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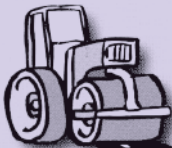
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About the Cover:
Dueling hummers
 by Steve Adams.

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Hummingbirds ~ Tiny Acrobats

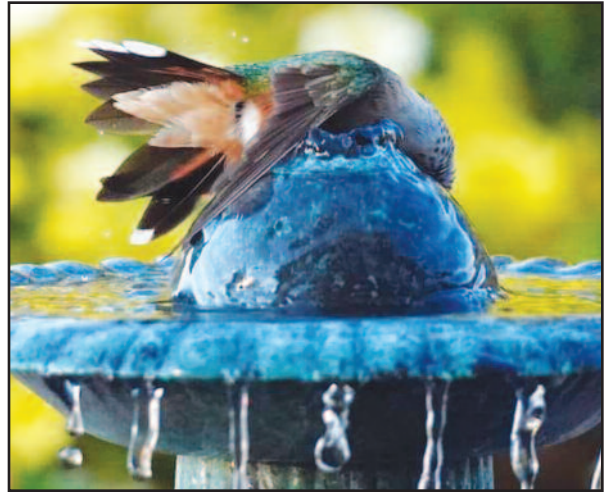
By A.M. Wilks

Nature has favored the Americas with a sparkling bird whose jewel-like colors and fascinating aerial acrobatics make it unique. This colorful creature is the hummingbird, and the two on this month's cover are but one of approximately 338 species and part of the family Trochilidae, the smallest birds in the world. Local photographer *Steve Adams* in Conifer is generous to share his captures with us.

Guessing the particular type of bird has become just that, guessing. With so many to choose from, the two on the cover show signs they are female... but could be Broadtail or Costa and maybe even young Rufous. The white on the tail feathers should identify them, but several species of hummers share this trait.

What is readily apparent is that they are having a dispute, of some kind. It could be over nectar in a feeder or flowers nearby or even a male that has decided to court. Hummers are gregarious for many reasons but often are quiet and anti-social given certain circumstances.

As human spectators of these tiny birds, we never tire of watching them or feeding them and even speculating over why they behave as they do. As special as they are they are also fragile: feeding them should follow specific guidelines to avoid harming their sensitive systems. Always keep any feeders very clean: wash often but not with dishsoap or bleach (hot water, weak vinegar) and let dry on counter overnight. Feeders that have no perch is best right now, so they can't catch a disease from the feces of other birds. We all know other birds often land or latch onto hummer feeders: my local woodpeckers being guilty of knocking my feeder to the ground. The safest way to feed hummers is to plant a patch of flowers they can feed from or a pot of their favorite flowers on the porch. A couple of the best are *Scarlet Penstemon* and *Beard Tongue Penstemon* or *Ocotillo Splendens* (that has barbs to protect it from our Mule deer) and most greenhouses can suggest many more.



Buying special hummer flowering seeds that you plant is great too. But if you plan to put out feeders: make your nectar from organic cane sugar, 5 to 1 – with five parts purified water to one part sugar. The tiny birds need water too, the photographer *Steve Adams* has a gurgling water fountain that these lovelies not only drink from, but also bathe in regularly (*photo here*). He gets some of his best pictures when they linger to wallow in the tiny slow moving waterspout. It is mesmerizing to watch them immerse themselves and enjoy not just drinking but getting their whole bodies wet. Maybe the only time I've seen them slow down. (*Reference: Hummingbirds by Esther Quesada Tyrrell*). PLEASE use caution with hummer feeders as they attract bears: even if you bring them in at night and put them out at dawn... drips on the ground can bring a bear to your yard, deck or patio and put you and your children or pets at risk.



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Stay Informed On Burn Bans

Colorado's Stage 1 and 2 fire restrictions include different levels of restrictions, with the second stage including a complete ban on campfires and other activities.

Fires are allowed at campgrounds in designated fire rings during Stage 1 fire bans, but not at dispersed campsites.

Stage 2

Stage 2 fire restrictions are a total ban of outdoor fires and other activities in Colorado. The following activities and items are prohibited under these restrictions:

Fires, bonfires, operating chainsaws, charcoal grills, chimnea portable outdoor fireplaces, fire

pits, fireworks, shooting, sky lanterns, tiki torches, burning trash, welding, and torches.

Some of the items on this list are prohibited even at private residences during Stage 2 fire restrictions, so it's best to research local guidelines to ensure you're in compliance.

During stage 2, campgrounds cannot have wood fires, however, portable propane is often still permitted.

Liquid-fueled and gas-fueled devices are typically permitted under Stage 2 restrictions, but it's best to check local regulations before use. This would include portable propane fit pits that are permitted as a legal alternative to wood fires. To sum up the most relevant campfire ban details:

Stage 1 – Official campgrounds designated fire ring – Yes, fires still permitted; Dispersed camping rock fire ring = No, not permitted; Portable propane fire ring = Yes, bring your own



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Stage 2 – Campgrounds designated fire ring – No, not permitted; Dispersed camping fire ring = No, not permitted. Portable propane fire ring = Most likely yes, still permitted, bring your own

Welding, blasting, or operating a blow torch is prohibited under Stage 1 outside of cleared areas ten feet in diameter. **Those engaged in these activities must have a fire extinguisher on hand to be in compliance.** Most fireworks are always banned in Colorado, but under Stage 1 fire restrictions, explosives of any kind are also prohibited, included fuses, blasting caps, rockets, exploding targets, tracers, and incendiary ammunition.

Some counties prohibit firing guns under Stage 2 of restrictions, so it's best to call and ask ahead of time if you plan on target shooting outdoors. **Violating Stage 1 restrictions comes with some serious consequences, including a potential \$5,000 fine and up to six months in jail.**

Jefferson County deputies will strictly enforce the temporary fire ban and temporary fire restrictions in the unincorporated areas, to include federal lands. Pursuant to County Policy Part 3, Chapter 6, Section 2, authorizing the Declaration of Open Fire Bans, violations of these prohibitions, upon conviction, is punishable

by a fine of not more than \$600. Such act(s) violate section(s) 102.8 and / or 308.2.1 of the International Fire Code.

