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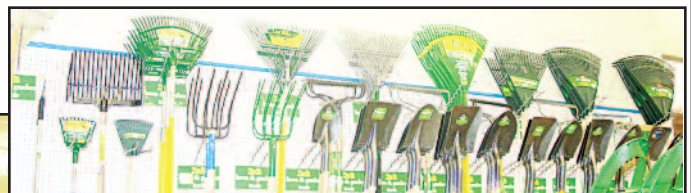


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About the Cover:

Mountain Lion



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Felis Concolor - Mountain Lion

From Colorado Parks & Wildlife

The mountain lion is called by more names than any other Colorado mammal – cougar, puma, panther, catamount or just plain lion – and all connote respect for a magnificent hunter. Colorado’s largest cat, adult mountain lions are more than six feet long, with a graceful, black-tipped tail 32 inches long. They weigh 130 pounds or more. Color is reddish to buffy, paler below.

Range: Cougars have the largest geographic range of any American native mammal other than humans – from western Canada to Argentina. Once they ranged from coast to coast in the United States, but today eastern populations are extinct or endangered; the West is their stronghold.

Habitat: In Colorado they are most abundant in foothills, canyons or mesa country. They are more at home in brushy areas and woodlands than in forests or open prairies.

Diet: Active year round, the lion’s staple diet is deer. Adults maintain their condition by eating a deer a week. Cougars hunt by stealth, often pouncing on prey from a tree or rock overhanging a game trail. The deer is often killed cleanly with a broken neck. The cat gorges on the carcass until it can eat no more, covers the remainder with leaves or conifer needles, then fasts for a few days, digesting and resting.

Reproduction: Mountain lions may breed at any time of year, but mating peaks in the spring. Births are most common in July, after a gestation period of about 14 weeks. Two or three spotted, fist-sized (about one pound) kittens are a typical litter. They are weaned about six weeks of age, at about eight times their birth weight.

If You Meet a Mountain Lion - Stay calm if you come upon a lion. Talk calmly yet firmly to it. Move slowly. Stop or back away slowly. Do not run. Raise you arms to appear larger. If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches, or whatever you can get your hands on. Do not crouch down or turn your back. Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back.

Human encounters with mountain lions have increased in

recent years, as human settlement has encroached on lion habitat. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s booklet, *Living with Wildlife in Lion Country* is a valuable resource with important safety information, and also check out the **Mountain Lion Safety** video for more tips on being safe in lion country.

When Mountain Lions Meet People - Mountain lions are generally calm, quiet, and elusive. They tend to live in remote, primitive country with plentiful deer and adequate cover. Such conditions exist in mountain subdivisions, urban fringes, and open spaces. Recently, the number of mountain lion/human interactions has increased. This increase is likely due to a variety of reasons, such as: More people moving into lion habitat, increase in deer populations and density, presumed increase in lion numbers and expanded range, more people using hiking and running trails in lion habitat, a greater awareness of the presence of lions.

If You Encounter a Mountain Lion - People rarely get more than a brief glimpse of a mountain lion in the wild. Lion attacks on people are rare, with fewer than a dozen fatalities in North America in more than 100 years. Most of the attacks were by young lions, perhaps forced out to hunt on their own and not yet living (Continued on next page.)

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in established areas. Young lions may key in on easy prey, like pets and small children.

No studies have been done to determine what to do if you meet a lion. However, based on observations by people who have come upon lions, some patterns of behavior and response are beginning to emerge. With this in mind, the following suggestions may be helpful. Remember: Every situation is different with respect to the lion, the terrain, the people, and their activity. Go in groups when you walk or hike in mountain lion country, and make plenty of noise to reduce your chances of surprising a lion. A sturdy walking stick is a good idea; it can be used to ward off a lion. Make sure children are close to you and within your sight at all times. Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one. Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

Stay calm when you come upon a lion. Talk calmly and firmly to it. Move slowly. Stop or back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you're wearing one. If you have small children with you, protect them by picking them up so they won't panic and run. If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly. What you want to do is convince the lion you are not prey and that you may in fact be a danger to the lion. Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back.

People have fought back with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and their bare hands successfully. Remain standing or try to get back up!

Who Do You Call? - Colorado Parks and Wildlife is responsible for managing, conserving, and protecting wildlife. Your concerns about wildlife are our concerns as well. If you have an encounter with a lion or an attack occurs, immediately contact the Division of Wildlife, Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm 303.291.7227. Before or after these hours, contact the Colorado State Patrol 303.239.4501 or your local Sheriff's department.

If You Live in Lion Country - We can live with these incredibly efficient predators if we respect mountain lions and their habitat. To reduce the risk of problems with mountain lions on or near your property, we urge you to follow these simple precautions: Make lots of noise if you come and go during the times mountain lions are most active: dusk to dawn. Install outside lighting. Light areas where you walk so you could see a lion if one were present. Closely supervise children whenever they play outdoors. Make sure children are inside before dusk and not outside before dawn. Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one.

Landscape or remove vegetation to eliminate hiding places for lions, especially around children's play areas. Make it difficult for lions to approach unseen. Planting non-native shrubs and plants that deer often prefer to eat encourages wildlife to come onto your property. Predators follow prey. Don't feed any wildlife!

Keep your pet under control. Roaming pets are easy prey and can attract lions. Bring pets in at night. If you leave your pet outside, keep it in a kennel with a secure top.

Don't feed pets outside; this can attract raccoons and other animals that are eaten by lions. Store all garbage securely.

Place livestock in enclosed sheds or barns at night. Close doors to all outbuildings since inquisitive lions may go inside for a look.

Encourage your neighbors to follow these simple precautions. Prevention is far better than a possible lion confrontation.

By David M. Armstrong Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Environmental Studies Program, University Museum of Natural History University of Colorado-Boulder mausmann@aol.com

Editor's Note: Mountain lions prey upon the sick and injured of the deer populations and keep our herds in check and healthy.



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Mountain Goat Relocation

By Wudan Yan July 31 High Country News

In an effort to protect visitors and rare plants, the park is relocating the hooved invaders.

In early July, the loud whirring of a helicopter punctured the quiet of Washington’s Olympic National Park as wildlife specialists scoured meadows, forests, ridgelines and mountaintops for flashes of white fuzz: mountain goats. The cherry-red aircraft kicked up dirt and debris as it lowered two goats, dangling in slings, toward a waiting truck, their feet bound and their vision obscured by blue blindfolds. During a brief landing, one of the specialists — commonly known as “muggers” — stepped out, with a kid no more than 6 weeks old calmly cradled in his arms.

It sounds like a dramatic scene from a wilderness reality show, but it’s not: It was just another day in an extensive effort to eliminate mountain goats from the Olympics — where they are not native, damage endemic plants and even killed a person — and hand some over to Washington state to boost populations in the North Cascades Range, where mountain goats have declined after decades of overhunting. The project — which cost more than half a million dollars just this year — illustrates the lengths to which national

and state agencies are willing to go to restore a single strand in the complex web of these human-altered ecosystems.

Outdoor recreationists are generally excited to see mountain goats in the Olympics. They’re more majestic than marmots and pikas and other alpine creatures, and less terrifying than bears. A few days before the start of this year’s relocation effort, a man posted on a Facebook group for hikers, saying he wanted to see the mountain goats before they got moved. When I asked why, he replied, “The goats represent the wild in Mother Nature.”

But mountain goats are not native to Olympic National Park: Hunters from Alaska introduced about a dozen of them in the 1920s. At one point, the population ballooned to over 1,000, causing “ecological mayhem,” as they grazed on rare alpine plants and eroded the landscape, said Patti Happe, the wildlife branch chief for the park. Before the translocations began, there were about 725 goats on the Olympic Peninsula.

Not only have they destroyed native plants, but mountain goats have also become aggressive after growing too accustomed to humans: In 2010, a male goat mauled and killed a 63-year-old man hiking *(Continued on next page.)*

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near Hurricane Ridge. The goats have become habituated to people and are drawn to them partly because humans provide something the animals need — salt. Olympic National Park lacks the natural salt deposits that would otherwise sustain the goats, leaving them dependent on the makeshift saltlicks that hikers produce when they pee on the trails.

To keep humans safe and restore balance in mountain goat populations, wildlife biologists decided to physically relocate the Olympic Peninsula goats, starting with 115 translocations last year. The animals were all radio-collared and ear-tagged so they can be identified and tracked in their new environs. Approximately 70% of adults and half the children survived the first year — which is within the natural range of survival, said Jace Taylor, a wildlife biologist not involved in the Olympic project who has overseen mountain goat translocations in Utah.

