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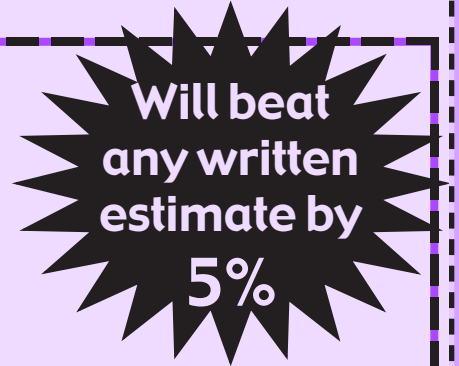
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Marmot sunbathing
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CONTENTS **Pages**

Reflection - Decisions Decisions 5, 6
Issues - Outdoor Show's New Home, Denver 7, 8, 9
Wildlife - Aenoheo'o - Red-tail Hawk 10, 11
 Idaho's Caribou Teach a Harsh Lesson 12, 13
Issues-If outdoor recreation leads to conservation 14,15,16
Tips - Emergency Preparedness 20
Letters - Make Govt. Work - Canyon Cares 21
Wildlife - Update BuffaloFieldCampaign.org 23
Issues - New law could change wilderness 24, 25
Remembrance - Bear Paw 26
Outdoors - What Nice People Leave 27
Issues-CO: Fishing next to pvt. land trespassing 28, 29
Inner View - Make a stand in your mind: Hope 30, 31
Wildlife - Grizzly Bears Wanted Alive 32, 33

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Decisions Decisions

Article and photograph by Diane Bergstrom

My favorite line in the movie, *Babe*, is, “Farmer Hoggett knew that little ideas that tickle and nag and refuse to go away should never be ignored, for in them lie the seeds of destiny.” I don’t know about how this plays out in my destiny, but I committed to finally getting this topic article done so it didn’t continue to tickle, nag, and refuse to go away. It started months ago when I woke up with the phrase, *Ockham’s Razor* (or Occum’s) oddly prominent in my still sleep-foggy head. I am not someone who regularly, or irregularly, contemplates 14th century Franciscan friar philosophers and their logic principles about explanations or hypotheses. In fact, almost never. Sorry, William of Ockham. Wikipedia defines the principle: when two explanations exist for the same occurrence, the simpler one is usually better. The principle in Latin is “lex parsimoniae,” meaning the law of briefness, or the option with the fewest guesses is probably the right explanation.

It was the first thing that wouldn’t go away. The phrase popped up on me like a chocolate craving, never knowing where or when the urgency would strike. After Googling it, I realized I might have learned it from the movie, *Contact*, when Jodie Foster, playing an SETI scientist, brings up *Ockham’s Razor* to Matthew McConaughey, who plays a minister and presidential spiritual advisor. She explains to him, “All things being equal, the simplest explanation is the right one.” Sharing a private moment on a Washington, D.C. balcony, they are stunning in formal attire, sipping champagne and discussing the validity of science, the existence of God, and the proof of love. I enjoyed seeing that segment again. It was a sweet scene. Then I let it go. A month later, I was channel surfing on a sleep-challenged night, and there was the movie, so I had to watch the whole thing. Tickling, nagging, and wouldn’t go away, again. And I was reminded of the mind-opening movie’s ending when *Ockham’s Razor* is definitively challenged. Oh, in case you need to be reminded, SETI stands for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

So I started collecting notes, listened to how others make decisions, and researched a bit, just to give the recurring

thoughts a rest on their revolving hamster wheel. I had my article pile ready and I was ready to write, but tax season hit and I needed to address that first. Post-filing and ready to get back to it, I looked for my pile, which had disappeared into tax season thin air. “SERIOUSLY?” I asked the thin air. “REALLY?” I demanded. Then I called Editor Anita to tell her my notes on decisions decidedly deleted themselves. Poof! But apparently the subject wasn’t done with me. New quotes, articles, blurbs and memories on decisions started to appear in my path, including a quote I loved decades ago possibly from Goethe about a Scottish Himalayan expedition, “Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth that ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one’s favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way.”

Years ago, I was told that the brain wants to dissect a dream, set an agenda, evaluate each step, and devise a complete blueprint for manifestation before taking action. The heart enfolds the dream, and gives one step—only the first one step—to see if we will follow it. Only then will the second step be given. An old friend of mine carefully analyzes major life decisions by writing up detailed pro and con lists. Her sharp disciplined mind has guided her skillfully through many changes, however, when I think of one of the worst times of her life, she had ignored the opposing message from her heart. Her initial choice, in this case of a husband, made logical sense on her paper columns but her heart wasn’t in it. When her life turned upside down by ending the abusive relationship, she started to listen. The happiest times of her life resulted from following her heart, making life-enriching choices, and being flexible with the roadmap ahead. We both had worked for a company owned by (Continued on next page.)



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Highlander Reflection

two individuals with vastly different approaches to hiring practices. One owner advised us to never ever trust our gut with hiring decisions because hunches were always wrong. He lacked people skills and often exhibited a low emotional IQ. The other owner told us when he was on the fence about a candidate, he wondered if he could see himself working with the possible hire for the rest of his life. That perspective pulls the heart and gut into play, and clearly pushes the balancing decision off the fence. It's a good question to apply in other areas of our lives, and in regard to the company we keep, not just for prospective coworkers.

Deepak Chopra sent a mass email, which included a guided meditation. I'm normally not attracted to a half hour of someone leading me through visualizations that don't personally resonate. I checked the estimated time: five minutes. Ok, Deepak, I thought, you've got five minutes. In his calm steady voice, he instructed us to close our eyes, take a few deep breaths, and connect with our hearts. Got me so far. Then he quietly stated four questions, one at a time, repeating each question twice, with pauses to let our hearts answer. He instructed us to pay attention to the thoughts, feelings and images that came up after each question. The questions are: (1) Who am I? (2) What do I want? (3) What is my passion? (4) What am I grateful for? I was surprised at the insightful visions that came up after each question when my brain wasn't under the pressure to form answers. Best five minute mediation ever. Thank you, Dr. Chopra.

In an article in *Psychology Today*, "What Happy People Do Differently," authors Robert Biswas-Diener and Todd Kashdan wrote that the happiest people have a knack for being honest about what does and does not energize them. In addition to building in daily time for sensory pleasures, they integrate activities they care most about to create a life of purpose and satisfaction. To help frame a purpose, they suggest asking ourselves these easy questions: (1) What activities were the most rewarding and meaningful in the past week? (It's so much easier to simply evaluate your past week!) (2) What am I good at and often recognized for? (3) What experiences would I be unwilling to give up? (4) What experiences do I crave more time for? After



answering them, notice these questions steer you away from what you think you ought to say, and toward answers illuminating what you truly love.

My first attempt at writing about decisions and all of my draft notes disappeared, forcing me to decide whether or not to start over. While Googling decision making advice, hundreds of ideas, lists, outlines and suggestions appeared on the decision making process. Some of these were included in my first attempt and I contemplated whether to try to recreate them or scrap them. Deciding to not decide is also a decision. Therein lies the koan of decisiveness. In walking away from my first agenda, I allowed the possibility for new information to develop, for old memories to rise, and for better decision frameworks to evolve and flourish. My heart kept the intention and my brain met the deadline.

Now what's tickling, nagging and refusing to go away is my answer to the question, "What experiences do I crave more time for?" Today is my first free day in three weeks. I put on my favorite fuzzy new sweatshirt and am following John Muir's words,

"The mountains are calling and I must go!"

(Photo of Elk in Rocky Mountain National Park.)



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Outdoor Show's New Home Flexes Political Muscle

By Sarah Tory – High Country News

One gray Saturday morning at the end of January, thousands of people filled three cavernous floors of the Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver. The crowds had come for the Outdoor Retailer + Snow Show (dubbed the OR Show), a massive four-day gear and clothing expo for winter-related activities.

Though actual snow was in short supply, the excitement level was high. This year marked a turning point in the OR Show's history: For the first time in 20 years, the biannual event, which also takes place in the summer, was not held in Salt Lake City. In 2017, the show's organizers announced they were leaving Utah to protest the efforts by the state's politicians to reduce Bears Ears National Monument, which protected both popular recreation areas and land that was important to many Native American tribes.

