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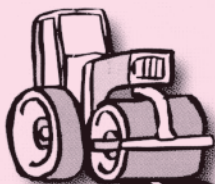


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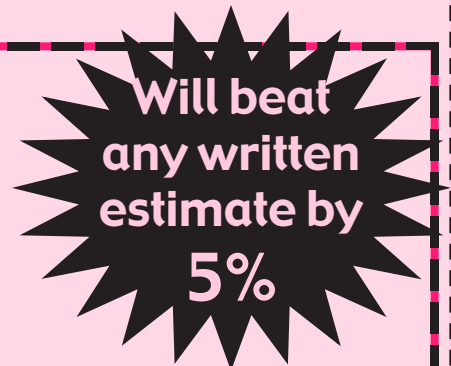
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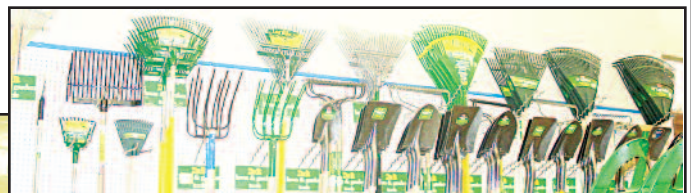
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The Mystique Of Owls

By Diane Bergstrom

Photographs by Rob Palmer and Scott Rashid

“You don’t find owls, they find you,” Paul Bannick, wildlife photographer was told while working on his book, *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*. He spent a great deal of time in Alaska, justifying, “All the snowy owls that nest in the U.S. nest in Alaska. They have to nest on Arctic tundra.” Years ago, as I drove down Stampede Road in Healy, Alaska (movie fans will know it from *Into The Wild*), a white blur swooped in front of my windshield as I slammed on the brakes and identified the Snowy Owl that was diving on prey, probably a lemming or Arctic ground squirrel. Months ago, I attended an owl talk given by Scott Rashid, Director of the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute, presented at the Western Stars Gallery in Lyons. The Institute also emphasizes education with a focus on the birds of Estes Valley and Rocky Mountain National Park. Scott has spent decades studying the owls found on the north side of the park. After his talk, I thought about doing an owl article then more time-sensitive subjects called. Lately, over the span of two days, I saw five owls, which is more than I’ve seen collectively in years. One flew up in front of my car, two balanced on electrical poles taking turns dropping down on prey, one perched near her nest, and another hooted at me from the roof of a house as I passed by on a sidewalk. It’s time they seemed to impart. Like Paul I didn’t find owls, they found me.


The mystique around owls varies throughout time, cultures and locations. An owl is associated with Athena, the Greek Goddess of wisdom, strategy, the arts, mathematics, prophecy and prosperity. It remains an emblem of Athens. Moe, of *Gnostic Warrior*, reported that in biblical law, owls are included in the list of birds that were forbidden to be eaten. In the ancient kingdom of Edom, an “eagle owl” was declared to inherit the

devastated land and another variety of owl would also dwell in it. In Shamanism, animals are companions to mystics, connecting humankind, the supernatural and nature together. An owl spirit guide is believed to be a confidant, wisely guiding a person to act swiftly when the right moment appears. The Kikuyu (largest ethnic group) of Kenya believe the owl is a harbinger of death, and to hear or see an owl is a prediction that someone will die. In Norse mythology, the owl is believed to possess ancient



Snowy Owl by Rob Palmer falconphotos.com 303.888.5264

powers of the moon, perfecting mystical wisdom, and able to bring messages through dreams. Jaime Oxendine, Lumbee Tribe, delineated the differing Native American tribal beliefs at www.powwows.com/concerning-owls, as owls are both feared and embraced. He recommended that family members or elders should be consulted for specific beliefs because they vary from family, clan and tribe. For example, the Cherokee, Lakota, and Caddo believe owls bring prophetic news to medicine men of future happenings at great distances. The Choctaw, Ojibway and Catawba linked Great Horned owls with witches and shape-shifters. Some traditional beliefs warn of medicine men that have gone to the dark side and might use owl talents to spy on others’ weaknesses in order to (Continued on next page.)



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control them. Jaime explained that because the average tribal member couldn't distinguish between a real owl and a shape-shifter, they avoided all owls. Conversely, holy men and women of many tribes who believed owls had soft and gentle ways requested help from real owls to help their healing practices become soft and gentle. Lakota medicine men wore feathers with the promise to never harm owls as they were then closely allied with the owl medicine. The Pawnee have stories of owls sharing their powers with hunters to improve their prowess and night vision, stating, "The owl is the leading medicine man among the birds." Jaime summarized that for most tribes, owls' connection with death, afterlife, and rebirth make them a force to be reckoned with.

Just as there are a myriad of myths about owls, Scott explained that there are a myriad of differences between owls' characteristics, behaviors and habitats, with a few common similarities. All owls' cone-shaped eyes are fixed in their skulls, motion-paralyzed, so they must turn their head to focus on their surroundings. Their eyes have more rods and fewer cones that limit their color perception but improve their night vision. He relayed a concept that the nocturnal owls can see an entire football field by the light of one candle. Many owls' wings are structured so the owls can carry prey that outweighs them, which even eagles cannot do. Scott said a tiny Northern Saw-whet owl was spotted carrying a rat, and a Pygmy owl weighing 70 grams can carry a gopher weighing 150 grams. Owls possibly have no sense of smell, and as Scott emphasized the word "possibly," we're reminded that as a researcher, he is

constantly absorbing recent studies that present changing variables in owl observation and challenge existing owl hypotheses. There are no hard and fast rules, or generalizations, for all owls.

A lesser-known owl found in RMNP is the Northern Pygmy owl. Scott explained it is anatomically unique; it's only 7" tall with short round wings and a long tail, which



Pygmy Owl by Scott Rashid

helps it to maneuver through the woods. While some owls have round facial disks, which help move sound to the ears, the Pygmy has a sleeker face because it uses sight more than hearing to catch prey during daylight hours. They have eye-like markings on the back of their head feathers to hinder predator attacks from behind, and tiny horns that raise and lower to camouflage their silhouette when predators fly by. These particular birds approve of the Cow Creek area in the park, per Scott, because all of the preferred environmental factors are in place: active water source; Aspen, Douglas Fir, Juniper, Ponderosa trees for nesting; downed logs for perching; open fields for hunting. The male will sing for a female from the nest, then feed her during courtship

with birds, chipmunks, voles, and deer mice. The amount of food he gives her during courtship will affect the number of eggs she lays and ultimately the size of the chicks. The size of the cavity also affects the health and survival rate of the family, as it must be large enough to accommodate the female, chicks and food. A big nest fosters a big healthy family. The female doesn't allow the male to feed the chicks due to ineptness. He just feeds her and she's larger and more aggressive. Scott relayed a story of a female Pygmy owl flying up to the napping male

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Great Horned Owl by Rob Palmer

and hitting him to send him off on a hunt. He still fared better than a male Great Horned owl.

The Great Horned owls will eat everything from insects to turkeys and have the widest variation in diet of nesting owls in Colorado. The female is notoriously aggressive, requiring the male to announce himself before he arrives at the nest with food so she doesn't mistake him for a predator and attack. Twenty years ago in Ft. Collins, a female Great Horned owl was spotted feeding on a male in a nest. Scott explained it was assumed that the male didn't provide enough food for her and her chicks so she killed him and fed him to her brood. Nature's case for being a good provider. The Flammulated owl, a tiny nocturnal owl with dark eyes, also has his feeding challenges. Scott observed a male catching moths one evening and feeding them to the female at the rate of one moth a minute. This

continued for 2-3 hours after dark. Scott explained that the male would increase the food supply right after the female has laid eggs to help reestablish her calcium levels, and after the eggs have hatched to give new hatchlings a boost in their development. They spend the winter in Mexico and nest here in May. The Barn owl also migrates out of the area for the winter as it lacks a fat layer and cannot tolerate the cold.

