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Vote NO On Proposition DD

And here are several reasons why this proposition is a bad idea and should not pass. Sports betting is illegal in Colorado due to its addictive nature. It is placing a bet on the outcome of any portion of a sporting event. In states that have succumbed to this type of betting they have seen a drastic rise in gambling addiction and all the ills that go with folks that cannot use self control thus put all their assets and retirement into jeopardy simply to bet on sports. In 1991 Colorado voters legalized limited stakes gambling in casinos in three towns, bets are limited to \$100 and the state also allows gambling on horse and dog racing, the state lottery and bingos plus raffles sponsored by non profits.

This proposition is a transparent attempt to fund water storage proposed projects to pull more water from the highly endangered Colorado River. One of these projects is in Coal Creek Canyon and is called the Moffat Collection System Project. Many of the residents of this canyon and Boulder County at large are against the expansion of the Gross Dam and reservoir due to a multitude of environmental concerns, road safety and the urban sprawl that would be the recipients of any additional water a larger reservoir might hold. If Denver Water implemented actual water conservation i.e. - not allowing for sod and young trees and bushes along each new housing development, encouraged native grass lawns and xeriscaping (*a landscaping method developed especially for arid and semiarid climates that utilizes water-conserving techniques*) by all the urban municipalities that want to buy more and more than their fair share of water leases - there would be no need to propose an expanded reservoir.

The blue book sent out to voters for this November Election refers to the Colorado Water Plan and how revenues generated by passing this proposition might provide additional funds for future water projects. What the blue book fails to tell voters is that the Colorado Water Plan is in direct conflict with the earlier compact signed in

December 2007, the federal government and the seven states of the Colorado River Basin established guidelines for coordinated operation of Lakes Powell and Mead under low-reservoir conditions and for shortage allocations among the Lower Basin states. An ongoing severe drought and potential for a major shortfall in supplies led to the agreement. Nineteen states and Mexico rely on Colorado River water.

In addition to water supply, there is concern that if Lake Mead were to drop to elevation 1,050 feet, hydroelectric-generation capacity at Hoover Dam would be compromised. Much of Hoover Dam's power is used by Southern California cities and the Metropolitan Water District to pump supplies from Lake Havasu, through the 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct, to Lake Mathews.

But over and beyond how the Colorado Water Plan is in conflict with already legally binding agreements for the Colorado River water, is the environmental destruction of the natural resource simply to sell more water for development. Denver Water is to blame for this potential action and they go against their own bylaws by promoting the Expansion of Gross Dam and reservoir. They do not need to store more water for their system to provide for Denver residents. They want more storage to sell the water to municipalities that want additional revenues from massive urban developments and Denver Water is under no obligation to provide that additional water.

Vote NO on Prop DD if you haven't already and continue to fight to help stop the Moffat Collection System PROPOSED Project - the Expansion of Gross Reservoir and Dam.

Reservoir building is an engineering model from the past and has outlived its continued use, much less expanding any we already have. Long live the Colorado River - let it alone and stop stealing her limited lifeblood supplies. Just enjoy open space as it does not need tons of new homes on it to encourage higher populations of people and taxes.

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Research Suggests Wild Burros Are Beneficial

By Asher Elbein Oct. 16 High Country News

This article was originally published by Undark and is reproduced here as part of the Climate Desk collaboration.

Death Valley National Park is stunningly barren. Silt hillsides crowned with rock and scree give way to dry streambeds and barren salt flats, the air dancing under a pitiless sun. The largest park in the lower 48 states, it contains the lowest elevation point in the country — nearly 300 feet below sea level — and has set the global heat record. It's a place that seems utterly antithetical to life, certainly not the sort of terrain where you'd expect to find a thriving population of wild burros.

Yet there are thousands of them in Death Valley, clustering for the most part around natural springs and park buildings. Burros — known variously as donkeys, African wild ass, or *Equus africanus asinus* — are the largest animals in the park. They're also relatively recent arrivals, introduced in the 1800s. And they've flourished to the point where they've been deemed a nuisance by the National Park Service, since they bulldoze through scarce water and vegetation resources, digging up riparian environments and crowding out native species.

"They have no predators and no disease essentially says Josh Hoines, the former chief of resources at the park. For Erick Lundgren, a biologist at the University of Technology Sydney studying their ecological impact, the burros of Death Valley represent a remarkable case study in resilience and potential adaptation, and are part of a far more nuanced debate about how novel ecosystems can evolve under our noses. "I think we can get better results by focusing on protecting apex predators and landscape

connectivity instead of trying to turn back time and remove wild burros," he says.


THERE WAS A TIME when the burros were considered indispensable. In the late 1800s, mining towns spread throughout the Southwest, pulling mineral wealth out of places like California's Death Valley. In the absence of internal combustion engines, something had to help grind the rocks and ferry supplies, and burros became a vital work force. But as claims ran dry and mines closed, miners released them into the desert.

In the 1930s, managers at Death Valley National Monument — the precursor to the park — began trapping and culling burros, with full-scale removal efforts ramping up whenever populations got particularly large. While a 1971 federal law forbade the hunting of mustangs and burros and set aside tracts of land under the Bureau of Land Management for both, Death Valley and other federal parks have tried to keep the populations as small as possible.

In 2002, the park adopted a management plan with the goal of eventually removing the entire population through partnerships with non-profits like Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue, which trap burros and offer them for adoption. The last roundup was in 2005. According to Allison Ainsworth, a biologist with the park, burro populations in the park have since risen to an estimated 3,000.

"We're always going to have burros," says Ainsworth. "Non-native species force you to start making decisions about what kind of ecosystem you want and what your values are." This kind of argument is standard in the discussion of exotic species, says Mark A. Davis, author of *Invasion Biology*. "They aren't a change from some iron-clad [environmental] truth, and it's not really scientific to act like they are. 'Unhealthy' or 'healthy' usually just means 'desirable or undesirable,' and we should be up front about that." From the beginning, according to Lundgren, the scientific literature on Southwestern burros has assumed they are undesirable, and has emphasized the damage they cause. Burros tend to dig groups of wells in dry streambeds, some of which can go as deep as five feet, to get at groundwater. Photographs of these wells have been used as evidence of negative burro impact, Lundgren says. But as far as he knows, well-digging behavior and its impacts in Death Valley have never been the subject of formal scientific research.

Lundgren began noticing the



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well-digging behavior in 2012, and actively studying it in 2015. Initially funded by a small grant from Arizona State University, Lundgren raised a further \$4,600 via crowdfunding to pay for trail cameras, which he and undergraduate students began placing around Arizona field sites like Bill Williams River. Their findings suggested that abandoned burro wells serve as germination nurseries for cottonwood and willows — keystone tree species in the Southwest — and as water resources for native amphibians, insects and mammals.

IN 2018, Lundgren turned his attention to Death Valley. Unlike the seasonal streambeds throughout the Arizona deserts, most of the water in Death Valley leaches out of hillsides of silt soil, fueling thick stands of vegetation on the slopes. The resulting springs are “strange and magical places,” he says, starkly isolated groves of densely packed willows and cattails, with game trails leading into the thickets opened up by foraging burros. So far, his cameras have caught migratory and resident birds, bobcats, coyotes, and foxes drinking from the wells.

“You go out to these sites and the only surface water are these excavations by wild burros, where they’ve dug out the soil and vegetation to make pools,” Lundgren says. “And it’s really the only water in many of these landscapes. So my first question is: What happens when you remove the animals keeping these wells open?”

“One of the requirements for [the springs’] persistence is some level of disturbance,” says Astrid Kodric-Brown, a biologist with the University of New Mexico. “That disturbance may initially have come from Pleistocene mammals, she says, and later from management by Indian populations. “Exotic” herbivores like burros seem to be ensuring the springs stay open, she says, though it’s healthiest for the ecosystem at large if they don’t linger for too long.

According to Kodric-Brown’s research, the springs were rapidly choked by fast-growing cattails and reeds following burro removal, destroying open-water habitat for endangered native fish populations. As a result, Lundgren says, “Land managers there go and manually remove wild vegetation, doing exactly what the burros were doing for free.” These kinds of unforeseen consequences are common in conservation land management, Davis says, and the onus for environmental damage tends to be placed on non-native species rather than other factors that might be amiss in the ecosystem, like the absence of predators. Predation is an under-studied aspect of burro ecology, Lundgren maintains. Several publications have pegged burro population growth directly to birth rates, without recording how many foals actually survive to adulthood. “Only three of ten peer-reviewed demography studies on horses and burros mention if (Continued on next page.)



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there are predators in the system or not,” Lundgren says. “The lack of predation is an assumption that’s carried around without anyone explicitly testing it.”

In the course of the 2018 and 2019 field seasons spent monitoring Death Valley field sites in areas like Willow Canyon and Mesquite Spring, Lundgren says he has found considerable evidence of predation: around 33 burro carcasses in the riparian vegetation, half of which he characterizes as undeniable kills from mountain lions. (The other half are less conclusive, but were found in close proximity to lion scat and tracks.)

