters wherever they can — usually in parks, along trails, in alleys or under bridges, but sometimes even in front yards or parking lots.

For municipal or county leaders under pressure to do something about the situation, officially sanctioned encampments offer key selling points. Trash removal and sanitation are easy to handle at a central location. Staffers can be posted to help with security and the development and enforcement of camp rules. And, assuming a local government has some vacant land or a spare parking lot, camps can be assembled in a matter of weeks. If need be, they are easy to break down and move.

“It’s not like buying a building or leasing a building, where you’re kind of stuck,” said Colin DeForrest, the homeless response coordinator for Olympia, Washington. There, officials set up an encampment with potable water, waste disposal, perimeter fencing and an on-site host to watch over the 115 tent sites. Another advantage for political leaders: Camps are cheap. Between staff and supplies, DeForrest said, his facility costs about \$250,000 per year to operate. (The city is looking to boost on-site services, which would double that price.) In Las Cruces, Nicole Martinez, executive director of the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, said she spends \$12,000 per year on supplies and insurance for Camp Hope, plus the cost of one full-time staffer. Compare that to Albuquerque, where voters passed a measure last fall allocating \$14 million for the construction of a new 300-bed emergency shelter, which should be completed in 2021-22.

Formal camps solve some of the other logistical challenges involved in serving a sprawling homeless population. It’s easier to help people if they’re all at one location; Camp Hope, for example, offers nearby assistance with food, job opportunities and permanent housing.

FOR THOSE IN FAVOR of these encampments, the success of Morales and other camp residents who have found some stability is a proof of concept. People like DeForrest see homelessness as an immediate public health issue that requires quick action. “It’s mitigating human suffering and health and safety concerns,” he said. “I would definitely recommend it to any city.” “I hate to think of it as a permanent

solution, but it is. We don’t see it going away.”

David Dollahon, the assistant city manager of Las Cruces, considers the camp a success even though he is not comfortable with the idea of people living outside on a long-term basis.

But advocates like Jenny Metzler, the executive director of Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless, see that very permanence as the problem.

For Metzler, homelessness is not a hopelessly complicated and intractable issue. Rather, it’s a simple shortage of places to live. She believes that society has a choice: It can either pursue limited temporary solutions, such as shelters and camps, or it can attempt to solve the problem in a more permanent way, by offering housing vouchers for regular apartments and building more affordable housing.

Metzler has good things to say about Camp Hope. Still, she doesn’t see encampments as helping with the larger problem. She worries that they divert attention away from the ultimate goal: permanent housing.

“Herding people into a camp doesn’t address the issue of homelessness,” Metzler said. “Ideally and ultimately and very possibly, housing would be the solution.”

Peter Rice has reported for newspapers and public radio stations in Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and New Mexico. He is the founder and editor of Downtown Albuquerque News, a digital startup.

Note: This story was supported by the Solutions Journalism Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rigorous and compelling reporting about responses to social problems.

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Update: BuffaloFieldCampaign.org

Field Season Draws to a Close

It has been another intense field season here at Buffalo Field Campaign. At the start, we had so many fresh new faces, returning volunteers, and our dedicated staff of coordinators. For a few months it was eerily quiet in the field, with no buffalo migrating into Montana. By late-February and March, the buffalo were on the move and in harm's way, while the threat of a virus hit us almost at the same time. We were left with all staff and one volunteer. It has been just ten of us here for the last few months. It is a testament to the strength of our community, and to the gifts that wild buffalo bring, that we have made it through cherishing and respecting each other.

We truly are blessed here being able to basically carry on as usual, going into the field every day to monitor and stand with the buffalo. To be on this wild landscape and embrace all of the wonders she has to offer. And now, bit by bit, some of us are migrating to summer pastures. Although it is almost the end of the season, buffalo remain in Montana's Hebgen Basin and we continue to run daily and nightly patrols. Likely, the buffalo families with their brand new calves will remain until their babies are strong enough to make the trek back towards their summer pastures inside Yellowstone National Park, where soon all buffalo families will reunite for the awesome event of the rutting season.