A state where public lands enjoy broad political support, Colorado was happy to welcome the trade show instead — along with the roughly \$45 million it brings annually. “I just think it's thrilling not only that (the Outdoor Retailer show) is here, but that they did it as a statement,” Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet told a group of outdoor-focused small-business owners who'd come for the trade show. For brands like Patagonia and The North Face, the move to Denver exemplified the industry's growing advocacy movement, especially around public lands. Backed by their sizeable \$887 billion economic impact, gear-makers and consumers alike are flexing their muscles on issues they care about, confident that getting more people outside — equipped with Gore-Tex jackets and carbon-fiber skis — can have a social benefit, too. But their message is missing some important voices: namely, the Native peoples who lived on, protected and depended on those same lands thousands of years before modern hikers discovered them. A current of slightly self-congratulatory excitement buzzed through the convention center. Outdoor Research, a

clothing maker, sold a series of hand-painted wooden boards by Colorado artist Sarah Virginia Uhl, with all proceeds benefitting public lands. Others, like Parajumpers, a luxury outdoor apparel brand based in Vail, seemed happy to be there for more mundane reasons. “The move to Denver was great for us specifically,” Barry Levinson, the marketing head for Parajumpers' North American distributor, told me, as I struggled to operate the booth's free espresso machine. Compared to Salt Lake City, he said, Denver is a lot closer to Vail. Plus, the downtown “has a lot more going on.”

In the back corner of the convention center, nestled among the hundreds of vendor booths, an audience had assembled for a panel discussion titled “Indigenous Connections: Re-envisioning Recreation and Public Lands Preservation to Incorporate First Nation Values and Traditions,” beneath a giant sign from one of the venue's sponsors, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

The mood at the panel, however, felt somewhat less celebratory than its surroundings. Moderator Annette McGivney, the Southwest editor for Backpacker Magazine,

(Continued on next page.)



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Highlander Issues

asked what role Indigenous people should play in protecting public lands.

“I’m not promoting outdoor recreation,” said Jolie Varela, a citizen of the Paiute and Tule River Yokut Tribes and the founder of Indigenous Women Hike, a group of Native American women. This summer, they plan to walk 210 miles from Cottonwood Pass to Yosemite Valley, following their ancestral trade routes on what is now known as the John Muir Trail.

Before Yosemite Valley became a renowned rock-climbing destination, Varela recalled, her ancestors were forced out of the area — yet another episode in the violent history of displacement of Native people across the West, this time in the service of “wilderness preservation.”

John Muir himself wrote disparagingly of the Paiute people he encountered in his travels through the valley that eventually became Yosemite National Park. “Somehow they seemed to have no right place in the landscape,” he wrote, “and I was glad to see them fading out of sight down the pass.”

As she spoke, Varela pointed out that very few of the climbers she’d met in Yosemite seemed aware that their favorite playground used to have so-called “Native zoos,” in which Indigenous peoples were displayed as novelties to tourists. “Sometimes, I’m the only one who knows that history,” she said.

The mostly white audience stood and listened in awkward silence, while nearby vendors tried to lure people to their booths with free candy and other product samples.

In recent years, the outdoor industry has sought to fashion itself around a kind of benevolent consumerism, appealing to its customers’ progressive values as well as its own

bottom line. On Black Friday, many brands encourage people to #OptOutside instead of shopping, while others donate a percentage of their profits to environmental causes, including the defense of public lands.

For many companies, California-based outdoor clothing giant Patagonia is the ultimate proof that this kind of advocacy also makes good business sense. Ever since Patagonia’s co-founder, Yvon Chouinard, described himself as a “reluctant businessman,” the company has made environmental and labor advocacy go hand-in-hand with profit-making.

“The way he justified being a businessman was to give back to the planet,” Corley Kenna, Patagonia’s director of global communications and PR, told me as we stood inside the company’s booth, surrounded by racks of Patagonia’s latest high-tech apparel and its new line of sustainably sourced food items, “Patagonia Provisions.” Today, Patagonia’s environmental grant program is bigger than ever, with the company giving away almost \$90 million to grassroots organizations — almost a tenth of its nearly \$1 billion in revenues. Meanwhile, Patagonia’s profits have quadrupled since 2009, and its annual growth rate has jumped to 14 percent.

It was Patagonia, too, that led the charge in boycotting the Outdoor Retailer show last February after Utah Republican Gov. Gary Herbert signed a bill calling for Bears Ears National Monument to be rescinded. Other companies followed suit, including Canada-based Arc’teryx and Polartec, and when Herbert refused to abandon his fight against the monument, the show’s organizers decided to part ways with Salt Lake City, too.

Since then, Patagonia has stepped up its game. *(Full*

disclosure: High Country News receives advertising money from Patagonia as well as annual donations from its founder, Yvon Chouinard.) For the first time in the company’s 45-year history, it has felt compelled to take serious action: suing the administration over its rollback of national monuments and running television ads reminding people that public lands belong to everyone.

“We’re lucky to be in an industry that’s taking this on,” Kenna told me. Over at the booth for GU, an energy gel maker, a celebration was underway for the company’s 25th anniversary. Brian Gillis, its marketing communications manager, handed out commemorative birthday cake-flavored energy gels.

Gillis, bearded and wearing a Patagonia jacket, told me about his

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company's charitable giving foundation, "GU Gives," which supports about 100 organizations through grants and product donations. After boycotting the last Outdoor Retailer show in Salt Lake City, GU donated the money instead to the Conservation Alliance.

"I was worried that it would just look like a marketing tactic," Gillis admitted, speaking of GU's public-lands initiatives. But after the company took a group of employees and GU-sponsored athletes to Bears Ears last year, he felt reassured. They visited the Canyon Discovery Center (formerly the Four Corners School) in Monticello, Utah, and biked around the monument for a few days. The experience, he said, helped the rest of the company understand "why we felt a need to take a stand on this issue."

And yet, despite all the outdoor industry's idealistic talk, something still seemed to be missing, as far as the Native American panelists were concerned.

"We all grew up in sheep camp — herding sheep — but rock climbing was such a foreign concept on Navajo Nation," said Aaron Mike, a member of the Navajo Nation and founder of Pangaea Mountain Guides. Native people often view places like Bears Ears differently from non-Natives, he explained. "It's not just a venue for outdoor recreation — it's our home."

When I brought this up with Corley Kenna, she acknowledged that outdoor recreation "is a very white industry." But Patagonia is trying to reverse that trend, she said, by bringing Native voices to the forefront of its public-land activism. Willie Grayeyes — chair of the Utah Diné Bikéyah, an all-Native nonprofit focused on protecting Bears Ears — would be giving a presentation about the importance of Bears Ears in Patagonia's Salt Lake City store.

Regardless, Indigenous peoples often struggle to feel at home in the privileged world of \$190 lift tickets and \$500 ski jackets. "A lot of Native women feel self-conscious about not having all the right gear," said Varela.

Still, the main reason you won't find Varela wearing many of the brands on offer at the trade show is less a

practical matter than a philosophical one — one that speaks volumes about today's outdoor recreation culture. At the end of the panel, someone in the audience raised his hand: Dustin Martin, member of the Navajo Nation and director of a group called Wings of America, which aims to empower Indigenous youth through running. He applauded the industry's efforts to get more Native people involved in outdoor recreation, but wondered how far those efforts will go if they can't afford a plane ticket to Aspen and a closetful of gear.

"The way that we Native people recreate is often not the way white people recreate," Martin explained to the mostly white crowd, who were clad in outdoor-chic flannel and expensive down coats. "We don't need a Klean Kanteen and a super-fancy sleeping bag."

Correspondent Sarah Tory lives in Paonia, CO. In between writing assignments, she is often climbing, running, skiing — and sometimes Instagramming — in the Elk Mountains.

Editor's Note: This is an example of how we all 'vote' with our spending habits, whether we know it or not - we are either voting yes - because we bought an item - or no because we bought from a competitor. Their political or environmental leanings become ours through the dollars we spend on items from certain retailers or manufacturers. Think about that the next time you buy... do your homework and make your dollars count and don't support eco-unfriendly companies...just like sweat shops that use child labor. We all have a choice, so use it wisely.

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Aenoheo'o ~ Red-tail Hawk

Story & Artwork by Valerie Wedel

Red-tail Hawk, shining in the morning sun... Wheeling above us, silk cloud billowing on the wind... The morning sun is still low in the sky, and Red-tail Hawk flows through the air. His tail flashes scarlet in the early light. As the northern Cheyenne might greet him when living here, Aenoheo'o!

Myriad tiny birds (who have poked holes in the side of my house) hide when Red-Tail glides past. Even my cat, supervisor of humans, and ferocious hunter of varmints, remains discretely out of sight of Red-tail Hawk. Glorious tail on fire in the sun, Red-tail soars, hunting. Aenoheo'o.

Red-tail and his family live here, at 8500 feet elevation in Colorado, year round. There are Ponderosa trees on this land that the family calls home. Although their plumage is like camouflage, one can spot Red-tail perched near the top of his Ponderosa, once you know where to look. This hawk family, with whom I enjoy morning coffee, are fond of this canyon. It has an ideal mix of open grass terraces for hunting, and tall Ponderosa's for nesting.

Known to modern scientists as *Buteo jamaicensis*, Red-tail Hawks are the most common raptors in Colorado. Red-tail Hawks are also some of the largest members of the hawk family. Females are about 1/3 larger than males. Adults can weigh from 1.5- 4 pounds, and have a wingspan of 46 – 58 inches. Happy here in Colorado, they also live in many other parts of North America.

