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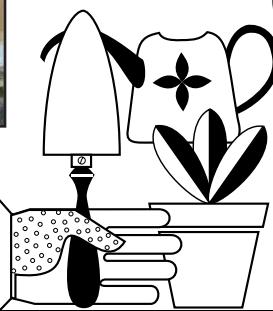
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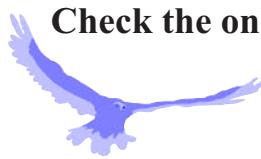
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Check the online issue to see the pictures in color!



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Boulder County Sheriff.....	303-441-4444	Drake Middle School.....303-982-1510
Gilpin County Sheriff.....	303-582-5500	Ralston Valley Sr High303-982-1078
Crescent Branch P.O.....	303-642-0119	Golden Senior High303-982-4200
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Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel Not Chipmunk

The golden-mantled ground squirrel (*Callospermophilus lateralis*) is a type of ground squirrel found in mountainous areas of western North America.

The golden-mantled ground squirrel is abundant throughout its range and is equally at home in a wide variety of forest habitats as well as rocky meadows, and even sagebrush flats. Description:

A typical adult ranges from (9.1–11.8 inches) in length. The golden-mantled ground squirrel can be identified by its chipmunk-like stripes and coloration, but unlike chipmunks, it lacks any facial stripes. It is commonly found living in the same habitat as **Uinta chipmunks**. (Pictured here, photo by Bill Griffith.)

The golden-mantled ground squirrel is similar to chipmunks in more than just its appearance. Although it is a traditional hibernator, building up its body fat so to survive the winter asleep, it is also known to store some food in its burrow, like the chipmunk, for consumption upon waking in the spring.

Both the golden-mantled ground squirrel and the chipmunk have cheek pouches for carrying food. Cheek pouches allow them to transport food back to their nests and still run at full speed on all fours.

Golden-mantled ground squirrels dig shallow burrows up to 30 metres (98 ft) in length with the openings hidden in a



hollow log or under tree roots or a boulder. The female gives birth to a single litter of 4–6 young each summer.

It eats seeds, nuts, berries, insects, and underground fungi. It is preyed upon by hawks, jays, weasels, foxes, bobcats, and coyotes.

References: Linzey, A. V. & Hammerson, G. (2008).

Spermophilus lateralis. In: IUCN 2008. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Retrieved 8 January 2009.

Helgen, Kristofer M.; Cole, F. Russel; Helgen, Lauren E.; and Wilson, Don E (2009).

Generic Revision in the Holarctic Ground Squirrel Genus

Spermophilus Journal of Mammalogy 90 (2): 270–305.

doi:10.1644/07-MAMM-A-309.1. Archived from the original (PDF) on 22 October 2011. "Spermophilus lateralis" Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Retrieved 23 March 2006. Cover photo of golden-mantled ground squirrel by Michael Reilly.

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Protect Against Rising Threat Of Rabies

By Dr. Ragan Adams - CSU

A bat flying erratically during daylight hours, a raccoon slowly wandering down the middle of a road, a fox that does not run away when you approach, a dead skunk in your horse's corral.

What do these four wild animals have in common? The animals in these scenarios are acting abnormally and could have rabies, a neurologic disease that is most likely fatal to unvaccinated humans and animals. (*A 3-phase vaccine for humans, before travel to countries without rabies programs or workers that have contact with wild animals.*)

Rabies is a zoonotic disease – meaning it can be passed between animals and people – and confirmed cases have notably climbed in Colorado in recent years. With rabies clearly present in wild animals that are common in rural, suburban and urban areas, it is important that pet owners: Check vaccination

records for their pets. • Vaccinate any pets that lack current rabies vaccinations. • Also vaccinate horses and frequently handled livestock, such as 4-H animals. • Keep dogs leashed during walks. • Notice critters in the environment, and watch for animals that seem sickly or act abnormally. • Never approach or touch a wild animal that seems sick or acts strangely. Call a local animal control office immediately to report the time and location of such a

sighting. • Talk to a veterinarian for more information.

Rabies on the rise in Colorado

The main hosts of rabies in the United States are raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes and coyotes, in that order. In Colorado for the past 20 years, bats have been the primary rabies host; about 15 percent of the bats tested are positive for rabies. But since 2007, Colorado has seen an uptick in the number of wildlife testing positive for rabies. Last year, 130 animals tested positive for rabies in Colorado, including 93 bats, 32 skunks and five others. Of these, 76



animals were known or strongly suspected of exposing 101 domestic animals and 57 humans to rabies. The rise in confirmed rabies infection in skunks is concerning because these animals, unlike bats, live on the ground – just as we and our pets do.

The first 2015 report about rabid wildlife in Colorado was issued April 20 by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Three skunks were confirmed to be rabid during one week in the counties of Adams, Arapahoe and Elbert on Colorado's Front Range. In the first four months of this year, six rapid skunks have been confirmed in these counties. For updated rabies information, visit your local health department's website.

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Why is rabies a big deal?

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the brain of mammals and is almost always fatal. The virus is shed in the saliva of a rabid animal and usually is passed to another animal by a bite. At the bite wound, the virus replicates and travels through the nerves to the brain.

Pre-exposure vaccination against rabies can prevent companion animals, such as dogs and cats, from contracting rabies from wildlife.

“Worldwide, more than 30,000 humans die of rabies each year, 99 percent of cases resulting from contact with dogs. In the United States, due to highly successful dog vaccination programs, transmission from dogs is now rare, eliminating the vast majority of human cases,” according to Bat Conservation International.

Livestock with which people frequently interact, like horses, 4-H sheep and goats, steers, llamas and alpacas, should also be vaccinated against rabies. Their thick hair coats make it difficult to tell if these animals have been bitten, and vaccination will decrease the chance that their human companions are exposed to the disease.

Dr. Keith Roehr, Colorado State veterinarian, encourages livestock producers to discuss with their veterinarians the best course of action regarding the vaccination of livestock herds.

What to do if you are bitten

Many people are bitten by animals each year, and very few animals are rabid. Even so, the severity of rabies requires a very prudent course of action after any such bite:

- Immediately wash a bite wound with soap and running water for at least 15 minutes.
- Contact your healthcare provider, your local health department, animal control and/or Colorado Division of Wildlife.
- If the bite is from a wild animal, it can be captured and tested for rabies.
- If the animal is a domestic animal or livestock, it can be quarantined and monitored to see if it becomes ill from rabies.



“To keep yourself and your pets safe from the deadly rabies virus, keep your pets properly vaccinated and away from wildlife,” says Bill Porter, director of Animal Protection and Control for the Larimer Humane Society. “Dogs and cats are always curious about abnormal-acting wildlife, and only a small bite is necessary to transfer the disease from an infected animal.”

For more information, visit:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:

www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rabies

Larimer County Department of Health and Environment:

larimer.org/health/ehs/rabies.htm

CSU Veterinary

Extension:

veterinaryextension.colostate.edu/News/Rabies.shtml

Dr. Ragan Adams, D.V.M., is a Veterinary Extension Specialist and senior research associate in the Department of Clinical Sciences at Colorado State University.

(Photos courtesy of CSU.)

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Quietest & Noisiest Spots In The West

By Kindra McQuillan-HCN

Some places are 20 decibels or less, similar to levels in pre-Colonial times.

The West's quietest places often coexist with its noisiest. Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park (*pictured here*) is nearly as quiet today as before European colonization, and yet, partly because of its silence, air traffic from Denver International Airport can be audible there. The park, with its lack of wildlife- and water-sounds, represents one kind of silence; other wild places, such as Idaho's City of Rocks National Reserve, (*pictured here*) mask noise like air traffic with the sound of running water and rustling vegetation.