Some mountain lion trails contain skeletons from two or three burros, he adds, and the dense vegetation that springs up in the groves during the growing season may be hiding more remains. While such kills might be attributable to just a few lions, Lundgren argues, they might also be a signal that the lion population is adapting to target the largest available prey in the ecosystem, which would provide a natural check on burro populations. Some studies suggest that high levels of mountain lion predation essentially negate population growth in some wild horse herds.

IN ORDER FOR THIS kind of natural check on burros to work, Lundgren points out, lion populations have to be healthy. In some areas of Nevada where burro populations are skyrocketing, mountain lions are shot at a certain age to protect bighorn sheep or livestock, he adds, meaning that cubs often don’t have exposure to more challenging prey. The young and inexperienced lions that remain have a hard time going after wild burros. In addition, burro herds in the park tend to shield themselves by clustering around areas of heavy human habitation, which lions tend to avoid. All these factors make it appear as if the burros have no predators, Lundgren says, but actually point to a more

complicated dynamic. It’s possible that some of the behavior decried in wild burros — well digging, for example — may have been present in America’s



Wild burros, though introduced to Death Valley National Park, may actually benefit native species.
Anthony/CC via Flickr

Pleistocene horses, camels, and rhinos, which went extinct long before Europeans re-introduced equids to the West. In 2017, Lundgren and several colleagues published a paper arguing that exotic animals — including burros — are filling important roles in ecosystems that Ice Age extinctions left bare. “We’re looking at a system where the big animals were already killed by humans,”

Lundgren says. Adding big animals back into modern ecosystems changes them in ways we aren’t used to, he

argues, and some of the changes “are actually a restoration to the way the world must have been for 15 million years.”


“Places like Death Valley are extremely low-productivity systems, and are pretty water-limited and forage-limited,” says Erik Beever, a research biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey who has worked on the long-term impact of burro and cattle removal in the Mojave Desert. He says that while he’s interested in evaluating Lundgren’s research when it comes out next year, he’s also cautious about ascribing benefits to the burros’ presence. “I think looking holistically at this issue — the comparatively low resilience of the system should be measured against the gains [burros provide.] As with nearly all issues in biology, it’s very context-dependent, so they may be more helpful in some years than others.” It’s a complex issue, in other words, and one Lundgren believes requires deeper study. There is no question that burros are having a direct impact on Death Valley’s ecosystems and that they are doing so under a management paradigm that sees any impact as problematic. His question is whether there are alternate methods of managing the burro population that don’t require rounding up surplus animals.

“There’s an opportunity here to tell people a really interesting story about the dynamism of nature and deep time and ecological change, as opposed to this simplistic black-and-white story that exists in our minds,” Lundgren said. “I think that the idea that these organisms are evolving and responding to each other in this novel system is just so interesting and beautiful, and much more optimistic as a vision of nature, than this fragile native space that needs to be protected.”

Asher Elbein is a writer based in Austin, Texas.

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Response To Article Sworn To Refuse & Rebuttal

Dear Editor,

The article begins with a statement of imagining “Republicans, Democrats and Independents working together, presenting a united front in support of our country.” History has shown that the Democrats idea of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents “working together” is when the Republicans and the Independents lose their identity and bend to the will of Democrats. It’s exceedingly rare when the Democrats compromise on anything. *(Matt replies.) The history of the U.S. congress is replete with examples of cooperation to achieve legislation for the benefit of the nation. The compromises that occur in that cooperation are typically ones in which both/all sides each give up something in order to achieve a greater good on which all cooperating parties can agree. It may be that, these days, we see less such cooperation, but that doesn’t mean there’s none, or that compromise by all sides for the greater good can’t be achieved. Additionally, let us not forget two enormous populations of U.S. citizens, both with members whose politics range across the full spectrum, that daily work in states of high cooperation and collaboration with each other: our armed forces and our police and other emergency response forces.*

The article also mentions “we all love our country.” *In fact, Valerie begins her article by asking readers to imagine that “we all love our country, no matter what policy issues we may deeply and passionately disagree about.” She does not state “we all love our country” as fact.* But many liberal Democrats seem to be compelled to change much of what our country is based upon. Democrats are in favor of the elimination of the Electoral College while claiming to love democracy, maintaining roadblocks to voter ID laws which would help protect against fraudulent elections with their condescending claims that it disenfranchises certain segments of our society, implementation of speech codes on college campuses while claiming to love the First Amendment, infringement on gun ownership rights for law abiding citizens while giving no appearance of concern for the gun

violence in major Democrat strongholds. They don’t feel comfortable with putting America’s interests ahead of others while the Democrats place their interests ahead of all others, they absolutely despise the slogan “Make America Great Again” as if it’s something to be feared. They claim that nearly everything about the founding of America is based on racism, and that any action we undertake to protect our sovereignty is purely based on xenophobic racism. They believe that our nation’s flag is a symbol of oppression. My guess is that the organizers of Sworn to Refuse hold all of those beliefs while claiming to be nonpartisan. *This paragraph suffers from a common mistake of analysis of issues which have political aspects and/or implications. Though there’s not a single statement in Valerie’s article reporting the political affiliation of any Sworn to Refuse members, Pat appears to make the assumption that our membership is primarily Democratic. In fact, in all of our group’s meetings, there’ve rarely, in my memory, been times when members have noted their party affiliation. Also, Pat seems to misunderstand the meaning of Sworn to Refuse being a non-partisan project. For us, “non-partisan” means that, whatever our personal political inclinations, the project itself has no goals that are designed to benefit one or more particular political parties or tendencies. We want the ideals and program of Sworn to Refuse to continue forward in history, and we want it to spread throughout our nation, so that federal, state, county, and municipal governments dominated by Democrats, Republicans, and other political parties are heavily populated by oath-taking employees and contract workers who understand that they have the right and responsibility to refuse to carry out orders and directives from superiors the fulfillment of which they believe would cause them to violate their oath.*

I’ll note, too, that Sworn to Refuse has eagerly reached out to Republicans and other conservatives who share our belief that governments should follow, protect, and preserve the rule of law, including the organization Republicans for the Rule of Law (Continued on next page.)

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(<https://www.ruleoflawrepublicans.com/>), Defending Democracy Together (<https://www.defendingdemocracytogether.org/>), and nationally syndicated columnist Michael Gerson. Once we've further developed our materials, we'll be making a highly concerted effort to contact as many different nominally conservative and Republican organizations and individuals throughout America.

The article says that the organization "Sworn to Refuse is not partisan." But the only people they seem to want to vent their criticism toward are Republicans/conservatives.

The son of two trained journalists, one of whom, my father, was a well-known investigative reporter for two major Chicago newspapers during the reign of deeply corrupt Democratic mayor Richard Daley and his political "machine." I'm well aware that both Democrats and Republicans can be and at times are very corrupt, and Sworn to Refuse calls for the implementation of our ideals and program throughout the nation, irrespective of which parties are in control of national, state, county, city, and other levels of government (e.g. school boards).

StR co-coordinator Matt Nicodemus says that there is "obvious corruption of the current Republican administration" which has had "a huge impact." *If Pat would care to meet and discuss these topics in person, I'll be happy to lay out for him the extensive evidence to prove my point. I'm curious as to whether he would acknowledge that there has been any corruption at all within the Trump administration.* As is usually the case when people make such statements, no facts are issued by him to even attempt to present evidence to back up that claim. *The point of Valerie's article is to introduce Sworn to Refuse to Highlander Monthly readers, not to make the case for my claim about the degree of corruption of the Trump administration.* He immediately went to the false characterization of Trump's travel ban of people trying to enter the country from known terrorist regions of the world. It was not a "Muslim ban." *See this careful analysis of Trump's language about the travel ban to understand that he did indeed see it, and speak of it, as a Muslim ban: <https://www.cato.org/blog/dozen-times-trump-equated-travel-ban-muslim-ban>* *The author of this article, David Bier, is an immigration policy analyst at the conservative Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity.* The Supreme Court sided *(in a 5-4 decision)* with President Trump on that issue. *See too this 9/26/19 Washington Post news report, "Trump's 'travel ban' really was a Muslim ban. You can see it in the data" (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/26/trumps-muslim-ban-really-was-muslim-ban-thats-what-data-suggest/>)* Nicodemus tried to use a "historical example" of people using refusal to follow authority by depicting Richard Nixon as the one who was the war monger for his "support" of the war in Vietnam and that others in the White House were "trying to push in another