It's still too early to say whether the project is achieving wildlife managers' larger goals, in part because scientists don't yet know if the relocated goats are breeding in their new home. Happe said the project will be a success if those moved to the North Cascades help boost populations there, and if goats in the Olympics are completely eradicated. Unfortunately, many mountain goats evade capture; one woman involved in the project described them as "escape artists." That means the majority of the Olympic goats will be killed after the translocations are over.

And some of the relocated goats may already be accustomed to humans, which could endanger hikers in the North Cascades. I recently saw a sign there warning people of the dangers of salt-craving mountain goats. It's not easy to reverse habituated behaviors, says Richard Harris, a wildlife manager at Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife overseeing the translocations. Perhaps over time, if human visitors leave them alone and urinate in locations



Derrick Halsey, clutches a mountain goat kid as they land at the staging area for goat relocation. Halsey is one of the helicopter team members known as a "mugger" who is dropped off as close as possible to animals who are netted or sedated from the air, and prepares them for flight.

Grant Hindsley for High Country News

the goats can't reach, their degree of habituation might decay, ultimately benefiting both species. Still, "all wild animals are potentially dangerous to people," Harris said. "People need to use their heads."

But despite the expense — and the trauma for the goats — "rectifying the balance is something we should be doing when we have an opportunity to improve upon mistakes made by our predecessors," says Harris. "To the degree that we can capture an animal and move it to a place where it's native, give it a home, and allow it to return to its natural state within the North Cascades — I think that is worth spending money on."

Wudan Yan is an independent journalist based in Seattle.

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Prevention Is The Better Way

It seems we hardly go a day without hearing about dementia or Alzheimer's: either new findings or research studies and most of us are affected by knowing someone that has either been diagnosed or is showing signs that might be related to or is losing one's ability to function as they used to. As a child I had exposure to a relative with what they called senility and few of us (over the age of 45) can honestly say we have not had senior moments when we just can't recall a word or someone's name, etc.

Doctors often prescribe anticholinergic drugs for a variety of ills. But a new study suggests they may increase the risk of dementia in older patients. These medicines include certain antipsychotics and Parkinson's meds. They're used to treat a wide range of other conditions, including depression, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, overactive bladder, allergies, and gastrointestinal disorders. Anticholinergic drugs help contract and relax muscles, and work by blocking acetylcholine, a chemical that transmits messages in the nervous system. But a new British study found that people aged 55 and older who took strong anticholinergic medications daily for three years or more had a 50% increased risk of dementia. "Our study adds further evidence of the potential risks associated with strong anticholinergic drugs, particularly antidepressants, bladder antimuscarinic drugs, anti-Parkinson drugs and epilepsy drugs," said study author Carol Coupland. She works in the division of primary care at the University of Nottingham.

There are lots of remedies on the market that are supposed to combat the effects of aging and memory loss or mental dysfunction. The FDA has approved some drugs to treat Alzheimer's, but there still is no cure. Since I have a close family member that is now suffering from memory issues I have done quite a bit of research on my own to educate myself about this debilitating thing that seems to be just waiting for us to age and then strike.

As humans are living longer it makes sense to me that the occurrence of this type of brain impairment would become more prevalent. But as I believe in trying to prevent physical or mental conditions I am more than curious why so many folks succumb to what used to be called senility and was an expected part of getting older. The person I knew as a child had suffered strokes and nearly became a child again before they died, causing their caregiver (wife) to also decline in health just by having to care for them at home.

So my research has been geared towards what are we exposed to that could cause brain dysfunction and possibly the whole gamut of 'senior moment' experiences that might also be prevented by changing behaviors, diet, choices about lifestyles and even where we choose to live and work. Everyone knows stress is probably at the top of the list for being a cause for many physical ailments and is a factor we all could and should be working to manage and curtail as much as possible in our hectic and complex lives. Easier said than done for much *(Continued on next page.)*

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of society as life simply comes at us going 90 mph daily so all most of us can do is make the best of things and hope we survive what is thrown at us.

For the younger generation they might have choices to make that can definitely let them lead less stressful lives: careers, children, buying homes and vehicles... the list is nearly endless and if they choose carefully – especially higher education decisions they could dodge a bullet and live/work with less stress. Technology has advanced to the point where many careers can let a person telecommute and saves the daily drudge of driving so much and the extra costs of fuel and office apparel.

What I found interesting in my studies of what might cause a person to be more susceptible to mental deterioration were elements we can change in our daily lives. Five things have been identified as harmful: aluminum (many people already know this), monosodium glutamate, Aspartame, Sucralose and that nasty little ingredient on the label of too many foods ‘natural flavors’ because guess what? they don’t want to tell you so they substitute bad ingredients with it in the list. All the things in this list can be avoided if we just make an effort to remove what we already have: cookware that leaches aluminum into our foods. Replace with Stainless Steel, cast iron or glass items and avoid buying beverages packaged in it would be the first steps. MSG is most often in foods at restaurants so asking and choosing places where they care about the ingredients more than other places is top priority. But reading labels when shopping at the grocery store is eye opening for so many ‘suspect elements’ that you will find yourself choosing better items all the time.

Once you find the foods and replace aluminum cooking/baking utensils and quit eating at the places that regularly lace their foods with monosodium glutamate, plus make a habit of buying things to drink in glass containers without substitute sweeteners - your life will get easier and you will have at least a fighting chance of warding off those senior moments coming too soon in life.

Now that you know these alarming facts it is up to you. You can decide to try some of the supplements with things like: Ginkgo Leaf Extract, Bacopa Herb Extract, Huperzine A, and PS (Phosphatidylserine) to combat what your bad choices have already damaged in your brain if you consult your doctor and make sure none of them is contraindicated for medicines you may already be taking. If Monks that live to be 100 years old and are sharp as tacks mentally commonly take these supplements or have them in their diets there might be something of importance in us considering them. So much of this research is based upon non-traditional western medicine, nearly homeopathic.

Your bad choices and behaviors can possibly cause early mental impairment or changing to good choices can repair and prevent damage done by external factors. Just as regular exercise and a good diet can help you feel better and live longer with a better quality of life. It is never to late to do the right thing and even if we are already suffering from bad choices we can decide to change and make better choices every day.

Sources: Elmcroft, VeryWellHealth, PubMed, Healthline, MayoClinic, WebMD.

By A.M. Wilks



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BoCo Disagrees-EPA Changes For Emissions

EPA Proposed Changes to Oil and Gas Emission Limits Will Harm Health and Climate

Boulder County, CO - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed removing requirements that oil and gas producers limit the amount of methane released from oil and gas sources (e.g. amendments to the 2012 and 2016 New Source Performance Standards).

The EPA's own analysis estimates that the proposed change would cause a nationwide increase of 370,000 tons of methane, 10,000 tons of volatile organic compounds or VOCs (e.g. ozone precursors), and 300 tons of hazardous air pollutants between 2019 and 2025.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that plays a major role in climate change, particularly now when we must make dramatic cuts to emissions. The negative climate impacts of these increases are estimated by EPA to cost \$8.1 million per year through 2025.

"We know from our own studies that we need to strengthen limits on emissions from oil and gas sources, not weaken them," said Cindy Copeland, Air Quality Specialist for Boulder County Public Health.

Boulder County's voluntary oil and gas inspections have identified a gas release or leak with an infrared camera at 82% of sites inspected. Further, 63% of the sites with leaks experienced them in multiple calendar years, and about 54% experienced more than one leak in at least one calendar year.

The Boulder County-funded air monitoring study led by researchers from the University of Colorado Boulder's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (or INSTAAR) indicated a strong correlation between air quality in the area and the oil and gas development in areas northeast of Boulder County.

"Even in Colorado, with oil and gas regulations that are generally more stringent than EPA's current regulations, oil

and gas pollution is still negatively impacting the air we all breathe and our future on the planet," said Copeland.

Recent reports (The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C and The Fourth National Climate Assessment) illustrate the need to address climate change immediately and by all means possible. EPA's proposed regulatory revisions would seriously impede these efforts.

"This proposal is putting public health at risk and increasing our community's exposure to the devastating threats of climate change. If enacted, it would turn a blind eye to emissions of methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases," said Elise Jones, Chair, on behalf of the Boulder Board of County Commissioners. "Boulder County will continue its longstanding work to aggressively monitor and limit these emissions that threaten our health and our climate."