At presstime for this issue Burn Bans have been issued on and off for many weeks. Due to a historically dry April and low snowfall in the Frontrange Foothills the Burn Bans have been dictated by wind conditions.

Weather forecasts are predicting heavy snows for upper mountain locations and parts of

the Frontrange foothills.

It is apparent we no longer have fire seasons and that Burn Bans can happen any time of the year depending on the conditions.

With thunderstorm activity approaching - hopefully.... all mountain residents must diligently watch for signs of lightning strikes and report smoke or flames via 911. Only WE can prevent wildfires by using utmost caution when working around our homes, smoking cigarettes, and scanning your locations after thunderstorms.

If you see something, say something in case a neighbor or visiting tourist is unaware of fire regulations during Burn Bans and dry or windy conditions.

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Dept. Of Interior Resumes Leasing

Accountable.US released the following statement heralding the administration's decision to increase royalty rates on the new leased parcels to 18.75%, an improvement on the federal rate that has not changed in 100 years.

"This news clearly demonstrates the administration is listening to the American people," said Kyle Herrig, Pres. *Accountable.US*. "For too long, the oil and gas industry has refused to pay a fair price for drilling on leased public lands, cheating local public schools and other vital services out of potentially millions in additional funding while raking in billions in profits and keeping gas prices high. The Biden administration was right to modernize rates – we hope this is the first of many reforms to the antiquated public lands leasing program."

States Missing Out On Nearly \$1.6 Billion: All told, California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming could have seen as much as \$1,582,079,612.91 in additional revenue in 2019 alone if the Biden administration had finally updated the U.S. public lands leasing program to charge wealthy oil and gas companies royalty rates in line with

what states charge rather than the current federal rates that have not changed in 100 years.

Companies Pulling Billions Out of Western States: despite histories of severe environmental violations, dodging royalty payments, and sitting on unused public lands leases for years, big name oil giants like Exxon, EOG Resources, and ConocoPhillips have made billions of dollars in profits off their drilling activities in the west — all while Americans are deprived of a fair return for allowing extraction on public lands.

Companies Benefiting Despite Harmful Histories: among the top 20 authorized leaseholders in the country are 12 companies with histories of deliberately shortchanging mineral rights owners — including the public — and 16 companies with records of serious environmental harm, including some of the worst methane polluters in the country.

Companies Fearmongering About Biden Policies: they have continued to take advantage of the current program's outdated federal royalty rate while fear mongering about the Biden administration's conservation policies in hopes of continuing to avoid paying their fair share.

Low Federal Rates Unchanged for 100 Years: The 100-year-old royalty rate has long made federal oil and gas leasing a sweetheart deal for Big Oil at the expense of taxpayers. When oil and gas corporations drill on public lands, they compensate the American people with royalty payments, an important revenue that funds important state and local government services, especially public schools. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 set the current public lands oil and gas royalty rate at 12.5 percent, a number that is substantially lower than what western states charge on state public lands.



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Reservations: Mt. Evans & Brainard Lake

Visitors to Mount Evans and Brainard Lake, two popular locations on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, will need to make advanced reservations through Recreation.gov.

Mount Evans Recreation Area is tentatively scheduled to open May 27, weather dependent. Reservations for Mount Evans recreation.gov started May 3 and reservations can be made up to 30 days in advance. Reservations are required if planning to park and visit one of the developed visitor locations between 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Brainard Lake Recreation Area is tentatively scheduled to open June 10, weather dependent. This includes reservations for the day use area and the Red Rocks picnic site. Reservations for Brainard Lake can be made on recreation.gov starting May 26 and can be made up to 15 days in advance. Reservations for the upper elevation parking lots will go on sale in mid-June and the area is scheduled to open July 1.

Overnight parking reservations for wilderness permit holders have been available since Feb. 1. "The timed-entry program was extremely successful in reducing crowding, wait times, and environmental impacts in 2021," said Reid Armstrong, public affairs specialist. "As the program continues in 2022, we hope visitors are growing accustomed to advanced planning.

Mount Evans Recreation Area features the highest paved road in North America, which leads to the summit one of Colorado's famous 14ers. Along the way are stops that offer glances into life in the high alpine environment, including Mount Goliath and its demonstration garden managed by Denver Botanic Gardens.

Brainard Lake Recreation Area is a portal to Indian Peaks Wilderness Area with hiking trails that lead into some of the area's most rugged, high alpine terrain. The lake itself offers opportunities to picnic, fish and view wildlife within the stunning backdrop of the Continental Divide. The general area is open year-round but in

the summer is managed by American Lands and Leisure, a private concessionaire contracted to provide daily maintenance and operations. Visitors with a campground reservation at Pawnee Campground will not need an additional reservation.

At each location, visitors will be able to select a reservation time slot from multiple windows throughout the day and decide on details about where they want to go (e.g. which parking area at Brainard and which sites on Mount Evans). Customers will be charged a \$2 reservation fee by recreation.gov in addition to the standard fee. Annual and lifetime passholders will still need to make reservations and will only pay the \$2 reservation fee. Reservations are not required for biking and hiking into these areas.



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Walipini - The Warm Place

Article & Artwork by Valerie Wedel

Would you like to grow a lemon tree in your back yard, at 8,000 ft. elevation? Without exorbitant high tech heating and lighting costs? It may just be possible.

From the Aymara Indians of the Andes, we learn of the “place of warmth,” or walipini. This is a partially underground greenhouse. Walipini can support substantial cultivation, enough to feed entire communities, even at very high altitudes (1), (4).