direction.” *I did no such thing. I never identified Nixon as “the one who was the war monger” re: Vietnam. I stated the historical fact that Nixon supported the war. However, Pat is correct in pointing out — and I should have acknowledged — that the Vietnam War was prosecuted by both Democratic and Republican U.S. presidents. He’s incorrect about which president got us into that conflict; it was Truman, with Eisenhower following suit (https://www.history.com/news/us-presidents-vietnam-war-escalation).* Who got the United States into the conflict in Vietnam? It were Democrats John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. Who got us out of Vietnam? It was the Republican Richard Nixon. Who got us involved in Syria? It was Barak Obama. Who is trying to get us out of Syria? Donald Trump. It used to be the liberals who hated American involvement abroad...that is until the presidents they support gets us involved abroad and until a president they don’t like tries to do what they wanted us to do regarding Vietnam and Syria. *Here are two paragraphs, drawn from my 1/5/19 Daily Camera guest commentary, “Tell government workers: Honor your oath,” that may be informative to Pat: “America’s armed forces, scandalized and chastened by the horrific 1968 massacre of multiple hundreds of innocent Vietnamese civilians at My Lai by U.S. soldiers, developed strict regulations requiring that all personnel refuse to follow any “illegitimate” orders. They now seriously and repeatedly train their troops on these regulations. And when, in 2015 and 2016, presidential candidate Donald Trump proposed that the American military and intelligence agencies should return to the use of torture, openly imagined a policy of killing known family members of terrorists, and suggested the U.S. should have “taken” Iraq’s oil before pulling out of the country, heads of the armed forces and those intelligence agencies immediately and very publicly stated that they would not follow such illegal orders from a commander in chief. When acclaimed journalist Seymour Hersh, who broke the stories of both My Lai and U.S. torture of detainees in the Abu Graib prison in Iraq, was asked last year about the success of his investigative reporting, he replied, “It’s all about finding people that take an oath of office (to speak out).”*

StR just happened to be founded shortly after Donald Trump was elected President. Apparently this “non-partisan” organization had no problem with the laundry list of scandals and corruption taking place during the 8 years of the Obama administration *Pat doesn’t claim to personally know any Sworn to Refuse*

members, so it is impossible for him to make any claims about what is or appears to be in our minds. If he decides to sit down and talk with some of us, he may be quite surprised to learn what different of us know and believe about the goings on within any number of Democratic administrations : getting the IRS to target his enemies and pro-Israel groups; Benghazi; the retaliatory shooting down by the Taliban of a Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan after Obama’s vice-president Joe Biden violated national security by disclosing classified information about the name of the Navy special operations team that killed Osama bin Laden and the rules of engagement Obama insisted upon helping create the dangerous situation the helicopter crew (including a friend of mine from the Colorado Army National Guard named CW4 Dave Carter) and passengers were place in; getting his Justice Department to engage in massive culling of phone records of reporters of the Associated Press during a leak investigation of the Obama administration; the bullying of the press from the Biden office by repeatedly interfering with coverage, forcing reporters to wait in a closet, making a reporter delete photos, and editing pool reports; the monitoring of Fox News report James Rosen and his family based on false accusations that he committed a criminal offense regarding classified information; the Obama Attorney General Eric Holder lying to Congress by saying that he had no involvement with the potential prosecution of James Rosen for perjury even though Holder signed the affidavit that termed Rosen as a criminal; the ATF Fast and Furious scandal that cost the lives of valuable law enforcement agents, along with Eric Holder’s perjury on the floor of Congress pertaining to his knowledge of the Fast and Furious program; Solyndra, and another corrupt ethanol project (Continued on next page.)



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Highlander Letters

by a company named Abengoa near Hugoton, Kansas that I have close personal acquaintance about but that never was reported upon by the media even though it made Solyndra look like a mere warm-up exercise, along with the administration's insistence that Solyndra delay announcing of layoffs until after the 2010 midterm elections; the numerous scandals involving HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius; the Pigford scandal; the delivery of billions of dollars in cash to Iran, a well-known sponsor of terrorism around the world without Congressional approval; the scandals of the General Services Administration and the Veterans Administration; the Hillary Clinton email scandals that Obama was certainly a big part of; the attack on Libya without Congressional approval; and the penchant that Barak Obama had for circumventing Congress by deciding on his own which laws he would enforce and which ones he would create with his phone and his pen.

I don't know where Valerie Wedel got the false information that military officers are actually taught to "refuse a direct order based on their own judgment." I spent 28 years in the Army, and never got the impression that any officers just used their own judgement to supersede that of their superiors. If you are ignorant of what you are talking about, it's usually a good idea to avoid trying to convince people of something based upon your ideology alone.

Actually, Valerie was not at all ignorant on these points, though her statement of the military regulations wasn't complete. She should have said that U.S. soldiers are trained to disobey orders which they judge to be illegitimate, unlawful orders. For more detailed discussion, see <https://www.counterpunch.org/2003/02/27/a-duty-to-disobey-all-unlawful-orders/> and <https://www.justsecurity.org/55743/law-military-obedience-mattis-military-orders/>

Many in the Hillary Clinton campaign and the DNC should not have followed orders which allowed the corruption of the 2016 Democratic primary election that robbed Bernie Sanders of the nomination for President. I think more than a few StR members believed and still do believe that corrupt practices within the Democratic Party leadership stole the 2016 presidential nomination from Bernie Sanders. However, the rule-breaking that took place in those circumstances wouldn't be within the purview of our

group, since the misdeeds were not within the scope of official government business. Indeed, many in the Obama administration's Department of Justice, FBI, CIA and the State Department as well as the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee should have refused the orders that they eagerly followed which were incongruent with the U.S. Constitution regarding our election process and their activity of trying to disrupt a duly-elected President. There was Russian collusion and Ukrainian participation, to be sure, not in favor of Trump, but rather in favor of Hillary Clinton. And, it took place under the Obama Administration.

I agree with the notion that nobody should be above the law, including Donald Trump. But no evidence has proven that Trump broke any laws. A difference of political opinion or policy is not an indication of corruption. Furthermore, I am confidently assuming that people in the StR movement are of the belief that people illegally entering the United States should be allowed to remain above the law. Again, unless Pat has met any StR members or otherwise has direct personal knowledge of our many and varied beliefs, he has no basis for "confidently assuming" any opinions we might have. However, since I do know everyone in the group, I can state with fair confidence that none of us believe or would publicly state, "People illegally entering the United States should be allowed to remain above the law." What argumentative purpose does constructing such a patently unsupportable straw horse have?

Mr. Nicodemus was asked how he planned to reach members of different political parties, and to avoid being seen as partisan. His answer mostly included liberal organizations such as the ACLU, Amnesty International and the Brennan Center at NYU law school. He later mentioned the Boulder City Council, the Boulder County commissioner, Congressman Joe Neguse, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, all very liberal people.

Pat must not regularly read the Daily Camera, the Colorado Daily, or the Boulder Weekly, all three of which are regularly read by both liberals and conservatives, by Democrats and Republicans. If he did, he'd have read the numerous letters to the editor and guest commentaries different of our members have had published in those newspapers, starting back in 2017. If he meets with me, I'll be happy to describe our various strategies for more widely spreading our perspectives and resources to interested people across the political spectrum.

It sounds to me like Sworn to Refuse is following the Saul Alinsky theory of creating chaos within the United States government...because they love this country so and are not partisan. Pat Searcy I'm wondering if Pat has actually read any of Saul Alinsky's writings. If so, perhaps he'll be able to direct me toward a sourced Alinsky quote which approximates "the Saul Alinsky theory of creating chaos within the United States government." Matt Nicodemus



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'Forever Chemicals' Pollution Confirmed

By Paige Blankenbuehler May 30 – High Country News

Western states lag behind in both monitoring and regulating the class of 'forever chemicals.'

The U.S. Air Force has been sued after confirmation of PFAS contamination at Lake Holloman, near the Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. *Photo courtesy*

J.M. Eddins Jr./U.S. Air Force

Polyfluoroalkyl chemicals exist in furniture, waterproof makeup and clothing, nonstick cookware, popcorn bags, the foam used to extinguish petroleum fires (which is different from the slurry used across the West to fight wildfires), and countless other items. Known collectively as PFAS, this class of chemicals contains more than 5,000 different compounds that are often called "forever chemicals" because they take so long to break down in the environment. PFAS chemicals are an omnipresent, if largely invisible, part of daily life.

Yet numerous studies have linked exposure to them to cancer, thyroid disease, weakened childhood immunity and other health problems, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A 2007 study published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* estimated that



PFAS are in the blood of 98% of Americans.

Because the Environmental Protection Agency does not regulate PFAS chemicals, states are left not only to research and track them, but also to develop regulations to clean up already dangerous levels of pollution. And, according to recent data from the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute at Northeastern University and the Environmental Working Group, the West isn't doing a great job.

Bill Walker, with the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization, says that, by and large, Western states are lagging far behind, not only in PFAS regulations, but also in monitoring. "The scope of this problem is growing — not because our exposure to PFAS chemicals is growing, but because we're finally becoming aware of the persistence of these compounds in our lives," said Walker. "Because there is so little action from the EPA on this, addressing this crisis falls to the states."