The challenges facing owls is growing as their habitats and the integrity of the remaining habitats decline. Their food sources decline for the same reasons. Owls fly into windows at night, unable to see the glass panes. Small owls get hit by cars, especially on east/west running highways. In 1970, owls, hawks and eagles were added under the protections of the **Migratory Bird Treaty Act** of 1918. In 2017, the Interior Department ruled that industries would not be in violation of the act if they accidentally killed birds during their business operations. It also changed the rulemaking process so that new memos bypasses Congress and the courts that would establish how the law will be enforced, creating what conservationists state is a disregard for the environment and 100 years of conservation legacy. Read more: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/five-things-know-about-recently-changes-migratory-bird-act-180967646/#DFj2MjVxJECexGod.99>

To learn much more about our local owls, **attend Scott's lecture on September 21st at Arvada's Majestic View Nature Center**, (720) 898-7405. Visit his Institute's website, www.carriep.org, to view a video of him banding a Northern Pygmy owl with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife tracking number. The site also lists numerous raptor cameras, research projects, his avian publications and public presentations. His owl books, *Small Mountain Owls* and *The Great Horned Owl: An In Depth Study* are highly recommended. To see more of Rob Palmer's nature photography including owls (*he contributed this month's cover shot*), go to www.falconphotos.com. The site lists his available prints, books and videos for purchase, and he can be reached at rob@falconphotos.com or **303.888.5264**. Two recommended visual essay books are *Owls In The Wild* and *Birds In Flight*.

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What Is Green Building?

By Valerie Wedel

Colorado Green Building Guild Presents 2019 Green Home Tours

What is Green Building? Are you tangled up in questions about HERS ratings? Solar gain? Or how the heck to permit a building project that meets new green building requirements in your county or city? The upcoming 2019 Green Home Tour in and around Boulder, CO may answer some of your questions.

On Saturday, September 28, 2019, the Colorado Green Building Guild will host its annual Green Homes Tour. This is a self-guided tour. A variety of green homes will be available for touring, with people available at each location to answer questions. For more information on the tour, including how to volunteer or purchase tickets:

<http://www.bouldergreenhometour.org/>

Note that volunteers can tour all the homes free, in exchange for time spent helping with the tour. Many of the homes on the tour will be in the Boulder area. After the tour there will be a party for all participants. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will go to Attention Homes, to benefit their local projects.

A Green Building 101 seminar, open to the public, is also part of tour festivities. In prior years local architects and builders, including Scott Rodwin and others, have spoken. The talks have been highly informative. Green Building 101 aims to translate some of the industry jargon into bite size pieces, which will make sense to those of us who are

not builders or planners!

Please contact the Colorado Green Building Guild for more details, and to register: The Colorado Green Building Guild - So what is green building? Is it important? Why? Much of our energy consumption is actually in our houses. If your house uses less energy, heating, cooling and lighting bills go down. And as you laugh your way to the bank, our earth will thank you!

There is a lot of modern jargon these days, such as HERS rating (Home Energy Rating System). This number by the way should be low. Or Net Zero, which means your house does not use more energy than it produces. These types of ratings are simply attempts to describe how much energy and resources a building needs to be built and lived in. There is also a concept of minimum toxicity. Many among us have allergies and other health concerns. Ideally your home should not add to these! Some among us have become seriously ill, from over exposure to things like formaldehyde, which are present in many building materials. Choosing materials that go into the building of a house carefully can eliminate most of these toxins. This is true for both new construction and renovations.

IAQ, or Indoor Air Quality, describes how healthy the air inside your home is. For the best IAQ, open your windows! Fresh air is healing. Aim for two windows on different walls in each part of your house, so that fresh air can flow through the area. This is called cross ventilation. Then for even better IAQ, create floors you can mop, such as wood or tile. Placing area carpets can be a great bet because they can be rolled up and removed for cleaning. A huge amount



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of contaminants live in carpeting. When synthetic carpets wear out, they are tossed into landfills. Wool, jute, and cotton can all return to the earth, but plastic does not. Could you obtain a smaller wool area carpet, on a moppable floor? Does your grandmom have an old wool oriental carpet you could filch and lay on a hard wood or tile floor? Imagine that little rug glowing like a jewel, warm and soft on your toes... Sound wonderful?

Here is another basic concept for building or renovation that can be disguised these days by jargon: Face your windows south as much as possible. In the winter the south sun will heat and light your house. My house has many older leaky windows, and great south light. In deepest winter, my highest heating bill never goes above about \$80. In the summer the house stays cool because I open windows, and pull down blinds in areas of rooms that might otherwise get too much sun. Such simple ideas, and such profound results!

There is another lovely bonus to these principles of

operable windows, and day lighting - which simply means using the sun to light your house or office as much as possible. How do you feel in a room with windows you can look out of? With a gentle breeze wafting through, perhaps carrying the scent of wild sage after a rainstorm? Feeling good? Attention business owners - studies have shown people buy more, and work more productively with fewer sick days, in spaces with fresh air and natural sunlight.

Try not to let the jargon throw you. A bit of common sense and some patience, and you too can talk knowledgeably about green building. And feel virtuous for helping our planet! If you attend the 2019 Green Home Tour, perhaps you may be inspired with new ideas for your own project.

About the writer: Valerie Wedel holds a degree in architecture from University of Oregon. She enjoys helping people create beautiful, healthy and affordable spaces and believes architecture even has the potential to be healing for us all.

You can reach her at: valerieAwedel@gmail.com

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Looser Endangered Species Act Rules

By Chris D'Angelo Aug. 14 - High Country News

The new implementation guidelines relax habitat protections and favor development.

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

Three months after leading scientists warned that humans have driven up to 1 million species around the globe to the brink of extinction, the Trump administration has finalized a sweeping overhaul of the Endangered Species Act, weakening one of America's most important laws for protecting imperiled plants and animals.

The new rules, change how federal agencies implement portions of the conservation law, making it easier to remove recovered species from the protected list and opening the door for more drilling and other development. It also scraps the "blanket section 4(d) rule," a provision that automatically extends the same protections to plants and animals listed as threatened as the act affords those listed as endangered, and revises how agencies go about designating habitat as critical to species' long-term survival.

The changes, first proposed in July 2018, allow federal agencies to consider economic factors when making decisions about granting species protections, which the law has previously explicitly prohibited, and potentially limit their ability to account for the impacts of future climate change. The administration has said the overhaul will "modernize" and "improve" the law, lifting regulatory burdens while continuing to protect species.

Karen Budd-Falen, the Interior Department's deputy solicitor for fish, wildlife and parks who once called the ESA "a sword to tear down the American economy," was among several agency officials who briefed reporters about the changes during a call Monday. The rules, she said, will "ensure transparency" in the ESA process and "provide regulatory assurances and protection for both endangered species and the businesses that rely on the use of federal and private land."

Environmentalists see it as another handout to industry amid rising alarm that the ecosystems on which humans rely are collapsing, creating an existential threat.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, president and CEO of the conservation nonprofit Defenders of Wildlife and a former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, told reporters Monday that the final rules politicize the listing process, make it harder to designate critical habitat and would "absolutely" drive threatened species closer to extinction.

"This effort to gut protections for endangered and threatened species has the same two features of most Trump administration actions: It's a gift to industry, and it's illegal," Drew Caputo, vice president of litigation for lands, wildlife and oceans at the nonprofit Earthjustice, said in a statement about the change. "We'll see the Trump administration in court about it."

The Endangered Species Act was passed with strong bipartisan support in 1973 and has succeeded in preventing 99% of listed species from going extinct, including the Yellowstone grizzly bear, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, manatee and humpback whale. Today, it protects more than 1,600 plants and animals, as *(Continued on next page.)*



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well as the habitats critical to their survival.

A three-year study of the planet's living world compiled by nearly 500 scientists for the United Nations in May showed that up to 1 million species of land and marine life could be made extinct by humans' actions if present trends continue. The scientists said the rate of species extinction is up to hundreds of times higher than it has averaged over the past 10 million years. And a report last week from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, the leading U.N. body of researchers studying human-caused global warming, determined that humans have altered as much as 76% of the planet's ice-free land - exploitation that is helping to drive the climate and biodiversity crises.

Despite its impressive track record, the Endangered Species Act has been a longtime target of industry and Republican lawmakers. They argue the law has been abused to control land and block economic activities, namely fossil fuel development. "The best way to uphold the Endangered Species Act is to do everything we can to ensure it remains effective in achieving its ultimate goal - recovery of our rarest species," Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, a former oil and gas lobbyist, said in a statement Monday. "The Act's effectiveness rests on clear, consistent and efficient implementation."