Residents can visit <https://www.regulations.gov/> and provide feedback on the proposal when it becomes open for comment.

The Docket ID number is EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0757.





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Sworn To Refuse

By Valerie Wedel

Imagine Republicans, Democrats, and Independents working together, presenting a united front in support of our country. Imagine arguing with each other, fiercely debating policy issues, and feeling completely safe. Imagine knowing we all love our country, no matter what policy issues we may deeply and passionately disagree about. In such a world, criminals, and foreign agents such as Putin and his people, would think twice before trying to corrupt our government officials, because they would know we stand united. This is part of the vision of **Sworn to Refuse**.

Sworn to Refuse is not partisan. It seeks to empower elected and appointed officials who take an oath of office, to just say no, should someone order them to act in a way which violates their oath to the United States constitution. This is true for any unjust order, whether the person giving an order be a black mailer, criminal, or the president of the United States.

One example of oath to country superseding chain of command is our own military. Officers are taught to think for themselves and, in certain circumstances, to refuse a direct order based on their own judgment. This can at times be critical, for example when a superior officer has poor intelligence, or impaired judgment for any other reason. It is perhaps a little known aspect of our military, and of officer's training. What is perhaps even less well known by the general public, and at times forgotten even by the oath takers themselves, is that almost every elected and

appointed official associated with every level of government takes a similar oath of office.

Sworn to Refuse (StR) reminds all of us we can say no. They support elected and appointed government officials to serve country and constitution first. This is important because politicians, and really anyone, can be very vulnerable to big money, and to fear.

What would you do if your boss told you to write legislation pleasing to mine owners, but that hurt miners? Or that would hurt the communities around the mine? What if your job was on the line? What if you thought, or were told, no one would find out while you were still in office?

Special interests can bring immense pressure to bear on a politician. They offer massive short term funding, in exchange for long-term legislative support. And yet, the interests of business do not necessarily merge with regular people. A business may want carte blanche to destroy land and dump toxic chemicals in our air and water as a result of manufacturing, because that makes a bigger profit for the business. And, at the same time, business is essential to our economy. Mining is one example. Consider the fracking debate here in Colorado. And consider mining, in which the tops of entire mountains have been blown off to expose minerals, and then simply abandoned. This is the larger picture that must be seen and honored by a politician tasked with legislation.

Matt Nicodemus, with Karen Morgan as co-coordinator, unveiled **Sworn to Refuse** in 2018. Since then Morgan has stepped down from co-coordinating while remaining active

in the organization. Carrie Bitz, with a background in special education teaching, and Ann Toll, advocate, have joined Nicodemus as Co-coordinators. The group holds public meetings, often in libraries, and has published articles and Op Eds in local newspapers. Nicodemus has also spoken on KGNU. I recently sat down with Nicodemus to learn more about **StR**.

Wedel: Why did you help create **StR**?
Nicodemus: I grew up in Chicago during the Daley years. (*Writer's note – Richard J. Daley was a democratic mayor from 1955 – 1976. He is credited with helping save Chicago from the decline of the so-called "rust belt" cities, along with many other good works. However, Chicagoans also speak of the Daley Machine; his tenure was plagued by corruption and patronage.*) Dems had machines of



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corruption... the Democrats have their share of it! Corruption comes in all flavors. The obvious corruption of the current Republican administration at this time has had a huge impact. Also, the Muslim ban... My mother died on Martin Luther King Day, and (my family) had traveled to a hotel we would all stay at, after the family had gotten too big to stay at my grandmother's place. We were watching TV in the hotel... People were protesting the Muslim ban in large numbers at airports. That had a big effect. **Refuse** is a wide concept. It includes officials in the government specifically saying 'I'm not following that order;' and suits being filed in court by outside organizations and groups, such as the ACLU. It includes the Women's March. Compare the really poor showing of people at Trump's inauguration vs. the first Women's March. This was a massive public statement inspired by women.

Also, another historic example is the Nixon administration during the Vietnam War. Despite Nixon's support of that war, there were people in the White House trying to push policy in another direction. There are many forms of refusal.

Wedel: How do you plan to reach members of different political parties, and to avoid being seen as partisan?

Nicodemus: There are Republicans in office and out of office. Each Republican knows people... You have these relationships. The same is true of Democrats (and every other political persuasion). We hope that anyone who knows someone in civil service might help gently encourage that person to remember the oath they took to uphold the constitution. Let's say you are given an order you are not sure about. We might have differences in political party or opinion. But please consult multiple sources. For a human rights concern, these might be ACLU, Amnesty International, and the Brennan Center at NYU law school. Consult professional associations in your field. Try to draw from those, if you have a question about legality of an order.

Envision yourself being affected by the order you are being told to give. Or the action you are being ordered to take. If you were on the receiving end of this, would you want it to happen?

Wedel: Are there **StR** accomplishments you are particularly happy about thus far?

Nicodemus: We have done a good job on limited funds, of getting the message out to the local community. We have brought a good number of people into **StR**, who have helped move the organization forward. On March 5, 2019, we submitted our

Resolution to the Boulder City Council and the Boulder County Commissioners, and have begun speaking with both bodies.

We presented **StR** to our state House representatives and our congressman, Joe Neguse. There is planned a town hall in Boulder in September at which Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez will speak, and we have contacted her team. We hope she will respond to **StR** at the town hall - this would help build national awareness.

Wedel: What actions do you see next?

Nicodemus: Join us! Some projects in the works include developing 501c3 status, fund raising, and expanding membership. We should have more activity on social media. We could make a video, which introduces the project and our vision, and could be used to help spread the word. We can use more help with research and writing. We would like to be doing more outreach to opinion leaders.

Wedel: Looking into the future, what would you like **StR** to be remembered for?

Nicodemus: I hope we will be remembered for good potlucks! Seriously, we all make good government, all the time. I hope we can help inspire people to reach out and develop deeper relationships with government workers. Let's get responsible GOP and Dems working together, so that when bad apples spring up, a united front is present!

For further information, and to contact **Sworn to Refuse:**

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Researchers Describe 'Wake-up Call'

By Emily Holden Sept. 19, 2019 The Guardian

U.S. and Canada have lost more than one in four birds since 1970

The US and Canada have lost more than one in four birds – a total of three billion – since 1970, culminating in what scientists who published a new study are calling a “wide-spread ecological crisis.” Researchers observed a 29% decline in bird populations across diverse groups and habitats – from songbirds such as meadowlarks to long-distance migratory birds such as swallows and backyard birds like sparrows. “Multiple, independent lines of evidence show a massive reduction in the abundance of birds,” said Ken Rosenberg, the study’s lead author and a senior scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and American Bird Conservancy.

Co-author Adam Smith from *Environment and Climate Change Canada* called the findings a “wake-up call.” The population losses are consistent with what scientists have counted among insects and amphibians.

The study, published recently in the journal *Science*, did not analyze the reason for the drop. But around the world, birds are thought to be dying more and having less success

breeding largely because their habitats are being damaged and destroyed by agriculture and urbanization.

Researchers calculated the declines with ten years of information on migratory birds from weather radar stations and fifty years of data from the ground. Sources include citizen science from the United States Geological Survey, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and Manomet’s International Shorebird Survey.


Grassland birds were hit especially hard, with a 53% reduction in population. Shorebirds were already at low numbers and now have lost more than one-third of their population. Radar of the night skies found that the volume of spring migration has dropped 14% in just the last decade.

Domestic cats, collisions with glass and buildings, and a decline in the insects birds eat – probably because of widespread pesticide use – also contribute to the dwindling bird numbers. And climate change compounds those problems by altering bird habitats.

Not all bird species declined. Raptors and waterfowl showed gains, probably because of focused conservation efforts, including under the Endangered Species Act. Co-author Michael Parr, president of the American Bird Conservancy, said saving birds will require policy changes,


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bans on harmful pesticides and funds for bird conservation. "Each of us can make a difference with everyday actions that together can save the lives of millions of birds – actions like making windows safer for birds, keeping cats indoors - (or breakaway collars with bells can help), and protecting habitat," Parr said.

As the crisis escalates... in our natural world, we refuse to turn away from the climate catastrophe and species extinction. For *The Guardian*, reporting on the environment is a priority. We give reporting on climate, nature and pollution the prominence it deserves, stories which often go unreported by others in the media. At this pivotal time for our species and our planet, we are determined to inform readers about threats, consequences and solutions based on scientific facts, not political prejudice or business interests.