An interactive map of U.S. PFAS sites can be found at www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/2019_pfas_contamination/map/

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Tour Company Sells Illegal Driving In Our Canyons

Trip Advisor has recently purchased the Viator Tours Company and here are a few of the links to what is most certainly illegal driving experiences. This may be why we see fast cars on our canyon roads doing maneuvers even a professional driver would not do on a State Highway. With a bit more research into this tour company it is clear they want your money but also crystal clear most tours are canceled and the money is hard to recoup.

Colorado State Patrol's response to the Highlander reader who alerted me to this criminal activity: "I received your email about the speeding super cars in your area. We will continue to assign troopers to the area to combat the dangerous driving behaviors. For your information we have cited those drivers and employees for speeding and even towed one of their Lamborghinis for no registration. Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and remember you can call in the drivers to CSP 303.239.4545 at the time. If a trooper is near by we might be able to

intervene immediately. There is also an option to follow up based on your willingness to testify in court if you witness the dangerous driving first hand. Drive Safely."



Captain Dean H. Paxton - Colorado State Patrol - Troop 1A/1E Commander dean.paxton@state.co.us 303-273-1604 Office. (An attorney's response to what the CSP trooper says about testifying is that only experts can testify.) The links for these tours are as follows: In Canyon Road Supercar 15-Mile Test Drive Near Golden,

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Colorado 2019 – Denver, they say “Speed down 15 miles of canyon road, and take on 158 turns and curves.” <https://www.viator.com/tours/Denver/125-Mile-Canyon-Driving-Tour/d4837-35371P1>

In 25-Mile Colorado Canyon Test Drive in a Luxury Supercar 2019.pdf – Denver “Let loose on straightaways and hug more than 200 hair-pin turns” and “feel the acceleration and steering power of world-class machines from Lamborghini and Porsche..” *There is nowhere in any of these canyons where you can use the acceleration of these cars safely.*

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Denver/25-Mile-Canyon-Road-Drive/d4837-35371P7>

In 35-Mile Colorado Canyon Road Test Drive 2019 – Denver “Push the limits of a luxury supercar on the scenic roadways of Colorado’s canyons.....let loose on open plains and then tackle more than 300 hairpin turns...on canyon roads..”. *Again, there is nowhere in our canyons where one can get even close to the limits of these cars without endangering people and animals.*

Also “Go full throttle on open roadways outside of Denver – perfect for racing enthusiasts...”... *OK, they may not be doing this in the canyons, but full throttle on these cars is about 200 miles per hour, which is irresponsible on any public road.*

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Denver/35-Mile-Canyon-Road-Test-Drive/d4837-35371P2>

In Multi-car 65 Mile Canyon Road Test Drive 2019 – Denver “maneuver at top speed around the hairpin turns and long stretches of a canyon drive”. “Test the limits of top cars as you speed down canyon drives”. “...allowing you to flex the full capabilities of the roaring engine at your control”...

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Denver/35-Mile-Canyon-Road-Test-Drive/d4837-35371P5>

So here we have a company which is actively encouraging inexperienced drivers to get behind the wheel of a car which far exceeds their capabilities, with unfamiliar controls, and speed along our roads – while also



communicating with the ‘instructor’ via walkie-talkie. Oh, and of course, enjoying the scenery.

So, if you see one of these vehicles speeding on our canyon roads call State Patrol immediately or when you have cell coverage. I think suggesting the person witnessing the crime to testify in court is a backwards way to deal with this tour company. I think investigating the tour company by sending an undercover officer to take one of the canyon tours would be more productive to catching the operators and stopping the promotion of these tours.

By A.M. Wilks

Thank you to the loyal reader that brought this to our attention. The tour operators don’t live here and apparently don’t care about OUR safety on 40-45 mph roads.



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Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria In Coastal Waterways

By Jane C. Hu Oct. 9 High Country News

One Friday afternoon in August, Stephanie Norman was performing a routine necropsy, hacking away at the remains of a large, pneumonia-stricken harbor seal, when she nicked herself with the scalpel. She thought nothing of it until she woke up Sunday morning. “My finger was this big around,” she said later, making a circle the size of a silver dollar with her thumb and index finger. Norman, a veterinary epidemiologist, examines stranded seals and porpoises in the Salish Sea for antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Despite her injury, she rushed to the airport to travel to a research conference. But on the flight, her symptoms worsened: “The biologist sitting next to me said, ‘Do you know that you’ve got a red streak going up your arm?’” So, after she landed, Norman sought help at an urgent care clinic. Knowing her infection could be resistant to antibiotics, she was nervous.

Each year, around 2 million people in the U.S. develop antibiotic-resistant infections, and 23,000 of them die as a result. Scientists need to understand how resistant bacteria travel to control their spread, but that path is far from straightforward. To illuminate the pathways among humans, pets, and livestock to wild animals, researchers

must collect samples from a variety of species, including those that live in the ocean.

But sampling marine animals, especially wild ones, is hard. Taking a swab from a creature’s body requires removing it from the water, which disturbs the animal and requires significant time and effort. As a result, there are only a handful of studies on resistant bacteria in wild marine animals and resistant bacteria, leaving scientists with an incomplete picture of how superbugs spread in coastal waterways.

To remedy that, Norman is enlisting help from volunteers who respond to stranded marine mammals around the Salish Sea. They take samples from fresh dead seals and porpoises, which are analyzed for resistance to sixteen antibiotics. They bring some carcasses to Norman for necropsies, which provide clues about the animals and their potential exposure to resistant bacteria: what they ate, how they died and any contact they may have had with human-made materials, like fishing lures.

Resistant bacteria might also be latent in the water, partly due to the aquaculture industry’s use of antibiotics. The FDA has authorized three antibiotics to treat ailing fish, which are related to medications also used to treat humans.

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The treatments, dumped into the water directly or via fish food, easily disperse from open pens; a 2013 study estimated that 80% of aquaculture medications make their way into the greater environment. These trace amounts stimulate the growth of resistant bacteria by killing off all but the hardest strains. Those bacteria can then afflict wildlife and sometimes even find their way back to land, infecting humans. In Washington, studies from as early as 1992 show resistant bacteria proliferating around commercial Atlantic salmon pens.

Other potential sources include sewage, agriculture and stormwater runoff. Tracking superbugs in the ocean as well as on land will provide a clearer picture of how they spread and perhaps suggest ways to minimize transmission. Norman's test results will be entered into the archives at ARMADA, a nonprofit organization building a database of antibiotic-resistant gene data for researchers. Evgeni Sokurenko, a University of Washington microbiologist on the organization's advisory board, said this information could help researchers stop bacterial outbreaks before they start. "If you imagine bacterial strains as criminals, what we're doing is creating a database of these criminals so they can be caught, and (we can) figure out where they're coming from," he said.

So far, Norman and her team have collected samples from 28 seals and 10 porpoises. About half carried resistant bacteria, while a sizable portion — half the porpoises and a quarter of the seals — also harbored what Sokurenko calls "nightmare bugs": bacteria that are resistant to more than one antibiotic, and thus less treatable by the medications doctors and vets typically use. These strains were resistant to ciprofloxacin and third-generation cephalosporins, medications commonly used to treat a wide range of infections in humans. That's "quite unusual for wildlife," said Sokurenko.

Norman's goal is to sample 130 marine mammals by the end of the year. One project can't unravel all the intricacies of how antibiotic-resistant bacteria spread, but Norman hopes her samples yield some answers. After all, ocean health and human health are inextricably linked, she said. "It's a two-way street."

Her finger infection in August drove this home. At first, Norman didn't know which bacteria was the culprit — just that it came from an ill seal that may have harbored



resistant bacteria. "Wow, that's concerning," the clinic nurse told her. Together, they decided on two antibiotics, hoping at least one might work: a shot of cephalosporin and a course of doxycycline. A week later, the seal's lab results came back: It was a type of resistant E. coli, which, luckily, was not resistant to doxycycline — and Norman's finger was healing nicely.

Jane C. Hu is an independent journalist who writes about science, technology, and the outdoors. She lives in Seattle. Of 28 seals tested in the Salish Sea, about half of them harbored antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Photo courtesy Ian Macrae Young/Alamy



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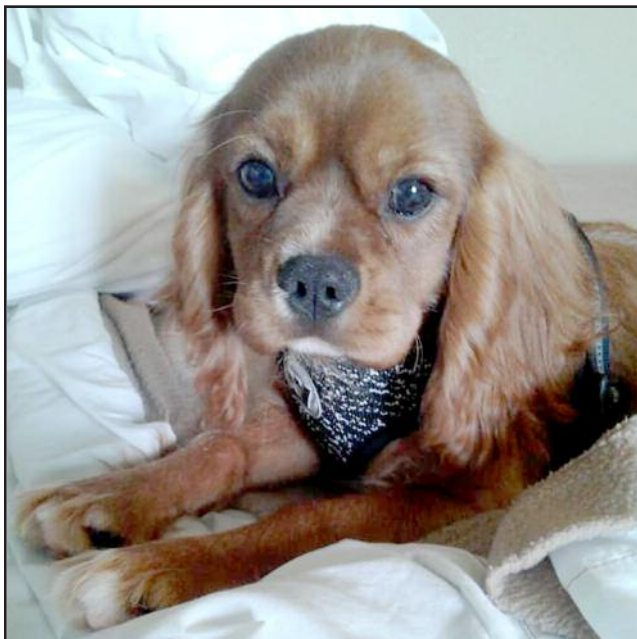
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Previous page top left: Amos with Dillon.