The National Park Service recently conducted a study of noise levels across the U.S. The study maps noise levels — the bluer the quieter — based on conditions like temperature, precipitation, and, of course, proximity to human activity. (*See Map next page.*)



"Westerners are quite lucky," says Kurt Fristrup, senior scientist with the agency's Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division, which conducted the study. "A lot of the deep-blue places are here in the West. At the same time, noise is extending into the landscape in these spider-web



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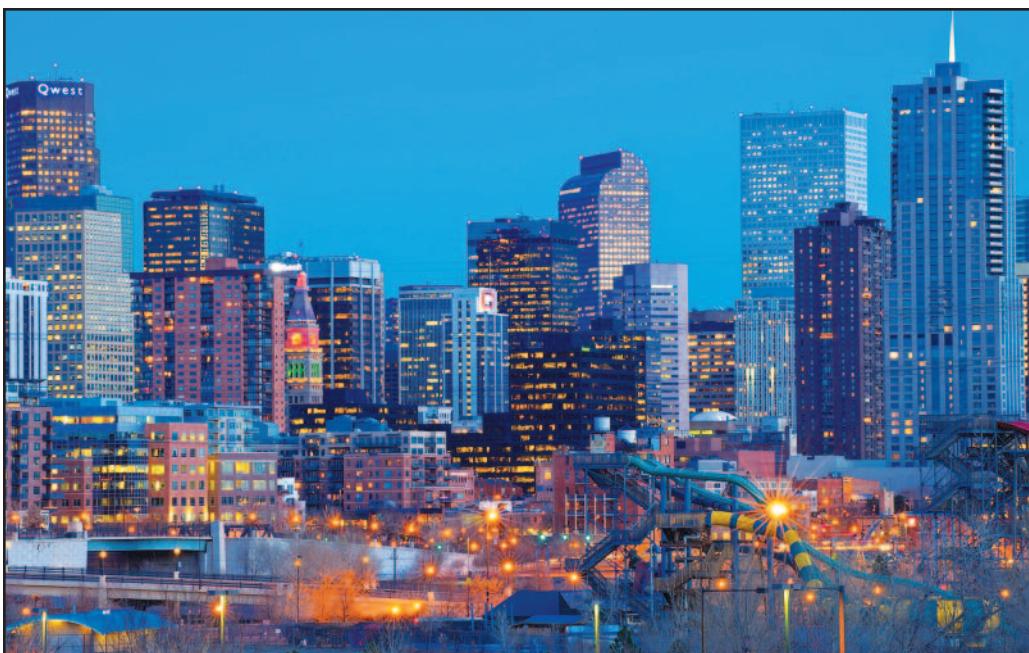
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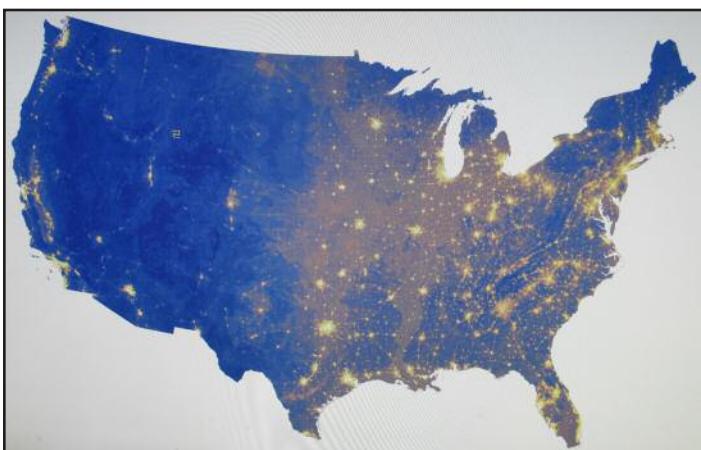
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patterns, along roads. Industrial development is now penetrating places that were recently wild."

It's a new approach in the decades-old study of silence,



enjoyed by humans and essential to animals. "Being able to hear and survey what's going on around you is a critical part of survival," Fristrup says. "For wildlife, it's literally a matter of life and death."

The brightest (yellows) show the noisiest places in the

U.S. with the highest noise levels at 55-67 dB. The quietest places are the darkest (deep blue) with levels down to less than 20 dB.

Noise levels are based on median daytime summer sound levels, expressed in decibels (dB), which are on a logarithmic scale: A 10 dB increase corresponds to a tenfold increase in sound energy.

Source: NPS Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division

*Photos this story: Great Sand Dunes by Madeline Deaton/cc via flickr -previous page,
Denver Skyline, here by Larry Johnson /cc via flickr.*

Map of U.S. shows noisiest places in U.S. as the lighter areas and the darker places as the quietest.

City of Rocks in Idaho by

National Park Service - previous page.

Denver Skyline, here by Larry Johnson /cc via flickr.

Map of U.S. shows noisiest places in U.S. as the lighter

areas and the darker places as the quietest.

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Slash Days - RMNP - BoCo Open Space Turns 40

Dear Readers,

Jefferson County is offering three **slash day's** collections this year. The first is **June 6th & 7th at Fire Station 2** near Camp Eden Road in Coal Creek Canyon. **June 20th & 21st at Blue Mountain Open Space** (east of Blue Mountain Road on Hwy 72) and the third is **September 26th & 27th – also at the Blue Mountain Open Space.**

For more information visit jeffco.us/slash/

Dear Readers,

Rocky Mountain National Park's centennial summer schedule is kicking off to a very busy June with many opportunities inside and outside the park for everyone. For a **complete schedule, check www.nps.gov/romo**, go to the centennial blue bighorn sheep icon and click on the schedule of events. There are art shows, kids' fairs, lectures on climate change effects in the park, fiber shows, golf tournaments, concerts, Irish gatherings,,art displays, hikes, adult and children's bike rides and more! For the sake of space, I will only mention the events inside the east side of the park (go to the website for west side): **June 6**, Rocky Mountain Conservancy Seminar on **primitive survival skills** using the technology of your ancestors, \$70, register at www.rmconservancy.org; **June 6 and repeated on June 13, ranger talk** at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, 7:30pm,

on Rocky Mountain Molecules (why some aspen turn red instead of yellow to what J.K. Rowling knew about the chemistry of RMNP); **June 17 & 24, Art Adventures** for children ages 6-9, \$15, by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, register at www.rmconservancy.org; **June 17 & 24, Artist in Residence presentations** at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, 7:30pm; **June 18 & 25; Centennial Science Behind the Scenery** at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, 7:30pm, presented by scientists conducting research in the park; **June 18, A (historic) Fur Trapper's Life in the Mountains** presentation, \$10, register at www.rmconservancy.org; **June 19, Sisters of Courage presentation** at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, 7:30pm, on two sisters who homesteaded in the Kawuneeche Valley in 1896; **June 25, Living History presentation** (reenacted) on Isabella Bird by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, \$10, register at www.rmconservancy.org; **June 26, tales of Bob Flame**, fictional Rocky Mountain Ranger based on true 1930s stories of RMNP's first ranger naturalist who was also an author. It actually hurt to condense the list down to these few events. Please check out the whole list at the website and get on up to the park! Diane Bergstrom

Dear Editor,

As usual, the person writing to the Messenger regarding what the family who wrote to the Highlander about a lack of CCCIA ads lowered herself into an unnecessary defensive position. Now granted she submits a monthly column and advertises in the Messenger newsletter so I suppose it is to be expected, but it sure would be nice if she had stated the facts correctly.

As long-time canyon residents our family has read both up until our kids went on to High School and College. So we know Highlander Editor, Anita Wilks wrote for Tolene Clark at the Messenger before the Highlander came on the scene. She also wrote for JoAnn Kalenak in the first year of the Highlander, before taking it over and broadening its scope to be the only four-canyon magazine it has been ever since.

So it is disappointing beyond belief that Reith, (a good friend of Kalenak's) failed to state the facts. It doesn't take



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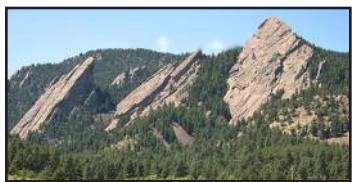
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Highlander Letters

a rocket scientist to put the two pieces of printed material side by side and see the drastic differences. To speak of competition is silly because there is no real basis in fact for it. Not surprising either that Kalenak started another publication for our canyon that continues to offer a higher quality magazine with original reporting, factual and scientific information that we find highly educational to this day – we always read it cover to cover.

While we don't read the Messenger much anymore, and did not notice the CCCIA ads were missing until the Letter to the Editor in the Highlander – the fact that now the Messenger has a contents page is just one example of the mimicry of features the Highlander has given us all along. If mimicking is the highest form of flattery we can thank the higher quality of the Highlander for all the improvements in the little messenger newsletter. Highlander policy to avoid redundancy is appreciated, but many advertisements are the same in both places. We have found Highlander advertisers to also be of higher quality and more ethical in services and products.