Aenoheo'o mostly hunt rodents. Local populations of voles, mice and chipmunks are all on the menu. Red-tails hawks may nosh the occasional bird, rabbit or snake. Red-tail hunts during the day, with eyesight that is about eight times more powerful than humans.

In the mornings, one sees Red-tail gliding in the east. Some say the Lakota Sioux people sing of Cetan, Hawk Spirit, Spirit of the East. Cetan has speed, dedication and good vision. Others say Cetan represents spirit protection. So if one sees Red-tail very often, he might be calling one to wake up, see a larger picture, pay attention, and remember... perhaps one may need protection and help, and both are here.

Some also say Red-tail calls us to recognize and rejoice our tribe. My ancestors are Celtic, viking, forest-dwelling Germanic, and the nomads from high rolling planes of eurasia and the Back Sea. We too have songs and stories of Hawk.

Celtic ancestors associated Hawks as a messenger from the Otherworld of spirit. So our Red-tail hawk, or Coch-gynffon, as my Welsh relatives might have said, may appear as a warning to both beware and to be aware. It might be a sign to examine one's life, to be prepared for change and letting go. A hawk was the special symbol of King Bran, warrior, giant, and figure of mystery and magic, who traveled back and forth between earth and the Otherworld. In the distant mists of legend, long before the time of Arthur, King Bran is said to have ruled all of Britain and the Celtic lands from his ancient royal seat in Wales.

Returning to here and now in Colorado, sometime in April or May, Red-Tail and his mate may create a spectacular sky courtship dance. Like eagles, they may hook their talons together and spiral downward, breaking apart to wing upwards only at the very last moment. Once they have chosen each other, they mate for life.

Lady Red-tail lays one to four eggs. Her mate hunts for her until their eggs hatch, after about 28-34 days. Perched

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high above the ground in a Ponderosa tree nest, sometime in late May or June, a new generation of hawk babies hatch. Both parents hunt for the hatchlings until they grow feathers and learn to fly, at about 6 weeks. Then mom and dad teach the fledglings to hunt, and to help build and repair nests.

Young Red-tails do not yet have red tails! When the hawks are about two- three years old their spectacular tail feathers begin to grow in red, after moulting earlier brown tail feathers. That red tail is a sign of maturity. Although mature Red-tail hawks are easily recognized by their tails, no two are exactly alike. Each individual hawk has plumage as distinct as a human fingerprint.

Red-tail hawks can live as long as 20 years, and the same family will return to their nest year after year. Multiple generations of a hawk family will use the same nest. They also build and share a small collection of nests.

A single breeding pair may have two to five different nests within a square mile, which they rotate using. When a Red-tail nest is empty, it is not uncommon for other hunting birds such as owls to borrow the nest. Typically Red-tail Hawk nests are 30 – 60 feet above the ground, built of sticks and branches. The nests are refurbished and enlarged over time, and by each succeeding generation.

Red-tail, dancing overhead, hovering in headwinds, gliding... Looking up in the mornings, I see you. Those moments when your tail flashes fire in the sun are jewels of being alive, and here, with you, in paradise.



If Red-tail calls us to remember, to rejoin our tribe, who do you choose? I choose our human and earth tribes! I call upon deep kinship with distant ancestresses. Wild and free nomadic people - women - mounted on fleet steppes horses. Those far distant sisters and great-great-great-grandmothers hunted with the eagles and hawks, protecting and feeding their families and tribes. May we gently welcome such change. Coch-gynffon, Aenoheo’o, welcome Red-tail!

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Idaho's Caribou Teach A Harsh Lesson

By Ben Long

To steal a line from the poet T.S. Eliot: This is the way the world ends / Not with a bang but a whimper. Worse yet, extinction comes without even a whimper, only a click and a yawn.

The end of the line seems imminent for the last caribou of the Lower 48. Woodland caribou once roamed the forested northern tier from Maine to Michigan to Washington state, as they had for centuries. One herd has struggled for decades along the border of Washington, Idaho and British Columbia, in the Selkirk Mountain Range. Although I have seen the distinctive footprints of these caribou, I never caught up with any of them on the hoof.

Now, my chances may soon be over. Biologists recently completed their winter survey of these animals and found only three individuals in the Selkirks. This is down from nearly fifty a decade ago. All three caribou are female. You don't need a degree in biology to know how this story ends.

Even if those animals happen to be pregnant, the outlook is grim, said biologist Bart George, who works for the Kalispel Tribe of Indians.

"We are all in mourning," George told me.

The southern population of mountain caribou in British Columbia, Alberta, Washington and Idaho is in a tailspin. The Selkirks are one of perhaps 15 mountain ranges that face similar problems, though some are not quite as dire.

I've been writing about these caribou for 30 years and reading about them my entire life. In my business —

conservation and journalism — I write about extinction frequently. But it's usually an abstract concept, something that could happen in the future, or has already happened in the past. This is happening now, on our watch.

Mountain caribou are uniquely adapted to life in snowy mountains. They thrive so well in harsh winter climates that they migrate up the mountains in the winter, surviving on certain types of lichen that hang from low tree branches. It's a precarious way to make a living, though, and it doesn't take much to impact their survival.

Caribou get killed by cars and poachers and cougars and wolves. But these are tiny nicks in the population compared to the slashing wounds of the large-scale clear-cut logging that has swept over British Columbia, Idaho and Washington since the 1960s. I don't intend to point fingers; I print words on pulp, live in a wooden house and have friends and neighbors who make a living cutting and milling trees. But clear-cuts are killing the caribou. It's just a fact.

I believe that people have a right to log trees, but also a responsibility not to push our fellow beings into oblivion. That was the idea behind the Endangered Species Act. Extinction can be a natural process, but not when it's driven by human greed and consumption. The Endangered Species Act is sometimes described as the "emergency room" of conservation. Unfortunately, critical care appears to be coming too little and too late for our caribou.

I could tell you all about how humanity's fate is tied to our natural world, how healthy forests are crucial for clean water and "ecosystem services." But forget all that. I'll just

say this: Caribou have a right to be here, and our nation is poorer without them. Extinction doesn't always come about with a meteor strike from outer space. It's usually a slower process — a trickle of bad news that comes gradually to a stop.

A few decades ago, there were about fifty caribou in the Selkirks; now, there are maybe three. Today, there are less than 100 bighorn sheep left in the Teton Range near Jackson Hole, Wyoming. There are about 75 resident orca whales in Puget Sound off Seattle. When population numbers get this low, conservation gets expensive, and the odds of survival grow increasingly long.

The Endangered Species Act is important, but the way out of this cycle is to not end up relying on it so heavily



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in the first place — to keep the land and water and wildlife healthy enough to not need the emergency room. For that, we need to acknowledge that wildlife habitat has a value, whether we are weighing it against cheap oil and a policy of “energy dominance,” or the growth of another foothills subdivision, or just the price of a two-by-four at the lumberyard.

Only a tiny handful of U.S. news outlets have even mentioned the crisis of the Selkirk caribou. I guess extinction in our time cannot compete against the latest tweetstorm from Hollywood or Washington, D.C. There is only a whimper, or maybe a few tears. I want to believe that America can do better than that. For the sake of our grandchildren, I hope I am right.

(Photo of Woodland caribou by Camelia Ibrahim.)



Ben Long is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). He is senior program director for Resource Media in Kalispell, Montana.

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If Outdoor Recreation Leads To Conservation?

By Ethan Linck – High Country News

The twin summits of the mountain that U.S. Geological Survey Capt. George Davidson called “The Brothers” are 60 miles from Seattle on the far side of Puget Sound. From my office in the biology department at the University of Washington, I can just see their upper reaches, a sliver of alpine splendor beyond the snarl of traffic and slow waltz of the city’s construction cranes. For years, the view was a constant temptation, and on a clear autumn afternoon not long ago, I gave in to it, resolving to skip work the next day and go for a run.

I texted my friend Richard, and by 8 a.m. the following morning, we were jogging up switchbacks through Douglas fir dotted with darkly gleaming rhododendrons. Carrying carbon-fiber running vests, energy gel packets and 10-ounce windbreakers, we climbed quickly and had soon left the woods behind to enter a high domain of rock and dew and lichen. This late in a dry year there was no snow in the gully leading to the summit, so we found ourselves negotiating fluid scree, leaping between larger islands of rotten volcanic rock. We moved fast in heavy fog, alone among wheeling ravens and silent stone buttresses. High on the pleasure of movement, the thrill of exposure, and the vastness of the mountain, we were stoked.

I’ve spent a lot of my adult life in search of stoke, and like a lot of recreationists, I have implicitly linked my passion for skiing, climbing and running with a passion for conservation and environmental stewardship. But after accepting this premise for most of a decade, I am no longer so sure. Can outdoor recreation really support conservation for the long-term health of the land, not just human access?