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A chestnut-sided warbler perched on a branch during spring migration. Photograph: Vince F/Alamy Stock Photo

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Climate Action To Break Boom & Bust Cycle

By Carl Segerstrom Aug. 7 High Country News

In 2018, record-setting federal oil and gas lease sales in the booming Permian Basin helped pump more than \$600 million into New Mexico's state coffers. With that cash burning a hole in its pockets, New Mexico upped education spending by nearly half a billion dollars the following year.

But this fossil-fueled rollercoaster ride could come to a shuddering halt under recent climate action proposals. Several Democratic presidential hopefuls propose to end new federal fossil fuel leasing and phase out drilling on public lands. While any such moves would be met with legal challenges from the fossil fuel industry and energy-dependent states, recent federal court decisions show a way for federal agencies to deny development based on the public's long-term interest.

Leasing moratoriums and drilling restrictions would send shockwaves around the West and require a massive restructuring of local, state and national programs. But with states and utility companies setting ambitious emission-reduction goals, and climate scientists issuing dire warnings about the rapidly closing window to avert even grimmer scenarios, states that aren't preparing for the changing energy economy could be left behind in the shift

from fossil fuels to renewables.

MORE THAN HALF of Wyoming's annual revenue comes from fossil fuel extraction. This robust cash flow has enabled the state to forgo income or corporate taxes despite having low property taxes and a sales tax rate so low that job growth in industries other than extraction actually costs the state. When times are good, this tax structure has allowed Wyoming to keep living costs low and attract businesses while pouring money into services like education — it has long paid teachers far better than its neighbors — and infrastructure.

With its angled metal roofs, floor-to-ceiling windows, water slide, lazy river and rock-climbing wall, the Pinedale Aquatic Center in Pinedale, Wyoming, would be at home in any upscale Western suburb. But this is no swanky suburb; Pinedale, a town of about 2,000, was at the epicenter of a natural gas boom in the early 2000s. With tens of millions of dollars flowing into Sublette County, the county put \$17 million into the facility in Pinedale, its county seat, while also making local teachers the highest-paid in the state. Now, it's getting harder and harder to keep the recreation center up and running. Over the last five years, shrinking oil and gas revenues have siphoned more than a million dollars from the facility's annual budget, resulting in staff cuts and an end to free passes for senior citizens.

And the current pangs aren't confined to recreation centers and budgets for government programs, which face ongoing cuts and calls for privatization. Wyoming lags behind other Western states in terms of personal income growth, higher education attainment, and employment in high-value sectors like manufacturing.

To a large extent, those lagging economic indicators can be traced to fossil fuel reliance. A recent Headwaters Economics report states the problem: "Wyoming's decision to be dependent on energy commodity taxes has caused an economic and political 'mineral tax trap' wherein a political culture and commitment has developed around protecting the self-interest of low taxes and the status quo." That commitment to coal was in full force this March,

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when Wyoming passed a law making it harder for utilities to decommission unprofitable coal-fired power plants.

Increased wind development could utilize public land in the state and pair well with any federal climate action plans. A Bureau of Land Management report found that more than 14.5 million acres of federal lands in the state are suitable for wind development.

Economist and former state legislator Michael Madden pins this policy gap on “the perceived conflict between wind and the state’s primary breadwinner — the mineral industry.” Wyoming’s woes go far beyond shrinking budgets at the state level. Entire towns and counties have economies and government budgets that rely on fossil fuel extraction, and are in danger of collapsing as the industries fade without plans to transition plans in place. For inspiration on how to create a just transition, Wyoming could look to recently passed legislation in New Mexico that funnels money from utility ratepayers to communities hit by coal-plant shutdowns. That bill, which also includes a mandate for 100% carbon emission-free electricity by 2045, sets aside tens of millions of dollars for site cleanups and job retraining in affected communities. But the Cowboy State’s situation makes it harder to fund such a transition. In Wyoming, the mining and drilling operations that pumped money into the economy can pack up their rigs and dozers and go, leaving the state to sort out the messes they leave behind.

But with the downfall of coal already underway, and the cost of renewables plunging to compete with natural gas, Wyoming’s dependence on minerals and the federal lands they come from will eventually be broken. Asking citizens and businesses to pony up for government services like road and education won’t be easy in a state where low tax and small-government ideologies reign supreme.

RAMPING DOWN federal fossil fuel leasing and extraction would require a monumental policy shift from the drill-America-first priorities of the Trump administration. And any discussion about that shift should be informed by a full accounting of the federal subsidies that prop up the industry in the United States and by proxy the states that rake in its revenue. According to a recent study by economists at the International Monetary Fund, the United States spent \$649 billion in 2015 subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. That accounting measures the actual cost of consumption against an “efficient” pricing of fossil fuels, which considers the public health and environmental costs of burning fossil fuels.

While that eye-popping number includes factors that could be debated, such as how to account for the costs of climate change and air pollution, the federal government spent on average more than \$14 billion in direct subsidies to oil and gas in 2015 and 2016, according to an analysis by the climate advocacy group Oil Change International. That \$14 billion — which comes from sources like tax

loopholes, distorted royalty rates, and below-market lease and rental rates on public lands — amounts to billions less than fossil fuel companies return in production revenue from public lands and waters and is considerably more than the federal government spent subsidizing renewable energy during the same time period.

CLIMATE ACTION in the form of federal oil and gas reform will have a disproportionate impact on Wyoming, as it continues to rely on fossil fuels and lags behind other states in transition planning. But swapping federal subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy could be a major boon for job growth across the West, creating jobs and opportunities for innovation through renewable installations, grid improvements and new storage technology. In states like New Mexico, plans to capture this growing economy — and rejuvenate coal communities in the process — are already underway. With the cost of renewable plus storage projects dipping below the cost of natural gas generation, the sun will shine brightly on states prepared to capture the winds of change blowing across the energy landscape. Note: This story has been corrected to reflect that the natural gas boom in Pinedale, Wyoming was not part of the state’s coal-bed methane natural gas boom.

Carl Segerstrom is an assistant editor at High Country News, covering Alaska, the Pacific Northwest & Northern Rockies from Spokane, WA.

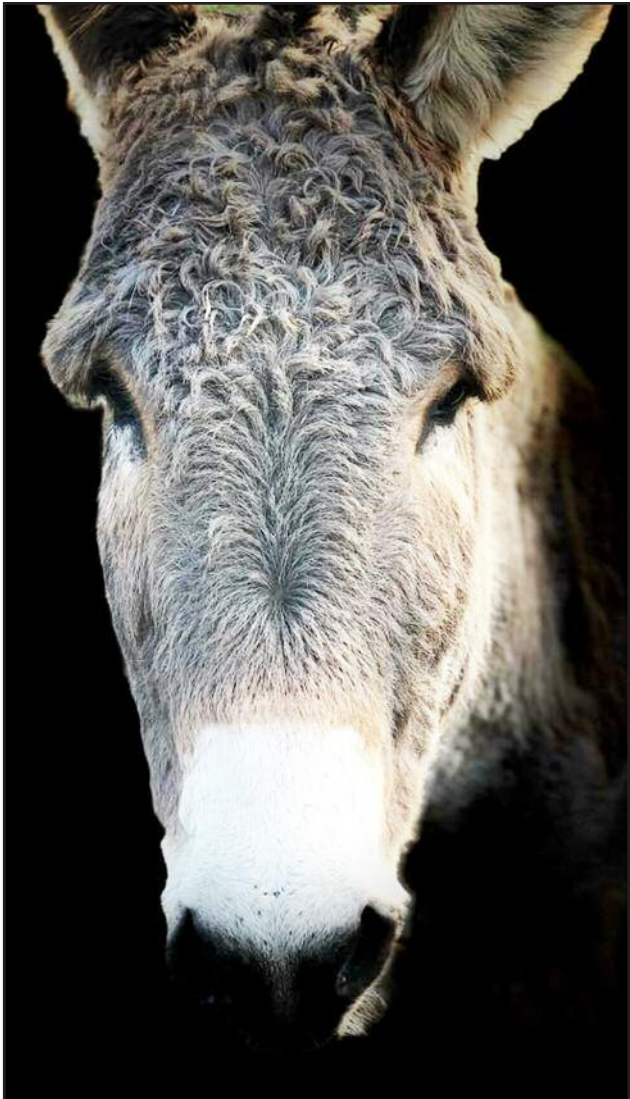
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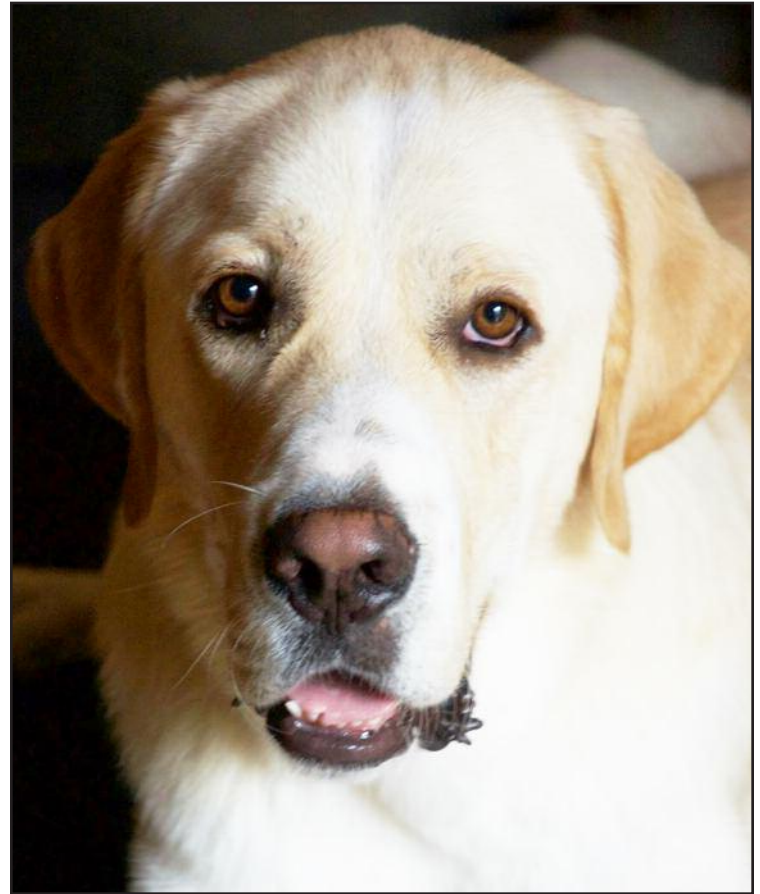
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*Previous page top left: Dog in Cat Tree w/cats.
Top right: Donkey face.
Bottom left: Tiny puppy.
Bottom right: Puppy & kitten same colors.*