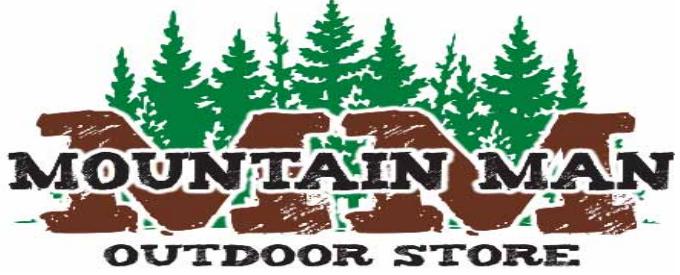
Over the years my kids have started businesses and advertised in the Highlander and their experience was always positive and still is. (The two different deadlines referred to by Reith is only one day apart and the Highlander did graphic design for free.) The kids realized going outside our canyon was the only way to succeed for their business efforts, but also knew when to decline if the customer was too far away.

To find fault and bash the Highlander because a reader writes about some change the CCCIA decides to do is petty and childish. We've been avoiding CCCIA events for years due to other reasons I won't go into here, but in our opinion readers aren't missing a thing by not knowing the goings on at the local community center or being members.
Sincerely, The Turner Family

Boulder County Parks and Open Space Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Boulder County is celebrating its 40th anniversary throughout the year with multiple opportunities for public participation. Organized "adventures" on county open space land began in May and will continue throughout the remainder of 2015. Residents can participate in any or all of the 40 open space adventures. Some adventures require

registration, so visit www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/40 to sign up. The dedicated webpage, BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/40, also provides opportunities for the public to: Complete any of 40 adventures (including hikes, bike rides, bus tours, and fishing events). Share memories and photos of visits to county open space, special events and volunteer work projects. Learn about 40 years of department milestones. Purchase anniversary print and notecards. The idea of a county open space program started in the mid-60s by Boulder County residents who were interested in parks and recreation needs of the unincorporated area and in preserving open space land in the face of rapid county development. The open space program became a reality in January 1975, and the first two properties, Betasso Preserve and Walker Ranch, were purchased in 1977. Today, Boulder County residents can be proud that their tax dollars have protected more than 100,000 acres of land and built 117 miles of trails. Boulder County has also protected working farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, riparian and wetland areas, scenic buffers and buffers between communities. Boulder County open spaces offer abundant opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding in the mountains and on the plains; scenic picnic sites and prime spots for birdwatching. Nature programs, special events, and volunteer projects are offered nearly every week of the year, along with programs at three museums and various events to connect with the arts.



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Buffalo Field Campaign ~ www.buffalofieldcampaign.org

It has been an extremely difficult time for wild buffalo, especially the newborn calves and pregnant females. As they threatened, the Montana Dept of Livestock (DOL) commenced large-scale hazing operations in the Hebgen Basin. After seven weeks of being forced off of their habitat along the South Fork of the Madison River, buffalo still return to their chosen ground. This area is a well-suited birthing ground. Unfortunately, much of it is private ranching land and unfriendly to buffalo. Removing summering cattle from this area makes much more sense than continuing the waste of tax dollars to repeatedly haze native wild buffalo. This particular haze took place on Friday and the buffalo have returned there again and again. When the group was chased away, the hazers left two

bulls behind, likely aware that the Povahs would contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to bring a hunter out to shoot them. As Cindy and I were about to leave the area, we noticed a man in hunter orange arriving. We went to check on the bulls, who, to our delight, saved themselves by leaving the area. By Monday morning, nearly forty buffalo had returned to the area, and we thought for sure there would be a hazing operation there that day. Instead, the agents set their sights on a group of about twenty buffalo with seven calves that had been peacefully grazing,

giving birth, and nursing their newborns along the shore of Hebgen Lake, just off of Highway 287. During the hazing

operation BFC patrols documented the separation of a newborn buffalo from her mother. The main group ran through the willows and into a field of sage brush, while the panicking mother ran up and down the road, frantically searching for her calf. While she was gone, the hazers discovered the calf behind a guard rail and tossed her onto the road. The calf, frightened and confused, ran to the closest four-legged she could find: one of the hazers' horses. The horse didn't know what to do and kept spinning around, with the little buffalo trying to stay close. She was nearly trampled and kicked before going to another horse, which also spooked and nearly kicked the calf. The baby even went to one of

the hazers and tried to join up with him. Meanwhile, the mother ran up and down the highway, searching. The hazers grabbed the calf, put her in the cab of one of their trucks, and drove her out to the rest of the herd, where they tossed her out of the truck. Luckily, with the agents at a different location, the mom ran back to the last place she had seen her calf, and picked up her scent. She ran along the trail of her family group and was finally reunited with her baby.

Patrols at Duck Creek watched as government agents and law enforcement officers—from the DOL, FWP,

Yellowstone National Park, USDA-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, National Forest Service, and the Gallatin County sheriffs office—arrived at the Duck Creek headquarters of the DOL. In force, the hazers set out for the South Fork. As soon as they saw the DOL's trucks and horse trailers, the buffalo bolted, crossing the South Fork and fleeing with their calves into the woods along the Madison Arm Road. Fifteen hazers on horseback scoured the woods, following and losing tracks, and for two hours found no buffalo. The buffalo have been harassed so much, they took to hiding in the forest. Eventually they were found.

Approximately eighty buffalo with nearly twenty brand new calves were hazed through the thick dead fall, down the Madison Arm Road, across



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Highlander Wildlife

U.S. Highway 191, through the Madison River and into Yellowstone National Park. The agents were having so much fun they even took a few "selfies" and photos of each other, enjoying their abusive jobs. Eight hazers on horseback entered Yellowstone National Park to find the group that was hazed the day before, intending to push them a few miles deeper into the Park. After they finished with that haze, they attacked another group of about forty buffalo with calves, and pushed them to Seven-Mile Bridge at the Madison River. Buffalo on Horse Butte were also attacked, but the hazers were only allowed to harass buffalo on the public land portion of the Butte. There are never any livestock on Horse Butte, so not even the DOL agents can come up with a reason to haze them, other than because they enjoy it. Buffalo on the buffalo-friendly Galanis property were untouchable, thanks to Governor Bullock's directive. Yellowstone Village was also full of "Buffalo Safe Zone" signs, so had any buffalo been there, they would also likely have been safe.

The hazers split up and scoured the Butte, searching and searching for buffalo. With our early spring, many buffalo have already migrated east into Yellowstone of their own accord, so the big cowboy circus didn't get to haze the hundreds of wild buffalo that they so much look forward to abusing every year. But they did find over one hundred buffalo and about twenty calves. A mother buffalo was in labor in one of the groups they hazed, and BFC patrols let the agents know, pleading with them to leave her be, we put the word out over our radios that she was about to give birth, but she was not spared. From the Butte, nine hazers on horseback continued pushing buffalo down Forest Service Road 6697. Having already been pushed for more than five miles without rest, baby buffalo started to collapse from exhaustion. The hazers didn't care and pushed them even harder. At one point, with the buffalo bluff charging and calves dropping from exhaustion, the hazers quickly gathered for a meeting, then descended upon the buffalo galloping and screaming at the tops of their lungs. They charged them like some kind of sick wild West Hollywood movie spectacle. Some were even using their lariats like whips on the buffalo, including the babies. Out of both fear and encouragement from their mothers, somehow the calves were able to keep up with the herd as they fled these madmen and women. The hazers pushed them across Highway 191 and up onto the northeast bluffs of the Madison River, towards Yellowstone.

Incredibly exhausted, the calves collapsed again. Mama buffalo glared at riders, as if daring them to come closer, and BFC patrols joined them in solidarity, vocalizing our opposition to this unjust and vicious behavior. The hazers stopped briefly, mostly because the calves just could not be pushed any further. After a few minutes, the DOL riders grew impatient and got all the hazers yippin' it up to push the buffalo again. Slowly the buffalo moved, more bluff charges were offered by frustrated mothers, and after a few hundred yards the haze stalled at the boundary of Yellowstone National Park. After having all of us yelling at them, and with calves continuing to collapse, someone finally made the call to let the buffalo rest. They gave them about fifteen minutes. Babies dropped to the earth or nursed hungrily, while adults bedded down and wallowed in the sand. The break was over all to quickly, and the hazers kicked the procession back into gear. Thirsty and wanting to get away from these riders, all but three mom and baby pairs bolted down the bluffs for a drink of water and an attempted escape into the woods. We can stop this war against wild buffalo by doing three things: 1) work to repeal MCA 81-2-120, the law that places the DOL in charge of wild bison in Montana and drives every single action against them; 2) gain Endangered Species Act protection for this most important bison population in the world; and 3) support an alternative plan that manages wild bison like wild elk in Montana. The truth is on the buffalo's side. WILD IS THE WAY ~ ROAM FREE! PLEASE go to our website and use the TAKE ACTION buttons!