A coalition of 10 state attorneys general was among the many groups that condemned the Trump administration's proposal to roll back species protections. In a September letter to the administration, the coalition called the proposed changes "unlawful, arbitrary, and harmful." Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra vowed to fight the rules in court. "I know that gutting the Endangered

Species Act sounds like a plan from a cartoon villain, not the work of the president of the United States," Healey said during a call with reporters. "But unfortunately that's what we're dealing with today."

The goal of the overhaul is clear: to "undercut the science" and reduce the number of listed species, according to David Hayes, the executive director of New York University's State Energy and Environmental Impact Center and former deputy secretary at the Interior Dept. under President Barack Obama. The only reason to consider economic impacts when making ESA decisions is to "poison the well and obtain a sort of public reaction to the listing," he said. "The unifying principle of all these regulatory changes," he added, "is to lessen the effectiveness of the act and to move away from what science tells you to do."

Gary Frazer, assistant director for endangered species at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said Monday that removing language that prohibits agencies from considering economic factors is simply aimed at better informing the public about those potential effects. He stressed that final listing decisions will continue to be made "solely on the basis of the best available scientific information and without consideration of the economic impacts." Even as the administration was working to finalize the new Endangered Species Act rules, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the act with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was working to weaken or remove protections for threatened and endangered species, according to an internal 2018 memo obtained by freelance reporter Jimmy Tobias.

Bernhardt has a long history of fighting the Endangered

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Species Act. In 2008, as the Interior Department's top lawyer during the Bush administration, Bernhardt issued a legal memo that concluded the law cannot be used to protect imperiled species from climate change and told federal agencies not to consider the impact of planet-warming greenhouse gases when making permit decisions. Later, as a private industry lobbyist and lawyer, he was involved in litigation against the federal government for its implementation of the act. His former clients include the Independent Petroleum Association of America, an industry trade group that has described the Endangered Species Act as a "broken law that does not help species."

The IPAA successfully lobbied the Trump administration to delay federal protections for the Texas hornshell mussel, as the Guardian reported last year. It also pushed for the Interior Department to ease ESA protections for the American burying beetle, according to internal emails obtained by the conservation group Western Values Project. In May, the federal agency proposed downlisting the beetle from endangered to threatened.

Bernhardt has a long list of potential conflicts of interest and is one of several top Interior officials being investigated for alleged violations of ethics rules dealing with former employers. During his current stint at Interior, Bernhardt has played a key role in regulatory rollbacks, including loosening Obama-era protections for the greater sage grouse, a move that opened the door for more drilling, mining and other development in the game bird's habitat. A recent investigation by The New York Times unearthed public records showing that Bernhardt intervened to block a scientific report by the Fish and Wildlife Service about the threat certain pesticides pose to more than 1,000 endangered species.

Asked about the agency's planned Endangered Species Act overhaul during his confirmation hearing in March, Bernhardt said the act has "wonderful goals, wonderful



Since March 1967, the black-footed ferret has been listed and is considered one of North America's most endangered mammals. Recently, the Trump administration finalized big changes to how the Endangered Species Act will be implemented, which advocates say will hurt species and help industry. USFWS Mtn-Prairie / CC via Flickr

objectives," but also "some ambiguity." At a congressional budget hearing in early May, Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) accused Bernhardt of "rolling back endangered species protections to benefit your former clients." "I take offense to the concept about profiting and your allegation that I'm here to do the bidding" of corporations, Bernhardt said. "I came here just like you to do the work of the public." Sen. Tom Udall (N.M.) joined other Democratic lawmakers in blasting the final rules, saying it would "take a wrecking ball" to the conservation law. "For more than 40 years, the ESA has been a pillar of environmental protection in this nation," he said on a press call. "But as we've seen time and time again, no environmental protection, no matter how effective or popular, is safe from the Trump administration." Udall added that lawmakers must consider stopping the ESA rollback "by any means," including using the Congressional Review Act.

Chris D'Angelo is a reporter for HuffPost, based in Washington, D.C.

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Wildlife Services Uses Cyanide Bombs Again

By Jimmy Tobias Aug. 12 - High Country News

Cyanide bombs' use reauthorized to kill wild animals!

This article was originally published by the Guardian and is republished here by permission.

The Trump administration has reauthorized government officials to use controversial poison devices – dubbed “cyanide bombs” by critics – to kill coyotes, foxes and other animals across the US. The spring-loaded traps, called M-44s, are filled with sodium cyanide and are most frequently deployed by Wildlife Services, a federal agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture that kills vast numbers of wild animals each year, primarily for the benefit of private farmers and ranchers.

In 2018, Wildlife Services reported that its agents had dispatched more than 1.5 million native animals, from beavers to black bears, wolves, ducks and owls. Roughly 6,500 of them were killed by M-44s.

On Tuesday, after completing the first phase of a routine review, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it would allow sodium cyanide’s continued use in M-44s across the country on an interim basis. Yet the traps are facing increasing opposition, and have, in the past, led to the inadvertent deaths of endangered species and domestic pets and caused harm to humans.

In 2017, a teenage boy named Canyon Mansfield was hiking with his dog in the woods behind his family’s home in Pocatello, Idaho when Mansfield’s dog triggered a cyanide trap that sprayed a plume of poison dust into the air. The dog died on the spot and Mansfield was rushed to the hospital, where he ultimately recovered. His parents are suing Wildlife Services over the poisoning.

Mansfield’s case made national headlines and has fueled opposition to M-44s. In May, in response to advocacy by environmental groups, Oregon’s governor Kate Brown signed a ban on the use of the traps in the state. In 2017, Wildlife Services agreed to temporarily halt the use of M-44s in Colorado after environmental groups sued. The agency also stopped using them in Idaho after the

Mansfield case came to light.

In the months before the EPA announced the reauthorization, conservation groups and members of the public flooded the agency with comments calling for a complete national ban on the predator-killing poison. According to an analysis provided by the Center for Biological Diversity, which is a leading opponent of M-44s, 99.9% of all comments received by the EPA opposed the reauthorization of sodium cyanide for predator control purposes.



Species like this swift fox can be killed by poisons loaded into M-44s, which were recently reauthorized for use by Wildlife Services. The swift fox is primarily a nocturnal species, but this individual was spotted during the day in north-central Colorado. USFWS Mtn-Prairie/CC via Flickr

Although the agency took a different view, it did impose new restrictions on the use of M-44s. Among other things, the agency will now prohibit government officials from placing M-44s within 100 feet of public roads or trails. The agency’s reauthorization decision is only an interim one and a final decision on the matter is expected to come down after 2021. **(So tell your congresspeople how you feel now.)**

Brooks Fahy, the executive director of the environmental group Predator Defense and a leading opponent of M-44s, denounced the EPA’s decision.

It is a “complete disaster,” he said. “[The EPA] ignored the facts and they ignored cases that, without a doubt, demonstrate that there is no way M-44s can be used safely.”

In response to the Guardian’s request for comment, the EPA referenced the documentation of the decision on its website.

Jimmy Tobias is a contributing writer for the Guardian. This story is published with the Guardian as part of their two-year series, This Land is Your Land, examining the threats facing America’s public lands, with support from the Society of Environmental Journalists.



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The Wisdom Of Trees

By Christopher Chase

“Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth. They do not preach learning and precepts, they preach, undeterred by particulars, the ancient law of life. Every path leads homeward..”

~Hermann Hesse

“For me, trees have always been the most penetrating preachers. I revere them when they live in tribes and families, in forests and groves. And even more I revere them when they stand alone.

In their highest boughs the world rustles, their roots rest in infinity; but they do not lose themselves there, they struggle with all the force of their lives for one thing only: to fulfill themselves according to their own laws, to build up their own form, to represent themselves. Nothing is holier, nothing is more exemplary than a beautiful, strong tree.

(The Blue Spruce tree pictured here is a photo gift from Carol Cardon. On a dare she couldn't



capture the entirety of its largess, she beautifully took the dare and sent me a file I had made into a poster for my office door.)