*This Page top left: Tasso from Zach.
Top right: Brody from Lauren.
Bottom left: Cocker Spaniels.*



Send in Your photos to
highlandermo60@gmail.com

Smoke Detector Placement & Safety

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

Installing smoke detectors makes you feel safe from a possible fire. Staying aware of their correct placement and maintenance will ensure that no smoke goes undetected in your home.

Where to Place the Smoke Detector: Most fatal fires occur late at night or early morning, while you're asleep. For this reason, the National Fire Protection Association recommends placing smoke detectors in every occupied bedroom, as well as on every floor, including the basement.

In the kitchen, place the smoke detector away from the stove to prevent false alarms. If someone in your home is deaf or hard of hearing, consider a detector that also combines flashing lights with its alarm sound. If you are installing your detector on a wall and not the ceiling, remember to place it 4-12 inches from the ceiling.

Means of Detection: There are three kinds of smoke detectors: photoelectric, ionization, and a combination of the two, called a dual sensor. Photoelectric ones are better at picking up slow-building, smoldering fires, like one resulting from a lit cigarette. Ionization detectors quickly

note sudden combustible fires with high flames, like a grease fire. **For the best protection and safety, go with the dual sensor.** Since you don't know what sort of fire may spark, having either type of detector still allows you the early-warning time to react and take action.

Maintenance and Chirps: Because a smoke detector constantly filters the air in your home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, maintenance is crucial. Most smoke detectors come equipped with a "chirping" alert to let you know their battery is low, but **stick to a rule of changing out the batteries annually, even if it's quiet all year.**

Being vigilant every second of the day will eventually take its toll, so it is recommended that you replace old detectors every ten years.

Help protect your family from the invisible poisonous killer Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas produced by burning fuels in vehicles, cooking appliances, furnaces, fireplaces, grills, space heaters, and other gas, coal, wood or oil-burning appliances.

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How to spot carbon monoxide building: decreased hot water supply, increased moisture on windows, loose or disconnected chimney, fireplace or appliance, black soot on appliances and vents, rust or water on vents or chimney, loose or missing furnace panel.

How to spot carbon monoxide poisoning. Low to moderate poisoning: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness. Severe poisoning: confusion, vomiting, loss of muscle coordination, unconsciousness.

How to help prevent carbon monoxide problems: Install detectors in central locations, in each sleeping area, on every level of the home and near attached garages. Use interconnecting alarms, when one sounds others will sounds.

Test alarms monthly. Only buy gas-powered equipment that has a seal of a national testing agency, such as Underwriters Laboratories. Never let engines run inside a garage, even if the door is open. Keep dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace vents clear of debris and snow. Never run a generator in a home, garage or crawlspace.

Have your furnace, water heater and other appliances serviced by a qualified technician once a year.

How to react when the alarm sounds: 1. Exit the house. 2. Check everyone for signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. 3. Call 911. 4. Do not re-enter your home until authorities have cleared it.

Editor's Note: Changing alarm batteries when Daylight Savings Times change is a great habit to get into.



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Tongass National Forest To Be Clearcut

By Helen Santoro Sept. 16, 2019 High Country News

Clearcutting of old-growth trees in the world's largest intact temperate rainforest stopped just three years ago.

Many years later, Bonnie recalled that adventure when he and DellaSala met at the Agriculture Department's Washington, D.C., headquarters to discuss the fate of the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska, the nation's

BACKSTORY

By Elizabeth Shogren in Oct. 2016

Twenty years ago on a beautiful November day, Robert Bonnie and Dominick DellaSala got an unexpected and unforgettable opportunity to play hooky. Both were working for environmental groups, Bonnie for the Environmental Defense Fund and DellaSala for the World Wildlife Fund. But when they arrived at Yellowstone National Park for a meeting about large carnivores, they learned that the park was closed and their meeting had been cancelled: The federal government had just shut down over a budget battle between President Bill Clinton and Congress. Somehow, they talked their way into the park anyway and hiked through Lamar Valley, peering through binoculars at newly reintroduced gray wolves and distant grizzlies and watching a peregrine falcon circle overhead.



largest national forest and the last where large-scale clear-cutting of old-growth trees is permitted. Bonnie, now the undersecretary of Agriculture who oversees the Forest Service, said that day had been one of the best of his life. DellaSala challenged Bonnie to (Continued on next page.)

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top it by saving the Tongass. “That would be a conservation legacy,” DellaSala, 59, recalls. Now, however, three years later, Bonnie and DellaSala are on opposite sides of a battle over climate change and the Tongass.

By the end of that year (2016), the Forest Service expected to finalize an amendment to the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan that would phase out large old-growth clear-cuts over 16 years. “We are being very forward-leaning here,” Bonnie, 48, says. DellaSala vehemently disagrees. He’s now the chief scientist of Geos Institute, a small Oregon-based group of scientists and policy wonks who work with land and water managers and communities on climate change. DellaSala believes the Forest Service and Bonnie in particular should end old-growth logging across the 17 million-acre forest much faster — not just for the sake of the ancient sitka spruce, cedar and hemlock, but for the planet.

The Tongass’ rainforests cover an archipelago of islands replete with waterfalls and glaciers, and DellaSala fell in love with the area while doing field research in the 1990s on the impacts of logging on wolves, Sitka black-tailed deer and songbirds. DellaSala now is promoting a plan — supported by many environmental groups and former Forest Service leaders — to phase out clear-cutting in five years. “It’s disappointing that we have a president who is so engaged on climate change and an agency that is so unsavvy,” DellaSala says. “It’s not in step with the rest of the administration’s global leadership on climate change.”

A quicker end to clear-cutting old growth would also protect vital habitat for wildlife, including five species of salmon that are key to the region’s economy.

Logging in the Tongass is already down to about one-tenth of what it was when Bonnie and DellaSala played hooky in the mid-1990s. And climate change may prove to be the force that ends wide-scale old-growth logging there permanently. “Although the transition timeframe is too long, when you look at the long and twisting timeline of Tongass management, the fact we are now talking openly and clearly about the end of old-growth logging and roadbuilding is a significant, positive event,” says Tim Bristol, a longtime environmental advocate in southeastern Alaska.