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Los Angeles Puma In House Crawlspace

By Judith Lewis Mernit - HCN

**The mountain lion brings attention to
the role of urban wilds.**

Recently Beth Pratt, California director for the National Wildlife Federation, took to Twitter with a passion. P-22, the iconic mountain lion that for the last three years has inhabited a large, urban Los Angeles park, had turned up in the crawlspace underneath someone's house. Authorities were trying to dislodge him with tennis balls and sticks. "The tennis balls didn't work," she wrote. "How about trying clearing out & giving him some quiet? This cat's been avoiding people for three years." Even worse, a loud media throng had gathered around the home of Jason and Paula Archinaco, where the puma had holed up; Pratt pleaded with the reporters, too. "Media covering #P22 - thank you for the story but can we clear out the scene to give P22 a chance to leave safely?"

Eventually, Pratt got her wish: Marty Wall of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife "made the wisdom call," Pratt says, and established a perimeter around the Archinaco house, hoping the cat would feel safe enough to leave. By mid-morning Tuesday, Jeff Sikich, the National Park Service wildlife biologist who originally collared the lion, confirmed with telemetry that P-22 had headed out of the house and back into the park's rural

interior.

Pratt, however, kept tweeting. She didn't dwell on authorities' early mistakes, nor did she chide the media, as some other wildlife lovers did, for their ill-considered choice of words. (He's not "stuck," someone pointed out, he's hiding.) Instead, she seized upon all that was good about the incident — how P-22's homestay had refocused the spotlight on his marvelous existence, how the city and community had come out not in fear, but out of genuine curiosity and concern. "Even the home owners," Pratt says, "were super chill."

A lot of people, myself included, were worried that P-22 would suffer the fate of the young cougar that curled up in an office courtyard near the coast three years ago and ended up being shot by police. But that would be unthinkable now, Pratt insists. "Everybody wanted the cat to be safe. He is L.A.'s lion! There may have been disagreement about how to get him to safety, but no one there wanted to kill him."

P-22's brief hideout has had another positive side for Pratt: It's given another boost to the *Save LA Cougars* campaign she began last year, inspired by a 2012 field trip with Sikich. ("I said, 'Okay, (Continued on page 17.)

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this is my work for the next decade.””) The campaign, a collaboration with the National Park Service, CalTrans and local conservation groups, is centered around the effort to build a wildlife overpass at Liberty Canyon, 40 miles west of Griffith Park but in the same range that bisects Los Angeles – the Santa Monica Mountains. The overpass would connect two large parcels of open space under the eight-lane 101 freeway in northwest Los Angeles County, and allow pumas – along with bobcats and raccoons and coyotes and skunks – to migrate out of the coastal Santa Monicas into wildlands to the north. Had P-22, who came out of those western Santa Monicas, had that option, he might be up in the Los Padres National Forest by now, hunting, mating and hiding out far from Hollywood Hills homes.

Pratt’s campaign has raised \$1 million of the \$4 million needed to make the overpass project “shovel ready,” all of it within the last year. And in public relations terms, *Save LA Cougars* has been a blockbuster. Pratt gets standing-room only audiences for her talks at schools and corporations; hundreds of people show up at weekday rallies. People stop her in the street and ask about the tattoo she had done on her left upper arm, which depicts P-22’s face underneath the Hollywood sign. (“One woman

in a business suit came up to me and asked, ‘Is he okay? I hear he had mange.’”)

“I’ve worked on conservation projects in Yosemite,” says

Pratt, who lives about 30 minutes from the national park. “I worked in Yellowstone for four years. But I’ve never seen anything like the support around getting this crossing for urban cougars. And P-22 is what did it. It was his cat-footed journey across the freeways to get to Griffith Park that captivated people. It’s been L.A.’s redemption.”

Pratt, who got inked after meeting a couple of bison enthusiasts who’d done the

same for their animal icon, now believes “urban wildlife is the future,” she says, the last hope for dwindling species. “Creating Yosemites doesn’t work anymore,” she said. “Creating refuges doesn’t work anymore. Animals need connectivity, they need room to grow.” P-22 is a symbol of that, she said, but at six years old, now nearing the end of his natural life, he’s “not a success story. He’s trapped there. He’s never going to have a mate.”

Still, on Monday night, P-22 once again demonstrated the survival skills necessary for a large carnivore to make his home in the urban wilds. “He picked a great couple in a great neighborhood” for his hiding place, Pratt says. “He really is one smart cat.”



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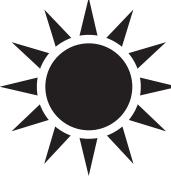
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This page top: Elk cross highway. Left: Smiling Bobcat after eating voles. Right: Collie Shiloh after a buzzcut for summer. Next page: Backyard chickens. Mule deer buck as Cover Photo- taken by Michael Reilly! Send Your photos to news @highlanderomo.com



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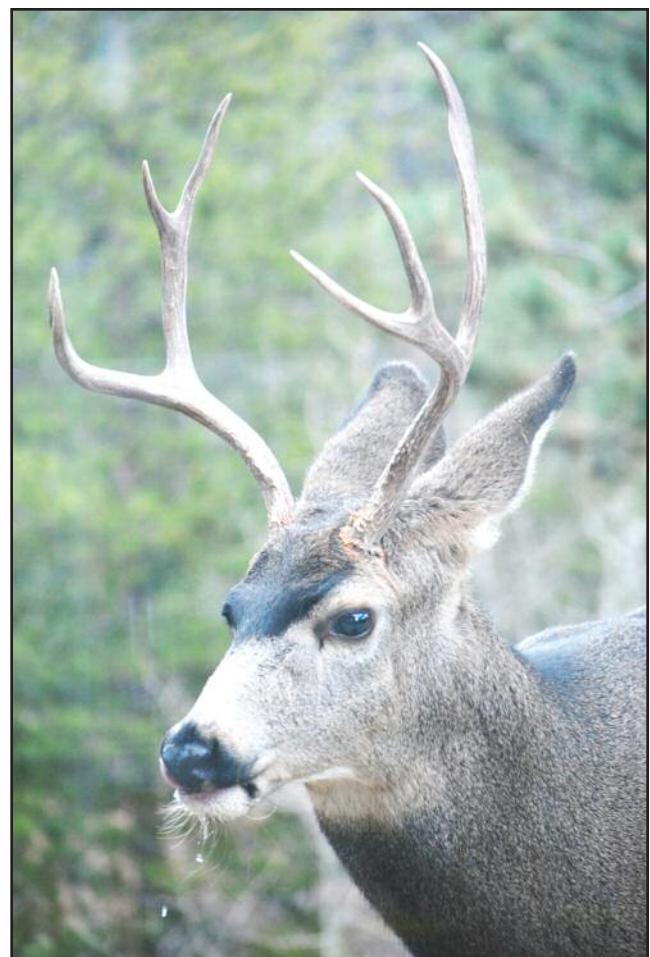
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Safe Driving Habits In Spring Weather

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

The snow and ice may be gone for much of the country, but it's important for drivers to stay "street smart" this spring. Spring showers may bring dangerous driving conditions along with the flowers. In fact, wet roads can be just as slippery as ice-covered roads. Compounding matters, rainy weather can also affect driver visibility. As drivers hit the road this spring, here are a few tips to help ensure a safe journey to your destination:

Do not use cruise control during heavy rains or hail. Cruise control during low traction wet conditions could lead to hydroplaning or loss of vehicle control. Using the cruise feature also allows you to move your feet away from the pedals, and disengaging the cruise control may take crucial seconds during an emergency situation.

Replace worn tires. Your tires are what keep your car on the road. Worn out treads provide less traction. Also, make sure tires are inflated properly according to your vehicle owner's manual.

Replace worn wiper blades. Poorly maintained windshield wipers can hamper visibility in poor weather.

Clean windows. After a long winter salt and other road

residue can build up on your windows. Wiper effectiveness and visibility can be greatly enhanced by just cleaning the glass and removing the residue. Cleaning the inside of the glass can also increase visibility and help the defroster clear your windows faster by reducing moisture buildup.