When we are stricken and cannot bear our lives any longer, then a tree has something to say to us: Be still! Be still! Look at me! Life is not easy, life is not difficult. Those are childish thoughts. Let God speak within you, and your thoughts will grow silent.

You are anxious because your path leads away from mother and home. But every step and every day leads you back again to the mother. Home is neither here nor there. Home is within you, or home is nowhere at all.

A longing to wander tears my heart when I hear trees rustling in the wind at evening. If one listens to them silently for a long time, this longing reveals its kernel, its meaning. It is not so much a matter of escaping from one's suffering, though it may seem to be so. It is a longing for home, for a memory of

(Continued on next page.)

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the mother, for new metaphors for life. It leads home. Every path leads homeward, every step is birth, every step is death, every grave is mother.

So the tree rustles in the evening, when we stand uneasy before our own childish thoughts: Trees have long thoughts, long-breathing and restful, just as they have longer lives than ours. They are wiser than we are, as long as we do not listen to them.

But when we have learned how to listen to trees, then the brevity and the quickness and the childlike hastiness of our thoughts achieve an incomparable joy. Whoever has learned how to listen to trees no longer wants to be a tree. He/She wants to be nothing except what he/she is. That is home. That is happiness.”

Hermann Hesse

“Now and again, it is necessary to seclude yourself among deep mountains and hidden valleys to restore your link to the source of life. Breathe out and let yourself soar to the ends of the universe; breathe in and bring the cosmos back inside...” ~*Morehei Ueshiba*

“There’s nothing to prove, nothing to figure out, nothing to get, nothing to understand. When we finally stop explaining to ourselves, we may discover that in silence, complete understanding is already there.”

~Steve Hagen~

“The world is not a problem to be solved, it is a living being to which we belong. The world is part of our own self and we are a part of its suffering wholeness. Until we go to the root of our image of separateness, there can be no healing. And the deepest part of our separateness from creation lies in our forgetfulness of its sacred nature, which is also our own sacred nature.”

~Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee

“Empty yourself of everything. Let the mind become still. The ten thousand things rise and fall while the Self watches their return. They grow and flourish and then return to the Source. Returning to the Source is stillness, which is the way of nature.”

~Lao Tsu - Tao Te Ching, Verse 16

“In the woods, we return to reason and faith... Standing on the bare ground – my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space – all mean egotism vanishes.

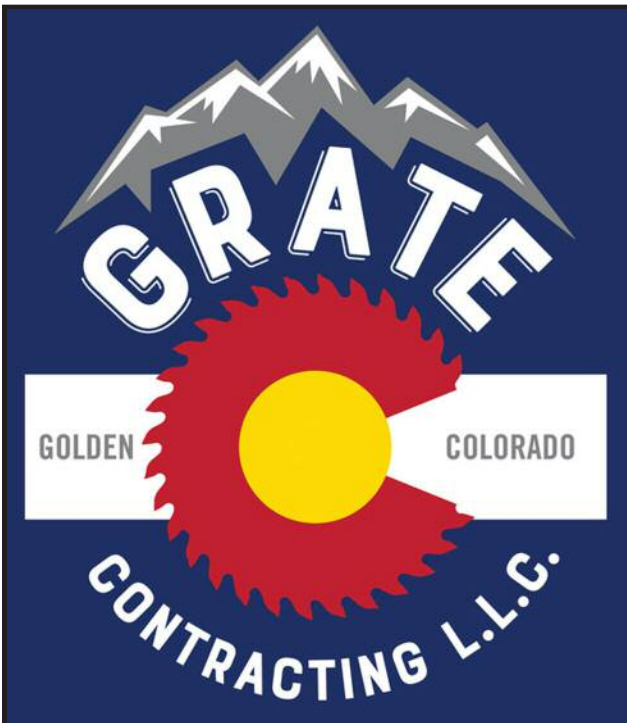
I become a transparent eye-ball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents

of the Universal Being circulate through me...”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nature, 1836

“Be as simple as you can be; you will be astonished to see how uncomplicated and happy your life can become.”

~Paramahansa Yogananda ~



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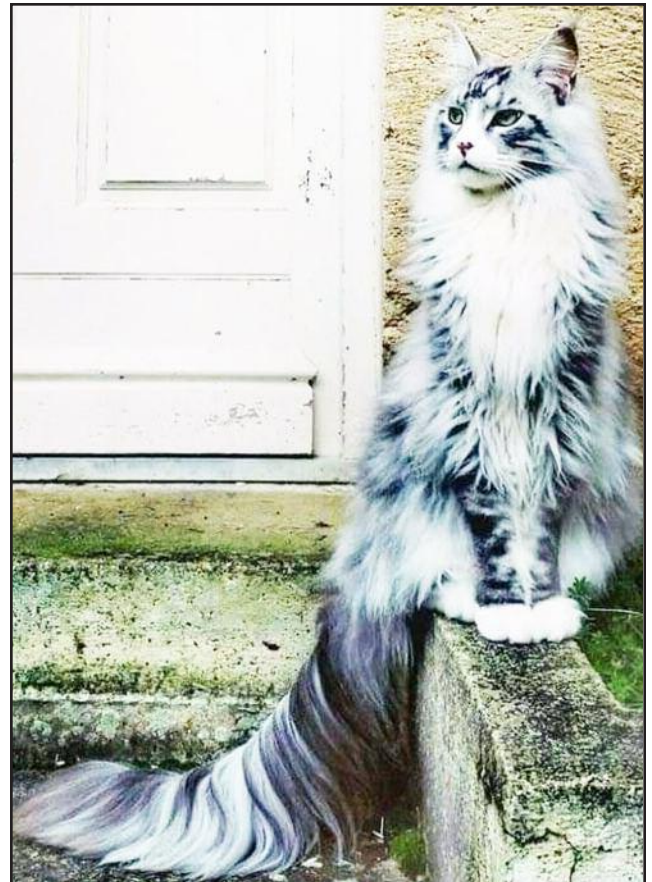
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Previous page top left: Flash & Peanut, donkeys.

Top right: Golden Retriever Family.

Left: Tucker & Mike (love smiling kitten.)

Bottom right: Paint Horse portrait photo.

This Page top left: Sally with Mattie & Indie.

Top right: Otis the pup.

Left: Ponies, from Marina Kelsey.

Bottom Right: Beautiful cat AND tail....

Prevent Merging Collisions ~ Pet Safety In Vehicles

From Jim Plane – State Farm Insurance

What Steps Can You Take to Prevent Merging Collisions?

Drivers who are entering, exiting, or changing lanes on busy roadways should never assume other motorists will make room for them to merge. “Most people on the expressway never expect traffic to stop or alter its course, and they drive that way,” says James Solomon, director of training for the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Courses. For this reason, motorists should drive defensively and take precautions when passing vehicles to prevent merging collisions. And CDL drivers or drivers towing a trailer, remember the extra weight makes it harder to stop. Remember it is illegal to change lanes when turning, turn first and then use your blinker to make a lane change.

Here are 10 ways to create safer merging: 1. Adjust your speed to match the flow of traffic before entering the roadway. 2. Yield to drivers on the freeway, but avoid stopping unless absolutely necessary. 3. Find a 3 to 4-second gap in traffic to merge. Solomon’s advice: “I never look for the vehicle I want to get ahead of; I look for the vehicle I want to be behind.” 4. Check for cars around your vehicle before entering a lane. And remember to check your blind spot. Solomon’s advice: “Your mirrors

will only show you where you aim them to look. You must do a head check.”“ Meaning, turn your head to check and see if the way is clear. 5. Use your turn signals early, a recommended 100 to 300 feet before merging or changing lanes. 6. Wait for the solid line to end before merging. A solid line indicates that lane changes are prohibited. 7. Cross one lane of traffic at a time. 8. Be prepared for your exit, and maneuver into the far-right lane as you approach it. 9. In general, keep up with the speed of traffic until you exit. However, Solomon says it’s important to adjust your speed to weather conditions and the design of the exit ramp. 10. If you must pass a vehicle, pass on the left and return to your lane once the vehicle is visible in your rearview mirror. Increase this distance when passing larger vehicles. If you’re driving a commercial vehicle, be sure to check your side mirrors and blind-spot mirrors as some commercial vehicles don’t have a rearview mirror.