The other day we had quite the encounter with a couple of massive bulls. These bulls were on a power line trail within the National Forest, but were making their way towards the highway. One of the bulls was totally fired up and acting as if the rutting season was already upon us. He was kicking up dust, battling small lodgepole, kicking his hind legs out, rolling in the dust, and just full of himself. When these bulls got near the highway, we put up signs for them, but they were on the move. The feisty bull was pretty unique; his coat was a deep red, he was very dark. Unlike any color I have ever seen in a bull. The females traditionally vary in color, from chocolatey brown, to blond, to red. But, the bulls are usually fairly uniform in their colors. This bull was red. And he was on fire! We saw him take out at least three little lodgepole trees, and he was none too pleased with the traffic rolling by or stopping to get photos of him. It was clear he wanted to get away from the highway, but his buddy was strolling along unfazed, and he wanted to be with him more than to leave the road. In the end, they both finally made their way off the highway and up Duck Creek Road and east towards the park.

Thinking back to all the many years we have witnessed these buffalo suffer at the hands of the Montana Department of Livestock and supporting agencies, with all of their cowboys, law enforcement, and helicopter engaging in a veritable war on this wild community, those memories are still very fresh in our hearts and minds. Due to those bygone days, we and the buffalo have our own forms of PTSD to battle. And yet we have gained so much success. There is peace upon the landscape. Aside from a few hazes, and a few other incidents, spring in the Hebgen Basin is full of peace and quiet.

Getting to see these family groups with all the brand new babies, just doing what buffalo do is a literal dream come true. We may have a long way to go, but we have already come very far. That is thanks to you and your love and support of the buffalo and our campaign to defend them.



Buffalo calves are the absolute reward for all of our efforts.

Photo by Stephany Seay, Buffalo Field Campaign.

Our 23rd field season comes to a close. The buffalo who remain in Montana are slowly making their own way back to summer pastures in Yellowstone National Park. As long as they are in Montana, patrols will continue to monitor them. In our spare time, we're putting in our garden so that we can become more self sustainable. At this elevation (6,600+ feet) our growing season is short, so eventually we'll set up a green house.

We are also currently working on our annual newsletter and have just finalized our 2021 calendar. We also have some new merchandise that buffalo lovers will love. Check it out at our website (*see above on header*).

We are also looking forward to hopefully doing a little bit of summer outreach later in the season, if things calm down. Tabling inside the Park is out for this year, but there are other options open.

If you are interested contact our summer coordinator at volunteersummer@buffalofieldcampaign.org or call 406-646-0070. We give thanks to you for the honor of standing with and advocating for the buffalo, and we vow to be here for as long as it takes until wild buffalo roam freely all over the lands that are their birthright. WILD IS THE WAY ~ ROAM FREE!

ACTION STEPS to help stop hazing and slaughter can be accessed at our website above in header.

Civil Disobedience ~ Deforestation

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways environmentalists use civil disobedience to accomplish their goals?

Robert P., Portland, OR

The concept of civil disobedience (*defined by Merriam-Webster as the “refusal to obey laws as a way of forcing the government to do or change something”*) dates back to the dawn of civil society. Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. are primary examples of non-violent resisters using civil disobedience as a tool to achieve their goals. Of course, environmental proponents have been practicing civil disobedience in various forms for decades if not longer. After all, proto-environment Henry David Thoreau wrote his seminal essay on the topic in 1846 after spending the night in jail for refusing to pay his back taxes. He feared the money would go toward funding the Mexican-American War, which he opposed, by a U.S. government that also happened to permit slavery, which he also opposed.

“If a thousand men were not to pay their tax bills this year, that would not be a violent and bloody measure, as it would be to pay them, and enable the State to commit violence and shed innocent blood,” wrote Thoreau. “This is, in fact, the definition of a peaceable revolution, if any such is possible.”

While not an environmental essay per se, Thoreau’s *Civil Disobedience* makes the case for nonviolent resistance as “a counter friction to stop the machine.” While democracy might be the best form of government we can hope for, the dominance of the majority inevitably leads to the trampling

on the hopes, dreams and rights of the minority. In Thoreau’s mind, individuals shouldn’t let governments doing the will of an amoral or immoral majority overrule their own consciences and thus enlist them as collaborators in injustice.

Even though its focus is more general, Thoreau’s *Civil Disobedience* has certainly fueled many an environmental campaign in the intervening years. Cut to the present, and we have Extinction Rebellion (XR), a two-year-old UK-



born movement that uses non-violent civil disobedience “in an attempt to halt mass extinction and minimize the risk of social collapse.” Activists working on behalf of XR’s cause have been in the news lately for various “monkeywrenching” antics, such as supergluing themselves to infrastructure like roads, trains and buildings and attempting to shut down oil rigs and airports. Last Spring the group brought traffic in parts of London to a halt for hours by parking a hot pink sailboat in the middle of a busy intersection, while activists threw black paint at the (Continued on next page.)