The Aymara Indians live on the altiplano of Bolivia, Peru, and northern Chile. The altitude of the altiplano is 14,400 +/- ft. At this extreme altitude, people and plants both adapt. For plants, the growing season is short.

The Aymara people may have descended from indigenous people dwelling on the plateau for the last 11,000+ years. Perhaps because of this long history living at extreme altitude, Aymara people’s red blood cells carry more oxygen per hemoglobin molecule, compared to people living at sea level and other lower altitudes. Each breath taken absorbs more oxygen. This amazing adaptation allows the people to live at 14,000 ft. (2)

What about plants, and gardens on the altiplano? Such high altitudes make growing food challenging. The growing season is short, and conditions harsh. Around 20-30 years ago, the idea of walipini led to an experiment with partially underground greenhouses.

Walipinis have been used successfully on the altiplano, and in other parts of the world with very cold winters. The concept is simple. Dig a hole in the ground, ideally on a hill slope. A walipini is dug deep enough to be below the frost line, and also down to where the earth is a constant temperature. This usually means 6-8 ft. below grade (2).

For those of us in the Northern hemisphere, use a south facing hill slope. This makes the north side of the hole taller, and south side lower. A flat, sloping roof covers the hole. The slope of the roof is determined by how tall the north and south walls are. The winter sun will pass through the roof to light and heat the walipini below. To enter your walipini, dig an entry and build a door.

The walipini entry should be designed to be lower than the actual floor of the walipini. This is because cold air sinks. By having a door a bit lower than the main floor of the walipini, most of the warm air will stay inside when the door opens.

The roof is actually made of two layers of plastic, separated by rafters. This double layer creates insulation, and lets sun in to heat the space below. The earthen walls also create natural insulation, which keeps your walipini from freezing.

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Highlander History



Using slightly or completely subterranean dwelling to survive harsh winters is not new. Various plains Indians did so for a very long time, before European settlers arrived. If you cannot dig deep enough to be at constant temperature from the earth itself, you are at least protected from wind and extreme temperature swings.

An example of surviving in very shallow earth shelter is the tale of two old women from Alaska. An Inuit legend describes two old women who survived in the arctic, separated from their tribe. Before they could build shelter, they dug holes in the snow and lined them with pine branches. Sleeping in these shallow holes kept the women protected from wind, and saved them from freezing to death (3).

The Mandan and other tribes of the plains built another type of earthen house. In what is now North Dakota, the Mandan built round earth lodges, mostly underground, with timber framing and domed earthen roofs. In these lodges extended families wintered. The earth lodges were so large there was also room indoors for some of their favorite horses (p.129, Ref 5).

For our readers in Coal Creek Canyon, and other parts of the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, it may be difficult to dig down 6-8 feet due to our mountain's granite. For those wishing to test out a walipini, it could be adapted to partially underground and partially earth bermed. Earth berming means that earth

is piled along a wall to help protect against extremes in weather. This would be a great experiment. How well would earth berming work, at 8000 ft. e!?

If you decide to build your own walipini, share the story!

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Prepare For Wildfire

Colorado is experiencing a new normal for wildfire with several destructive, record-setting fires occurring over the past two years driven by extreme weather and drought. With ongoing drought and warming temperatures across the state continuing to elevate wildfire risk for many Coloradans, state and federal agencies that manage wildfires and forests are urging residents to join in efforts to reduce that risk.

With more than half of all Coloradans living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), susceptible to wildfire, it's important for people to take action to reduce the risk fire poses to their homes and create more fire-adapted communities.

The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control anticipates above average temperatures and below average precipitation. That will result in the persistence and expansion of drought conditions across the state and the emergence of above average, significant fire potential over the eastern portions of Colorado. Continuation of the warm and dry conditions is expected to result in drought intensification and earlier than average spring snowpack runoff, leading to above normal large fire potential expanding across southern Colorado and throughout most of Colorado.

“Wildfire season is a thing of the past – it is a year-round battle. Colorado’s core fire season is now an average of 78 days longer than it was in the ’70s,” said DFPC Director Mike Morgan. “We are calling on those that live, work and play in Colorado to help reduce the impact of wildfires by being vigilant, respecting fire restrictions when they are in place and doing your part to protect your property from wildfire.”

Practical Steps to Lower Wildfire Risk

Colorado is home to 186 official Firewise USA® sites, places where neighbors are working together to reduce risks of wildfires. Whether they live in a Firewise USA® site or

not, homeowners living in the WUI can do a number of practical activities to protect their home and property from wildfire. The Colorado State Forest Service recommends the following wildfire preparation activities:

- Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves 5 feet from the home, as well as under decks, porches, sheds and play structures.
- Remove leaves and needles from roofs and gutters.

(Continued on page 14.)



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Highlander Issues

- Sweep porches and decks clear of any burnable plant material.
- Move firewood piles at least 30 feet from the house, preferably uphill.
- Transfer items under decks or porches to a storage area.
- Cover any exposed eave or attic vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh screening.
- Ensure home address signs are clearly visible from the street.
- Contact your local Office of Emergency Management to register for emergency notifications and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do the same.
- Confirm at least one alternate path out of your neighborhood other than the one most commonly used and be prepared for potential evacuation requiring the alternative route.

“Taking care of these simple, but critically important, tasks will better prepare you and your family for a wildfire,” said Matt McCombs, State Forester and Director of the CSFS. “These are actions anyone living adjacent to wildlands should put into practice. Last December’s Marshall Fire was a tragic, eye-opening reminder that the wildland-urban interface includes grasslands, not just forests. Homeowners have a responsibility to themselves and their families, as well as their community, to prepare their home and property for wildfire, and these activities are the perfect place to start.”

Prevention When Outdoors

Please keep wildfire prevention in mind when visiting your public lands. Simple measures can reduce the fire risk and provide for a much safer outing. Check for closures or restrictions all year and especially during periods of high fire danger.