FOLLOWUP

In August, *The Washington Post* reported that the Trump administration wants to exempt the Tongass from logging restrictions. The area is currently protected by a Clinton administration policy known as the “roadless rule,” which protects about 58 million acres of the nation’s remaining undeveloped national forest from logging, road building and mineral development. Alaska’s political leaders have been pressing the administration for an exemption. If Trump’s plan succeeds, it could affect 9.5 million acres of preserved Tongass forest.

Editor’s Note: Now would be the time to let your D.C. representatives know how you feel about this issue.



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Ambivalence

By Ingrid Winter

So –
 Some of us
 (The majority actually)
 Eat Meat
 And Don't Care
 What Happened
 Before it landed
 On a dinner plate –

Whether the animal
 The meat came from
 Was raised on a Factory Farm
 Or had a relatively good life

Whether it was slaughtered
 Humanely or not

Some of us
 Eat meat
 But want to know
 How the animals were treated

And some of us
 Don't eat meat
 But eat eggs or dairy products
 Or no animal products at all

And so it goes –
 Do you wear fur?
 Do you use Leather, Down, Wool, Silk?
 And what about animal products
 That we aren't even aware of –
 In Tires, for example?

Do you fly on an airplane
 Knowing that birds get killed
 By the thousands by planes?

Do you know
 How many animals get killed by cars?
 (And haven't most of us accidentally hit an animal?)

And what about using drugs
 That are tested on animals?

What about animals
 Used in research?
 What about killing a spider? A fly? A Mosquito?
 Difficult questions –
 I guess what I'm trying to say
 Is that we are all (myself included)
 Ambivalent when it comes to animals
 And our perceived right to use them
 For our purposes
 We all have to draw a line somewhere
 –And I certainly am not telling anyone
 Where to draw it –



The only thing I'd ask
 Is that we do it
 Honestly and Respectfully
 That we don't push the questions aside
 But face them
 And
 Live with our answers.

Photo by Alexa Boyes. Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to rehabilitate orphaned, sick, & injured wildlife for release into appropriate habitats. 303.823.8455

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A Water Win-Win?

By Nick Bowlin Sept. 16 High Country News

A plan to export water from the San Luis Valley to the Denver Metro area is met with defiance.

If water flows to money, in Colorado, it flows to the Front Range. There, a booming population has strained municipal governments, which are actively looking elsewhere for new water sources. This is nothing new: In recent decades, locals have fended off several schemes to export the San Luis Valley's water east over the mountains. The latest of these is Renewable Water Resources, a venture backed by Denver metro money and former Republican Gov. Bill Owens. Worsening drought, poor commodity prices, economic trends towards consolidation and the ever-present threat of state intervention in local water management have some people worried — and others sensing an opportunity.

Sean Tonner, a businessman and longtime state Republican operative who worked for Owens, is behind the current water export scheme. Tonner exudes salesmanship, the sort of person who calls you by your first name the second he meets you. His plan reworks one that was pushed by the late Gary Boyce, a notorious water export advocate. Tonner, who now owns Boyce's 11,500-acre property at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, proposes a 22,000-acre-foot pipeline to carry water from the northern end of the valley over Poncha Pass to Douglas County in the southern Denver metro area. His company would buy and remove from irrigation about 30,000 acre-feet of San Luis Valley water, paying local farmers for the water rights that would offset the export.

Tonner uses the phrase "win-win" to describe the project. The front page of the project's website reads: "Best for the San Luis Valley. Best for the environment. Best for Colorado." Few in the valley see it that way. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District rejected the proposal in January 2019, and *(Continued on next page.)*

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Highlander Issues

the board has told Tonner it would fight any attempt to export water from the valley. Several town governments oppose the plan, as well. If it goes to court, the exporters would have to prove that the plan would not injure Rio Grande water rights, the aquifer or the protected areas that rely on the aquifer, including Great Sand Dunes National Park.

At a February water conference at Adams State University, former U.S. Sen. and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar — the most public member of the well-known Salazar family, which has farmed in the southern part of the valley since the 1850s — declared that “water will flow out of this valley to the North only over my dead body,” drawing a raucous cheer from the audience of farmers and ranchers.

Even so, it is easy to imagine the valley’s economic plight making it possible for Tonner’s proposal to catch on. His plan offers incentives that previous plans lacked, including a \$50 million fund for local governments to use in the community. If the valley’s financial woes worsen — or if the state were to shut off thousands of wells in Subdistrict 1 — that cash could sway some desperate local officials.

Tonner claims he has local support. At a community meeting in Saguache on May 23, he told the large crowd that he had enough water users interested in selling to

obtain 22,000 acre-feet of water. Few farmers and ranchers want to admit this, but the valley’s grim circumstances are pushing some to sell.

I put the question to rancher Dale Bartee in August: What would happen if the drought returns next year, the valley’s pumping fee is higher, and the export company shows up with ready money?

“If the price is right, it would be very hard to say no,” he said with a sigh, sitting at his kitchen table. It’s an admission he does not like making out loud. Like many here, Bartee sees the export advocates as turncoats, exploiting the imbalance of economic and political power concentrated on the other side of the mountains to extract rural resources. Repeated attempts to export the valley’s water make the people feel dispensable.

“For me, I will probably be one of the last ones to say yes to it, because of my boys,” Bartee said, whose two sons work the farm with him.

“They both say they want to come back, they want to farm,” their father said. “And if I sell out, what do they have left?”

If the valley’s water use were corrected, Rio Grande Water Conservation District Manager Cleave Simpson believes, the export schemes would evaporate. “Buy and dry” proposals, as they are known, seem less appealing when water supply and demand are in better balance, he said. The subdistrict model is an attempt to allow current farms to carry on at slightly diminished capacity, rather than face the “draconian” decision of either selling to exporters to get what money they can or risk having pumping rights suspended by the state engineer. “I don’t think producers should have to make that choice,” Simpson said.

Nick Bowlin is an editorial fellow at High Country News.

Editor’s Note: Isn’t it interesting that Boulder County is not the only Colorado county having water issues? Big money and developers are causing all kinds of turmoil in our state. Coal Creek Canyon is not the only community that is saying no to the corruption and greed fueled by a few that want to develop unsustainably any way they can.



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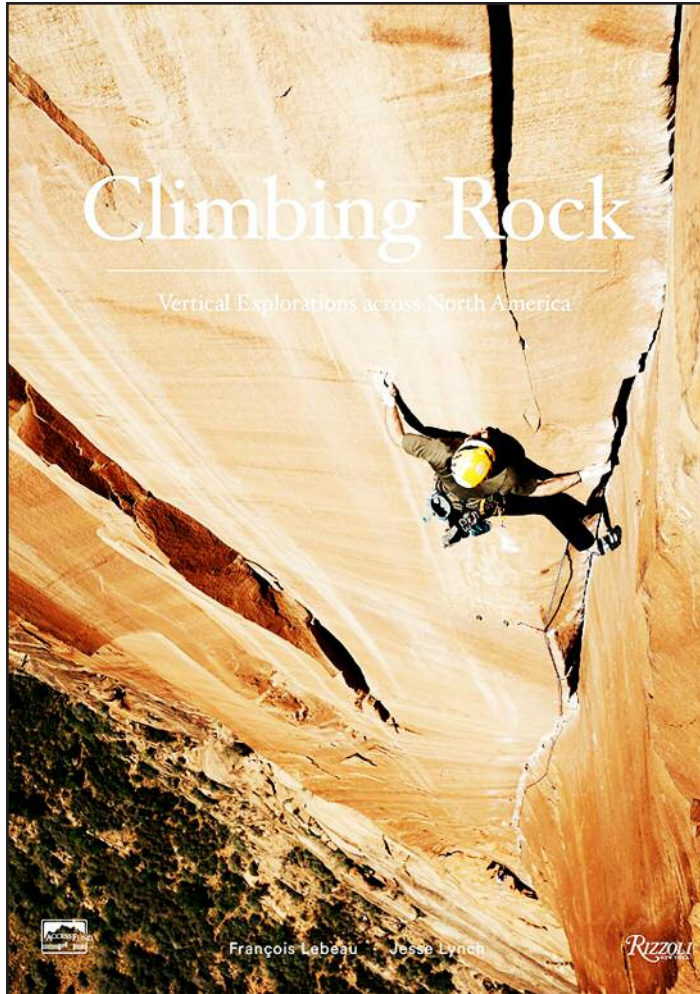
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On The Rock From The Climber's View

High Country News

A new book is a 'deeply beautiful survey of climbing.'
Jailhouse, California - Iron Junkie (5.12c)

Joshua Enoch Williams taking a moment on a quality heel hook. François Lebeau



If you're looking to relax with a different kind of nature book, sit down with *Climbing Rock: Vertical Explorations across North America*. This monograph's impressive environmental photographs, many taken from rock faces at great heights, span the seasons and nations of North America. It's all seen from a climber's perspective — climbers traversing arches in Utah, California's Joshua Tree National Park at twilight and, of course, the glorious "El Cap" in Yosemite.