Top right: Bella from Dave Tee.

Middle left: Corgi from Jennifer.

Bottom right: From Darren Clark-girl on pony.

This Page top left: Sharyn's new puppy Indie.

Top right: German Shepherd w/Pygmy Owl.

Bottom left: Twin miniature horse foals.

At right: Purr 'n Fur kitten.



What Winter Weather Means For Driving

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

Use the forecast to adjust your driving strategy and help you stay safe.

Being a better driver means giving your vehicle the tender loving care it needs - regular oil changes and a thorough cleaning, for example. But learning a little bit more about the weather can also make an impact on your daily driving habits and how you respond to conditions on the road. Unpredictable weather - especially between winter and spring - can pose plenty of driving challenges. Here's what you need to know about the weather and your drive.

Rain + Freezing Temps = Slick Roads

This combination can transform roads from dry to slippery in just minutes. Bridges and overpasses may present particular dangers. **Driving strategy:** If it starts to drizzle during your drive, take precautions. Turn on headlights to increase visibility and increase your driving distance between cars to six seconds rather than three. Avoid sudden braking to prevent skids. Avoid slamming on the brakes or abruptly correcting your steering. If your vehicle begins to hydroplane, ease off the gas pedal and steer straight until you regain control.

Warm Days + Overnight Freezing = Black Ice

When snow melts during a warm winter day but freezes again overnight, something termed black ice can form. It's not actually black - just a very thin, shiny-looking sheet of ice that's often difficult to detect. **Driving strategy:** If possible, delay driving until temperatures warm. Otherwise, drive at slower-than-posted speeds and increase your following distance.

Gusty Winds + Temperature Drop = Road Instability

As cold fronts move in, winds often pick up speed. Strong gusts can affect how your car handles, even if you're driving at normal speeds. Especially after a snowfall, blustery conditions can result in fallen branches, poor visibility, and downed power lines. **Driving strategy:** Slow down so it's easier to brake and handle your car. In addition, choose parking spots away from potential hazards.

Moisture That's Low in the Atmosphere + a Cold Ground = Dense Fog

In near-freezing temps, the moisture from dense fog can create slick spots on the road and bring visibility to zero. **Driving strategy:** Glare from high beams and other lights on the road can make it difficult to spot dangers on the road. Switch on your low-beam or fog headlights to make your own vehicle more visible. Drive slowly and pay attention to make sure you're driving in one lane.

Recent or Ongoing Snow + Heavy Traffic = Slick Roads

Lots of traffic can turn roads slick, especially if road crews haven't yet cleared or deiced surfaces. Sharp turns, over-correcting, and slamming on the brakes may all lead to skidding or swerving. **Driving strategy:** Increase the distance between you and other drivers, particularly on hills. Allow more time to stop at intersections. Never pass snowplows or sand trucks. **Tip:** Skip the cruise control during difficult weather conditions so you can respond more quickly to changing road conditions.

Why it's Essential to Help Keep Your Vehicle Clear of Snow and Ice

At any time of year — but particularly during the dark and potentially treacherous driving days of winter — it's essential to keep your car windows clear. So build in extra time to remove snow and ice from your car before you drive out onto the wintry roads.

Clear the snow from around your vehicle. Before you tackle accumulations on the windows, check to see that the tailpipe is free of snow. Snow covering your tailpipe could lead to carbon monoxide buildup in your car. After that, turn on the car and run the defroster. It may take five minutes or more to warm up the car and start the melting process. Clear snow from the roof, hood, and trunk lid while you wait.

Next, clear the side windows and rear windows. Do the



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windshield last to give the defroster more time to start melting the ice. Don't forget to clear your exterior mirrors, headlights, taillights, and turn signals. Your last steps: Clear off and dry your wiper blades and make sure your wiper fluid nozzles are clear. If your wipers are more than six months old or they're not clearing the windows properly, it's time to replace them.

Remove the frost from your windows

Use the smooth side of a plastic ice scraper to clear frost. If it's an especially light coating and you don't have a scraper, a plastic card from your wallet or an old, unusable CD can serve in a pinch. Use vertical strokes and gently push the accumulation down and off the vehicle.

Remove any ice from the windshield.

Use the ridged side of a plastic ice scraper to get ice off the windshield. Make vertical slashes down the window, and then scrape across the window surface to break up the ice into smaller chunks. Never pour hot water on a car covered in ice. The rapid temperature change can cause glass to crack or shatter. And don't use a screwdriver, metal key or other sharp item to chip ice away. These can scratch or shatter the glass.

Remove snow from the car

For fluffy snows, use a snow brush with plastic bristles or a broom to clear windows, followed by a light scrape with an ice scraper as needed. Heavy snows may require clearing snow with a push broom, but don't use your snow

shovel or you risk damaging your vehicle.

Clear snow off the vehicle's roof before you clear the windows, and also brush the snow off the front hood and trunk before you head out. Skip this step and big clumps of snow could blow off while you're driving, obstructing your view or that of another driver.

If vehicles can be kept in a garage or under an overhang, it can reduce snow and ice buildup. If that is not available, covering the roof, windshield, and hood of the car with a snow blanket can allow for easy removal by pulling the blanket away from the vehicle.

Watch for fog buildup on the interior windows


Sometimes your visibility can be hampered from inside the car. Always keep the air vent set to "fresh" rather than "recirculate," which can contribute to foggy windows. Your vehicle's defroster can help reduce the problem, as can opening your windows slightly. For best results, use your air conditioner. Air conditioners are designed to remove moisture from the air, and they can do that job even when the heater is on. Finally, keep a clean microfiber cloth in the car to clear stubborn foggy spots.

The driver and passengers should shake off as much snow and moisture from their clothes and shoes as possible before entering the car. This lessens the moisture level in the carpeting and upholstery and helps prevent fog buildup, increasing the potential for fogging and impaired visibility.


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Allowing Off-Highway Vehicles Is A Mistake

By Jonathan Thompson – High Country News Oct. 18

Capitol Reef National Park in southern Utah receives more than 1.2 million visitors per year, but only a tiny fraction make it down to the park's south end along the spectacular Waterpocket Fold. This section is more austere than the busy area along Highway 24, and it's far quieter as a result. Even during peak season, you can linger by the dirt road here for hours without seeing another vehicle.

That's likely to change Nov. 1, when the National Park Service is slated to begin allowing off-highway vehicles, or OHVs, to use roads in national park service units in Utah. The nation's other national parks will remain off-limits to the vehicles.

Palmer "Chip" Jenkins, the agency's acting intermountain regional director (yes, another "acting" official in the Trump Interior Department) ordered the change in late September without seeking public comment. The order was not illegal — it's an administrative decision — but it is unusual. The OHV plan for Glen Canyon Recreation Area, for example, took the Park Service nine years to craft. Jenkins' recent order is purportedly intended to "align" the parks with Utah law, which allows "street-legal" OHVs on many public roads. But it appears to be another instance of the Trump administration bending to industry and Utah's conservative politicians at the expense of some of the last OHV-free places in the West.

To understand how this might change the parks, just look at San Juan County, Colorado, its rugged mountains



The switchbacks of remote Burr Trail in Utah's Capitol Reef National Park will soon be open to off-highway vehicles. In addition to posing a danger to fragile ecosystems, patrolling the traffic increase will be a strain on park resources.

Monica Orchard/CC via Flickr

crisscrossed with hundreds of miles of roads left from over a century of mining.

In the early 2000s, San Juan County's leaders moved to open virtually all county roads to OHVs, relying on arguments similar to those bandied about by advocates today: Those roads were already traveled by thousands of vehicles each summer; OHV riders would be subject to the same traffic laws as other cars; they wouldn't be allowed to go off-road; and "quiet users" could escape the uptick in traffic, noise, dust, and other impacts by simply getting a half-mile or so away from the road. (Continued on page 24.)