In the face of the daunting planetary environmental challenges ahead, can stoke really save us? I suspect the answer is a hollow no.

There is a quote by Edward Abbey that I am convinced will outlast all his others. Long after the stoic beauty of *Desert Solitaire* fades into oblivion, after the ribaldry of *The Monkey Wrench Gang* is discarded, a knotty paragraph from a pair of speeches in the late 1970s will persist against the odds. It will appear on aluminum mugs with built-in carabiners and in ornate text on Sierra Club calendars, and ever adorn the Instagram captions that have become the *raison d’être* for people who drive \$65,000 vans and covet long-exposure shots of illuminated tents beneath the Milky Way: “Do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am — a reluctant enthusiast ... a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it’s still here.”

It is very much Abbey in tone and in its focus on paradoxes, and is as good a monument to the man as any. But I think its continuing popularity will have less to do with that and more to do with how well it articulates the modern idea that recreation can itself be something of a conservation act. I first encountered the idea as a college student, and it felt like a revelation. It was as if my own skiing, running and climbing were suddenly infused with righteous purpose. I wasn’t alone: From the social media posts of brand ambassadors to the mission statements of conservation NGOs to outdoor industry fact sheets, the link between outdoor recreation and land conservation was

widely reinforced. Ultimately, however, this same relentless positivity began to arouse my suspicions. Wasn’t it just a bit convenient that the goals of an \$887 billion industry so perfectly aligned with a major goal of environmentalism — that what was good for business was good for the Earth? At some point along the way, the scientist in me got the better of the recreationist, and I began to wonder whether any evidence existed to support Abbey’s premise. Was it really more important to enjoy the land than to fight for it? And if so, important to whom?

I was not the first to ponder this. In the early 1970s, Riley Dunlap and Robert Heffernan, two sociologists from Washington State University, became interested in a closely related

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question. They wanted to know how an emphasis on outdoor recreation in society might relate to the emergence of the burgeoning environmental movement and “the corollary rise of public concern with environmental quality.” Using data from a large survey of Washington residents about their priorities for public funding, Dunlap and Heffernan tested three questions: whether outdoor recreation was correlated with “environmental concern,” or how important respondents thought it was to address contemporary environmental problems; whether the difference between “appreciative” sports like cross-country skiing and “consumptive” sports like hunting made a difference.

The pair’s findings, published in 1975 in the journal *Rural Sociology*, were mixed. On the whole, outdoor recreation was only weakly correlated with environmental concern, and even this depended on the type of recreation and the particular environmental problem. People who hiked or hunted, for example, showed some concern for protecting endangered wildlife, but people who visited national parks did not. Campers were concerned with agricultural pollution, but no group was particularly concerned with industrial pollution. (This was the 1970s, after all.)

Dunlap and Heffernan’s second and third hypotheses, meanwhile, were strongly supported. Other than the issue of wildlife protection, participants in appreciative activities always showed higher levels of concern for environmental issues than participants in consumptive activities. And in all cases, survey respondents cared more about environmental issues that affected their choice of recreation than issues that did not.

Forty years out, this paper has proven highly influential, producing a cascade of follow-up case studies that continues to this day. If anything can be generalized about all this research, it is that the conclusions vary, but that recreation does less than you might expect for environmental concerns. On balance, a 2009 review in the *Journal of Experiential Education* decided that the jury was still out: “Whether a person recreates in the outdoors does not alone predict his or her environmental attitudes.” What does? Discouragingly, the answer appears to be our identities, politics and circumstances. In many studies testing Dunlap and Heffernan’s hypotheses, socioeconomic variables such as gender, income, education and size of home municipality often had more to do with a person’s attitude toward the environment than his or her outdoor recreational activities. This helps explain why so many beautiful trails are strewn with hiker trash, or why, in the middle of a forest glade, you’ll find a faded can of Coors. It is why for every pretty place you visit, you’ll find an enraged leave-no-trace extremist, and why few people show much compunction about idling their cars at the entrance of Arches National Park, pumping 20 pounds of

carbon dioxide per gallon into the desert air.

This is partly because outdoor recreation is far from unified in its goals and values. When Dunlap and Heffernan conducted their study, a clearer distinction existed in the kinds of activities people undertook. Appreciative activities included hiking, backpacking and photography.

In the fight over Bears Ears and other national monument reductions, the appreciative sector of the outdoor industry has firmly aligned itself against President Donald Trump’s “energy first” (clearly consumptive) agenda. After the president issued an executive order reducing the size of Bears Ears by 85% and Grand Staircase-Escalante by half, the outdoor retailer Patagonia took the unprecedented (and widely covered) step of replacing its homepage with a stark message: “The President Stole Your Land.” How much are most of the other brands that cater to appreciative recreationists actually contributing to conservation? There are few appropriate data available to directly address this question. But there’s suggestive evidence that while the outdoor recreation industry is willing to take a public stand for wild places — to pledge its commitment to conservation as a political badge — it remains unwilling to pay for that commitment on any terms but its own.

Should we fight for public lands because they provide us with recreation opportunities, or (Continued next page.)

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because they support biodiversity? Should we only protect those plants and animals that directly benefit us or that we find beautiful — or should we fight for the entire community of life? The field of conservation biology tells us that long-term ecological stability requires the latter.

Even if outdoor industry groups manage to engage in some political battles, or kick some money toward environmental protection, recreationist-driven conservation has historically failed to align with the principles of conservation biology. That's largely because of the emphasis on awe-inspiring scenery at the expense of biodiversity-rich lowlands, and wildlife management that favors prey species at the expense of ecosystems. This is especially true in the mountainous West.

There's also little to suggest that appreciative recreation will expand beyond its fixation on rock and ice. The highly biodiverse but somewhat uncharismatic Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, facing similar threats of reduction from the Trump administration, has received a fraction of the attention from industry groups that the iconic, climbable, bikeable sandstone of Bears Ears has.

What, then, are we to do? Lock ourselves indoors and despair? I don't think so. For while recreation alone may be a poor way to instill environmental ethics, it's a good place



Alex Brunst/ Tandem Stock

to start — emphasis here on “place.” By developing what sociologists call place attachment — a sense of identity and dependence on local landscapes and the ways they enrich our lives — we can move beyond the myopic view of the natural world as a playground, and towards something more sustainable and morally defensible.

In fact, there's evidence from a diversity of studies (in the U.S., Japan, Europe and elsewhere) that place attachment may be the only thing that cuts across socioeconomic divides to predict environmentally friendly behavior. At least some of this research has also found that dedicated, regular participation in outdoor recreation can help us develop this connection. This gives me hope that a different outdoor recreation culture, one that emphasized the pleasure of knowing the wild nearby, could be a powerful force in building these links. For as much as we need arguments for self-willed nature that invoke Wallace Stegner's “geography of hope” and the spiritual reserves of wilderness beyond the horizon, we also need daily practices that form bonds with places that are the backdrops to our lives.

Three hours after leaving the car, Richard and I broke out above the inversion onto the top of Mount Edward. Basking in sunlight as the Olympics put on a vertiginous tease through tatters of cloud, I felt there as if there was nothing better to be doing in the entire world. There is a poetry to the movement of human bodies through landscapes, a joy and beauty that are their own worthwhile ends. As Abbey would have put it: We were enjoying ourselves, with our brains in our heads and our heads firmly attached to our bodies, active and alive. We turned and began to careen downhill, our elation at learning to know a new corner of home as powerful as the brisk westerly cracking open the great gray bowl of the Northwestern sky. It was a feeling related to, but distinct from, stoke.

Ethan Linck has written about science and nature for Los Angeles Review of Books, Undark and Slate. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington, where he studies evolution and genetics in birds.



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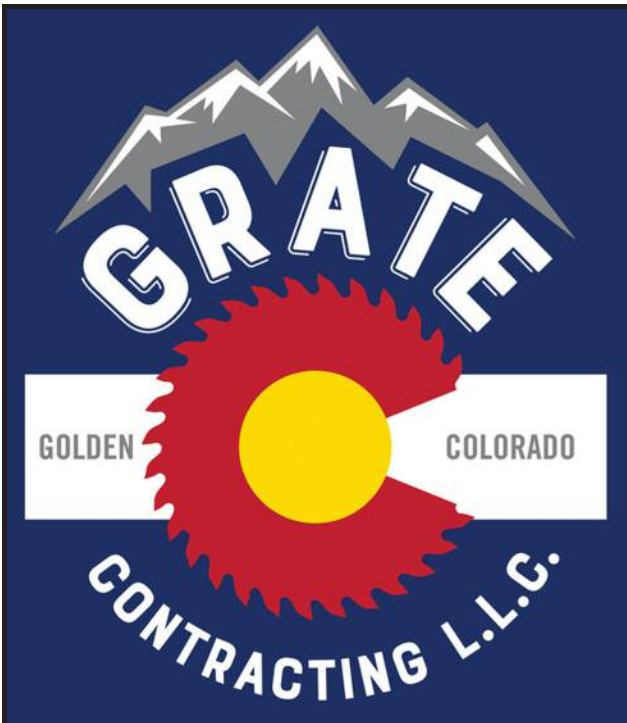
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Weather emergencies may scare your kids, but helping them understand what to expect can help reduce the stress. Carefully go over your family emergency plan and teach them how to stay safe whatever the disaster.