A passion for the outdoors and deep appreciation of its grandeur are evident throughout, with mountaineers in helmets and bright apparel sharing their thoughts and their often spiritual feelings about the sport. "It is a deeply beautiful survey of climbing," writes Jesse Lynch. And if the colorful climbing jargon leaves you hanging at times — words like "choss" or "kneebar" or "wag bag" — there's a helpful glossary included. (Hint: "Wag bag" is a term taken from dog walkers.)

Climbing Rock: Vertical Explorations across North America

By François Lebeau and Jesse Lynch
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Update: BuffaloFieldCampaign.org

Conservationists blast USFWS Denial of Yellowstone Bison Protection

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Mont. — Conservationists today blasted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notice in the *Federal Register*, published recently, that denies further consideration Endangered Species Act protections for bison herds in Yellowstone National Park. This finding does nothing to remedy the fundamental flaw in the original finding that was struck down by the District Court for the District of Columbia in 2018. The new finding still applies the wrong standard of evidence for a 90-day finding, which a federal judge found illegal in 2017, and continues to disregard important scientific evidence that the bison herds in Yellowstone are two distinct genetic subpopulations which are threatened by current management actions that disproportionately target the Central Interior herd for capture and slaughter.

“Once again, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has applied the wrong evidentiary standard in our petition to list the Yellowstone bison as threatened or endangered,” said Darrell Geist. “The genetically distinct subpopulation of wild bison in the Central range is at risk of extinction. Nothing is being done to turn that fact around.”

The Yellowstone bison herds are the only continuously free-roaming wild bison in the United States. They are the direct descendants of an estimated 60 million bison that once roamed North America, and are the only herds of substantial size free from cross-breeding with domestic cattle. Unfortunately, due to the political pressure applied



by the livestock industry, America’s national mammal is confined to less than one percent of its original range and in Yellowstone it faces the constant threat of capture and slaughter by the Park Service as they attempt to migrate beyond the Park’s borders.

“The simple truth is that the livestock industry does not want bison to exist as a native wildlife species in the United States,” said Josh Osher, Montana and Public Policy Director for the Western Watersheds Project. “The Trump administrations latest finding is one more example of the way in which industry is favored over the natural world at all costs, even the potential extinction of an American icon, the wild bison.”

The new finding also wrongly limits the consideration of threats to the bison that occur as a result of the arbitrary

confinement of the herds to the Park boundaries and some small areas immediately adjacent; fails to acknowledge the significant threat posed by climate change to the bison’s current and potential habitat; and ignores the fact that the bison herds in Yellowstone are the only remaining wild bison herd of significant size that contain no cattle DNA. As a wildlife species, bison have lost 99% of their range and been reduced to 1% of their former numbers in North America.

“The new finding continues to flaunt the Endangered Species Act’s legal requirement to use the best available science and not politics,” says Michael Harris, Legal Director of Friends of Animals. Go to BFC’s website noted here and **TAKE ACTION to help this national mammal ROAM FREE.**

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Surface Coal Mine Not Reclaimed Yet

By Nick Bowlin Sept. 4 High Country News

The feds tried to make an example of a small Washington coal mine. It didn't work. The John Henry Mine last produced coal in 1999 & not fully reclaimed.

This story was produced in collaboration with HCN, The Center for Public Integrity and the Ohio Valley ReSource.

For the last two decades, one of the West's smallest coal mines has sat inactive, neither producing the "black diamonds" the nearby town is named for, nor finishing federally required cleanup. Located about 20 miles east of Puget Sound, the site still has two open coal pits and four piles of mine waste. "It's been 20 years and not much has happened," said Black Diamond Mayor Carol Benson. "The town is on record as wanting it reclaimed."

This 480-acre project, far from coal country, has played an outsized part in the federal government's attempts to deal with mines that sit idle for extended stretches of time. Sometimes known as "zombie mines," such projects have long been a focus of federal regulators who have tried to strengthen standards for cleaning up inactive mines.


In the most recent reform attempt, in 2011, the John Henry Mine provided federal officials a perfect example of the need for better regulation. They knew the mine well; many states have regulatory regimes that surpass federal standards, but Washington lacks a state-level mining agency, so the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is responsible. If the federal rule-making attempt had succeeded — it was torpedoed by the Trump administration — federal regulators could have addressed concerns about coal mines idling for years with

minimal prospects of ever reopening.

A report put together in 2010 by a team at OSMRE laid out the shortcomings of the existing federal regulations, according to documents obtained by the Center for Public Integrity. Regulators found that under existing federal standards, mine operators need only minimal justification for halting mining. The operator does not have to report what reserves remain or prove that the mine is in regulatory compliance, and there is no re-evaluation of the owner's financial ability to cover reclamation costs. And, crucially, the existing regulations lack a time limit for a mine's inactivity or a mechanism for ending that idle status and thus activating the owner's obligation to clean up the site.

Even before OSMRE outlined the problems with unclear regulations, it had tried to get the John Henry to stop delaying cleanup. The project, which had been a thorn in regulators' sides for years, fit many of the loopholes mentioned in the report. "Significant effort" had been expended, the report said, trying to force the mining company, Pacific Coast Coal Co. (PCCC), to end its temporarily idled status.

In 2009, OSMRE finally ordered the mine to stop delaying reclamation. PCCC challenged this, arguing that it had more coal to dig. "It isn't clear in the regulations," how long you can leave a mine idled, said David Morris, PCCC's general manager since the 1980s. "You can put it in idle mine status and leave it there." But Interior Department Appeals Court Judge Robert G. Holt ruled against the company, saying that while there exists no regulation that explicitly requires *(Continued on page 31.)*



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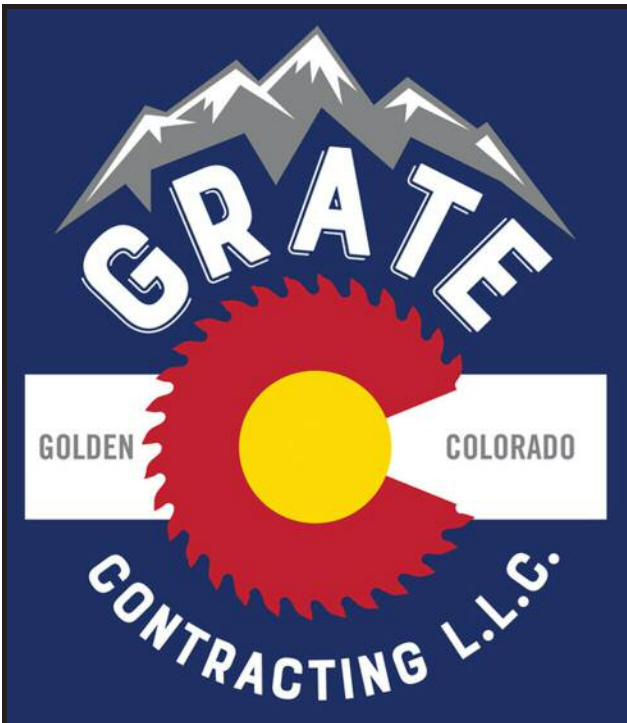
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Today, the John Henry Mine looks much as it did in 1999, when coal last came from its open pits. Despite the court decision, reclamation work stalled, thanks to years of wrangling over permits and an environmental impact

reclamation, even after an extensive period of time, temporary cessation does not allow companies to indefinitely postpone reclamation. PCCC, he wrote, “has not mined coal for ten years and has shown no present ability to resume mining or to sell coal.”