Check all lighting. Rain itself can also impact visibility so check all vehicle lighting including headlights, taillights, back-up lights, turn signals, parking lights and brake lights. These lights are important because they help you and other motorists to see each other in times of limited visibility.

Editor's Note: Recently a Coal Creek Canyon resident emailed with concerns about pedestrians on our dirt roads and even canyon highways walking on the wrong side of the road. **Laws state people should walk on the left side** facing into oncoming traffic, mainly so they remain safer by knowing what is coming I suppose. A similar safe habit is to make eye contact with drivers whenever crossing a roadway whether in a crosswalk or at an intersection. Today there are so many times pedestrians get hit by drivers that end up being hit and run accidents. **The Law is that pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians - ALL HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY.** This means they must be protected from drivers of all vehicles, but they MUST follow all the same laws of the road. Mountain roads often pose unsafe sides due to terrain, but that is the only exception to the law.



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Just Because It Is Free...

What does it take to produce and get you a copy of this monthly magazine? Over the years simply because this product is free, has led some readers to take it for granted. Just to eliminate some of the myths and assumptions about the Highlander, this is an effort to inform readers of the facts.

With 3,000 hard copies printed monthly it costs almost 75 cents a copy to print, as the slick paper cover is expensive. 2,000 copies get mailed by bulk mail out of the Golden and Black Hawk post offices into all the 80403 and 80422 rural routes. Some routes outside of Coal Creek Canyon receive copies every other month and some routes every third month to reach as many homes as possible. The cost of the permit to utilize bulk services is over \$200 a year and to mail it monthly is over \$300 a month.

Post Office Box holders do not get a copy delivered to their box, but have many places where they can pick up a copy that is distributed by hand to businesses, county offices and a multitude of different places. Should you wish to locate a distribution point convenient for you, a list is kept up to date on the Highlander Website at HighlanderMo.com on the Distribution Page. Click on the button and check for locations by region or town/city.

For folks who don't get a hard copy every month, the online issue is easy to access at the website also. Just click on the Current Issue button to read it, or save it to your computer desktop, open it in Adobe Reader – go up under View and choose pages facing to see the issue just as it appears in the hard copy – only the pictures are in color.

The route for distribution to businesses goes from Boulder, Arvada, Wheat Ridge and Golden the first day it also gets dropped off at the Golden Post Office. The next

day it gets delivered by hand to the Black Hawk Post Office, Central City, all along the Peak-to-Peak Highway and into Nederland. Usually distributed before the 1st.

Advertisers who don't wish to service this entire four-canyon region can either tell customers who call or put a line in their ad to give potential customers a heads up. Many businesses think one canyon can support them and find out they actually need customers from adjacent areas to make a living. As mountain residents know from experience we all need to go to town for some services and products so it is great to know where quality businesses are located and a phone number to call before you go there. New advertisers are checked out in the Better Business Bureau listings. The minute any advertiser shows unethical practices their ad gets dropped.

So, no matter how you get a copy of the Highlander it costs at least a dollar a piece to produce and put it where it is easy to find and pick up. Many loyal readers pass it on to a friend out of the canyons, once they have read it, just to spread the joy of reading a magazine devoted to positive news for a change. If you plan to pick up your copy at a distribution point try to do so in the first week or two of the month as they often go fast and also try to recycle your copy after reading it.

The reason the entire issue is not slick paper or four color is to keep the advertising costs down for our mountain entrepreneurial spirits to be able to afford to advertise monthly. Graphic design is free to all advertisers, but it is recommended you try to start your ad well before the 19th deadline so you can receive a proof to approve. Feel free to call if you have questions or wish a subscription for only \$25/year.

Highlander Editor

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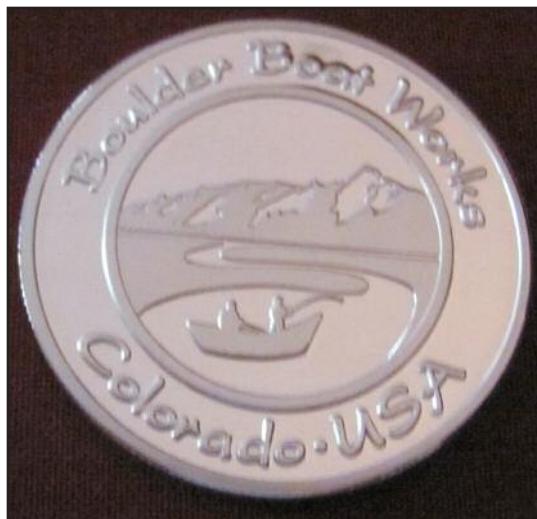
Fly Fishing Forward

Article and photographs by Diane Bergstrom

On **Sunday, August 2nd**, fly fishing fans and community supporters will have the opportunity to attend a combined Colorado Cane Conclave for bamboo rod enthusiasts and fundraiser for the restoration of the Buttonrock Preserve Tailwater Fishery that was damaged during the 2013 flood. The yearly conclave, presented by South Creek Ltd. of Lyons, was not produced last year because they focused on local fund raising flood projects, so this year's event is highly anticipated by fly fishers! **Pre-registration with payment is the only way to get in** (due to catering requirements) **by going to the What's New page at www.southcreekltd.com; click on Colorado Cane Conclave to download your form. Your registration and payment must be received by July 27.**

Call South Creek Ltd. with any questions at (303) 823-6402. Cost is \$60 and will include: testing bamboo rods on private water, continental breakfast, Fly Fishing Film Tour's 2015 film, stream restoration presentation by Aquatic Biologist Ben Swigle, catered

lunch by Smokin' Dave's BBQ, silent auction, many new rod makers, vintage tackle dealers, and displays of bamboo rods. The event runs from 9am-6pm at Planet Bluegrass (Lyons) whose owner, Craig Ferguson, became their biggest sponsor by donating the space. Among the donated auction items is a limited edition commemorative one ounce pure silver coin from Andy Toohey, founder of



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Boulder Boat Works, who custom builds handcrafted classic dories using polymer materials and will have a Pro Guide High Side Hull drift boat on display (look for it filled with ice and beverages)!

"Trout Unlimited is family," reflected Mike Clark, owner and master rod maker of South Creek Ltd. The past conclaves, privately supplemented by Mike, have been parties/expos for fly fishers and bamboo rod enthusiasts but this year is different. 100% of the net proceeds will go toward restoring the Buttonrock Preserve Tailwater Fishery and two miles of public access areas, including rebuilding the handicap access ramp. Buttonrock Preserve has remained closed since the flood and this effort is to help reopen it.

The fundraiser is offered in concert with St. Vrain Trout Anglers Unlimited, the local chapter of Trout Unlimited, who will target restoration of trout and aquatic life habitat. "They are conservation stewards of rivers and lakes, and take care of fisheries, doing conservation education and much more," explained Mike. "This is all in stream restoration, open water is not conducive to (fish) habitat. They need bugs, food, safety, spawning habitat." Mike knows systems beyond rivers and works with state wildlife agencies for plan approvals. He anticipates the funds will also help obtain other grants to further restore habitats in the river. His grassroots start in the water and spread out from there. "You can fish in Colorado 360 days a year if



you can stand out in ten degree temperatures. The Buttonrock is close, can be fished all year, and brings people to the area."

Kathy, Mike's apprentice, clarified, "The tailwater comes from behind a dam. The South St. Vrain confluence is not controlled by the dam and is a 'freestone creek,' which means it does what it wants to do. Buttonrock Preserve is in our backyard and part of the St. Vrain drainage. Let's fix everything around here —for the health of the river and the wildlife that the river supports." Mike offered, "Manufacturing back east, rivers catch on fire, the towns burn down. You walk into a river

(Continued next page.)



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and your flip-flops dissolve. When the river isn't healthy, the town isn't healthy. People use the river, tube it, hike it, and fish it. If the river is sick, the town is sick." Healthy



fish are one of the indicators of a healthy river. He said we have the best dry fly fishing with an average of 125 fishing days a year, and people can fish from the end of July through October throughout the Rocky Mountain States from Montana to Mexico. His heart is in those rivers and in this event. He cheerfully added, "We need a couple hundred people to show up!"