Emergency Preparedness

Getting Ready for a Disaster - Complete the following with your family so severe weather doesn't catch you off guard:

Create an emergency supplies kit. Include water, nonperishable food, flashlights, blankets and kid-friendly activities.

Practice your emergency plan. Include two evacuation routes, a safe room and two different meet-up locations - and make sure kids can run through it calmly.

Run through the basics. Kids should know how to call 911, identify themselves, identify their location, reach emergency contacts and get to predetermined safe locations.

Know the Various Weather Scenarios

Teach your kids about the different disasters and how to react in each:

Tornado:

Go into the lowest level of the building and stay away from windows, doors and outside walls. If you are outside with no car or nearby shelter, lie down in a ditch and protect your head.

Severe thunderstorm:

Go indoors if you see lightning or hear thunder, and don't use items that plug into electrical outlets. Avoid using running water, as faucets can conduct electricity.

Earthquake:

Practice the 'Drop, Cover and Hold On' method, and learn to recognize safe places in each room at home and at school.

Flooding:

Don't go into flooded areas. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet, and standing floodwater could be contaminated or contain sharp objects.

Don't wait too long to create a digital or hard copy home inventory

Challenge:

List every possession you own, along with each item's worth. Imagine doing this after your belongings have been stolen or destroyed in a fire or natural disaster. The task may now seem impossible.

Fortunately, there are a number of digital options which make the process a simpler one using mobile devices. If you have an iPhone or Android phone, there are even applications that can be downloaded to your phone, some of which are free in your app store.

Why do I need a home inventory?

A home inventory can be used to help you make coverage decisions. It also can simplify filing an insurance claim, help you secure a settlement and prove useful when verifying property loss for taxes.

Despite the importance of an inventory, many individuals don't have a detailed record of their belongings. According to the most recent survey from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (2012), 59% of consumers don't have an inventory. Of those who do, many haven't kept their records up to date or didn't include the necessary documentation.

Editor's Note: You could take photos of the interior of your home and then save them off the premises, on the cloud, a thumbdrive or in a safety deposit box.



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Make Govt. Work ~ Canyon Cares

Dear Editor,

“Government is total disaster; elect me and I’ll prove it to you!” You may not hear those exact words, but that thought is very often conveyed by Republican candidates for statewide and nationwide office. They don’t like government and are not particularly interested in making it work. For example, Republican efforts to weaken Obamacare are taking their toll, and they will point to that as an example of another government failure.

Do you think that bump stock modifications of automatic weapons should be legal in Colorado? Probably not. Polls show that a large majority of Americans believe that bump stocks should be banned by law. When such a bill was proposed in the Colorado legislature and passed by the House, it was killed on a party line vote in the Senate where Republicans hold the majority by one seat.

Do you think that people known by family and friends to be in the midst of a mental health crisis and a possible threat to themselves or others should be allowed access to guns? Again, most people think something should be done to restrict gun ownership by people in a mental health crisis who may harm themselves or others, just like it has been in many other states. When such a bill, known as the “Red

Flag Bill,” was passed in the House, it too was killed in the Senate by the NRA controlled Republican majority, another example of Republicans proving how ineffective government is at doing what citizens want.

Other bills that most Coloradans support like ending unlimited money in school board elections, incentivizing renewable energy, supporting universal full-day kindergarten programs, allowing Coloradans to get cheaper prescription drugs from Canada and establishing suicide prevention programs in schools also died in the Republican controlled Colorado Senate. Look around and you’ll see many other government “failures.” Ask yourself why is that? This shouldn’t be that hard!

It seems that the government’s apparent failures in Colorado are caused by Colorado Senators like Tim Neville, who don’t really believe in government, and they want to prove that it’s a total disaster. Mr. Neville is the Republican incumbent candidate for Senate District 16; he’s being opposed in November’s election by Tammy Story who wants to work hard to make government work for you, not against you.

Tammy will be there for you on public education, the environment, sensible gun laws, *(Continued next page.)*

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Highlander Letters

government efficiency and accountability, and transportation. Her web address is story4co.com where you can learn more and find ways to contribute to her campaign. Financial contributions are very important for this race because Mr. Neville will be receiving truckloads of cash from gun rights organizations and the Koch brothers, and we know those guys care more about selling guns and burning coal than they care about the interests and needs of Coloradans.

Flipping just one seat in the Colorado Senate can really turn things around during the next legislative session; voters can choose candidates that will make government work for the people of Colorado. That's what Tammy Story will do with support from voters in Senate District 16.

Bob Kropfli

Dear Readers,

Do you need help? Are you, or someone you know experiencing a crisis? Are there bills you can't pay due to a life-changing situation – like losing your job or family

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All donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law and are acknowledged with a written receipt.

Please, help us continue to help others! Thank you,

Lorraine Revelle

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The Buffalo continue to teach.

As our co-founder, Rosalie, once said, the majority of our struggles will be human centered, not buffalo related.

*And so I continue to Reach deep
Wanting to believe That in every man
There lies a heart*

That is beating itself toward the light!

If I see "them" as the enemy, there can be no resolution.

We are in this together.

This week, an old cow bison died on the Horse Butte Peninsula.

*She died where thousands of her sisters
- her Mother, her Grandmother -
have come to bring New Life to the Wild.*

*We can feel certain in the knowing that we have been
with her since her beginning - through the years of
management plans-she has been a survivor, she has
brought forth new life - she has nurtured;
has walked this land.*

*She passed this week with life inside her -
with our female warriors around her.*

*Singing songs, burning sage stroking her graceful head -
Her herd and all the New Life around her.*

*She passed this week with the agents who manage the
wild standing by.*

Allowing for the sacred to pass into the next realm.

No, it was not us vs. them

*It was humans... together bearing witness to
the cycle of life.*

We ask

*Her head again offered - her body will not be thrown in
the dump, but given to wild in captivity-Baby Steps!*

We have been here before -

*We take the head of this once Graceful Beast
We honor her - her flesh will go to the scavengers
Will be returned to the Earth*

*flies, ants, beetles, and birds will clean her skull
she rests now with the circle of life - offerings below her -
gazing south westwardly*

*Blood red skull shining with light
Starry dynamo in the Big Sky*

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A New Law Could Change Nature of Wilderness

By Carl Segerstrom - High Country News

Ted Stroll, a bespectacled, balding, retired attorney whose remaining hair is short and white, doesn't fit the stereotype of an extremist mountain biker. But his group, the Sustainable Trails Coalition, is challenging the mainstream mountain biking establishment by fighting to permit bikes in America's wilderness areas.

Stroll's crusade has sparked strong resistance, particularly from wilderness advocates and environmentalists. His alliance with notoriously environmentally unfriendly Republican congressmen, whom he has enlisted to push a bikes-in-wilderness bill, is particularly controversial. Stroll's group has alienated would-be allies in the mountain biking community, who are loath to ostracize the greater recreation and conservation communities, especially at a time when many feel public-lands protections are taking a back seat to extractive industries.

The original text of the 1964 Wilderness Act bans "mechanical transport" — and bicycles are clearly a form of mechanized transport. For the federal agencies tasked with enforcing the ban, however, the definition hasn't always been clear-cut.

In 1966, in its first rule on the issue, the Forest Service banned only devices powered "by a nonliving power source." That left the door open for bicycles. Mountain bikes did not yet exist, however, so neither the original framers of the law, nor the agencies interpreting it a couple of years later, even considered the possibility of bikes venturing into the mostly roadless areas and extremely rugged trails.

In 1977, as the first mountain bikes were being manufactured — evolving beyond the earliest jerry-rigged



A mountain biker in the Boulder-White Clouds Mountains in Idaho, before the area was designated wilderness. Leslie Kehmeier/IMBA
cruisers — the Forest Service changed its rules to prohibit bikes in wilderness areas. After a couple of conflicting decisions in the early 1980s, the agency confirmed the prohibition in 1984. By that time, mountain bikes were being mass-produced and rapidly gaining in popularity. Still, the ban has stood ever since.

Now, however, that may be about to change. H.R. 1349, introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., would amend the mechanized transport section ban of the Wilderness Act to read: "Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of motorized wheelchairs, non-motorized wheelchairs, non-motorized bicycles, strollers, wheelbarrows, survey wheels, measuring wheels, or game carts within any wilderness area." Utah Republican Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee brought similar legislation to the Senate floor in 2016.