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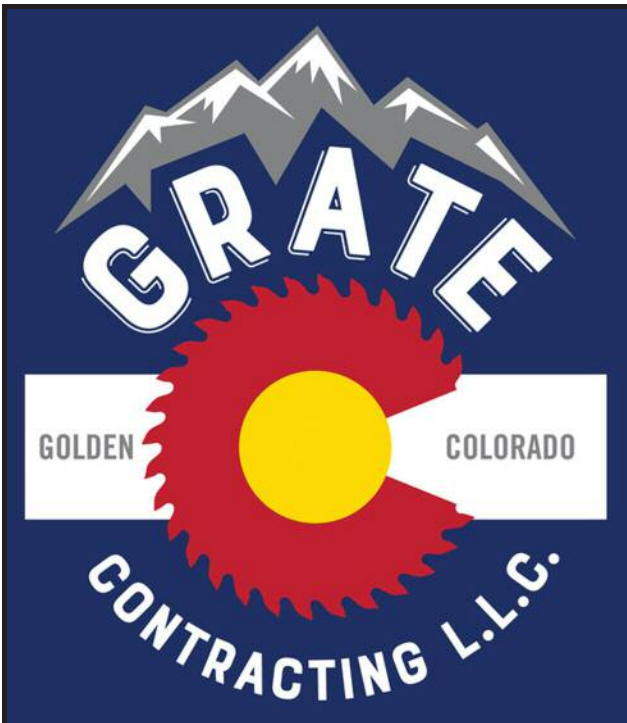
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Since then, traffic hasn't just ticked up on San Juan County's backroads, it has exploded, and statistics indicate that most of the growth has consisted of OHVs. A traffic count done last year found that nearly 159,000 vehicles, about half of them OHVs, used the Alpine Loop- a network of backcountry roads that include San Juan County's.

It's been good for the economy, but comes at a cost. Law enforcement officers are spending more time trying to keep people on designated routes and in compliance with traffic laws. The new "side-by-sides, or UTVs, are built to go much faster than a highway-ready SUV on rugged terrain, and they often do. OHV crashes, often resulting in serious injury, are not uncommon. And each summer several riders surrender to the temptation to illegally leave the road and rip across the tundra, causing irreversible damage. These vehicles, after all, were designed to go off road. Unlike regular vehicles, OHVs tend to travel in herds, spewing exhaust and kicking up dust, their collective buzzing reaching far beyond the roads on which they travel, making it more difficult to escape the mechanized din.

It's likely the same phenomenon would occur in national parks that allow OHVs. Traffic will burgeon in parks that are already grappling with overcrowding and traffic jams. The less-visited backcountry areas, however, will be hit hardest. OHVs will be able to kick up clouds of dust on the now-quiet roads of Canyonlands' Maze District and buzz past mountain bikers on the White Rim Trail. And they'll soon be able to hook up with the Burr Trail on the aforementioned road through Capitol Reef's southern end, where there's very little to stop bad actors from careening across the fragile cryptobiotic soil.

So why would Jenkins allow such a thing? Because the

industry and Utah's politicians asked for it, claiming that the park's ban amounted to discrimination. In July, motorized access groups wrote to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, demanding that he drop the ban. Utah State Rep. Phil Lyman, R, who led an OHV protest ride down a road closed to motorized vehicles in 2014, followed with a similar letter: "It offends me that ... the National Park Service has adopted regulations that discriminate against OHV owners." That sentiment was echoed in an *Outside* magazine op-ed by Wes Siler, who said that the OHV ban was a form of "gatekeeping," of pushing out the "kind of people who ride ATVs."

Extend that logic to other public-lands regulations and its absurdity becomes apparent. Mountain bikes are banned from wilderness areas, for example, not because anyone wants to keep a certain "kind of people" off the trails, but because of the machines' impacts on "untrammelled" lands. The same goes for OHVs in the parks.

Kate Cannon, superintendent of the Southeast Utah Group of the National Park Service, was quick to respond to Jenkins' order, writing, in part, "The use on park roads of OHVs ... poses a significant risk to park resources and values which cannot be appropriately mitigated, and which cannot be sustained without causing unacceptable impacts. The use of such vehicles is, therefore, not consistent with the protection of the parks and monuments."

Opening the parks to these vehicles is also not necessary. Thousands of miles of designated OHV routes snake their way across the millions of acres of public lands surrounding Utah's national parks. Isn't that enough?

Jonathan Thompson is a contributing editor at High Country News.

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A Place To Spread Their Wings

By Ingrid T. Winter

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He wants one thing and one thing only:

To get out of the cage

And so he throws himself

Against the walls and hits the ceiling

Again and again

Searching for his home

Water and sky

Afraid that he will injure himself

we take him

To a large outside cage and immediately

He calms down and relaxes

He eats all the fish we offer to him

He plunges into the pool to swim

And he climbs onto a big log

Spreading his huge wings to dry them

In the sunshine

He is a magnificent sight

Calm, poised, regal

And he grows stronger day by day

And soon he is released on a lake

Now that he is gone

What remains

is a beautiful image

Of a big black bird

stretching his wings

Ready for take off

And it occurs to me

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Information Instead Of Fear Is Imperative

By Helen Santoro Oct. 16 High Country News

As illnesses like Valley fever emerge, health officials keep residents informed instead of in fear.

Patients at San Joaquin Valley Pulmonary in Bakersfield, California, undergo hours long injections of intravenous antibiotics to treat Valley fever. As a warm climate and the disease spreads north, public health officials figure out how to mitigate the threat and public fears.

When the first locally acquired case of Valley fever was diagnosed in Washington in 2010, health officials were stunned. The disease had only appeared in the state in patients who had recently traveled to the warm and dry corners of the Southwest, said Heather Hill, a communicable disease expert for the Benton-Franklin Health District in south-central Washington. But since that time, the disease has been found east of the Cascade Mountains, where an active agricultural industry, and hot, dry summers provide conditions for the disease to thrive. "It's probably salted all across eastern Washington," Hill said.

Now, new research suggests that Valley fever will

continue to spread as the climate changes. This growth is a reflection of a greater trend across the nation as mosquito-borne West Nile virus and tick-borne Lyme disease also expand their range.

As more Western communities come into contact with new diseases, public health officials are grappling with how to report risks without generating unnecessary fear. Recent history has shown that poor communication only aggravates the problem, leading to public panic and a loss of trust in the government's ability to handle outbreaks. Today, people like Hill are striving to learn from past mistakes and develop better communication strategies as climate change fuels the spread of diseases.

Valley fever, or coccidioidomycosis, is caused by the soil-dwelling fungus *Coccidioides*. It's most common in hot, dry places like California's San Joaquin Valley and Arizona. When activities like construction or plowing disturb the soil, the fungus can become airborne, releasing invisible spores that can lodge inside the lungs of humans and other animals. Over half of those infected will catch a mild illness that mimics the flu. But in rare cases — less than 1% — the infection spreads from the lungs to the rest of the body, with consequences that can be deadly.

With climate change, more states are becoming hotter and more arid, creating the perfect environment for the fungus to grow, said Morgan Gorris, a former Ph.D. student in earth system science at the University of California Irvine. Gorris and her colleagues published a study this August predicting that by 2100, the fungus' range could grow from 12 to 17 states, including Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. The number of people who contract the disease may also increase from around 10,000 to 15,000 cases a year.

Given statistics like these, it's imperative for state officials to understand what is causing infectious diseases to move from one region to another. One factor is climate change, which is creating more environments where such illnesses can thrive. Take Lyme disease: With higher annual

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temperatures, ticks are more abundant and have increased opportunities to infect their hosts, according to a 2018 study. In the coming decades, cases of Lyme disease in the U.S. could rise by over 20%. As the climate changes, the spread of diseases will likely become a more critical public health issue, said Gorris.

There are still communication challenges, but in 37 years of working with infectious diseases, Hill has seen a positive shift. “I am seeing a more careful approach,” she said. “We know that fear-based communication doesn’t work.” Now, officials use highly targeted messaging in counties where Valley fever may be present. Their main goal is to tell



people how to protect themselves; anyone exposed to dry dirt should be on their guard, for example, and patients who manifest flu-like symptoms need to tell the doctor about any recent exposure to dust.

But sensationalizing outbreaks can cause unnecessary panic. In a study on media coverage of the Zika virus in 2016, researchers found that nearly half of the news stories focused on the dangers of the virus without ever mentioning how people could reduce their risks. “We can’t just throw a bunch of information at (the public),” said Tara Kirk Sell, an assistant professor in Johns Hopkins’ department of environmental health who was involved in the study. Instead, “they need information on the actions that they can take to protect themselves.”

Hill recognizes that diseases will continue to spread regardless, and time and resources will be needed to keep the public informed and prepared. “We know diseases are coming,” she said. “We know we need to be vigilant.”

Photo courtesy of Brian Vander Brug/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

Helen Santoro is an editorial intern at High Country News.

Public health officials in Washington are trying to use more effective communication tools, focusing on clear, consistent messaging, when they talk about Valley fever. “We need to walk a fine line where we report on the data that we have (on the disease) without scaring people,” said Amy Salamone, a mycologist at the Washington State Department of Health. This means sticking to the facts, being transparent about any uncertainty, and teaching doctors and patients about how Valley fever spreads and what they can do to avoid catching it. New risk-communication trainings have also taught officials how to convey their findings on camera without causing unnecessary alarm.