If you're in Lyons, stop by the shop at 415 Main Street. It is the striking entrance with heavy oak doors, velvet burgundy draperies, and gold leaf writing on the glass windows. Every rod is a work of art and a labor of love. Mike, Kathy and Scott work together in a 50-60 hour process per rod. Kathy explained each rod is handcrafted, signed by Mike, and serial numbered. The rods are varnish dipped, cured, sanded, dipped again, and then hand polished and cat-supervised by Patch, one of Mike's cats. But if the *Open* sign is flipped around to read *Gone Fishing*, they really mean it.

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Western States Wrestle With Clean Power Plan

By Elizabeth Shogren - HCN

Closed-door sessions on the EPA's proposal to cut coal-fired power plant emissions.

Representatives of 13 Western states and utilities gathered recently in Denver to grapple with the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The meetings are part of a series of closed-door sessions convened by former Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter beginning in July 2014, after the EPA proposed reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants by 30% on average by 2030.

"I believe out of all the things that are happening in America, this plan is the one that is likely to have the most impact on energy systems around the country and certainly in the West," said Ritter, who directs the Center for the New Energy Economy at CSU. Participants brainstorm about uniquely Western complexities to implementing EPA's Clean Power Plan, such as hydropower, massive stretches of federal lands, electricity generation by tribes and an interconnected grid. High-ranking EPA officials have attended most sessions, according to participants. The ongoing discussions show that states see it's in their best interests to get ready for the EPA rule, despite strong pushback against it. Sen. Majority leader Mitch McConnell,

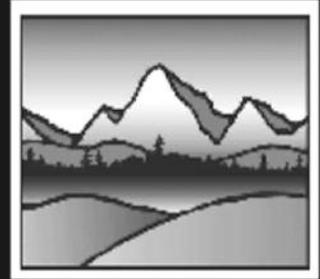
R-KY, has urged states to say no to the EPA's plan. He wrote a letter to governors in March arguing that states should resist because the EPA is "overreaching" its authority. In response, Oklahoma's governor, late in April, directed his state's environment agency not to formulate a plan to implement a rule. And in some other states, including Wyoming and South Dakota, attorneys general are challenging the proposed rule in court and legislatures are passing bills to create hurdles for the plan.

But legally, states don't get to take a pass on national air pollution rules. If a state fails to craft its own plan, the EPA will take over. Oklahoma's decision was surprising, said Henry Darwin, director of Arizona's Dept of Environmental Quality, because it would put the EPA in the driver's seat for setting up a policy that would have huge impact on the state's economy.

He added that his state is waiting to see EPA's final rule. Then it will decide whether to sue the agency, craft a state plan or let the EPA implement its yet-to-be proposed federal policy in the state.

In the meantime, he said, Arizona is doing an "immense amount of work" considering its options for reducing greenhouse emissions, and Ritter's sessions have been helpful. "He has access to EPA and (Continued next page.)

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to the White House that a lot of us don't," Darwin said. "When he invites EPA, they send very high level officials to those meetings. That's a benefit to states like mine that don't have that kind of access to EPA because of our political differences." He adds that a single state—red or blue—wouldn't get the same high-level response from the EPA as the gathering of states does.

May's session is the first that brings together state officials and electric utilities (previously they'd been meeting separately) and about 100 people were expected to attend, according to Jeff Lyng, senior policy advisor for the Center for the New Energy Economy. Participants will hear from the White Great Plains Institute, a research group that analyzed the states' options for working together and separately to implement EPA's proposed rule. Ritter was reluctant to reveal much detail about the meetings, which are closed to the press and the public.

Participants span a wide spectrum of views on the EPA plan, including two of the 14 states trying to block the proposal in federal court — Wyoming and South Dakota — and some of its biggest proponents, like California and Oregon. Ritter said preserving "confidences" helps the sessions remain a venue for "constructive conversations." Ten of the thirteen states attending Ritter's meetings signed on to a joint comment letter on the rule in October 2014. New Mexico, Wyoming and North Dakota opted not to sign, but continued to meet with the group.

Among the concerns that the states share is the particular challenge of constructing renewable power projects and connecting those projects with transmission lines given the huge amount of federal land in many of their states, as HCN has reported. Energy projects on federal land require time-consuming permits and reviews. "I don't think the EPA is taking that into consideration in these tight timeframes," said Darwin, referring to the 2020 and 2030 greenhouse gas reduction targets the EPA set for each state in its proposed rule.

Another mutual concern of the Western states is how the EPA proposal will reflect the variable availability of hydropower. Hydropower helps states meet their greenhouse gas reductions targets because unlike fossil fuel power plants, it does not release greenhouse gases. As climate change decreases flows of some rivers, states expect to have less hydropower in the future, which could make it harder to reach greenhouse gas reduction targets. This is just one example of how the effects of climate change are making it more complicated to fight climate change. Once the rule comes out, which EPA says will be in midsummer, Ritter expects the pace of these meetings to increase. So far, he said no multistate pacts have emerged. Ritter says he's orchestrating the sessions because he loves the West, and not at EPA's request. "CSU is not an agent for EPA," he stressed, "This is one of the biggest things happening, and it's important for the West."

Elizabeth Shogren is HCN's DC correspondent.

CSU To Study Americans Wildlife Values

Unlike many other countries in the world, America is blessed with abundant fish and wildlife. Americans care a great deal about the protection and management of these resources but factions can be deeply divided about how best to accomplish that. The job of the modern wildlife manager is to make decisions that balance these conflicting public views while ensuring the health of the resource.

To improve the understanding of their constituencies all of the state fish and wildlife agencies in the U.S. have joined forces to commission a nationwide study led by Colorado State University scientists. The new study is a replication of a 2005 study conducted for 19 state fish and wildlife agencies in the Western U.S. That study was led by Mike Manfredo and Tara Teel, professors in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department in CSU's Warner College of Natural Resources. "The 2005 study was conducted, in part, to explore wildlife managers' beliefs that the interests of the publics they served had been changing. Our study supported that conclusion," said Manfredo. "The shift has been from a more utilitarian view of wildlife to one we call mutualism. People with strong mutualist values see wildlife as companions, deserving of rights and of caring."

The 2005 conclusions will be further examined in the 50 state-study that will launch this year. Information from the study is intended to help managers improve their communication with the public, expand the recreational opportunities and services they provide, and guide mediation of conflict situations. "It's really become important to engage the public effectively and understand the types of issues that are important to them. We have a diverse state in terms of not only the fish and wildlife in the state, but the people in the state," said Ed Boggess, director, Fish and Wildlife Division, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and president, Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The study is unique because it will consider the differences across the various regions of the country. "Our earlier study showed that there were differences in the predominant values across the Western states and that those differences were related to broader

social factors such as urbanization," said Teel. "Colorado, for example, appeared to be a state in the midst of a transition. Overall, we found that states with a division of values also had disagreement on responses to key management issues." CSU researchers will collaborate with researchers from The Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, and Responsive Management Inc. in conducting the study. Funding is being provided through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. (*Internet photo of bear at picnic table.*)



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Part 8 - Overpopulation

By Frosty Wooldridge

Gridlocked traffic worldwide!

A society sufficiently sophisticated to produce the internal combustion engine has not had the sophistication to develop cheap and efficient public transport. There are hardly any buses, the trains are hopelessly underfunded and hence, the entire population is stuck in traffic.

Ben Elton, Gridlock

From my own experiences in traffic in Hong Kong, Tokyo, San Paulo, Sydney, Houston, Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Beijing, Shanghai, Atlanta, San Francisco and dozens of other overpopulated cities, “Gridlocked traffic causes more deaths, more tension, more suffering and more emotional misery than yet understood. It defeats the human spirit with endless failure of the ability to move forward. You

can be killed or maimed at any moment by another automobile. Drivers fume in their seats while their cars fume-up the biosphere. Gridlocked traffic worsens by the year as humanity grows its collective population by 80 million annually. Gridlocked traffic can never be solved as long as humans refuse to address the root cause of the problem.”

(America’s gridlocked traffic worsens annually because our country adds 3.1 million more people to the mix year in and year out, decade in and decade out. More people equals more cars, which means more exhaust, which means more toxic-polluted air with every breath, which means more asthma, which means more lung cancer and the Black Cloud over our cities grows without pause.)

Photography by www.gridlockstockphotos.com

An average of 43,000 Americans lose their lives every year in traffic crashes. In Denver, Colorado where I live,



gridlocked traffic accounts for 20 to 30 crashes every day of the workweek. To put Denver’s traffic into a few words: an exasperating daily living nightmare.