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A silhouette of a person riding a horse, positioned in front of a large, stylized tree silhouette. The scene is set against a dark background with a light-colored path or stream winding through it.

Many environmental groups are opposed to the idea of allowing bikes into wilderness, but even some of the more permissive ones were alarmed by the congressmen carrying Stroll's water. All three made the Center for Biological Diversity's "Top 15 'Public Lands Enemies' in Congress" list in 2017. Hatch and Lee are both standard-bearers for the federal land-transfer movement and favor opening public lands to extractive industries. President Donald Trump dedicated his controversial shrinking of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments to the Utah senators.

The mountain bike industry's most prominent voice for expanded access, the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), opposes the legislation, arguing that it could undercut the important relationships already forged between the outdoors and public-lands communities. IMBA has long fought against the loss of mountain bike access to wilderness areas, but has largely focused its efforts on making sure new designations don't include popular trails. In some cases, it has lobbied for modifying existing wilderness so that trails lie outside the boundaries. The organization has worked with wilderness advocates to come up with mountain-bike-friendly compromises.

In a letter stating its opposition to the House bill, IMBA writes that collaborative efforts with Congress and land managers on future land designations are a proven way for bikers to gain or maintain access to trails. IMBA also cautioned that the legislative push could alienate the conservation community. "Public lands are being threatened at an unprecedented level, and it's imperative that public land users come together to protect these cherished places and offer our voices in this critical dialogue," wrote Dave Weins, IMBA's executive director, in a letter to members describing the organization's stance on bikes in wilderness.

Conservation groups have formed a broad coalition against what they've dubbed the "Wheels Over Wilderness" bill. In an open letter to Congress, 133 groups asked legislators to oppose it. A separate joint letter from The Wilderness Society, Back Country Horsemen of America and the Pacific Crest Trail Association wrote that the bill "undermines one of our nation's bedrock conservation laws, jeopardizes America's wilderness and won't advance mountain biking."

Stroll, however, remains undaunted. "The real fear isn't that mountain biking will cause problems, but that it won't cause problems," he says. Stroll predicts that if the Sustainable Trail Coalition's quest succeeds, no harm will come from biking in wilderness. Instead, backcountry access will improve for everyone, and his detractors "will be left with egg on their face."

Carl Segerstrom is an HCN editorial intern from a mining and timber town in the Sierra Nevada foothills. In his free time, he likes to explore the high country with his wife and dog.

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Bear Paw

By Pat Foss

I can see the hills in Canada from here. The Nez Perce could see them too. Two days from freedom.

I stopped at this lonely place, rarely visited. I sat on a bluff and a solitary sand hill crane flew in front of me...speaking. I stayed. I could feel it. 700 Nez Perce...some warriors but mostly women and children camped here. I walked by the river where they camped. Little piles of offerings had been left by rememberers. A necklace, a silver arrowhead, coins, a baseball, tobacco, a few bullets...whatever they had, they gave.

When the soldiers came the warriors fought them off. But they were surrounded. It became a siege. It was winter. Soon they were starving and freezing. Chief Joseph could face reality, it was hopeless.

It is cold, and we have no blankets; the little children are



(Top photo by Pat Foss. Bottom: courtesy F. Young.)

freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are - perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children, and see how many of them I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my Chiefs! I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever.

Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce (1840?-1904) was known to his people as "Thunder Traveling to the Loftier Mountain Heights." He led his people in an attempt to resist the takeover of their lands in the Oregon Territory by white settlers. In 1877, the Nez Perce were ordered to move to a reservation in Idaho. Chief Joseph tried to flee to Canada with his followers, traveling over 1500 miles through Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

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What Nice People Leave

By Marjorie “Slim” Woodruff

Leave No Trace means just that: Travel as though you were being followed by IRS agents, and you don’t want them to ever track you down.

We need to carry it out. All. Of. It. Even though there are objects so beyond the pale that people who don’t think they care about litter — those unfortunates who have never heard of **Leave No Trace** — are appalled when they see them. But I promise you: This is not a minor offense. Those who leave these items behind are a hissing and a byword to the rest of us. Those items include:

Feces. Your own, your animal’s, your toddler’s. Yes, we all have to “go,” but we don’t have to leave it out in the open for everyone to admire. It does not work to hide it under a rock. It certainly does not work to hide it behind a rock. Bury it. Six inches deep, and carry out your poo paper. Your dog’s waste needs to be carried out, too, along with your youngest issue’s diapers.

Poo undies. Or shirts. Or socks. Or bandannas. Whatsoever people use when they are out of poo paper, and their need is dire. They desperately grasp at anything even remotely absorbent. Then they certainly don’t want to touch it again, so it is left behind for the rest of us. One can almost (*almost*) understand their wishful thinking — the idea that paper will eventually vanish — but a whole T-shirt? Don’t fool yourself.

Glow sticks. Why are these even a thing? Plastic is bad enough. But plastic filled with toxic chemicals? These things do not replace flashlights. Is this really a replicable skill? And then leaving them behind to festoon the flora? Negatory.

Cigarette butts. To reiterate: They are toxic, and they don’t rot. Animals eat them, to their detriment. Also, smoldering butts set fire to things that the rest of us need, like forests.

External speakers. The only thing I want to hear with a beat is my own heart. External speakers are the second-hand smoke of Natural Quiet. If you cannot stand to be alone with your thoughts for more than five minutes, invest in a pair of ear buds. The rest of us want to listen to the wind, or birdsong, or the gentle susurrantion of running water. I have already decided that the next time I encounter one of these audibly “sharing” persons, I will start singing at the top of my lungs. I am considering the immortal Sheri Lewis’ “The Song That Never Ends.” Be afraid; be very afraid.

Plastic single-use water bottles. Particularly the cute, tiny ones that hold 8 ounces of water. Again, why are these a thing? Ten years ago, if I had told people they would pay \$5 a gallon for glorified tap water in a bottle that they would use only once and then deposit in the ocean, they

would’ve scoffed. A million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute. They are expensive, wasteful, contain BPA, and often have more bacteria than water from the tap. The bottles degrade and get into the food chain. Buy a bleeping canteen and fill it from the faucet. Yes, the canteens will eventually disintegrate, but I have canteens older than my kid. And they are purple and have witty stickers.

Painted rocks. These apparently are the newest fad. Some of them are quite adorable, but not on the trail. If you must nick geology specimens from the public lands and adorn them with animal faces or poetry or whatever, keep them on your shelf. Post them on Facebook. Eat them, or bury them with your poop. Just do not leave them on the trail. And rocks with a hashtag on the back? Those are taken straight to the law enforcement rangers.

Of course, many other people besides me care about random litter, too, and some of them do something about it. The Arizona Mountaineering Club comes two or three times a year and rappels down Grand Canyon to pick up discards under popular viewpoints. The Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association goes down at least two weeks during the year to pick up trash, clean graffiti off rocks, and do projects for the park.

Staffers at Arizona Public Service often volunteer for a day picking stuff up along the canyon rim, and Grand Canyon Association members do litter pickup and other park-authorized projects before their annual picnic in July. A local group called Greens Grand Canyon South Rim does a litter pickup once a month, mostly on the rim, and there are many other groups that pitch in.

Every litter bit helps, but as any volunteer can tell you, a week after they leave, butts and poop and water bottles and other detritus are baaaaaaack — and the bending-over job starts all over again.

Marjorie “Slim” Woodruff is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She works with visitors at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.



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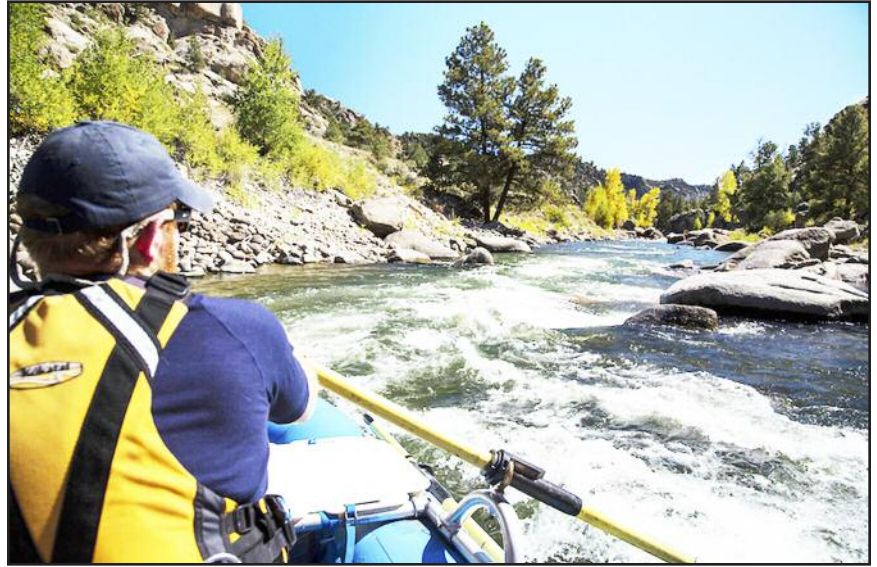
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CO: Fishing Next To Private Land Is Trespassing

By Mark Squillace - High Country News

If you care about fishing or boating Colorado’s rivers, this ongoing legal case should have relevance for you. Roger Hill is a 76-year-old Coloradan who likes to fish while standing on the bed of a stream. One of his favorite spots is a stretch of the Arkansas River below Salida.