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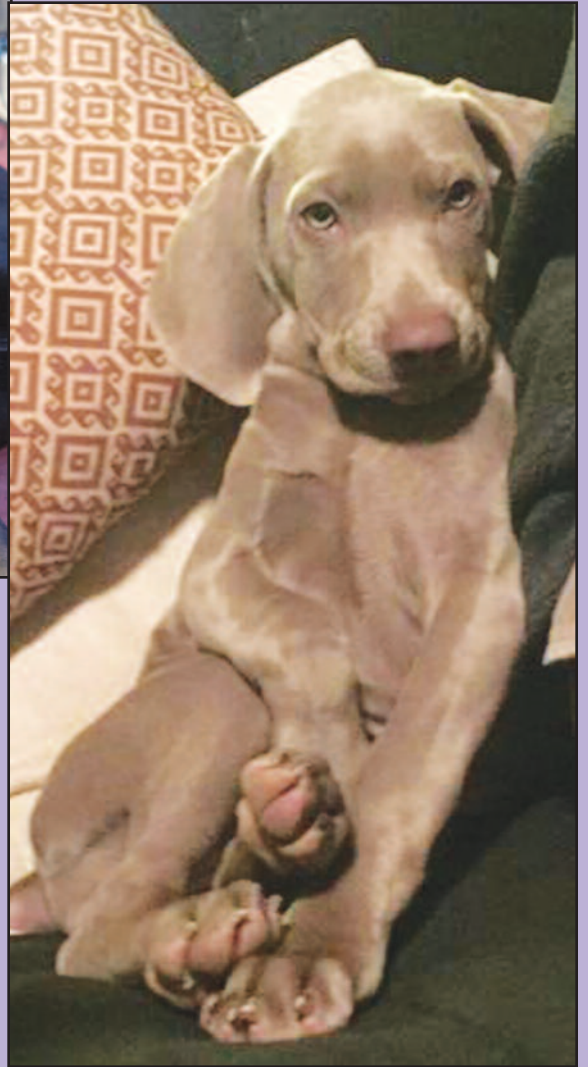
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Animals & Their Companions



Previous Page Top left: Ryder from Kathryn.

Top right: Myla from Andrea.

Next Page: Middle, Exmoor Ponies.

Bottom left: Lil'bit grazes on new grass.



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Animals & Their Companions



Above: Mule deer bedded down, from Patrick Choate.

At Right: Rudy gazes lovingly at his dog Chanel.



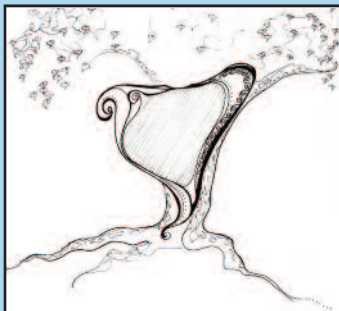
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Projects In West Get \$68 Million

By Theo Whitcomb May 12, 2022 HCN

Recently the Biden administration announced that \$68.4 million from Infrastructure Act funds were earmarked this year for conservation projects across the country, a majority of which are based in the Western United States. The money is the first installment of \$1.4 billion allocated for ecosystem restoration efforts to be spent over five years.

The funding will be dispersed across participating agencies including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. “President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment that will allow us to restore healthy ecosystems across the country,” said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. “This is a strong step towards building a better America for people and wildlife, for generations to come.”

Dept. of the Interior says the conservation projects receiving funding this year will “boost local economies, advance environmental justice and serve disadvantaged communities.” One of the key efforts, is working with Indigenous nations and communities on building native seed-saving capacity, a fundamental aspect of successful restoration.

A community-run biomass-heated greenhouse in Nenana, Alaska. The project was a collaboration between the Nenana tribal office, Native corporation and city government. The infrastructure act will grant \$800,000 to update and expand similar tribal greenhouses.

Along with the announcement, the department detailed a wide scope of projects, including how the money will be spent and where. The list is expansive and includes: \$42,000 to eradicate tamarisk in Western Colorado; more than \$100,000 to address 25 mine hazards at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Ajo, Arizona; \$800,000 to expand tribal greenhouse facilities in Alaska; a half-million dollars for a Wyoming project to restore native seedlings in the Sagebrush Steppe.

The funds, set to go far and wide, were directed at projects that advanced a set of high priority projects for the department. For instance, building out a rapid response system to manage and address the current and future threat of invasive species. The Interior Department pointed towards a wide list of other priorities, including chronically under-resourced efforts to work through backlogged maintenance at national parks and popular recreation sites. The funds will also go towards wildfire risk reduction and mitigating hazards from mining.

The island of Maui in Hawai’i will see the largest single investment, with over \$12 million going to Haleakal National Park.

Theo Whitcomb is an editorial intern at High Country News.



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Spruce Beetle Most Deadly Forest Pest

During their annual hearing before the Colorado General Assembly, State Forester Matthew McCombs and Regional Forester Frank Beum announced a report detailing the results of the 2021 aerial detection survey led by the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, and Colorado State Forest Service. Every year, the agencies aerially monitor forest health conditions on millions of acres across Colorado and work together to address continued outbreaks of insects and disease, including the spruce beetle, which remains the deadliest forest pest in Colorado for the 10th consecutive year.

“This report offers a snapshot of the dynamic landscape changes that continually affect our forest lands in Colorado,” said Frank Beum. “By monitoring the native tree pest populations on an annual basis, land managers can better maintain healthy, resilient forests while providing timber, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on public and private forest lands.”

Impacts from Bark Beetles

In 2021, spruce beetle affected roughly 53,400 acres of high-elevation Engelmann spruce forests in Colorado. While overall activity of this native beetle is declining statewide, it continues to expand its impact to previously unaffected areas. Forests within Chaffee and Park counties and in and around Rocky Mountain National Park experienced new infestations in 2021, indicating spruce beetle has not fully depleted trees susceptible to attack and the spruce beetle outbreak in those locations is still on the move.