Changing lanes properly can greatly reduce the risk of crashes, fatalities, and injuries on the road. Driving safety also means becoming familiar with laws in your state, such as lane change restrictions at intersections, on bridges, and in no passing zones. Check with your state’s Driver Licensing agency for additional information.

Driving safely with pets

Is your pet free-ranging in the car? Better check local laws and crate or tether them up. Summer means



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pedestrians, pets, bicycles and motorcycles are out in force, requiring drivers to be even more cautious. No matter where you're headed, the park close by or family vacation to the beach, it's important to think about everyone who'll be traveling with you, especially children and pets.

As a driver, your responsibility is to know the law and protect those in your vehicle. Infants and toddlers need special care and safety seats are required by law in all 50 states. Some states even have laws that require your furry friends to be restrained. New Jersey, for example, requires pets to be in a restraint or a carrier in the car. The fine for this violation is anywhere from \$250 to \$1000. Check with your department of motor vehicles or veterinary office for information on pet restraint in your state.

Unrestrained pets in cars pose serious potential risks, including becoming a major distraction to drivers; and unrestrained pets can easily be seriously injured, killed or even lost after being thrown from a car." "Dogs, like children, should never be allowed to ride with their heads out the windows," says Megan. "Flying debris, including bugs, could harm them, and their lungs or ears could be injured from high-speed wind."

Start your trip with GPS and music set; phone stowed. Keep children and pets content by bringing along a favorite toy, treat, or blanket. Always drive 2N2® - 2 eyes on the road, 2 hands on the wheel. Understand the laws for passenger restraint. Both child and pet passengers require special attention. No passengers belong on a lap or in the bed of a pick-up truck. Make sure that the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC) of your vehicle is in good condition before your trip begins. This will be especially important for those longer trips. Keep a spare charging cable and car charger in your car for your phone.

Make it a point to pull over if a child or pet needs attention, or if you feel tired or drowsy. This way you keep your eyes on the road. Eating along the way may be necessary, but you should pull over for this, too. Pack snacks and drinks for everyone, including pets, for convenience. Remove loose objects from your vehicle, they can become projectiles in a crash, causing injury to people or pets. In the event of a crash, unsecured pets may become frightened and jump from open windows.

Forbid paws and heads from being out the window. This applies to both 2-legged and 4-legged passengers, they could be injured by flying debris. Understand construction may be underway along your route. Plan ahead and find alternate routes and

pet-friendly stops, helping to get you to your destination on schedule. Never leave children or pets in cars alone for any period of time. Temperatures can rise 19 degrees in just 10 minutes, putting them at risk.

'We pets love home and our people, and even though we love to go, we still want to feel safe and comfortable...just like home!' A blanket or a towel that your pet has slept on so it smells like home, and a T-shirt or sock you've worn so it smells like you. These will be good "security blankets" for them and will help keep them calm and feeling like home.

A collapsible water bowl or plastic container and their own food. Bring enough for the whole trip so you're not caught in a situation where you have to switch to a different brand mid-trip, which might upset a stomach...and the trip. Medicines and medical shot records. Any accessories we may need, like life jackets, sweaters, protective boots, pet sunscreen, a toy to keep them occupied while waiting around, a towel for sitting on a boat deck...Think about your trip. If you need something extra, your pet may need it too!

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Why Are So Many Grey Whales Dying?

By Helen Santoro Aug. 15 High Country News

Scientists struggle to find reasons behind gray whale deaths.

Some researchers think the whales are starving, but the cause of death may be far more complicated.

Scientists are monitoring the lives of grey whales in the Chukchi Sea to determine if the deaths could be part of a larger trend as animals struggle to adapt to climate change. On July 2, around a thousand feet above the Chukchi Sea, Megan Ferguson sat with two scientists in the back of a small propeller plane. Bounded on the east by Point Barrow, Alaska, and on the west by Wrangle Island, north of Russia, the Chukchi serves as the summer feeding ground for hundreds of gray whales. This year, a disconcerting number of them are not completing their journey north. Along the West Coast of Mexico, the United States and Canada, at least 193 dead animals have washed ashore — the most in two decades.

The plane cut through clouds and fog, curving around Alaska’s northwestern coast as the research team searched for the 90,000-pound creatures. Through the overcast, a scientist at a side window spotted a gray whale. She opened the window, aimed her camera and photographed it, while Ferguson, a co-leader of an Alaska Fisheries Science Center research team, jotted down its location and behavior. By tracking the whales’ numbers, physical condition and

eating patterns over a four-month period, the team can compare them to those of other gray whales in different areas. Ideally, that will help them uncover what is happening to this species.

So far, the cause of the die-offs remains a mystery, though theories include starvation from lack of food, or a disease that mimics chronic wasting disease. Teams of scientists are investigating what the casualties mean for the gray whale population as a whole. But some also fear that the deaths could be part of a larger trend as animals struggle to adapt to climate change. Said Ferguson: The “gray whales are just one piece” to the environmental puzzle.

This isn’t the first time marine biologists have seen large numbers of gray whales wash up on shore. In 1999 and 2000, around 630 whale carcasses were reported in Mexico and the United States. The deaths happened during their annual migration, when the whales travel 10,000 miles round-trip from their breeding areas in the warm waters of Baja California, Mexico, to their feeding grounds in the cold Arctic seas. At the time, scientists speculated that the deaths were caused by starvation, disease, ship strikes or some combination of the three, but no firm conclusion was reached.

Today, many of the whales washing up along the coast in California, Oregon and Washington look malnourished with blubber that lacks a healthy, oily shine. That was true of a dead whale on the rocky coast of Port Hadlock, Washington, whose stomach was filled with eelgrass. The presence of eelgrass, which grows on muddy ocean bottoms where whales typically suck up amphipods —

microscopic ocean critters that may be struggling due to changing ocean conditions — suggests that the whales may have been desperately trying to eat but not finding the foods they typically rely on.

But in Alaska, Ferguson isn’t seeing signs of starvation. Instead, her aerial photos show normal-looking gray whales. There is the possibility that emaciated whales are dying before they reach Alaska, but that’s a working hypothesis and there’s still a lot of data to be collected, she said.

Sue Moore, an affiliate professor in biology at the University of Washington who studied the mass dies-offs two decades ago, thinks more is involved than malnutrition. Moore noticed that, just like last time, not all of the dead whales look the same,



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temperatures, with some areas reaching all-time highs. Additionally, amphipods, one of the gray whales' main food sources, may be at risk from a loss of oxygen in warmer Arctic waters. Since the mid-1900s, ocean oxygen levels have decreased on average by two to five percent. "This is a broader story," Moore said. "I think something big is going on."

For Ferguson, who is now flying out of remote Deadhorse, Alaska, the photos collected are key in helping investigative scientists reach a conclusion. Every year, something happens in the ocean that we couldn't

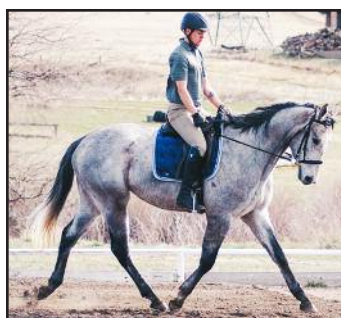
indicating that the cause of death may be more complicated. Their symptoms mimic chronic wasting disease (CWD), a deadly neurological condition that mainly affects hoofed mammals like deer, elk and moose. Once the disease reaches the brain, animals' display abnormal behavior and start to starve, which eventually leads to death.

According to Trent Bollinger, a CWD expert at the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Center, the chances of the whales having CWD are slim—but they may have a neurological disease with similar symptoms. Moore would like to collect fresh tissue from the whales and test for an array of diseases and viruses.

The gray whale deaths also reflect a larger issue—the impact of climate change on the ocean. Arctic animals in particular are struggling to adapt to warming waters. For example, Alaskan salmon have been suffering from heart attacks caused by rising water

predict, said Ferguson. "We are definitely entering new and uncertain territory."

Helen Santoro is an editorial intern at High Country News. Nicholas Metheny/NOAA/NMFS Permit No. 20465



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Rural Anxieties Derail Climate Plans

By Carl Segerstrom July 3 High Country News

Arguments over state environmental policy impacts ignore broader challenges to rural communities.