A local landowner claims that Hill is trespassing when he stands on the streambed adjacent to the landowner’s property. He has responded by repeatedly throwing rocks at Hill while he is fishing and leaving threatening notes on his car. The landowner even shot at one of Hill’s fishing buddies, though he was thrown in jail for that little stunt.



A rafter floats the Arkansas River near Salida, Colorado.
Bob Wick / BLM

Hill claims a right to fish from the streambed on the grounds that the stretch of the Arkansas River where he fishes is navigable and that the state of Colorado thereby owns the bed of the stream. So he sued the landowner.

Now, Colorado has moved to dismiss the case, arguing that it cannot go forward without the state’s participation. In a complicated argument, the state also claims that because it has not consented to being sued, the case must be dismissed. Mind you, the state could simply waive its immunity claim and support the right of people like Hill to fish. Instead, the state is actively seeking to block Hill’s claim that he has the right to access navigable streams. The notion that states own the beds of navigable streams derives from a constitutional principle known as the “equal footing doctrine.” It provides that when states enter the union, they do so on an “equal footing” with other states. Though Colorado is home to many substantial rivers and streams, none have ever been officially declared “navigable” for purposes of determining title to the bed.

This is a much bigger problem in Colorado than in most states. In Colorado, you are deemed a trespasser if you merely float over a riverbed adjacent to private property. As a result, Colorado recreational boaters and fishers use Colorado’s waterways at the sufferance of private landowners. One good way around this problem is to have them declared “navigable” for title purposes, and that is what Roger Hill is seeking to do on the Arkansas River.

The U.S. Supreme Court considers waterways to be navigable for title purposes if they were used or could have been used at the time of statehood as highways for commerce. It is well known that fur traders used the Arkansas River to move their furs, and loggers once sent hundreds of thousands of logs downstream for use as railroad ties. That seems to be evidence that the state owns the bed of the river — not in the conventional sense of a party owning land, but as a protector of public rights.

The Supreme Court’s most eloquent expression of the state as protector of access came in the context of a decision upholding Illinois’ rights to the bed of Lake

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was filed, or even just stayed out of the dispute.

Instead, it seeks to dismiss the case and thereby undermine all the boaters and fishers who merely want to exercise the rights guaranteed to them by the U.S. Constitution. Think about what this means: State leaders charged with protecting public rights in navigable waters are actively seeking to block those rights.

Colorado is renowned for its outdoor recreation, and it seems foolhardy for it to interfere with citizens seeking to exercise their constitutionally protected rights to state waterways. Come November, the people of Colorado will elect a new governor and a new attorney

general. We need to elect leaders who will stand up for the people and protect our public rights, including the public's constitutional right to access Colorado's remarkable navigable waterways.

Photo this page: The Arkansas River flowing through Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, Colorado. Bob Wick / BLM

Note: the opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of High Country News, its board or staff.

Michigan in Chicago Harbor. According to the Supreme Court, title to the bed of navigable water bodies "is a title different in character from that which the state holds in lands intended for sale. ... It is a title held in trust for the people of the state, that they may enjoy the navigation of the waters, carry on commerce over them, and have liberty of fishing therein, freed from the obstruction or interference of private parties."

If the state were properly exercising its trust responsibility to the people of Colorado, then it would have filed this case itself on behalf of Roger Hill. Short of that, it might at least have intervened on his side after the lawsuit

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Make A Stand In Your Own Mind: Hope

By Frosty Wooldridge

Passion drove such men as Leonardo da Vinci to paint the Mona Lisa. That same desire compelled men like the Wright brothers to create an airplane so they could fly. Passion drove Susan B. Anthony to organize the suffragettes to bring voting rights to the women of America. Martin Luther King's fervor vaporized racial barriers for all people in the United States.

Another hundred examples of men and women following their passions could be given. We all benefited from their courage, their faith and their hope.

But what drives most people to make this a better world? I contend that "hope" causes the greatest energy within a human being to persevere, to endure great hardship and to triumph when all else fails.

It reminds me of the story of the three guys who died in a car crash. When they arrived at heaven's gate, St. Peter asked each of them what they hoped folks would say at their funerals as they looked down into the casket:

The first man said, "I hope they mentioned that I was a good doctor, husband and father."

The second man said, "I think they will say that I was a

good family man, hard worker at the office and that I played a great game of tennis."

The third man said smiling, "Look! He's still moving!" Ah, yes, we hope to live forever.

If you remember Pandora's box, the last treasure of "hope" lay at the bottom. It created the foundation for all the other surprises in Pandora's box.

"Hope" drives each of us to work for a better day, a stunning victory and a personal triumph. Those without hope quickly give up, pass on and fail to triumph.

In Dante's Divine Comedy, he spoke about moving through your life until you reached your mid-years where you arrive at a dark woods. Which path will you choose? What do you contemplate for your remaining years?

Are you familiar with Christmas wreaths? During the dark days of winter before the rebirth of the sun on December 21st, ancient people removed their wheels from their carts. They stashed them against their houses while they covered them with pine branches, bulbs and other colorful objects. Within the darkness of the December days, they "hoped" for the sun to shine longer and brighter.

While winter days mean slowing down, you enjoy the chance to rekindle your "hope" with wreaths, ribbons and lights. We face dark days and the hope for brighter days.

During that time, you may plant a seed within your mind




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to bring thought to form. You may inject an idea into the universal “mind” to germinate throughout the winter, which in turn may birth in the spring. Make a stand in your mind.

It’s been said that difficulties break some men or women and make others great. That case could be made for the late Nelson Mandela who suffered 27 years of imprisonment for his actions against apartheid. While in prison, he birthed a seed of freedom and kept it burning within him for 27 years. At the end, he became president of the country that imprisoned him. He died as a world leader in the fight for human rights.

History shows us thousands of men and women who maintained hope against all odds. How can you rekindle your hope? 1. Choose an understanding that the universe



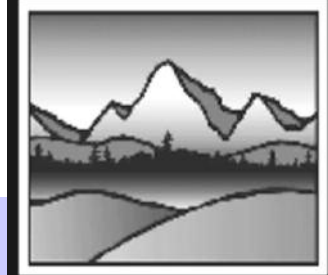
stands with you. Life’s energy moves through every cell in your body. 2. Rekindle your imagination and resourcefulness toward your dreams. 3. Open to possibilities and take a leap of faith toward your intended goals. 4. Know that your expectations coupled with actions create results.

(White-winged pelicans fly thousands of miles to their nesting grounds in Canada with the hope to rear their young.)

Finally, look up the parable of “The Cape.” It features a kid who tied a cape around his neck so he could jump off buildings and fly. Whether you engage a cape or your mind, it’s all up to you how far you can fly.

Ask the Wright brothers!

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Grizzly Bears Wanted Alive

By Wendy Keefover

Once the federal government gave Wyoming and Idaho the authority to manage grizzly bears, one thing was certain: Animals would die. The change will also mean lasting losses for local economies within the grizzly's range.

Over the last three years, the 700 or fewer grizzly bears that roam the Yellowstone ecosystem have faced an unsustainable mortality rate, with about 175 deaths. Even so, last June, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stripped Endangered Species Act protections from these bears and turned over their management to wildlife agencies in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

Now, Wyoming and Idaho have proposed "historic" grizzly bear trophy hunts, marking the first time that grizzly bears have been legally hunted in the lower 48 states since 1975. At first glance, the planned quotas seem

relatively small: 24 bears in Wyoming, and one bear in Idaho. Upon closer scrutiny, though, the picture becomes clearer: Killing grizzlies for trophies, on top of other threats, could drive the bears back to the brink of extinction.

What's at stake? In the early 1800s, somewhere between 47,000 and 72,000 grizzly bears existed in the lower 48 states, according to David Mattson, a wildlife biologist and grizzly bear expert. Now, they number fewer than 2,000. Yet state agencies target this isolated population living within and around Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks.

Culling the largest, healthiest members, as hunters typically do by targeting "trophy" males, means that hunting will weaken the gene pool. Other bears will die inadvertently, as the remaining males vie for mates and space. Moreover, whenever a hunter kills a mother bear, it is likely to cause the deaths of her dependent bear cubs. That will also reduce reproduction and recruitment, sparking a dangerous downward spiral for an already fragile population.