Spruce beetle is causing more tree mortality than any other bark beetle in Colorado. The total acreage impacted by spruce beetle in the state since 2000 has reached 1.89 million acres.

Another native bark beetle, the Douglas-fir beetle continues to cause significant tree mortality in the state’s central and southern mixed-conifer forests, affecting about 8,000 acres of forests statewide last year. Douglas, Gunnison, Jefferson, Eagle, Pitkin and Custer counties have severely affected Douglas-fir stands and this beetle has depleted many of the largest trees in these areas over the past decade.

Spurred by Drought Conditions

Weather continues to play an important role in creating conditions that are

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spurring the activity of spruce and Douglas-fir beetles, as well as other bark beetles. As temperatures and precipitation levels change, so do the defenses within trees. Ongoing drought conditions continue to stress trees across Colorado, leaving them more susceptible to attack by bark beetles. Last year was also warm with above-average temperatures from June through December, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Spurred by these dry, warm conditions, piñon Ips beetle affected about 17,600 acres of piñon-juniper forests across Colorado in 2021, with significant mortality of piñon trees occurring in Delta, Montrose and Mesa counties. Other counties in the state are experiencing pockets of mortality that have increased in recent years.


Roundheaded pine beetle and associated native bark beetles are also thriving during prolonged dry conditions in southwest Colorado. They continue to expand in forests with ponderosa pine in La Plata, Montezuma and Dolores counties, and new infestations were identified in San Miguel County last year during the aerial survey.


Most Widespread Forest Pest

The aerial survey also revealed that western spruce budworm continues to affect more acres of forest than any other pest and is Colorado’s most widespread forest defoliator. The budworm affected about 91,500 acres of forests statewide last year, with the most intense infestations in south-central Colorado. Saguache, Gunnison, Chaffee, Park, Teller and Fremont counties were among the most affected by the budworm in 2021. Over several years, defoliation from western spruce budworm may weaken a tree to the point where the Douglas-fir beetle and other bark beetles can easily overcome the tree.


“Years of persistent drought, an indicator of a warming climate, remains a key driver for outbreaks of bark beetles in our forests,” said Matt McCombs, State Forester and Director of the Colorado State Forest Service. “Our partnership with the USDA Forest Service on the annual aerial survey offers another great example of shared stewardship in action.

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Evacuation Go-Bag-Lists

Compiled by Diane Bergstrom

If you have 5 minutes notice, grab:

- people/pets
- purse/wallet
- cash/credit cards
- cell phone/charger
- medicines
- medical devices
- laptop/charger
- glasses
- keys to all buildings/vehicles
- emergency folder (birth certs, passports, insurance cards, utility bill)

If you have 15 minutes notice to evacuate, add:

- external hard drive
- comfortable shoes/jacket
- Grab & Go binder (see next page)
- phone lists/address books
- photos

If you have 1+ hour, add:

- 72 hour people kit (see next page)
- medical records
- 72 hour pet kit (see next page)
- pet ID tags, vaccination info, microchip info, food/water, photo
- personal hygiene products
- several changes of clothes/shoes
- flashlight/batteries
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Last month, I gave readers the comprehensive Colorado site of links to every county's emergency alert system. If you haven't signed up yet, please go to:

<https://dhsem.colorado.gov/emergencyalert>. Each county is listed in blue. Click on the red "Alert" next to your county to link to an account page. Each site differs in format so spend time now to opt in and become familiar with alert messages. Jefferson County has changed their provider in the past month from CodeRED to LookoutAlert. All CodeRED registrants were automatically transferred to LookoutAlert, as well as all landline residential and commercial phone numbers. Jefferson County residents are still encouraged to set up

an account in the new platform, review and update your information, and choose the types of desired alerts. Now you can create a safety profile which can include medical histories, allergies, medications, number of residents, special needs and pets. <https://lookoutalert.co> Remember no service is 100% reliable so gather your information from legitimate sources, make your decisions, and choose your action.

Don't wait for a call if you feel unsafe.

To create your 72 hour packs, google those words and add people or pets. You will get a variety of lists and suggestions. Choose what appeals to you to cover yourself and your pets for 72 hours post evacuation. Ft. Collins developed separate emergency preparedness 72 hour kit lists for people, pets and vehicles which can be found at www.fcgov.com/eps/build-a-kit.

For a Grab & Go binder, I like the lists found at <https://thesurvivalmom.com/a-prepping-essential-the-grab-n-go-binder>. They have a comprehensive list of legal documents and suggestions that wouldn't necessarily come to mind. For disaster and emergency kit ideas, visit <https://www.ready.gov/kit>. A concise list of basic emergency items is also listed at: www.fema.gov/10-items-include-your-emergency-kit.

Friends have shared their best practical tips which I found very useful. Sue keeps an empty clothes basket ready to pack, with a list of items to grab from EACH ROOM to prevent any hesitation in her gathering process. Anita keeps an empty reusable grocery bag along side their stored important documents so she can pack them in seconds. Another friend said her first rule is to never bother with anything she can replace. Beyond the essentials, that included family jewelry and a quilt made by Grandma. A friend of hers escaped the Marshall fire with only her dog and found help through Senator Bennett's office to reestablish her ID to then start replacing everything else. Others commented that they keep passports, deeds, titles, social security cards, pictures of belongings, etc. in safe deposit boxes.