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London headquarters of Shell Oil and blockaded entry to the company's corporate headquarters.

Dear EarthTalk: How are we doing in the battle to stop or slow deforestation, especially in the tropics where forests store so much of the world's biodiversity?

— M. Lark, Neptune, IA

In short, not so good. Global Forest Watch, a project of the non-profit World Resources Institute (WRI) which uses satellite data to track global forest loss, found that the world lost some 3.8 million hectares of tropical primary forest (defined as forests of native trees undisturbed by human activities) in 2019—equivalent to one soccer field every six seconds and an area about the size of Switzerland in total. One particularly nasty side effect of all this forest loss is the release of more than two billion tons of carbon



dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere as the trees came down in 2019. (To put that into context, this is more emissions than caused by all of the vehicles on the road in the United States during the same 12-month stretch.) The tropical primary forest loss in 2019 is the third highest amount in recorded history, behind only 2016 and 2017.

While deforestation is an issue everywhere, it is particularly problematic in the tropics where the majority of the world's biodiversity lives. Another leading conservation group, WWF, points out that some 17% of the forest across the Amazon has been cut down over the last 50 years, mostly to make room for cattle ranching—so we can enjoy our steaks and burgers. The group warns that if nothing is done to stop it, some of the world's most iconic and biologically diverse forest landscapes could be lost to deforestation, including primary habitat for iconic wildlife species like orangutans, tigers and elephants.

“The hot spots are located in the Amazon, the Atlantic Forest and Gran Chaco, Borneo, the Cerrado, Choco-Darien, the Congo Basin, East Africa, Eastern Australia, Greater Mekong, New Guinea, and Sumatra,” reports WWF. “Up to 420 million acres of forest could be lost between 2010 and 2030 in these ‘deforestation fronts’ if current trends continue.” Brazil suffered the largest total primary forest loss of all in 2019, with deforestation for agriculture and other new land uses increasing rapidly through that country's vast stretches of Amazon rainforest.

Safely Manage Insect Pests

By Melinda Myers

You plant and tend your garden hoping to enjoy a bountiful harvest and beautiful blooms. Despite proper planning and planting, insects can move in and wreak havoc on your garden. The good news is you can manage problem pests without harming the pollinators that are so important to your garden.

Start by reviewing the care your plants need to thrive. Make sure you are watering thoroughly and only when needed. Consider mulching the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic material to conserve moisture, moderate soil temperature, suppress weeds and improve the soil as they decompose.

Only fertilize if needed. Over fertilization, especially with high nitrogen and fast release products, can stimulate lush, succulent growth that is more susceptible to insect damage. Let your plants, not the fertilizer label, be your guide. Pale plants and those not performing as expected may need a nutrient boost. Consider a low nitrogen, slow release fertilizer that won't stimulate lush, succulent growth or damage the plants when the weather is hot and dry.

Tolerate a bit of damage and wait for the songbirds and beneficial insects, like lady beetles and green lacewings, manage these pests for you. If the damage is more than you can tolerate, consider using an eco-friendly control product.

One you may not be familiar with is lightweight horticulture oil, like the OMRI-certified Summit Year-Round® Spray Oil (YRSO). This can be applied to garden plants during the growing season to manage insects such as

aphids, mites, adelgids, scale, leafhoppers and whiteflies. Horticultural oils have been used for many years because they are low risk and effective against a variety of pests.



Horticulture oils kill insects by blocking the air holes through which they breathe. This makes them effective against all stages of the insect's development from egg through adult. The oil must contact the insect to be effective. If a beneficial insect lands on a treated plant, it will not be injured. Avoid treating plants when bees and other beneficial insects are present, so you do not accidentally spray them with the oil. YRSO horticulture oil (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) can also help reduce the incidence and spread of aphid-transmitted viruses. It interferes with insect feeding which helps reduce the transmission of the virus by the insect.

Lightweight horticulture oils have a minimal waiting period between the last application and harvest. Always check the label before using any product whether organic, natural or synthetic. You will find valuable information on the label, including application rates and directions to help you attain the best results.