Management of these bears relies on an agreement signed by Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, which lays out particular zones within which the bears have varying levels of protection. Within the national parks, no hunting of grizzly bears is allowed. But immediately outside of the parks, there lies an area within which the three states collectively manage the bear population, divvying up available hunting quotas and providing scant protections beyond maintaining a population minimum of 500 bears. Top conservation

biologists agree that the grizzly bear population has not yet fully recovered and say it was prematurely delisted under the Endangered Species Act. The delisting will allow the population to decline by more than 200 bears to the minimum population of 500 bears. This is well past the point of no return at which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required to intervene.

A major danger to the bears is the lack of "buffer zones" around the parks' perimeter, which means that all Wyoming grizzly bears — including those residing part-time in the parks — are in the crosshairs. Over the objections of many conservation groups as well as of Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk, Wyoming and Idaho will allow hunting right up to the borders of the parks.

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Of course, bears don't recognize borders; their instinct is to move in and out of the parks according to the seasonal availability of food. But the moment the animals step out of the parks, they become targets. Hunters can even kill bears with the help of smelly bait piles in two zones in Wyoming, a method of killing that makes a mockery of the concept of "fair chase."

Wyoming and Idaho have made it plain that they will manage the hunting of the bears extremely aggressively. If this is management, it is a travesty.

Like the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem itself, our grizzly bears are national treasures essential to tourism. According to a 2017 report, travel spending in Wyoming amounted to \$8.9 million dollars per day, for a total of \$3.2 billion in 2016. Wyoming's tourism has increased annually by 4.3 percent since 2000, with visitors supporting 32,000 Wyoming jobs and generating \$894 million in salaries in the travel industry, and \$171 million in 2016 in state and local taxes.

With tourism keeping Wyoming's local economies humming, Wyoming and Idaho ought to manage their grizzly bear populations for sustainability and the benefit of all Americans. Bears don't exist merely for the small number of hunters who want a self-portrait with a dead bear to "show off" on social media, along with a mounted trophy for their living-room wall.



Wendy Keefover is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News (hcn.org). She is the native carnivore protection manager for The Humane Society of the United States, based in Colorado.



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MidTown Chimney pg 22 303.670.7785

CLOTHING

Mountain Man Store pg 33 303.258.3295
The Rustic Moose - pg 15 303.258.3225

COMPUTER SERVICE & REPAIR

Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 31 303.642.0433

ELECTRIC

United Power - Inside back Cover 303.642.7921

ENTERTAINMENT

Jaime Mezo - Cozumel Scuba Diving pg 32
KGNU Radio pg 33 303.449.4885

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Environmental Group - tegcolorado.org

EXCAVATING

Silver Eagle Excavating pg 6 303.642.7464

FARRIER

Forbes Farrier Service pg 27 303.642.7437

FIREWOOD & FOREST MANAGEMENT

High Timber Mtn Tree Serv. pg 24 303.258.7942
Lumber Jacks - pg 6 720.212.1875
Red-Tailed Tree Service pg 30 941.879.3942
Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 8 303.653.7967

GIFTS

The Silver Horse - pg 15 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 15 303.258.3225
Nature Photography Notecards pg 30

GROCERIES

B & F Mountain Market pg 14 303.258.3105
Golden Chamber Farmer's Market pg 28

HEALTH & FITNESS

Hands, Hoofs & Paws pg 7 303.503.6068
Nederdance pg 13 303.258.9427

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 9 303.258.3132
Caribou Painting pg 13 303.641.7964
Colorado Water Wizard pg 29 303.447.0789
Grate Contracting pg 17 303.579.9519
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Red-Tailed Tree Service pg 21 941.879.3942
Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 15 303.653.7967
Redpoint Construction pg 9 303.642.3691

HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 19 303.582.5230

INSURANCE

Jim Plane-State Farm- pg 20 720.890.5916

LIQUOR

Mid-County Liquors pg 29 3093.642.7686
Underground Liquor pg 12 303.582.6034

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano Lessons in CCC pg 22 303.642.8423

PERSONAL TRAINING

Omayrace79@gmail.com pg 5

PLUMBING

Keating Pipeworks, Inc. pg 19 720.974.0023

PROPANE

Carl's Corner pg 22 303.642.7144

REAL ESTATE

Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 23 303.642.7951
Mock Realty-Kathy Keating -Back cov 303.642.1133
Summit Up Property Mgt. pg 7 303.618.8266

RESTAURANTS

Last Stand Tavern pg 16 303.642.3180
Wondervu Cafe pg 21 303.642.7197

RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 9 303.258.3132
B & F Mountain Market pg 14 303.258.3105
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Mountain Man Store pg 33 303.258.3295
The Silver Horse - pg 15 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 15 303.258.3225

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Universal Lending Corp. pg 11 303.791.4786

ROOFING

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

TAXES

Karen Schwimmer, CPA pg 18 303.642.0628

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 25 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 29 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well pg 10 303.438.6669

Reporting an Outage Doesn't Need to Be Inconvenient

Experiencing an outage is an inconvenience, but letting United Power know you are experiencing one doesn't have to be.

It's tempting to use social media, such as Facebook, to research the cause of an outage or send a quick message informing us you've experienced a disruption in service. United Power tries to inform our members whenever there's a large outage. While we strive to keep an eye on the conversation and encourage our members to engage with us frequently on social media, **our pages are not monitored at all times.**

There is a quicker and easier way to let United Power know when you've been impacted. We've partnered with SmartHub to bring our members an easy-to-use app with many convenient features, including the ability to report an outage. Our on-site system operators monitor outage notifications submitted through the SmartHub app 24/7.

If you have not already downloaded the app, we recommend you do.



In addition to submitting outage notifications, members may also:

- Make payments
- Store payment options
- View usage history
- Select paperless billing
- Notify us of account issues
- Communicate directly with us

For more information, visit www.unitedpower.com



Who's Responsible?

United Power has an aggressive tree trimming program to reduce the number of tree related outages. However, in some cases, the homeowner may be responsible for keeping a line to their home clear of trees. Here is how it works:

United Power is responsible for trimming around primary lines.

These are lines running from pole to pole. United Power maintains these lines because they are higher voltage and require special handling from a qualified tree trimming crew.

Members are responsible for obstructions in secondary lines.

These are typically single lines stretching from our pole to a member's home - often seen in backyards, crossing from the main electric line to the home.

Safe Tree Trimming

As trees begin to grow and bud, they may come in contact with power lines, creating confusion about responsibility and concern about member safety. United Power wants to make sure you know the answers to your questions so you can safely tackle your yard work.

For quick reference about who's responsible for maintaining trees near power lines, please check the "Who's Responsible" sidebar.

When you encounter a tree near a primary power line, immediately contact United Power. Avoid trimming when you encounter the following: tree limbs in contact with a power line, dead tree limbs hanging near power lines or tree limbs growing toward power lines.

Observe the Ten-Foot Rule. This means anything inside that radius may put you at risk. For your safety, United Power will disconnect secondary lines when notified in advance of any tree trimming activity at no cost to the member. Trim only from a steady, level surface, removing small, easy to manage sections. Large tree/branch sections may fall unexpectedly and risk taking down power lines and causing potential injury. If this is not possible, contact a professional tree trimmer.

When in doubt about safety or responsibility, please contact United Power at 303-637-1300. We'll be happy to send out a troubleshooter or one of our tree contractors to assess the situation and keep you safe.



Artisans Spring Sale

June 16th 10am - 4pm

CCCIA Hall : 31258 Coal Creek Canyon



New Listing
808 Copperdale Lane
 Quaint Mountain Home
 3 BD/ 2 BA 1,204 sq.ft. **\$374,000**



New Listing
34624 Stanton Drive
 Look No Further!!
 3 BD/ 2 BA 3 Car Gar **\$474,000**



Under Contract
33596 Nadm Drive
 Beautiful Mountain Home
 3 BD/ 3 BA 2,242 sq.ft. **\$525,000**



BUY OR SELL A HOME with
Kathy Keating & USE
the moving truck for FREE



Under Contract
941 Indian Peak Road
 Fabulous Mtn Retreat w/5 Car Garage
 5 BD/ 3 BA 1.09 Acres **\$724,900**



Under Contract
1720 Gross Dam Road
 Exquisite Home VIEWS - Pool - 4 Acres
 4 BD/ 4 BA 5,913 sq.ft. **\$899,000**



Under Contract
805 29th Street
 Convenient Spanish Towers Condo
 1 BD/ 1 BA VIEWS **\$284,900**



SOLD!
7592 Nikau Avenue
 Nicely Remodeled Niwot Home
 4 BD/ 3 BA 2,096 sq.ft. **\$514,000**



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



SOLD!
10712 Twin Spruce
 Charming Cabin / Seasonal Stream
 822 sq.ft. **\$189,000**



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



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



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



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



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



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

Kathy Keating,
 CRS, ABR, GRI
 EcoBroker,
 Broker Associate
 303.642.1133



For additional information
 and photos:
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