When retired occupational therapist Lois had to evacuate a conference hotel in the middle of the night, her first thought was if she was

wearing matching pajama bottoms. This is something that has never concerned Lois, nor ever will. She reflected that when you're in a state of panic, you have no idea where your mind will go so it is difficult to make rational decisions. She has since had to evacuate for floods and fires. "When you're forewarned and cautioned that you might need to evacuate, you know what to do. When you're set and you know where your people are and where your animals are going, you don't need to panic. You've done everything to be ready. Then you're not acting out of panic, you're acting out of control." With Colorado's unprecedented drought, fires and weather changes, may we all be diligently aware, rationally prepared, and act out of control. And be safe. Of course, I gave Lois matching pjs for her next birthday to put a lid on that unexpected concern.

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Cargo Ships Harness Wind

Dear EarthTalk:

Since when did cargo ships start using wind power (again)? Does this save us from a lot of carbon emissions?

—Bill H. Elizabeth, NJ

A few pioneering companies — like Wallenius with its OceanBird concept — are harnessing the power of the wind to reduce the carbon footprints of their cargo shipping operations.

To many, sailboats invoke either the 18th century “Age of Sail” or preppy regattas. But some environmentalists and engineers are

looking past these connotations and rewiring the art of sailing to suit modern technology.

In fact, the 21st century Age of Sail is already in its infancy, due to concerns about fossil fuel shortages that are used in exorbitant amounts to power enormous cargo ships.

This rewiring of sailing matters because of the immense emissions that cargo ships produce. Because they consume fossil fuels, much of our supply chain is riddled with emissions problems.

In fact, marine emissions contribute to ocean acidification and greenhouse gas buildups in the atmosphere, and even an alarming feedback loop between the two. This may influence, among other things, coral reef die-offs. Cargo ships that use sails could partially or even completely eliminate the environmental impacts of diesel usage.

Very practical examples abound. Wine companies like Grain de Sail are not just paying lip service to sustainability or otherwise “greenwashing” their products. They are making sure their products truly reject fossil fuel usage by using canvas sails on a boat similar to 19th century schooners. Its ship uses 100 percent wind energy to propel itself across the ocean.

OceanBird, manufactured by Wallenius, is another innovation. OceanBird is a cargo ship that can reach speeds similar to normal cargo ships using high tech modifications of sails that are closer to helicopters or airplane wings than canvas sails. They use changing air currents and automated shifts in the positioning of the “wings” to maximize speed of transport. While this may sound like science fiction, OceanBird’s experimental prototype will soon



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Photo caption: A few pioneering companies — like Wallenius with its OceanBird concept — are harnessing the power of the wind to reduce the carbon footprints of their cargo shipping.



be on the market.

Grassroots efforts to support wind-powered cargo ships are still in their infancy, but you can “vote with your wallet” to support companies like Grain de Sail that use cargo sailboats to propel their goods across the water, if you can afford luxuries like their wines. If not, you can do your part to avoid the shipping industry by shopping at your local thrift store or farmer’s market for local or secondhand goods.

Wind-propelled technologies are not only more picturesque than diesel-based cargo ships belching out emissions, dirtying the air and creating noise pollution. They have an opportunity to revolutionize the shipping industry and break our addiction to fossil fuels. To paraphrase Jimmy Dean, “[We] can’t change the direction of the wind, but [we] can adjust [our] sails to always reach [our] destination.” And when the end destination is a world free from fossil fuels, the journey is worth it.





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Update: *BuffaloFieldCampaign.org*

From the Field ~ May 12, 2022

Life on patrol: following the births and deaths of the last wild buffalo on Horse Butte.

A blanket of spring snow greets our morning patrol as we leave base camp for a sweep of buffalo on highways as reported. We spot a group of fourteen, expectant mothers, young bulls and last year's calves, now yearlings, and deploy our signs for a safe crossing. We spot another small group protected in a buffalo safe zone on private land.

Feeling comfortable with our deployment of buffalo on road signs at known crossings, we head off-road to patrol the National Forest. A large coyote, also on patrol, scampers off at our arrival disappearing into the forest. We find a lone female buffalo in mourning, standing above her stillborn calf in stunned silence. After a time, with hesitancy, she makes her way into the cover of dense lodgepole forest leaving her newborn behind.

With a heavy heart our patrol moves on, crossing paths with buffalo hunters three generations strong en-route on Horse Butte Peninsula. We learn of more hunting parties drawing closer to a herd of thirty three buffalo. As we approach the scene, out of respect for the



traditional hunting rights being performed on these last wild lands we remain at an appropriate distance during the harvest. Standing on the land with the buffalo, we witness the taking of a young bull, an act of subsistence, and a gift given from the buffalo nation.

Horse Butte is the only designated year-round habitat for wild buffalo in Montana. It is also habitat protected from the intrusions of the Department of Livestock agents by executive order from Montana's former Governor Steve Bullock.

But with intensifying hunting on the buffalo's spring calving grounds on Horse Butte, a large herd of over a hundred buffalo were pressured to make their way down Rainbow Point Road crossing highway 191 seeking safety into Yellowstone National Park. Few pregnant buffalo remain behind with reports of only two to ten bison remaining on the calving grounds where we have seen up to two hundred prior. Now the pregnant mothers are forced to endure giving birth to newborn calves on the move. These newcomers greet our patrols as we follow their travails in one of the last places where the buffalo still roam.



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War Hawks & Climate Hawks Agree?

By Jonathan Thompson May 12, 2022 HCN

Three decades ago, when I was a carefree 20-year-old, I took a year off college, and my friend and I set out for Mexico in my 1967 AMC Rambler, eager to camp on the beach and flourish on fish, sunshine and lots of cheap beer. We made it as far as Tucson, where we watched President George H.W. Bush announce that the U.S. had commenced bombing Iraq to eject Saddam Hussein from oil-rich Kuwait. We postponed our Mexico sojourn and hit the anti-war protest trail, forsaking the beach for the couches of friends and trading fish for free meals with the Hare Krishnas. The slogan chanted in the streets — from Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Tucson to Colorado Springs — was simple: “No Blood for Oil!” Now, as Russia rains artillery on Ukrainian civilians and Californians

drive to Mexico to buy cheap gas, an inverted version of it rings through the streets of social media: “No Oil for Blood!” Just about everyone, war hawks and climate hawks, Democrats and Republicans, wants the world to stop buying Russian oil and gas (and uranium, nickel and palladium — even vodka) and thereby defund Putin’s war machine. And most will loudly say, “We need energy independence!” 7.5 billion barrels... Amount of petroleum the United States consumed in 2021, making it by far the world’s most gluttonous oil-guzzler. 2.24 billion barrels Amount of oil the U.S. imported from all countries last year. 72.6 million barrels Amount of that oil that came from Russia.