You may also find some added benefits when reviewing the label. Horticulture oils can help in managing powdery mildew on plants like beebalm, phlox, peonies and cucumbers. Some can be applied when plants are dormant to smother and kill overwintering mites and aphids as well as egg masses of pests like the gypsy moth.

Monitor your garden throughout the summer. You will enjoy watching your plants grow, make timely harvests and discover insect pests when the populations are small.

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A Full-Time Workforce Of Firefighters

By Anastasia Selby High Country News June 15, 2020

Permanently investing in firefighters would improve the health of employees and the landscapes we protect.

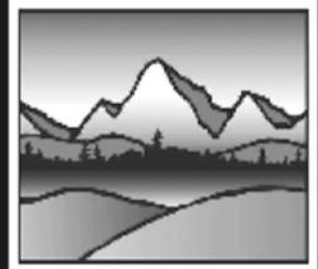
When I began working as a hotshot firefighter for the Forest Service in 2001, I was hired as a part-time, temporary worker. At the time, over half the crew was made up of part-time employees. Today, the Forest Service employs approximately 10,000 wildland firefighters, but still less than half of them are permanent full-time workers. When the Forest Service was formed in the early 20th century, it had only a handful of forest rangers. If a fire broke out, men were pulled out of saloons and other public places to fight it. Since then, the agency has ballooned in size, and its wildland firefighting has changed dramatically. Much of the weight of firefighting now falls on the shoulders of the Forest Service. The agency already helps manage 500 million acres of land, but it's also called in whenever fires get big enough to require national support. Half its annual budget is spent on wildfires, with spending increasing exponentially even as the agency's overall

budget remains nearly static. This spending eats into other Forest Service responsibilities, such as fuel management and mitigation, maintenance, and the tending of forest and grassland health.

The unpredictable nature of wildfires, longer fire seasons, and increased development of housing and communities in fire-prone areas makes predicting a yearly budget a complex and sometimes impossible task. Shifting towards a full-time force is a move in the right direction. It can increase firefighter security and stability, and improve the health of our forests and grasslands, as well as help contain the volatile fire seasons we've seen in recent years. Adding more permanent firefighters to the roster would have several effects, all of them far-reaching and significant. The most obvious would be the year-round staffing of crews, which currently operate on a seasonal basis.

Less obvious are the ways in which this shift could change the fundamental culture of wildland firefighting. Many firefighters travel far from their home base during the winter, and there's a high turnover rate, with many leaving the profession altogether after only a couple of

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Los Padres National Forest firefighter Jameson Springer watches a controlled burn on the so-called "Rough Fire" in the Sequoia National Forest, California, on August 21, 2015. In California, suffering its worst drought on record, about 2,500 people were forced to flee camps east of Fresno at Hume Lake as the Rough Fire crossed Highway 180, officials said. Max Whittaker

years. As a seasonal worker, I would have been supported by full-time work and the benefits that could come with it. Of course, the impact of the long hours would have to be mitigated, but financial security would help.

There's also an ecological intimacy that can be developed by staying on the forest for the winter. Eliminating the transient nature of seasonal positions could integrally connect firefighters to their local forests, aiding in the development of local fire regimes and strengthening relationships with other local agencies, both government and nonprofit. It could also increase employee retention, decrease training costs, and lower the risk of injury or death. Imagine, for example, local fire crews working with Indigenous populations and nonprofit groups to improve fire health year-round.


Currently, seasonal employees lack access to the main perks of government employment: health insurance, paid time off and retirement packages. Access to health care

should be essential for firefighters, and many current seasonal employees would be happy to trade winters off for steady employment and benefits. Meanwhile, year-round employment could help stabilize the Forest Service budget, clear its \$5.2 billion maintenance backlog, and, over time, create healthier forests and grasslands, increasing carbon sinks and leading to less destructive wildfires.

When I worked as a seasonal firefighter, it felt like my life was on pause in the winters. I eagerly waited for the start of fire season. Ironically, that signified stability. If my peers and I had been employed full-time, we would have worked better together, gained a deeper understanding of our local jurisdictions, and had more opportunities for training and education. We also would have been insured and felt more respected as employees. Ultimately, the decision to grant the Forest Service increased funding to support more permanent employees could lead to a more positive outcome, not only for the agency and its employees, but for the ecological systems that are integral to our survival.