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Update: BuffaloFieldCampaign.org

BFC's New Exec. Director Attends Patagonia's Tools Conference

Dear Buffalo Supporters,

Hello from Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) Country! I recently returned home from attending the 2019 Tools Conference for Grassroots Activism hosted by Patagonia. This meaningful event was jam packed with useful information, powerful tools, and great people dedicated to the environment and the rights of all. I came home energized and focused on the tasks ahead. I look forward to sharing my journey with you.

Now that I am finding time to relax and settle in, I would like to introduce myself to you all as the newly hired Executive Director. I am an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe. My wife Feather and our blended family reside in Lapwai, ID the headquarters of the tribal government. I have forged a personal relationship with Brother Buffalo beginning 23 years ago. In 2006, those relationships culminated in helping my people reunite with the Yellowstone buffalo after more than 140 years absence. Today, numerous regional tribes have realized revitalized treaty-reserved hunting rights and subsistence opportunities to foster food sovereignty, stemming from those efforts. I am honored my journey has led me back to Brother Buffalo in this powerful way.

There are big things on the horizon for the buffalo and Buffalo Field Campaign. Recently, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service denied our 90-day petition to list Yellowstone bison as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. We will continue to pursue this



protection, and your ongoing support is paramount to our work. I'll also be working on implementing a newly emerging Tribal Projects Program. This program will seek to engage tribal leadership, educate tribal youth, and facilitate collaboration with tribes. Tribes, especially those with treaty-reserved rights to hunt bison, must be empowered to provide for the subsistence & spiritual needs of the people. The federal government must honor its fiduciary responsibility to those tribes by amending the bison management plan to be consistent with pertinent treaties. Lastly, we'll continue to pursue our Freedom of Information Act requests from the leadership at Yellowstone National Park and the U.S. Department of the Interior. Upholding our rights to a transparent government

must be honored. The faulty science supporting state and federal bison mismanagement must be exposed. These are but a few priorities I'll be addressing as I begin to build upon the great foundation provided by previous leadership, an engaged board of directors and a highly capable staff. The Buffalo Field Campaign Family stands with Brother Buffalo and speaks for those without a voice. I hope you will continue to stand with us as I do this great work. Please remember that my door is always open. Reach out to me and let me hear your voice on issues important to you. Qeciwyew (*thank you*) for all of your support and action. For the Buffalo, James L. Holt Sr. Go to BFC's website noted here and **TAKE ACTION to help this national mammal ROAM FREE.**

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BLM Acting Dir. Considers Wild Horses Havoc

By Chris D'Angelo & Alexander C. Kaufman Oct. 11 HCN

This article was originally published by HuffPost and is reproduced here as part of the Climate Desk collaboration.

William Perry Pendley, the controversial acting director of the Bureau of Land Management, told a room full of journalists recently that his opinions on climate change and immigrants are “irrelevant” to his job overseeing 245 million acres of public land.

Speaking on a panel at the Society of Environmental Journalists’ annual conference, Pendley, a conservative lawyer who has spent his career fighting federal land protections and environmental regulation, sparred repeatedly with reporters. At the end of the discussion, panelists were asked what they view as the biggest threat facing public lands today. Pendley responded, “I’ll get really in the weeds. I think the biggest issue I see is the wild horse and burro issue. We have 88,000 wild horses and burros on our Western federal lands. They are causing havoc on the lands.”

“Why don’t you sue?” The answer is – we are! The American Wild Horse Campaign currently has six active lawsuits. We consider litigation as one of our central pillars of defense against the increasing number of threats facing wild horses and burros throughout the West. We’ve had some incredible successes – putting in place legal protections that will stand the test of time. In the case of Devil’s Garden, we’re currently suing to protect nearly 500 wild horses from potentially being sold to slaughter.

He (Pendley) refused to comment about his past statements that cast doubt over basic climate science and compared immigrants to a “cancer.” He also repeatedly responded to questions by saying, “I disagree with your premise.”

As recently as February, Pendley compared the climate crisis to a “unicorn” because “neither exists.” Asked to clarify his position on recently, he deferred to his boss, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, a former oil lobbyist who has said he hasn’t lost sleep over soaring atmospheric carbon dioxide and blamed Congress for his own inaction on climate. Bernhardt had been scheduled to appear at the conference but canceled.

“I’m not a scientist, I’m a lawyer,” Pendley said. “I defer to the secretary. He’s been very clear on this subject. He believes that climate change is real, that mankind has an impact, that we’re unable to project future climate

conditions, but that we need to understand the consequences.” Asked again about his own views, Pendley balked: “Nope, I’m not going to clarify. Those are my personal opinions,” he said. “I’m a Marine. I follow orders.” Pendley added that he has not been briefed on climate impacts to America’s public lands in the three months he’s been acting head of the BLM.

In 2007, Pendley referred to undocumented immigrants as “spreading like a cancer” in a fundraising mailer for his legal fund resurfaced by CNN recently. When pressed about the statement, Pendley brushed off the question entirely.

“My personal opinions are irrelevant,” he said. “I have a new job now. I’m a zealous advocate for my client. My client is the American people and my bosses are the president of the United States and Secretary Bernhardt. What I thought, what I wrote, what I did in the past is irrelevant. I have orders, I have laws to obey, and I intend to do that.”

(Continued on page 31.)

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Pendley didn't hesitate, though, to slam Democratic presidential candidates who have pledged to stop new fossil fuel leasing on public lands for fossil fuel development if elected.

"Such a policy would be absolutely devastating; it would be absolutely devastating not just to the American West, but to the entire country," he said. Leaving fossil fuels in the ground, he added, would be "absolutely insane" and "a terrible blow to the American people."

The room, as moderators requested, refrained from clapping or booing throughout the panel, which included a gas company executive, the Fort Collins mayor, an American Indian studies academic, an environmentalist and a representative of the outdoor recreation industry. But at one point, the audience in the packed auditorium at Colorado State University gasped as Pendley abruptly interrupted a Denver Post reporter as she asked a follow-up question, saying, "You want to ask a

question and get an answer or do you want to keep talking?"



Pendley was asked about the BLM's decision in May to scrub language about land stewardship from its news releases, which now exclusively highlights the economic value of America's public lands. He initially shrugged and whispered inaudibly to Shea Loper, the U.S. government relations chief for the Canadian gas giant Encana Corp. He said he was unable to speak to the decision because it occurred before

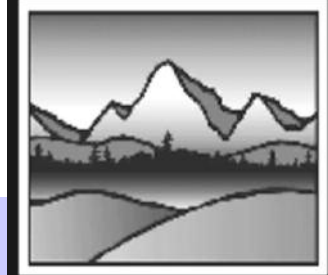
he arrived at the agency.

"I can't respond to your question," he said. "I'm sorry."

Chris D'Angelo is a reporter for HuffPost, based in Washington, D.C. Alexander Kaufman is reporter at HuffPost, based in New York.

Wild Horse Photo by Sonny Carsello.

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Gift Of Appreciation

By Frosty Wooldridge

While growing up, you faced many challenges. You tackled schoolbooks that demanded your attention to gain knowledge. Your teachers busted your butt with homework assignments. Your parents piled on chores such as mowing the lawn, washing the car, taking out the trash, cleaning dishes and worst of all, picking up your room.

You quickly learned that life on this planet demanded you take care of things. You discovered “responsibilities.” You also discovered that some of the things expected of you—overwhelmed you, frustrated you and sometimes, you couldn’t handle them.

One of my dad’s greatest gifts to me during my teen years didn’t dawn on me until decades later. After I mowed the lawn, he walked out to the driveway where I rinsed down the mower.

“Thanks for doing such a good job on the grass today...it

looks great,” he said. “I’ve been so busy I really appreciate your help.”

“Not a problem, dad,” I said, grinning.

While I would rather be riding BMX with my buddies, I never forgot my dad’s appreciation for mowing the lawn or painting the fence or doing the dishes. Members of any family must do their chores in order to enjoy a well-kept home, manicured yard or clean dishware.

If you look into any successful business, the number one aspect of a thriving enterprise remains its employees.


What makes them happy? More money? More status? More perks? Nope!

People thrive with regular appreciation. They need it from their bosses, peers and families. Wives need it from husbands and vice versa. They need it from strangers. Everyone needs to be honored in what they do. They need to be appreciated for their efforts, no matter how small. While waiting for the cashier to check off my groceries, I notice her necklace, hair or bracelet, “Gosh, that jade necklace looks marvelous on you...your earrings light up your face...your hair looks fabulous today...my, you possess a million dollar smile.”

When you notice someone performing a redundant job, such a compliment relaxes their heart and your heart. It soothes their mind and your mind. Being appreciated releases endorphins into their body, which in turn makes them feel good all over. At the same time, it does the same thing for you.

Appreciation also releases doubt in someone. It confers a sense of trust and attunement to their body, mind and spirit.

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When giving appreciation through compliments or even opening the door for someone, you raise the natural vibrations of your body, while, at the same time, increasing their frequencies.