Holt’s ruling provided an important legal basis for the proposed rule to set stronger timelines for reclamation, said Joe Pizarchik, OSMRE’s director under the Obama administration. “It was a court saying that 10 years was not ‘temporary’ cessation of operations,” he said. The ruling thus allowed OSMRE to argue that it was not



overreaching in crafting minimal standards for idled mines. Pizarchik said the agency was keen to implement a stronger idled-mine rule but lacked the staff and budget. During this period, the agency was busy writing regulations on mountaintop removal mining, which eventually became the Stream Protection Rule. In the end, both the Stream Protection Rule and the yet-to-be-finalized mine-idling rule fell victim to the Trump administration’s deregulatory agenda.

statement. PCCC attempted to resume mining, but — like other companies in the tanking coal industry — could not find a market. The company began final reclamation in May, according to Morris, who blames federal regulators for not allowing the mine to reopen.

With Seattle’s growing population spilling into Black Diamond, the small town is keen to see the mine reclaimed. The site is in the process of being restored to forests and wetlands. If all goes as planned, one of the pits will become a lake, another will be backfilled from refuse piles onsite, and the open ponds of mine sediment will be filled and reclaimed.

Alyssa Barton of Puget Soundkeeper, a nonprofit that focuses on area watershed protection, said she is cautiously hopeful the site will be restored at last. “There was a pattern of delay,” she said, “and we want to make sure (the site) gets cleaned up and maybe changes ownership, if that’s feasible, so that it becomes a park or something and never can be used for mining again.”

*Seattle Times photo of John Henry Mine today.
Nick Bowlin is an editorial fellow at High Country News.*

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Three Profound Secrets To A Happy Life

By Frosty Wooldridge

Thomas Jefferson said, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Through all of human history, ordinary people longed for the mythical ideal to be happy, to live a fulfilling life and to enjoy the fruits of their talents.

For the first time in history via Thomas Jefferson and the founding fathers of America—ordinary people suddenly enjoyed the “right” to pursue their happiness in their own ways, at their own speed and at their own choices.

As an ordinary citizen of America, my life path carried me into amazing places. My choices allowed me to come into contact with some remarkable people who espoused “how” to live a happy life. I share their ideals with you in order for you to incorporate them into your own life—and prosper with happiness.

Henry David Thoreau said, “If you advance confidently toward your dreams, and endeavor to live the life which you have imagined, you will meet with success unexpected in common hours. You will pass through invisible

boundaries. You will engage new and liberal laws. And you will live with the license of a higher order of beings.”

I read that quote every morning before my day begins. I inculcate the essence of the message into my brain cells and my thought patterns. I make plans, I prepare to carry them out and I pursue them confidently. At first, I met with many obstacles with my dream to bicycle on all seven continents. Those difficulties became stepping stones to my ultimate success because of my “advancing confidently” toward my dreams. Successes “popped up” in the creative field of life at the most unexpected hours.

Somewhere along your own journey, by incorporating Thoreau’s wisdom, you will pass through invisible boundaries. Once you make the transition, you will engage new and liberal laws in your daily activities. Your thought patterns change to increasingly more abundant and creative vibrations. Those vibrations propel you toward living with a higher order of beings—in other words, you transform via your thoughts. You become how you think. You manifest what you imagine.

Jack London said, “I would rather be ashes than dust. I would rather my spark burn out in a brilliant blaze than be stifled by dry rot. I would rather be a superb meteor; every

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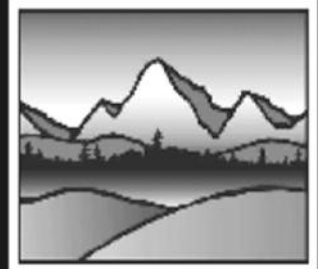
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atom in magnificent glow—rather than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man-woman is to live, not merely exist. I shall use my time.”

I read aloud this second secret to happiness daily. I engage the energy of London’s wisdom for squeezing every second out of every day. That may mean contemplative thought and grateful moments versus quickening intensity. I understand that each moment of living constitutes a marvelous endowment.

You too, enjoy the miracle of living. By incorporating the first and second secrets, you change the vibrations in your mind, in your heart and in your spirit. You transition into an entirely new and creative realm of thought and creative process. London understood it in his vivacious living and his enthralling literary pursuits. His book *Martin Eden* lives inside me since I read it 40 years ago. London inspired me and still does to this day.

Goethe said, “Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now.”

Actions drive your coveted dreams to reality, which drive your life toward fulfillment. While engaging your mind to harness your dreams, you take actions that connect you to



your happiness. By channeling the creative energy of the universe, you live a happy life.

Photo of Panorama Point by Anita Wilks.

*Frosty Wooldridge possesses a unique view of the world, cultures and families in that he has bicycled around the globe 100,000 miles, on six continents and 14 times across the United States in the past 35 years. **How to Live a Life of Adventure: The Art of Exploring the World***

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The Rustic Moose - pg 27 303.258.3225

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Universal Lending Corp. pg 27 303.791.4786

ROOFING

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

TAXES

Karen Schwimmer, CPA pg 11 303.642.0628

TRAVEL

Wee Travel pg 23 303.465.2118

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 16 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 15 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well pg 22 303.438.6669

Power Update

October
2019

What's New in the Coal Creek Office?

Adam Dillon Named New Mountain Area Manager

Some exciting new changes are underway at United Power's mountain office in Coal Creek Canyon, including the introduction of new area manager, **Adam Dillon**. Adam is a frequent face around the cooperative's mountain territory where he was previously working as a troubleshooter. Former member services representative, **Brittany Olson**, has also moved into a new position at the Coal Creek Office as an administrative specialist. It's the same friendly faces and quality service our mountain members can expect, but some of the people are in different roles around the office.



Adam Dillon
Mountain Manager



Brittany Olson
Admin Specialist



Using Our Payment Kiosk

Make your payment in the Coal Creek Office with the United Power Kiosk. For a quick transaction, have your United Power account number available (**located on your bill**).

The kiosk accepts check, credit card or cash payments during regular business hours.

Cash and credit card payments made via the kiosk are applied to your account immediately, and accounts subject to disconnection are restored immediately upon payment.

Kiosk/Business Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Coal Creek Office

5 Gross Dam Road
Golden, CO 80403

Changes to Coal Creek Payment Options

While Brittany will now work to support operations in the mountain territory and the crews that keep your lights on, we've made some changes to the way payments will be accepted in the Coal Creek Office. All member payments will now be accepted through an easy-to-use payment kiosk. The no-hassle kiosk allows members to make payments via check, credit card and cash in the lobby of our office. Beginning this month, in-person payments and drop-box payments will no longer be accepted at our Coal Creek Office.



United Power Payment Methods

As your cooperative, United Power is focused on meeting your needs. We offer our members a variety of easy-pay solutions, in addition to our first operational payment kiosk in Coal Creek. Members may make payments in the following ways:



United Power members can easily manage their accounts 24/7 using our free online payment portal, **SmartHub**. Pay your bill, store payment methods for future bills, view electric usage history, report an outage and more.



Auto Pay is the hassle-free way to make sure your bill is paid on time every month. When you sign up, United Power will deduct your payment on your regular due date from a checking or savings account or credit card that you designate.



Pay your bill quickly and easily with United Power's **Pay Now** feature. No login, password or registration is required. Make a quick, one-time payment online using your account number.



United Power's convenient **Pay by Phone** service allows members the flexibility to pay their bill anytime of the day through our automated payment system. Please have your account number and payment method ready and call 866-999-4485.

For additional member services and account support, our Member Services team remains available by phone at 303-637-1300 or in person at our Brighton office.



Member Services: 303-637-1300

Coal Creek Office: 303-642-7921

www.unitedpower.com

Monsterville Trick or Treat

October 31st www.cccmonsterville.com

Camp Eden Area 5-8PM



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**



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



500 Chute Road
Complete Remodel - VIEWS
3 BD/ 3 BA 2,183 sq.ft. 4.45 Acres



33588 Lyttle Dowdle
Beautiful Building Lot! Lots of Sunshine
1.04 Acre **\$59,900**



2184 Steele Street
Fantastic Tri-Level
3 BD/ 2 BA 1,649 sq.ft. **\$359,000**



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.



10241 Thorodin Drive
Beautiful Mtn Contemporary 1.83 Acres
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,100 sq.ft. **\$475,000**



76 Wonderland Avenue
Adorable & Updated Cabin - Wondervul
2 BD/ 2 BA 1,674sq.ft. **\$309,000**



181 Hummingbird Lane
Nicely Updated - Theater Room 1.28 Ac.
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,129 sq.ft. **\$469,900**



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**



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Kathy or Janet & USE
the moving truck for FREE**



Kathy Keating
CRS, ABR, GRI
EcoBroker
Broker Associate
303.642.1133

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Broker Associate
Realtor
720.600.9006