*Anastasia Selby is currently working on a narrative nonfiction book, **HOTSHOT**, which describes her time as a wildland firefighter and details the history of forest management and Indigenous land practices in the Western United States. She is based in Seattle.*

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A Dose Of Courage Every Day

Oprah's visionary for June 2020: The memoirist, novelist, and world traveler.

Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love*, a chronicle of her post-divorce adventures in Italy, India, and Bali, became an iconic travel memoir not for its incredible scenes, transcendent experiences, and fascinating characters—although it has all of those things—but because the story began in a place where many of her readers have found themselves: kneeling on the bathroom floor in crisis.

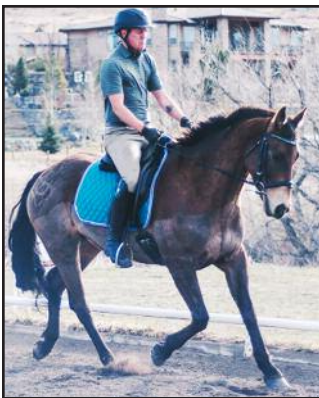
Gilbert's account of making peace with the past and discovering her more authentic self gave women an example of another kind of hero's journey, one in which the treasure at the end of the quest is a more truthful life. *Eat, Pray, Love* fans have told Gilbert that the book inspired them to begin or end romances, to embrace motherhood or eschew it, to change their job or their address or their beliefs. These radical shifts, she says—like any profound transformation—don't necessarily have anything to do with planes, trains, or automobiles.

"I have a painting of Emily Dickinson, who spent much of her life in her bedroom but still created some of the most monumental poetry ever written," she says. "That painting reminds me that the answers to my life are not likely to be found out there. The world is an enchanting place, but there are worlds inside us, too, that are always ready to be unlocked."

In her subsequent books—such as *Big Magic*, a how-to for cultivating creative expression, and *The Signature of All Things*, the story of the fictional 19th-century botanist Alma Whittaker—Gilbert has remained an intrepid explorer

of intellectual and emotional terrain. In *The Signature of All Things*, Elizabeth Gilbert returns to fiction, inserting her inimitable voice into an enthralling story of love, adventure and discovery. Spanning much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the novel follows the fortunes of the extraordinary Whittaker family as led by the enterprising Henry Whittaker—a poor-born Englishman who makes a great fortune in the South American quinine trade, eventually becoming the richest man in Philadelphia. Born in 1800, Henry's brilliant daughter, Alma (who inherits both her father's money and his mind), ultimately becomes a botanist of considerable gifts herself. As Alma's research takes her deeper into the mysteries of evolution, she falls in love with a man named Ambrose Pike who makes incomparable paintings of orchids and who draws her in the exact opposite direction—into the realm of the spiritual, the divine, and the magical. Alma is a clear-minded scientist; Ambrose a utopian artist—but what unites this unlikely couple is a desperate need to understand the workings of this world and the mechanisms behind all life.

Exquisitely researched and told at a galloping pace, *The Signature of All Things* soars across the globe—from London to Peru to Philadelphia to Tahiti to Amsterdam, and beyond. Along the way, the story is peopled with unforgettable characters: missionaries, abolitionists, adventurers, astronomers, sea captains, geniuses, and the quite mad. But most memorable of all, it is the story of Alma Whittaker, who—born in the Age of Enlightenment, but living well into the Industrial Revolution—bears witness to that extraordinary moment in human history



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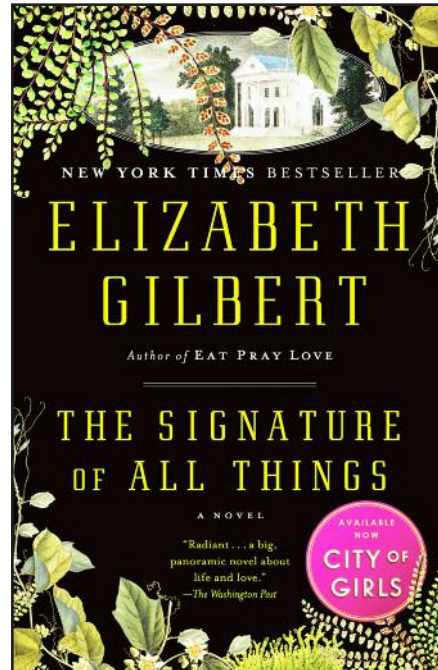
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when all the old assumptions about science, religion, commerce, and class were exploding into dangerous new ideas. Written in the bold, questing spirit of that singular time, Gilbert's wise, deep, and spellbinding tale is certain to capture the hearts and minds of readers.