Millions of drivers drive drunken 24/7 on America’s highways. You might go to work one morning and suffer an auto crash that takes your life or places you in the ICU at your local hospital.

According to the USA National Highway Traffic Administration, car accidents occur every minute of the day: “Motor vehicle

accidents occur in any part of the world every 60 seconds. And if it’s all summed up in a yearly basis, there are 5.25 million driving accidents that take place annually in the USA. Statistics show that each year, 43,000 or more of the United States’ population die due to vehicular accidents and around 2.9 million people end up suffering light or severe injuries. In a certain

five year period, there had been recorded a 25 percent of the driving population who encountered or were involved in car accidents. It is also affirmed that car accidents kill a child every three minutes.”

(Not only do all those cars exhaust their carbon particles into the biosphere 24/7, but look at the mega-buildings with millions of smokestacks pouring toxic filth into the air endlessly. I have traveled through China and they are so far into the Dante’s Environmental Inferno that the only thing they can do is suffer, die and degrade their environment into submission.)

Canada Free Press reported, “Here’s one way to get attention: traffic deaths worldwide kill the equivalent number of people as would perish in nine jumbo jet crashes every day. Think of the headlines for nine jet crashes every day of the year. World traffic injuries are taking the lives of 145 people every hour of every day (totaling 3,500 per

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drivers rush toward their destinations in rain, fog, snow and overloaded highways.) Photography by www.mlive.com

Why won't global leaders meet in a world conference to deal with the environmental, social and mega-city

day). This is more than two a minute and adds up to something like 1.3 million people dying on the world's roads each year and a further 20 to 30 million people suffering injuries, often debilitating ones."

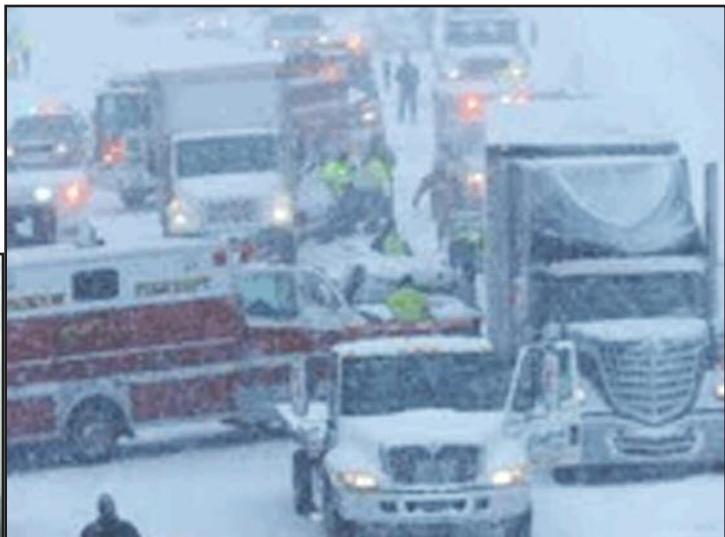
Already in China where they push 27,000 new cars onto their highways every single week of the year, some 14 million cars added annually as reported by NBC's Brian Williams, they suffer unimaginable gridlock. Last year, China reported a 62-mile long gridlock traffic jam that took nine days to resolve. Motorists ran out of gas, out of water and out of food while stuck in traffic.

Ironically, China adds eight million more people to its



population annually via "population momentum." By 2030, they expect to burn 98 million barrels of oil daily, which exceeds the entire daily world consumption of 82 million barrels in 2013. (Source: *The Long Emergency* by James Howard Kunstler)

(Multiple car crashes involve 20 to 50 vehicles and more as



consequences we humans created around the planet? When we see such enormous traffic gridlock, why do we think building more roads, highways and expressways will solve the problem? It won't, it can't and it doesn't.

How can Los Angeles solve its God-awful and God-for-saken gridlock by adding another 10 million people, which demographic experts predict before 2050? What kinds of minds think they can solve anything by growing it bigger? (*Humans and vehicles fare poorly in auto collisions that occur every minute of every day around the globe. The human misery, loss and suffering*) (Continued next page.)


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Highlander Worldview

from these crashes cannot be measured. As the human race gallops toward an added 3.1 billion more people by 2050, human car-crash deaths will skyrocket from their already horrific numbers in 2013.)

Photography by
www.clarksvilleonlline.com

I have personally traveled through most of the major overpopulated cities in the world. It's like trying to wrestle a giant squid with one foot. It's like trying to fly using toothpicks for wings. It's like trying to run with 100 pound weights attached to your ankles. You get the picture! So, what's the answer?

Demographic expert Jason Brent of Las Vegas, Nevada spells it out: "Therefore, the only problem, the ultimate problem, facing humanity is to reduce our population as quickly as possible with the least amount of death and destruction and to determine who will be permitted to reproduce when the population contraction commences in the very near future. Compared to the problem described here every other problem faced by humanity is irrelevant and unimportant. If the problem described here is not solved, billions will die due to the



decline in economic activity which will cause continuous wars and other horrors until the population is reduced to the level the declining economic activity can support." As our civilization adds another 138 million people driving cars by mid-century, what's your solution?

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

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Best Dogs To Save Livestock & Wildlife

By Ben Goldfarb - HCN

Can the right breed keep both domestic animals and native carnivores alive?

On a bright fall morning in central Washington, a flock of sheep, the off-white of dirty snow, moves across an emerald field of timothy. To the flock's west, Daniel Kinka and Cafer Tepeli scrutinize the sheep through binoculars. Somewhere to the east, obscured by the cloud of livestock, is Sonny. I ask Kinka how Sonny is doing. Kinka, a Ph.D. candidate at Utah State University's Ecology Ctr. who wears a safari hat and two radios clipped to his belt, rubs his beard thoughtfully. "His social skills need work," he says.

We circumnavigate the sheep, and Sonny — a muscular dog with a long, stiff tail and mottled brown fur — leaps to his feet, barking furiously. He has an intense voice: deep, staccato, explosive. "This dog, he may be good with sheep, but he's afraid of people," murmurs Tepeli, a Turkish veterinarian, from beneath heavy black eyebrows. "I don't like this behavior."

For Kinka and Tepeli, Washington is the final stop on a 1,500-mile (2,400-km) odyssey with an important objective: to find a better livestock guard dog. Throughout the American West, recovering populations of wolves and grizzly bears have crept beyond the boundaries of national parks, clashing with sheep and cattle as they advance. Wolf raids, in particular, have become more commonplace: In 2005, *Canis lupus* killed 4,400 head of cattle nationwide; by 2010, that number had nearly doubled to 8,100. What's more, the mere threat of predation can prevent domestic animals from grazing comfortably, diminishing their body weight and market value.

Little wonder, then, that offending predators are frequently shot by landowners or exterminated by government agents. A good guard dog, however, forestalls conflict by warding off carnivores before they attack. "Ideally the sheep don't die, the wolves don't die, the dogs don't die," Kinka explains. Can a domestic animal truly help restore some of the world's wildest creatures while at the same time saving livestock?

Patrolling America's Rangelands-Humans have been employing dogs to protect livestock since the dawn of animal husbandry. Sheep and domestic canines have been found together in archaeological sites dating back nearly to 4000 B.C.E., and nomadic Sumerian shepherds were accompanied by dogs during their treks from Mesopotamia

to modern-day Hungary. A Roman agricultural treatise published in 37 B.C.E. describes the dog as "the guardian of the flock, which needs such a champion to defend it." Over the centuries, however, Europe eradicated its wolves and bears, sanitizing the continent for livestock and obviating the need for guard dogs. The practice had become rare by 1972, the year the United States banned the use of Compound 1080 — a potent poison that ranchers used to eliminate coyotes, the species responsible for most of the country's predation incidents. Though the ban was later lifted, at the time it pushed ranchers to investigate



novel ways of handling coyotes and other predators. Soon, European dog breeds like the akbash, komondor and Great Pyrenees were patrolling America's rangelands in defense of livestock.