As Oregon moved toward joining an international market to cap carbon emissions in late June, truckers, loggers and farmers chugged into the capitol in Salem. With horns blaring, they protested a proposed bill to rein in greenhouse gases, rallying behind slogans like “Timber Unity” and “Cap Kills Jobs.”

As demonstrators gathered, Oregon’s Republican state senators absconded to Idaho in a last-ditch effort to prevent a Senate vote on the bill. Political wrangling over the emissions-reducing legislation was punctuated by arrest threats, menacing remarks aimed at state police, and pledges of support for the senators from militia members. More than a week later, the Republicans returned — once Democratic leaders declared that they didn’t have enough votes to pass the climate bill.

After the climate legislation was shelved, lawmakers passed more than 100 bills in a frenzied weekend before the legislative session ended on June 30. But the battle over the carbon emissions legislation revealed a deepening political chasm between Oregon’s conservative rural areas and liberal population centers. Republicans held firm to their base, aligning with legacy industries and the rural jobs they support, rather than engaging in restructuring the economy

to address carbon pollution. While the potential costs of the climate legislation took center stage, a deeper economic truth went unspoken — that the issues that hamper the fiscal well-being of rural Oregon have less to do with environmental regulations than with broader market forces, from international policy to demographics.

Since 2018, Democrats in Colorado, New Mexico and Washington have followed through on promises to limit carbon emissions. For environmental activists, Oregon’s legislation was the cream of the crop of the new bills, with its cap on greenhouse gases extending across all sectors of the economy, not just transportation or electricity generation.

But, at least initially, the climate bill would have cost rural Oregonians more. According to an analysis by *The Oregonian*, fuel taxes would hit wallets harder outside urban centers, where people drive longer distances in less fuel-efficient vehicles and lack access to public transportation. Higher energy costs also raised concerns about milling and manufacturing jobs leaving the state for friendlier economic conditions.

Still, Oregon’s rural communities face larger forces than the proposed carbon pricing system. For nearly three decades, the state’s less-populated counties have fallen behind urban centers in wages and employment. Lack of industry diversification, reliance on natural resource industries, and an aging population are some of the reasons why, according to a 2018 state report. International politics also play a role. For example, the ongoing trade war with

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China added uncertainty to an economically strapped agricultural industry, costing Northwest cherry growers \$86 million in 2018.

Railing against environmental rules and shifting blame from big-picture economic forces to regulations harks back to earlier fights over logging, said Peter Walker, an author and University of Oregon geography professor. In the 1980s, before spotted owl regulations cut old-growth logging in federal forests, the state's timber industry had already lost nearly one in five jobs, due to a recession, technological changes and increased competition from other markets. "The flashpoint issues — spotted owls and climate bills — belie the bigger economic forces that shape the state's economy," he said.

As the Republican party harped on the costs of the proposed climate legislation, proponents of the bill countered that it would benefit rural Oregon. An analysis conducted by University of California Berkeley economists, for example, estimated that it would create 50,000 jobs by 2050, and that rural areas would get a larger share of those jobs.

But a job created isn't the same as a job lost. Any upheavals in the job market as workers shift from one industry to another — from timber harvesting to solar installation, say — take a toll on workers' self-confidence and the social networks they rely on. "Even for people who

get re-employed quickly, the change can have big impacts," said Jennie Brand, a sociology professor at University of California Los Angeles.

Regardless of government interventions, the economy and climate are both changing. In Oregon, plans for transitioning to a less fossil-fuel-intensive economy have been pushed down the line as politicians wrestle over the details. In a press conference the day after the legislative session ended, Democratic Governor Kate Brown pledged to spend more time traveling the state and listening to people's concerns, even as she explores executive actions to curb the state's emissions.

Former Republican Rep. Lane Shetterly, who for seven years represented a timber district in the Willamette Valley and Coast Range and is the current board president for the nonprofit Oregon Environmental Council, said climate change isn't a rural or urban issue. People across the state feel its impacts, and must rally around solutions. "Climate change won't go away," he said. "And the need to address it won't go away."

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



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Public Access To State Trust Lands

By Nick Bowlin Aug. 2 High Country News

In the fall of 2015, Tavis Rogers told his son, Nathan, that if he kept his grades up, he'd take Nathan on his first mule deer hunt. Nathan held up his end of the deal, and on Halloween, the pair left their home outside of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, heading to a stretch of Bureau of Land Management land in the northwestern part of the state. Unlike in many other Western states, a Colorado hunting permit is not valid on all state trust land.

They had no luck that morning, merely spooking a few deer. There were a lot of hunters out, Rogers, an experienced big game rifle and bow hunter, recalled, so they set off in search of a better spot. After glimpsing a few does alongside a state highway, they pulled over and checked their map. The parcel was marked as state land; no signs indicated it was off-limits, and Rogers said he'd seen hunters in the area before. The terrain was mostly open with some cedar stands and scattered scrub. Father and son crossed a creek and spotted a large buck up a hill. "(Nathan) killed a beautiful deer with one shot," said Rogers, an independent engineer who works primarily with mining groups. "We took pictures. I showed him how to bone it out and break it down on the spot. We were all happy." Then, he recalled, it all became a nightmare.

Rogers and his son were stopped by a Colorado Parks and Wildlife game warden, who wrote them a ticket and confiscated the deer. They had unintentionally wandered onto a chunk of Colorado state trust land. This land belongs to Colorado's citizens, but it is not public in the way most people tend to think of public land. It occupies some middle ground between public and private — particularly in Colorado. Rogers found this out the hard way: He was charged with trespassing and illegal possession of a deer and fined \$1,500. He spent more than \$5,000 in legal fees, he said, on a lawyer he described as "useless."

Elsewhere, Rogers might not have been in trouble. In Wyoming, a valid state hunting permit — which his son had — applies to trust land as well. But when it comes to public access to state trust land, Colorado is an outlier. The state land in question is considered private, hence the trespassing charge.

"In over 45 years of fishing and hunting in multiple states and countries, I never had a wildlife violation," Rogers said. "I was wrong, and I was upset about that, because I certainly wouldn't have taken my son on his first mule deer hunt and said, 'Let's go trespass.'"

Now, a years-long effort to expand the public's ability to hunt and fish on Colorado state trust lands is gaining momentum, thanks to the state's increasingly dynamic outdoor recreation economy and an access-focused new governor. THE CONCEPT OF TRUST LAND dates back to the General Land Ordinance of 1785, which decreed that states entering the Union would be given land that, in turn, would be used to build revenue for public institutions. Colorado's 2.8 million acres of state trust land — along with its 4 million acres of mineral assets — help fund K-12 education statewide through leases for agriculture, grazing, oil and mineral development, renewable energy development, and various types of recreation.

About 95% of this land is leased for agriculture, under contracts that bring in royalties for the state. The State Land Board oversees these lands with the dual mandate of supporting public schools and ensuring that the land is properly stewarded by leaseholders. Over the past decade, trust lands have raised \$1.4 billion for Colorado public schools.

According to the Land Board's website, Colorado trust lands are not open to the public, except for specific parcels leased for recreation by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Currently, a little under 500,000 acres is publicly accessible. In this respect, Colorado stands apart. Most Western states are more open, while still generating significant public revenue from working lands. In Idaho and Oregon, most trust lands are treated like public lands, with no user fees. Wyoming does not charge a recreation fee but limits overnight camping. Many states have

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variations on this policy, allowing access, with some restrictions. A valid state permit for hunting and fishing applies to state trust land as well as public land in Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. In Utah, Arizona and other states, trust lands are occasionally sold, with public parcels suddenly becoming private. Nevada has sold off almost all of its trust land.

In Colorado, the burden of access is on the public: You don't have to intentionally break the law, or even know the law, to be guilty. The game warden told Rogers that the land in question was leased for private recreation in addition to agriculture, meaning that hunting was allowed there, just not for the public.