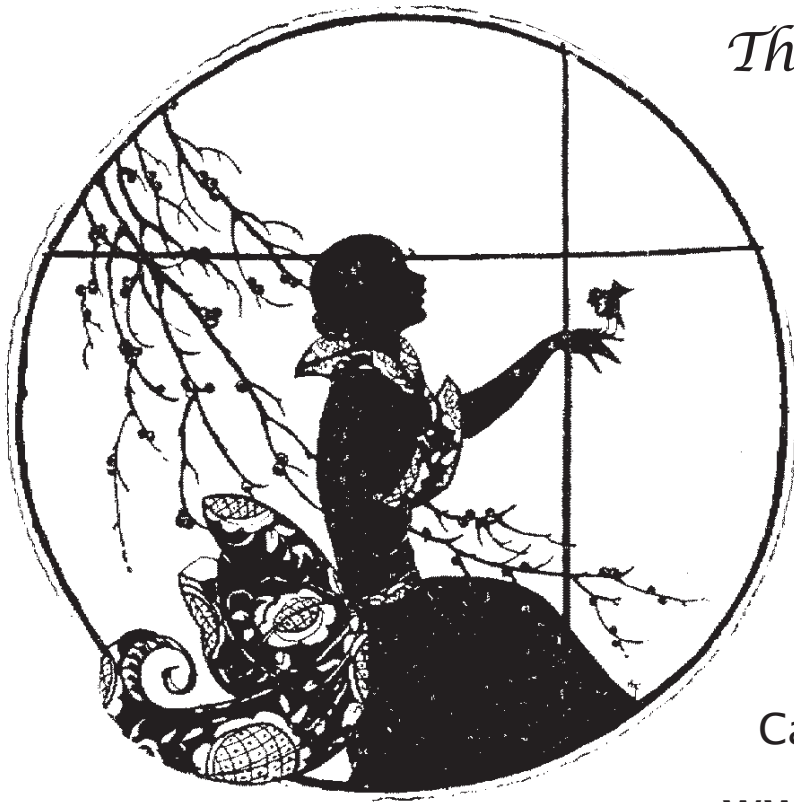
She's also spent the past few years navigating challenging personal territory, caring for and then grieving her partner, Rayya Elias, who died of cancer in January 2018. "I can't live without her, so I don't," Gilbert says. "Sometimes I make a recording into my phone and just talk to her. The fact that the message is being recorded makes me feel like she's receiving it."

Despite Gilbert's trademark blend of lightness and earnestness, common sense and magical realism, she says her equanimity doesn't come easily. "I need a dose of courage every day, because I'm frightened every day. There will always be a nervous little person inside me. But if there's a creative project I'm afraid to attempt, a truth I need to tell, or a painful new reality I must face, I ask myself: 'What's the alternative?'"

Questions for Elizabeth Gilbert: 1. What's your no-fail, go-for-it motivational song? **A:** "Get Up Offa That Thing" by James Brown. When James Brown tells you to get up, you'd best get up. 2. What's most important for your mental health? **A:** Every day I write myself a letter from love—divine, unconditional love. I ask for advice, and love always gives me kind answers, which I write down as they come to me. Even in my darkest hours, love has always shown up, saying, "I'm right here. I've got you. You're never alone." 3. What is the physical challenge that scares you most? **A:** Anything that involves getting in the path of powerful ocean waves. 4. What's the one mystery that you'd most love to solve? **A:** How much control do we humans have over our behavior and personality? Can we change our nature, or are we all just victims of our brain chemistry, genetics, hormones, and upbringing? 5. Who's your hero? **A:** Sister Mary Scullion of Project HOME in Philadelphia—a wonderful Catholic nun who has devoted her life to providing housing, education, medical care, and dignity to homeless people in her native city.



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Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

TAXES

Karen Schwimmer, CPA pg 14 303.642.0628

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 28 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 17 303.447.0789

Power Update

July
2020

Pastor's Pantry to Receive \$3,000

Operation Round-Up Makes Donation Amid COVID Pandemic

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Power Operation Round-Up Foundation has responded to the needs of many nonprofits in the cooperative's service territory. With many individuals and families economically impacted due to workplace shutdowns, the board has given above and beyond its normal contributions to area food banks to help meet the needs of those impacted in various corners of the territory.