We might agree on Ukraine, but the harmony ends when we try to define energy independence and the best way to (Continued on next page.)

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achieve it. I can't help getting a bit anxious, not because I disagree with the sentiment, but because history shows that whatever path we take toward energy independence — whether by upping fossil fuel production or transitioning to green power — it's likely to plow through the Western U.S. and its public lands.

The competing factions include: Rep. Raúl Grijalva, the unflinching Arizona Democrat, responded by calling “bullshit on oil and gas industry claims” — his words, not mine. He pointed out that public-lands energy policy has virtually zero effect on how much you'll have to fork out to fill up your SUV, because gasoline prices follow oil prices, and oil prices are determined by global supply and demand. Green energy-transition folks like Grijalva and other Democrats and Western environmental groups hope that high pump prices will shock Americans into trading in gargantuan gas-guzzlers for solar- and wind-powered electric cars, bikes and public transit, because the only way to disentangle ourselves from the sticky web of the global petroleum market — and avert the worst of the climate crisis — is to wean ourselves off all fossil fuels.

President Joe Biden and his administration seem to want it both ways. On the one hand, Biden talks about tackling the climate crisis, phasing out internal combustion engines, streamlining renewable energy projects on public lands, reforming oil and gas leasing and upgrading environmental protections. On the other, he hands out drilling permits at a rate that even a Cheney could love, pleads with oil and gas executives to get off their duffs and put those permits to use, and — perhaps most significantly — plans to increase U.S. natural gas exports to Europe to replace Russian gas. He wants to reform antiquated mining laws, but he also invoked the Defense Production Act to expedite mining for the so-called “green metals” used in electric vehicles and has asked Congress for \$500 million to fund the effort.

\$69 per barrel Price of Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil, on March 15, 2021. \$112 The price on March 6, 2022. \$200 million The amount BP executive Robert Horton said — in the lead-up to the first Iraq War — that each

dollar increase in the price of oil adds to his company's bottom line.

Just to be clear: The U.S. is not in a 1970s-style energy crisis, Biden's ban on Russian oil - which accounts for just 1% of the nation's total consumption — is largely symbolic, and he's unlikely to sign an executive order to revive the coal industry. But it's a different story in Europe, where a serious dependence on Russian fossil fuels already has caused utility bills to triple, or even quadruple. Biden wants to ease the pain by increasing trans-Atlantic exports of LNG, or liquefied natural gas — something Western politicians urged back in 2014, after Russia invaded Crimea.

It's unlikely that methane from Wyoming or Utah will cross the Atlantic anytime soon because the U.S. has only a handful of LNG export terminals in the U.S. and none on the West Coast. But the push to send it to Europe could expedite a proposed new terminal in Baja, Mexico, that would pull from Western gas fields. Once LNG starts flowing overseas, supplies will diminish here in the U.S., driving up the price of natural gas. And that could spark new drilling in natural gas-rich but oil-poor fields, ending a decade-long slump due to low commodity prices.

On the electricity side of things, rising natural gas prices will prod utilities to switch to less expensive sources of power, such as solar, wind, hydropower and, yes, nuclear and coal. The Biden administration is permitting renewable energy development on public lands at a rapid rate and has offered a \$6 billion bailout to soon-to-retire nuclear plants like Diablo Canyon in Calif. though, unlike Carter, he is not pushing coal.

And whereas Carter hoped that synfuels would replace petroleum in cars, Biden is fostering electric vehicle adoption by

subsidizing
charger station

construction and encouraging domestic mining for lithium and other minerals used in EV batteries. This could boost controversial “green metal” extraction projects across the West.

Carter's initiatives helped spark an unprecedented public-lands oil- and gas-drilling boom. His synfuel subsidies hatched an oil-shale-retorting industry that flamed out spectacularly in its infancy, taking western Colorado's economy down with it. And his hankering for coal set Wyoming's Powder River Basin on the path to becoming America's coal bin. It all took a toll on the West's land, people and air, but didn't bring the nation any closer to being energy independent.

Nevertheless, it might behoove Biden to borrow one or two chapters from Carter's energy playbook. The pleas for conservation coupled with ambitious fuel-economy standards lowered petroleum consumption — for a little while — and oil imports decreased proportionally. Americans began installing rooftop solar (as clunky as the technology was in those years), a trend that continues. And the idea of energy efficiency found a home in the nation's collective consciousness.