This combination of substantial private recreation leasing and the lack of public recreation compared to other states has sparked a broad push to increase Colorado's public access to state trust land. Tim Brass of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers has spent five years working on the issue. Brass wants greater public access for recreation on Colorado's state trust land, with policies that better align with those of other Western states to avoid the kind of confusion that got Rogers in trouble. Colorado's outdoor recreation economy is booming, and advocates argue that increasing state trust land access would allow greater public enjoyment of the outdoors and spread recreation dollars to rural areas, without compromising the Land Board's mission. The effort took a significant step forward recently. In July, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife commission voted unanimously for a 500,000-acre expansion — effectively double the previous amount — of public access for seasonal hunting and fishing on previously private state trust land parcels, mostly in the eastern part of the state.

Access supporters welcome these changes, but they would not have helped Rogers; the parcel where he and Nathan hunted is likely to remain private even under the new access expansion.

Until now, most of the trust land opened to access lay in western Colorado, where hunting is generally better, especially for big game like black bear, elk and deer. Terry Fankhauser, Exec. V. P. of the Colorado

Cattleman's Assoc., praised the new access policy as a measured approach that balances multiple interests. Trust land parcels are often smaller, he said, and potential impact of unrestricted recreation could be more severe than on vaster stretches of federal public land. "I'm really sensitive to the impact of recreation," he said. "It does have to be managed, I think this is a sensible approach that allows for

more access but stewards the resource responsibly."

IN THE PAST YEAR, the more than 1,800 agriculture trust land leaseholders received a letter from the Land Board informing them of the process for obtaining an additional recreation lease. Access advocates like Brass worried that trust land was already being scooped up in private

recreation leases while the access expansion was still in the works. According to state data, the amount of total land leased for exclusive private recreation has approximately doubled since 2014. In a win for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, the Parks and Wildlife Commission placed a moratorium on the half-million acres to be opened to the public over the next three years. The state trust lands not included in the access program remain available for private recreation. "State lands are not necessarily public lands," Fankhauser said. "It should be said that they're held in trust for a certain thing." It was this concept of trust land that got Tavis Rogers in trouble. If the parcel where his son took the deer had been leased for public recreation, the hunt would have been legal. *Nick Bowlin is an editorial fellow at High Country News.*



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Update: BuffaloFieldCampaign.org

Road Show 2019

BFC's Co-Founder and Campaign Coordinator Mike Mease is hitting the road again in September and October for his annual BFC Road Show, and he could use your help!

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Mignon Geli, flutist, is joining us on the road again this year. Mike will also be joined by musician Dana Lyons and The Unexpected Brass Band. See dates and locations at our website. Join BFC & Red Shoes Studio at Museum of Boulder for an exhibit.

Opening weekend is Sept. 20-22nd and hosts a rooftop celebration with live jazz music and a documentary short by local filmmakers.

Go to redshoesstudio.com for more details.

Please check our Calendar of Events or the 2019 Road Show Events there for locations, and join our veteran buffalo defenders for an inspiring time!

Would you like to help out at a Road Show? Here are some ideas: Host a show: Offer your home. Find a friendly local place willing to donate space. Volunteer at a show. Help welcome and sign in guests. Provide or help serve food and drinks. Help set-up, break down, clean-up, and more.

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On The Highway Of Life

By Frosty Wooldrige

Forks in the road, stop signs, cul de sacs and dead ends on the highway of life.

While taking a hike down a country road near dusk in my teens, an old farmer, plodding along with his walking stick, abruptly stopped me. His wrinkled-weathered skin did not diminish the energy in his clear blue eyes. Silver locks flowed from his wide-brimmed hat while his peppered beard gave him a majestic air of wisdom.

“Where you goin’ sonny?” he asked.

“Just taking a walk to catch a few fire-flies when the night settles in on us,” I said. “They seem to show their magic just as the sun goes down, but before the stars come out. I like the way they turn the long grass into street lamps, but none of the city noise to go with it.”

“Should be a lot of them out this evening as soon as the red-winged black birds fall silent,” he said. “So, if you don’t mind my asking, where are you going with your life?”

“My mom wants me to go to college,” I said. “She said it will give me a leg-up on living as well as make me a better educated man.”

“Good for you,” he said. “But what do you want to do with your life?”

“After I graduate from college,” I said, “I want to travel the world before settling down to a job. I want to figure out some things about this life.”

“Do you mind a bit of advice?” he asked.


“My dad told me to listen to my elders to learn their knowledge,” I said.

“The path to your destiny has “forks in road” that require the imperfect ability to discern the difference between opportunity and pitfalls,” he said. “You will make mistakes in judgment. You will fail often. But remember to make those failures into stepping-stones toward your ultimate success. Never get down on yourself. None of it comes easy, but it gets easier as you travel the path with a good attitude, application by work and your ingenuity.”


“My dad said something like *(Continued on next page.)*”


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that,” I said.

“Smart dad,” he said. “In addition to “forks” there will be “cul de sac’s” or “dead end’s” where you rest and re-evaluate the route you have taken. Everyone comes to these markers at some point. You will become wiser. Experience is the best teacher. So, if you find yourself going down the wrong road, or the road isn’t working for you, turn around and go back. When you return to your original location, strike out in a new direction with the wisdom you learned while you traveled along the wrong road.”

“That works for me,” I said.

“As a young man, you are heading toward your “destiny,” he said. “To me the term “destiny” implies a pre-ordained purpose by some higher power. This implies a personal belief in that higher power. That may or may not work for you. It also implies that one’s “destiny” answers the question, “Why am I here?” You will find out on your journey.”

“Another thing,” he said. “Your mom is right...choose your friends carefully. You will adopt some of their characteristics into your personality. When you hang with the smarter, more responsible folks in your school, you become more like them and succeed like them. “Additionally, memories of your experiences are what come to you in those future quiet times with yourself. Make sure you accept yourself at



(As the sun sets, fireflies create magic in the air. Sleeping outside in a teepee makes you one with the universe. The energy of stars transforms your spirit. You look to the heavens and see peace.)

Photo by Frosty Wooldridge

all times. Even if you are not sure, assume a sense of confidence in your own talents whatever they might be or come to be.

“Some memories will be filled with regret and some will be joyous. You will have both in your life. You get to choose the number of each by the way you live. And, one final thought from my days of meditation on hay bales and sitting beside a quiet pond with dragon flies, turtles, snakes and muskrats: everything you

become, you chose. And, everything you chose, you wanted.”

As the fireflies lit the long grass, the old man tipped his hat before continuing on into the gathering darkness. “Thank you, sir,” I said, as I walked through the magic of fireflies and stars twinkling in the sky.

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The Sinister Nature Of Denver Water's Propos

The sinister nature of Denver water is manifested in their ongoing propaganda agenda. Since the first scoping meeting I walked into in 2003 at the South Boulder Rec. Center, which had easels all set up showing how Denver Water had already done tons of planning to expand Gross Dam and Reservoir - long before any Environmental Impact Statements had been done they have single mindedly gone forward with glossy pamphlets and now TAP emails and a slew of other costly public relations efforts to make the public think the proposed project is an already done deal.

The plan is to just ignore lawsuits by Boulder County or their own lawsuit against Boulder County regarding application for the 1041 Permit that Boulder County must first approve before any construction begins. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has told Denver Water they must get this permit and Denver Water denies needing it. FERC had to tell them to stop the seismic ground testing Denver Water was doing at the Dam site because they had not received the proper local permits yet. They hadn't even applied for it and still insist they don't need it.

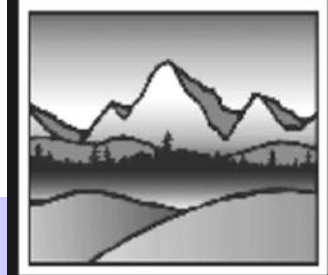
Yet, as residents get emails from TAP - Denver Water's

Public Relations idea of the old propaganda type "we say it is so, so it is true" telling about a new and fabulous Engineer they've hired to complete the construction plans for the new dam - they don't have the necessary permits to even start construction on this ill-conceived proposed project. This "before it is done" measure by Denver Water is to stop opposition by residents and those not in the know that actually believe the project will go forward no matter what - AND THAT IS NOT THE CASE.

I find nothing personally wrong with Denver Water's local and actually working employees. In fact most seem normal and hard working individuals just doing their jobs of keeping the existing reservoir and dam maintained. But this whole effort to make residents think the expansion is an already done deal is crooked and sinister to the point that many long-time local residents are selling their homes and moving out of the canyon to avoid what could be devastating environmental and economically negative impacts for the entire canyon population.