The new arrivals worked immediate wonders. In North Dakota, dogs slashed coyote predation rates on sheep ranches by 93%. In Colorado, where sheep producers faced not only coyotes but also cougars and black bears, dogs averted nearly US\$900,000 in livestock losses in 1993 alone. One study of over a thousand dogs nationwide found that the average guard dog saved its owner US\$500 to \$600 annually. As word spread, a menagerie of breeds caught on — or were revived — in other countries. Today, there are maremmas warding off dingoes in Australia, Anatolian shepherd dogs chasing away cheetahs in Namibia, and Spanish mastiffs battling brown bears in Spain's Cantabrian Mountains.

"Farmers are sometimes skeptical at first, but once they see how these dogs work, they're sold," says Tom Gehring, a biologist at Central Michigan University who has studied guard dogs in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. "Many people put them out and never have" (Continued next page.)

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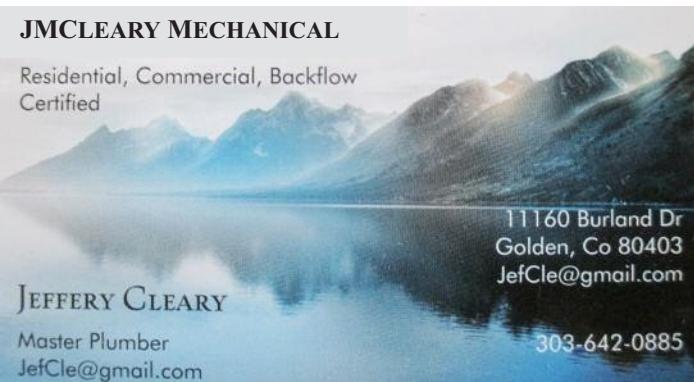
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depredations again." Not only have dogs saved ranchers money, they've also protected the very carnivores they were recruited to deter. In the United States, unruly fauna is controlled by Wildlife Services, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that kills millions of animals each year via methods including poisons, traps and aerial gunning. Although birds comprise the vast majority of those killings, over 75,000 coyotes — one every seven minutes — were slain in 2013. By deploying guard dogs and other deterrence techniques such as electric fencing and alarms, however, many ranchers have alleviated their predator problems without resorting to lethal tactics.

"If a producer has a tool that prevents predators from killing their sheep, there's no reason to kill those predators, or to have them killed by a federal agency," says Julie Young, research wildlife biologist at the National Wildlife Research Center, Wildlife Services' scientific arm. Among the many dog devotees is Lisa Kimsey, a third-generation rancher who grazes sheep with her husband, Mike, in Wyoming's Bighorn Basin. Kimsey's family has used Great Pyrenees and akbash dogs for 20 years, and though the animals haven't thwarted coyotes, cougars and black bears altogether, they've reduced the losses. The dogs even chase off ravens that peck at lambs' eyes. As advertised, the canines have also allowed Kimsey to keep her livestock safe without putting down carnivores. "We spend our lives trying to keep animals healthy," she says. "I don't think anybody relishes the thought of having to kill another living creature."

Clawing Their Way Back- But while guard dogs — not to

mention guard llamas and donkeys — have proved their mettle against mid-size predators, today they face more menacing foes. Over the past two decades, wolves, aided by federal reintroduction, have recolonized the northern Rocky Mountains. Today, more than 1,700 wolves roam Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, and at least 145 prowl Oregon and Washington. Grizzly bears have clawed their way back, too: In the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, bear numbers have climbed from fewer than 150 in the 1970s to more than 700 today, and another 800 haunt the lands in and around Glacier National Park.

Conservationists have hailed the recovery of apex predators, which stabilize ecosystems, generate tourism revenues and serve as emblems of wildness in a world wracked by extinction. But to the minds of many ranchers, wolves and bears pose an existential threat. Guard dog breeds like the Great Pyrenees, so stalwart against coyotes, suddenly appeared outweighed and outmatched. "We were hearing stories about dogs getting injured or killed," says Young. "In some cases, dogs were beat up enough that they became too scared to guard." Lisa Kimsey was among the ranchers who lost dogs. When a pack of wolves rolled through the Bighorns a few years back, one of the Kimseys' guard dogs vanished, leaving nary a hair behind. Kimsey believes that the dog fell victim to larger canids. "A lone wolf typically won't challenge your guard dogs. But if there's more than one wolf, your dogs are in trouble," Kimsey says. "I don't want to put our dogs in a situation where I know they can't win."

Bolder Breeds- That's where Sonny, the powerful brown-and-white dog with the dubious social skills, comes in. Sonny is a cão de gado transmontano, a mastiff bred to deter wolves in the mountains of northern Portugal. Young has chosen the transmontano and two other obscure breeds — the karakachan, from Bulgaria, and the kangal, from Turkey — to serve as subjects in a new Wildlife Services study. The hypothesis: these larger, bolder breeds will fend off wolves and bears more effectively than common dogs like the Pyrenees and akbash. "All three breeds are working with wolves in Europe, and some are in areas with brown bears, too," Young says. Before the study's outset she surveyed breeders and scientists and was encouraged by what she heard about the canines' assertive behavior. "If these dogs are attacked, they continue to guard." Kangals, for instance, are renowned for not only fighting off wolves, but for pursuing them. In Turkey, many bear battle scars. Since 2013, Kinka, who's studying the effectiveness of the new breeds, has provided more than 50 test dogs to ranchers in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. When I meet up with Kinka and Tepeli in central Washington, they're making the rounds, observing the dogs in action and surveying ranchers and herders about their

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canines' behavior. I ask Tepeli, a guard dog expert who's in the U.S. on a fellowship, for his impressions of the American West. "Parts of Idaho look like Turkey!" he says with a disbelieving grin.

Though publishable data are still two years away, the dogs have garnered plenty of anecdotal praise. Not a single transmontano, kangal or karakachan has been injured by a predator in the line of duty, and some have already rebuffed carnivores. One Montana rancher who had been losing sheep to bears for years hasn't suffered a single casualty since receiving his three kangals. This winter, Kinka dropped off three karakachan puppies — named Balkan, Boyan and Buntar — with Lisa and Mike Kimsey in Wyoming. So far, the dogs haven't had an opportunity to do any guarding, but Lisa says they've already bonded with the sheep. "They're still so young, but they seem to sense that this is their purpose," she says. "They show every indication of being good protectors."

Even if Wildlife Services can identify a better guard dog, however, the agency faces another challenge: converting science into on-the-ground policy. Though Wildlife Services promotes nonlethal management techniques like guard dogs, electric fencing and fladry, it still racks up eye-catching body counts. In 2013, in addition to the aforementioned tens of thousands of coyotes, the agency also terminated 320 gray wolves, 345 cougars and 419 black bears. "There's a disconnect between Wildlife Services' research arm and its field operations," cautions Camilla Fox, executive director of Project Coyote, a California group that promotes coexistence between ranchers and predators. "We'll believe this is for real when we see a decrease in the number of native wild animals being killed."

Animal Alchemy - For all their success, guard dogs are still, well, dogs: They've been known to chase cars, chew

on sheep and even attack hikers. And while protecting livestock is embedded in their nature, proper nurture can make or break an animal. Most crucial is that a dog's impulse to mind its flock exceeds its desire for human attention. "Producers in Turkey will feed their dog when it comes back to the house. That's wrong," says Tepeli. "You feed when it's in the field."

Ideally, dog and sheep form the active elements in a sort of animal alchemy. As John Shivik puts it in his book *The Predator Paradox*: "[S]heep see the dog as a herd

member, while the dog sees sheep as pack members." Sonny seems to have the opposite problem: He's bonded to the sheep, but his distrust of Homo sapiens runs too deep. Though that's not a fatal flaw, it's proving problematic at the moment, as Kinka is trying to affix a GPS collar around Sonny's neck. If all goes according to plan, the collar will provide valuable insight about Sonny's movements in relation to both his flock and nearby radio-collared wolves.

"We're trying to help people, but we're also trying to understand this novel ecosystem of wild animals, livestock and humans," Kinka says. First, though, he has to attach the collar. Kinka, Tepeli and a wizened Peruvian shepherd named Geronimo chase Sonny around the pasture like bats after a moth; the dog dodges and weaves, ducking through the legs of his pursuers, growling irritably. After a 15-minute runaround, the men corner Sonny in a side yard and the transmontano submits. His tongue lolls from his mouth; steam rises from his heaving flanks. Geronimo whispers soothingly in Sonny's floppy ear as Kinka straps on the GPS collar. Finally, Sonny is outfitted for data collection, and the humans back away. The guard dog leaps to his feet and bounds back to his flock.



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