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B & H Asphalt Paving ins cover 303.810.0531

Rock Creek Civil, LLC pg 6 720.583.4555

ELECTRIC

United Power - Inside back Cover 303.642.7921

FARRIER

Forbes Farrier Service pg 24 303.642.7437

FIREWOOD & FOREST MANAGEMENT

High Timber Mtn Tree Serv. pg 8 303.258.7942

Lumber Jacks - pg 16 720.212.1875

Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 12 303.653.7967

Rock Creek Civil, LLC pg 29 720.583.4555

GIFTS

The Silver Horse - pg 10 303.279.6313

The Rustic Moose - pg 10 303.258.3225

GROCERIES

B & F Mountain Market pg 7 303.258.3105

CCC Summer Market pg 9 June 4th 9am to 3pm

Golden Farmer's Markets pg 6 June 4th to Oct 8th

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Benchmark Land Care pg15 303.485.1001

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EDISON Builders pg 24 512.775.5800

Golden Gate Electric, LLC pg 5 303.520.0966

Grate Contracting pg 13 303.579.9519

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 12 303.653.7967

Redpoint Construction pg 12 303.642.3691

Rock Creek Civil, LLC pg 29 720.583.4555

HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 11 303.570.2013

INSURANCE

Jim Plane-State Farm- pg 19 720.890.5916

LIQUOR

Foss Company pg 3 303.963.5693

Mid-County Liquors pg 17 303.642.7686

Underground Liquor pg 6 303.582.6034

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano & Harp in CCC pg 23 303.642.8423

REAL ESTATE

Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 21 303.642.7951

Mock Group-Kathy Keating -Back cover 303.642.1133

RESTAURANT

Wondervu Cafe pg 14 303.642.7197

RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 23 303.258.3132

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REVERSE MORTGAGES

Universal Lending Corp. pg 17 303.791.4786

ROOFING

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Structures America ins cover 970.420.7100

TAXES

Karen Schwimmer, CPA pg 26 303.642.0628

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 28 303.421.8766

Power Update

June
2022

Fire Mitigation: What are Red Flag Warnings?

United Power has embraced a comprehensive approach to wildfire mitigation that takes into account effective practices for protecting members served off its lines, especially in its Mountain Territory. The cooperative's goal is the safety of both its members and the communities they live in.

In December, strong winds and dry conditions fueled a wildfire near Boulder that consumed more than 1,000 homes. Several other fires have also erupted in the Front Range over the first few months of the year. The National Weather Service issues Red Flag Warnings when weather conditions, such as strong winds, low humidity and/or warm temperatures, create an ideal environment for wildfires.

These warnings are meant as a precaution, but do not mean a wildfire has started or is imminent. United Power strongly encourages members to practice fire safety year-round, but to be particularly careful during Red Flag Warnings. Anyone in a Red Flag area is asked to avoid burning anything and any outdoor activity that may produce a spark and start a wildfire.



United Power has adapted its fire mitigation plan to respond when Red Flag Warnings are issued in or around the area it serves. During Red Flag events, the local electric system will be modified, which makes it more sensitive to intrusions. This heightened sensitivity on the electric system may occasionally result in more frequent member outages, but also mitigates the potential for an electrical fire. At the conclusion of the warning, the system will return to normal.

The cooperative engages in several other fire mitigation practices, including a robust vegetation management plan, strategic system construction and enhancement, deployment of automated field devices, and drone maintenance.

To read more about United Power's fire mitigation plan, go to www.unitedpower.com/fire-mitigation.



Make Sure Your Contact Info is Up-to-Date

United Power uses recorded phone messages to deliver important notifications and let members know when a preplanned outage has been scheduled in their area for maintenance work.

If your contact information on record isn't up-to-date, you may be missing out on important notifications from United Power.

You can check your contact information and make necessary updates using the free online payment portal, SmartHub.

Login to your online account at www.unitedpower.com. Contact information can also be updated by calling the Member Services Team at 303-637-1300.

Roadmapping Our Cooperative Future

One of the biggest projects United Power undertook last year was the development of its longterm action plan, Our Cooperative Roadmap. The Roadmap highlights four priority areas and addresses actionable steps for the cooperative to take advantage of opportunities and navigate challenges as the electric industry evolves.

The four priority areas are: empowering and engaging our members and communities; providing flexible, affordable, sustainable power and services; continuously optimizing the electric distribution system; and achieving and maintaining business agility through informational technology and operational technology (IT/OT) and system operations.

What does this plan look like in practice? United Power wants to be the power behind the spaces you call home and help its member communities grow into their vision of an ideal town or city. The cooperative should be in a position to take advantage of power markets that provide affordable electricity for everyone and flexibility for members who want to install cost-effective generation on their homes. An optimized system allows United Power to analyze information and improve performance and gives members more control over their energy usage.

To read Our Cooperative Roadmap and review key priorities, go to www.unitedpower.com/roadmap.

United Power Coal Creek Office
5 Gross Dam Road | Golden, CO 80403

Member Services: 303-637-1300
Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921



Payment Kiosk Location



EV Charging Site (CHAdeMO, CCS/SAE)



www.unitedpower.com

**UNITED
POWER**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Happy Father's Day



133 Linn Lane

Wonderful Log Home - .89 Acre
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,900 sq.ft. **\$672,000**



33492 Coal Creek Canyon Drive

Wondervu Cafe - Canyon's Favorite
Mexican Restaurant



SOLD!

LAND

TBD Sandau Lane

Wonderful Southern Exposure- Fiber Optic
Internet available - .99 Ac. **\$120,000**



Under Contract

261 Evergreen Road

Beautifully Updated Mtn Home
3 BD/ 4 BA 2,792 sq.ft. **\$795,000**



SOLD!

32077 Sylvan Road

Lovely Home on Sunny 1 Acre
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,627 sq.ft. **\$575,000**



SOLD!

126 Signal Rock

Lovely Landscaping/Divide Views
2 BD/ 3 BA 2,024 sq.ft. **\$600,000**



SOLD!

1.74 Acres

11965 Vonnie Claire

Gorgeous Log Home, Views, Solar
3 BD/ 3 BA 1,808 sq.ft. **\$876,000**



SOLD!

31040 Hwy 72

Sweet Mountain Cottage
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,007 sq.ft. **\$465,000**

**Call for a
Market Valuation
GREAT TIME
TO SELL!**

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SOLD!

968 Divide View

Outstanding Views - 1.95 Acres
2 BD/ 3 BA 2,400 sq.ft. **\$715,000**



SOLD!

14251 W. 91st, Arvada

Elegant Home w/Flatiron Views
5 BD/ 3 BA 4,786 sq.ft. **\$920,000**



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