If you think this road construction going on now is troublesome, well just wait to see what could happen when Denver Water tries to remove all the curves and

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switchbacks that stand in the way on their haul route. At least two years of heavy construction will be necessary for the entire lower canyon. The “haul study” they did with helicopters and semi-truck trailers showed how our canyon does not lend itself to this proposed project. Without massive changes to Highway 72, lives will be lost because semi-trucks cannot navigate the curves or switchbacks without them going across the double yellow lines into oncoming traffic.


I would rather they send the TAP emails with updates on the lawsuits: you know, something of importance to those of us that will really be impacted by the outcome. But you know how lawsuits work, can't comment on anything while it is still

Photo looking out across Gross Reservoir recently, courtesy Shelly Peters-Schaller.



ongoing. So why can't they just shut up, why are we still on the Public Relations track of it is going to be expanded and this is the guy who will make it all okay. I'm so sick of this greedy utility treating us like we are mentally impaired and don't know their agenda of just wanting to make more money by selling water to developers downhill and the

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revenues from new tap fees they've promised to Arvada.

Okay, so Candelas has gone forward and we all get to look at the cookie cutter houses each time we go east on Hwy 72, now a small strip mall is leasing out space to new businesses while commercial properties at 64th & Indiana sit vacant. Be sure to check out the King Soopers at Candelas, but make sure to wear your hiking boots cause it is a mega store that provides good exercise while you're shopping. No matter that it now can also put our local liquor store out of business if everyone buys their adult beverages while buying groceries. I wonder when the twelve-story Westin Hotel will pop up overnight and ruin the backdrop of the mountains meeting the plains for many Westminster residents? Can hardly wait for the big box stores to be built so we don't have to support our local hardware stores in Golden, Arvada and Nederland.

Alright, I admit urban development is a hard pill to swallow. But this water utility is the burr in my shoe that I can stop to get rid of any day now. Their need to supply folks in the burbs with water for lawns and new landscaped trees or shrubs is more than sinister and environmentally unsustainable. I also admit I want our canyon to stay quiet and dust free, so really do have trouble reading the TAP emails that just remind me why I oppose this effort by Denver Water to disrupt my life for more than five years just so they can sell water to Arvada and Broomfield for

more development. Don't even get me started on the lies about a need for water storage or to make sure Denver Water can supply their customers.

I can just hear the naysayers now: well you don't have to subscribe and read those emails. And that is true, except the quality of my life rests on how these lawsuits turn out and if our Boulder County Commissioners will support their Land Use Department and Attorney in denying Denver Water's efforts to rob me of my quality of life in my mountain home and my safety on the only road to come and go in our canyon.

By A.M. Wilks



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B & H Asphalt Paving ins cov 303.810.0531
Grate Contracting pg 17 303.579.9519
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
Pruins Pruning/Tree Care pg 24 303.653.7967
Redpoint Construction pg 25 303.642.3691

HORSE BOARDING

Rudolph Ranch, Inc. pg 13 303.582.5230

HORSE TRAINING

Timberline Sporthorses pg 23 720.999.7235

INSURANCE

Jim Plane-State Farm- pg 20 720.890.5916

LIQUOR

Mid-County Liquors pg 15 3093.642.7686
Underground Liquor pg 12 303.582.6034

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano & Harp in CCC pg 8 303.642.8423

PLUMBING

Keating Pipeworks, Inc. pg 9 720.974.0023

PROPANE

Carl's Corner pg 20 303.642.7144

REAL ESTATE

Byers-Sellers Mtn Properties pg 29 303.642.7951
Mock Realty-Kathy Keating -Back cov 303.642.1133
Summit Up Property Mgt. pg 11 303.618.8266

RENTALS

A to Z Rentals pg 8 303.232.7417

RESTAURANTS

Last Stand Tavern pg 11 303.642.3180

RETAIL

ACE Indian Peaks Hardware pg 26 303.258.3132
B & F Mountain Market pg 15 303.258.3105
Meyer Hardware pg 3 303.279.3393
The Silver Horse - pg 32 303.279.6313
The Rustic Moose - pg 32 303.258.3225

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Universal Lending Corp. pg 6 303.791.4786

ROOFING

Independence Roofing pg 3 720.399.0355

STEEL STRUCTURES

Steel Structures America ins cov 970.420.7100

TAXES

Karen Schwimmer, CPA pg 7 303.642.0628

TRAVEL

Wee Travel pg 10 303.465.2118

WATER & WELL

Arrow Drilling pg 16 303.421.8766
Colorado Water Wizard pg 30 303.447.0789
Doctor Water Well pg 13 303.438.6669

How Ready are You?

September is National Preparedness Month

Severe weather is a fact of life, and it's important to make sure you and your family are prepared for when they occur. Each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes National Preparedness Month to educate and empower Americans to take simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies that could affect us where we live, work and visit. This year's theme ("Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters.") touches on four distinct aspects of emergency preparation:

Save Early for Disaster Costs. Emergencies hit us when we least expect and could be costly if we aren't prepared beforehand. Does your insurance adequately cover the costs of a natural disaster? Most homeowners' and renters' insurance does not cover flood damage. It's important to have funds available when emergencies disrupt daily life, and sometimes ATMs aren't immediately available. Do you have an emergency fund?

Make a Plan. Preparing your family for an emergency is as simple as a conversation over dinner, and it's important to include kids in the disaster planning process. Practice your plan, including evacuations, fire escapes and turning off utilities like natural gas.

Youth Preparedness. Teach children what to do in an emergency if they are at home or away. They should know how to communicate during an emergency, with you, friends or emergency responders. Review family emergency plans regularly, or even have them practice building their own emergency kits.

Get Involved in Community Preparedness. Take some time to learn about the hazards most likely to affect your community and their responses. Look for opportunities to get involved volunteering with organizations before, during and after potential disasters. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) trains volunteers to prepare for the types of disasters their community may face.

For more information on emergency preparedness, including sample emergency plans, visit www.ready.gov.



How will you spend your Capital Credits?

Capital credit refunds are coming! Tell us the fun, creative or unique ways you will spend your capital credit refund, and we'll enter you into a drawing for one of three \$100 bill credits.

Submit your story! For your chance to win, send ideas to:

unitednewsline@unitedpower.com

– OR –

Share on social media with the hashtag [#mycapitalcredits](https://twitter.com/mycapitalcredits).

[Facebook.com/UnitedPower](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedPower)

[Twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop](https://twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop)

Capital credit refund checks have an expiration date, so please be sure to process checks promptly.

Proactive Fire Mitigation Plan

In 2018, Colorado wildfires consumed nearly half a million acres of land and more than 400 homes, according to the *Denver Post*. United Power takes wildfire risk seriously and continuously makes comprehensive system improvements to mitigate wildfire potential in its territory. Here are some of the ways we're being proactive:

- Risk mitigation begins with vegetation around power lines. United Power has contracted additional crews to remove dead and growing trees near power lines and right of ways.
- Policy decisions regarding upgrades to existing infrastructure and new construction, including the use of underground lines and more heat insulating equipment.
- Analysis and study into new and emerging technology to further prevent wildfires.



For more information on United Power's fire mitigation plan, visit www.unitedpower.com.



Canyon Cleanup Sat. Sept. 7th: 8am-10am

Pancake Breakfast Sept. 28th: 7am-11am

CCCIA HALL 31258 Coal Creek Canyon



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



New Listing!

31448 Coal Creek Canyon

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



SOLD!

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**



SOLD!

221 Aspen Drive

Nicely Remodeled - VIEWS! .76 Acre
2 BD/ 1 BA 1,667 sq.ft. **\$384,000**



SOLD!

33588 Lyttle Dowdle

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



SOLD!

2184 Steele Street

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



New Listing!

44 Linn Lane

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



Under Contract

900 Camp Eden Road

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



Under Contract

10241 Thorodin Drive

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



Under Contract

76 Wonderland Avenue

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



New Price!

181 Hummingbird Lane

Nicely Updated - Theater Room 1.28 Ac.
3 BD/ 2 BA 2,129 sq.ft. **\$480,000**



SOLD!

Coal Creek Canyon

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



Under Contract

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

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Realtor
720.600.9006