The Operation Round-Up board recently announced a \$3,000 donation to Pastor's Pantry, which operates out of Whispering Pines Church in the Coal Creek Canyon. Founded in 2001, Pastor's Pantry is an available resource for anyone in need in the canyon, and provides both food and essential items, such as toiletries and paper products.

While the food bank has remained open, donations from food sources decreased as a result of diminishing overstock at places like King Soppers. The Round-Up donation will be used to restock shelves with essential items.



Pastor's Pantry is open every Thursday from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. or by appointment for emergency needs. Individual donations are also being accepted via a donation box outside the church, 73 Gross Dam Road.

In May, the foundation committed \$20,000 to food banks in the cooperative's territory, including Coal Creek's Canyon Cares.

Operation Round-Up is funded by members who voluntarily elect to have their bills rounded up to the next whole dollar. Members may enroll in the program by going to www.unitedpower.com/round-up.



Is Your Contact Info Up to Date?

United Power has been using recorded phone messages to let members know when a preplanned outage has been scheduled in their area for maintenance work. As new software becomes available, the co-op may have more options to send important communications electronically.

Electronic communications are tied to individual member accounts and use the phone numbers and/or email addresses the cooperative has on record. If the contact information on record isn't up-to-date or is entered incorrectly, you may be missing out on important notifications from United Power.

You can check your contact information and make necessary updates using the free online payment portal, SmartHub. To set up an online account, go to www.unitedpower.com and click on **Online Account Services** under **My Account**. Contact information can also be updated by calling the Member Services Team at 303-637-1300.

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	\$30
Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling	\$75
New Energy Star® Clothes Washer	\$40
New Energy Star® Dishwasher	\$20



Member Services: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com



Red, White & Blue

Drive-Thru/Take Out Pancake Breakfast
 Saturday, July 4th 7AM - 11AM
 CCCIA Hall - 31528 Hwy 72



6 Car Garage

Coal Creek Canyon

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



Under Contract

5 Leon Lane

Touch of Mtn Charm- Updated -2.09 Acs
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,296 sq.ft. **\$449,900**



Horse Property

New Price

31448 Coal Creek Canyon

Slice of Heaven - Barn & Corral
3 BD/ 1 BA 11+ Acres **\$575,000**



New Listing

181 Hummingbird Lane

Nicely Updated - Theater Room
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,129 sq.ft. 1.29 Acres



Dream Garage

Under Contract

5 Ronnie Road

Fantastic Home - Dream Garage
4 BD/ 3 BA 3,358 sq.ft. **\$650,000**



SOLD!

133 Hummingbird Lane

Fabulous Remodel - Horse Prop. w/Corral
3 BD/1 BA 1,838 sq.ft. 1.53 Acres **\$439,000**



Extraordinary

Coal Creek Canyon

Fabulous Luxury Home VIEWS
4 BD/ 4 BA 4,697 sq.ft. 1.5 Ac. **\$929,900**



SOLD!

27036 Boulder Canyon Dr.

Views of Lake & Divide -14.89 Ac.
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,328 sq.ft. **\$586,500**



SOLD!

276 Sky View Drive North

Beautiful Mtn Remodel .82 Acres
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,929 sq.ft. **\$602,000**



New Listing

294 E. Dory Drive

Wonderful View Home 1.24 Acres
3 BD/ 3 BA 1,934 sq.ft. **\$469,900**



SOLD!

11150 Circle Drive

Secluded Back Deck with Hot Tub
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,048 sq.ft. 1.5 Ac. **\$480,000**



SOLD!

180 Rudi Lane West

Log Home Full Divide Views
2 BD/2 BA 2,685 sq.ft. 2.5 Ac. **\$530,000**



SOLD!

20 Alpine Drive

Breathtaking Divide & Lake Views
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,589 sq.ft. .70 Ac **\$650,000**



SOLD!

Coal Creek Canyon

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



SOLD!

85 Valley View Drive

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



**BUY OR SELL A HOME with
Kathy or Janet & USE
the moving truck for FREE**



Kathy Keating
CRS, ABR, GRI
EcoBroker
Broker Associate
303.642.1133

For additional information & photos:
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Janet Ingvaldsen
Broker Associate
Realtor
720.600.9006