When I look back on my dad's and my mom's appreciating my siblings and me, it made us feel better and it made us eager to work harder and more diligently at any task given to us.

As you go about your day, try these appreciations in order to bring greater joy to someone within your realm:

Honor everyone as an original blessing.

Appreciate anyone who walks into the room.

Compliment someone for his or her creativity.

Thank someone for his or her kindness, or radiant smile.

Say, "Your energy inspires me."

You dress with such sartorial splendor!

As the years pass, by spreading your special brand of elevated "frequencies" and "vibrational joy"—you may find yourself loaded with family, friends and admirers. That means you passed your energy on to them and they responded by passing it on to everyone else.

In this evolving society where many stick their faces into a computer screen all day or cold smart phone for far too many hours into the evening, bring them back to "relational living" by sending them warm vibrations of human gratitude for their lives. You will

feel good and they will feel grand with your appreciation.

(An artist working on her "cat" brings creative energy into the world through her work. Someone may compliment her to show great appreciation for the beauty she brings into the world.)

Photography by Frosty Wooldridge



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Cheshire Cat - Catio 303.642.0362
Hands, Hoofs & Paws pg 29 303.503.6068

ART

The Silver Horse - pg 14 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 14 303.258.3225

AUTOMOBILE

Carl's Corner pg 17 303.642.7144
Kysar's Place pg 9 303.582.3566
Mountain Muffler pg 14 303.278.2043

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 26 303.258.3132
Arrow Drilling-pg 10 303.421.8766
Caribou Painting pg 24 303.641.7964
Grate Contracting pg 23 303.579.9519
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Peter Palombo, Surveyor-pg 5 720.849.7509
RedPoint Construction pg 29 303.642.3691
Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

BUSINESS SERVICES

Graphics Galore 303.642.0362
Karen Schwimmer, CPA pg 26 303.642.0628
Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 31 303.642.0433

CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Chimney Service of CO pg 27 720.515.0416
MidTown Chimney pg 13 303.670.7785

CIGARS

Foss Company pg 16 303.963.5693

CLOTHING

The Rustic Moose - pg 14 303.258.3225

COMPUTER SERVICE & REPAIR

Wondervu Consulting Serv. pg 31 303.642.0433

ELECTRIC

United Power - Inside back Cover 303.642.7921

ENTERTAINMENT

Central City Holiday Week Dec. 5 - 8 pg 25
Golden Chamber Breakfast w/Santa Dec. 7 pg 6
Jaime Mezo Scuba Diving pg 24
Ned Area Seniors Mtn Mkt Dec 7-8 pg 7
KGNU Radio 303.449.4885

ENVIRONMENTAL

TEG - tegcolorado.org

FARRIER

Forbes Farrier Service pg 32 303.642.7437

FIREWOOD & FOREST MANAGEMENT

High Timber Mtn Tree Serv. pg 22 303.258.7942
Lumber Jacks - pg 15 720.212.1875
Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 32 303.653.7967

GIFTS

The Silver Horse - pg 14 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 14 303.258.3225
Nature Photography Notecards pg 27

GROCERIES

B & F Mountain Market pg 17 303.258.3105

HEALTH & FITNESS

Hands, Hoofs & Paws pg 29 303.503.6068
Nederdance pg 24 303.258.9427

HEATING

Agfinity Coop ins frnt cov 970.454.4081
Resolution Energy pg 8 303.887.2884

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 26 303.258.3132
Caribou Painting pg 24 303.641.7964
Colorado Water Wizard pg 28 303.447.0789
Grate Contracting pg 23 303.579.9519
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 13 303.653.7967
Redpoint Construction pg 29 303.642.3691

HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 14 303.582.5230

HORSE TRAINING

Timberline Sporthorses pg 11 720.999.7235

INSURANCE

Jim Plane-State Farm- pg 20 720.890.5916

LIQUOR

Foss Company pg 16 303.963.5693
Mid-County Liquors pg 22 3093.642.7686
Underground Liquor pg 14 303.582.6034

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano & Harp in CCC pg 32 303.642.8423

PROPANE

Agfinity Coop ins frnt cov 970.454.4081
Carl's Corner pg 17 303.642.7144

REAL ESTATE

Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 21 303.642.7951
Mock Realty-Kathy Keating -Back cov 303.642.1133
Summit Up Property Mgt. pg 12 303.618.8266

RESTAURANTS

Last Stand Tavern pg 15 303.642.3180

RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 26 303.258.3132
B & F Mountain Market pg 17 303.258.3105
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
The Silver Horse - pg 14 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 14 303.258.3225

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Universal Lending Corp. pg 5 303.791.4786

ROOFING

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

TAXES

Karen Schwimmer, CPA pg 26 303.642.0628

TRAVEL

Wee Travel pg 30 303.465.2118

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 10 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 28 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well pg 9 303.438.6669

Power Update

November
2019

Winter Weather May Cause Outages

With winter weather arriving, we want to make sure our members understand the potential for outages due to strong winds, heavy snow and ice. Tree limbs become a hazard during heavy snow because they can break and fall into lines. Heavy snow may also cause damage to cross arms and other electrical equipment along United Power's lines.

To help our members in the mountains, United Power's line crews are on alert around-the-clock. We utilize the most sophisticated tracking technology in our 24-hour dispatch center to monitor outages along our lines. You can also help when it comes to restoring power. Sometimes we may not know the extent of an outage or may not know about an isolated outage at the end of a line affecting only one or two homes. A simple call from our members gives us a clearer understanding of the extent of the outage.

If you (and/or your neighbor) lose power for more than a few minutes, please call United Power's Outage Line at 303-637-1350 or **conveniently report your outage through your online account, detailed below**. If the outage is widespread, your call will be answered by our Automated Outage Reporting System.

Report Outages Conveniently Online

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. Our members have access to a free, easy to use online account portal with many convenient features, including the ability to report an outage. Our on-site system operators monitor outage notifications submitted through online accounts 24/7.

When reporting an outage, please provide any details you may have. If you heard a loud bang or your neighbors still have power, let us know. This will help us determine any unknown problems on our system.

If you have not already signed up for an online account, 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

To sign up, click **Account Login** from the United Power homepage at www.unitedpower.com.



Unclaimed Capital Credits

We May Have Money For You

United Power is attempting to issue unclaimed capital credit refunds to members.

How Can I Find Out If I Am Due a Refund?

To find out if you are due a refund, visit www.unitedpower.com, click on 'My Cooperative' and look for the 'Capital Credits' page to view the entire list of unclaimed capital credit accounts.

How Do I Claim My Refund?

If you find your name on the list of unclaimed capital credits on our website, download and complete the **Patronage Capital Refund Request form** and return it to United Power or call our Capital Credit information hot line at 303-637-1200, leave a message with your name and mailing address and we will mail you a Patronage Capital Refund Request form.

Winter Weather Outages



Report Using Your
Online Account
or
Call 303-637-1350

UNITEDPOWER
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**UNITED
POWER**
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Member Services: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com



THANKSGIVING FEAST

Community Invited! Thursday Nov. 28th

CCCIA Hall 31258 Hwy 72 11:30AM - 2:30PM



11753 Hillcrest

Amazing Remodel / Amazing Views
4 BD/ 4 BA 2,620 sq.ft. 2.18 Ac. **\$569,000**



32147 Sylvan Road

Complete Rebuild / Passive Solar
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,405 sq.ft. 1.01 Acre



Horse Property

31448 Coal Creek Canyon

Slice of Heaven - Barn & Corral
3 BD/ 1 BA 11+ Acres **\$600,000**



269 Olde Carter Lake Road

Snowcapped VIEWS! 1.87 Acres
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,475 sq.ft. **\$515,000**



6 Car Garage

Coal Creek Canyon

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



New Price!

500 Chute Road

Complete Remodel - VIEWS
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,183 sq.ft. 4.45 Ac. **\$537,000**



New Listing!

Coal Creek Canyon

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



9321 Nile Ct. Arvada

Designer Home
3 BD/ 4 BA 5,362 sq.ft. **\$695,000**



44 Linn Lane

Elegant Remodel / Timber Frame-Views
3 BD/ 4 BA 2,243 sq.ft. **\$575,000**



900 Camp Eden Road

Amazing Custom Remodel
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,358 sq.ft.



New Listing!

11150 Circle Drive

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



180 Rudi Lane West

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



New Listing!

1011 Rudi Lane

Custom Log Home
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,236 sq.ft. 1.47 Acres



Coal Creek Canyon

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



19 Leon Lane

Amazing Remodel-Horse Prop -Views
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,500 sq.ft. **\$399,000**



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



Kathy Keating
CRS, ABR, GRI
EcoBroker
Broker Associate
303.642.1133

For additional information & photos:
www.kathykeating.com
kathykeating@mockrealty.com
Janet.LoveWhereYouLive@gmail.com



Janet Ingvaldsen
Broker Associate
Realtor
720.600.9006

