

# MOUNTAIN OUTLAW

SUMMER 2015

**NEPAL EARTHQUAKES**  
A DEVASTATED NATION

**The Selway River**  
Journey through Idaho's Wilderness

MIKE McMILLAN



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THE BURNING SEASON



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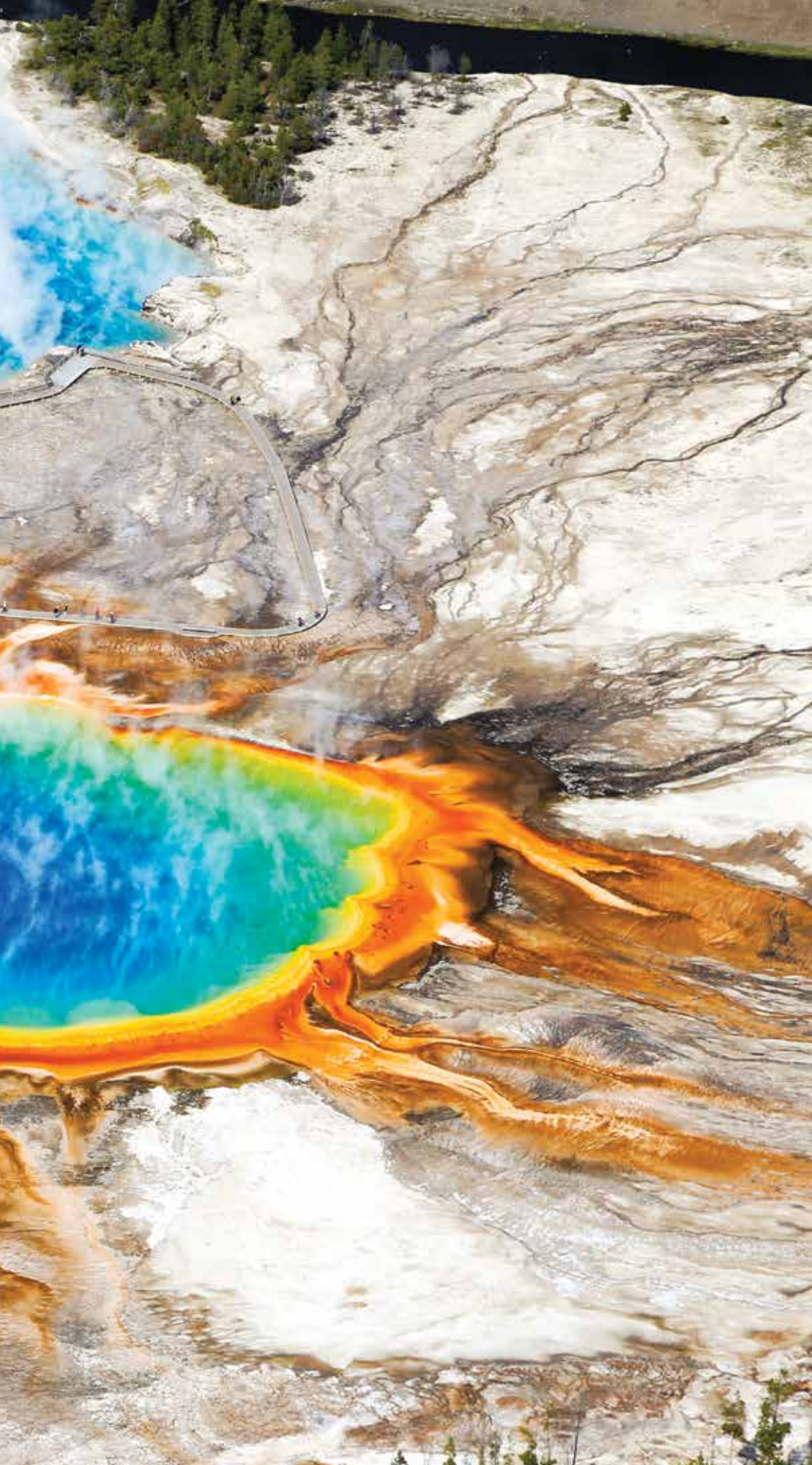
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The Grand Prismatic Spring in Yellowstone National Park is the largest hot spring in the U.S., measuring approximately 370 feet in diameter and more than 121 feet deep. The spring's vivid colors result from pigmented bacteria in the microbial mats that grow around the edges of the mineral-rich water. © TYLER BUSBY



**ON THE COVER:**

Alaska smokejumper Matt Corley, part of the Alaska Fire Service and the Bureau of Land Management, high over the Hastings Fire en route to structure protection in interior Alaska, July 2011.

📷 MIKE MCMILLAN

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📷 TYLER ROEMER



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Greg Woodard, "Kiss Me Forever," Bronze, 96" x 72"

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# MOUNTAIN OUTLAW

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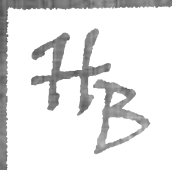
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# CONTENT *by location*



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# OH, THE PEOPLE YOU'LL MEET

Smoke wraps around your throat like soot-gray fingers, daring you to catch your breath. That can take a while on the fireline.

I was a wildland firefighter for two summers. I loved it at times; others, it was hell. But the camaraderie instilled taught me the value of teamwork and how each link in a 20-plus-crewmember chain is more than just a warm body on the end of a Pulaski.

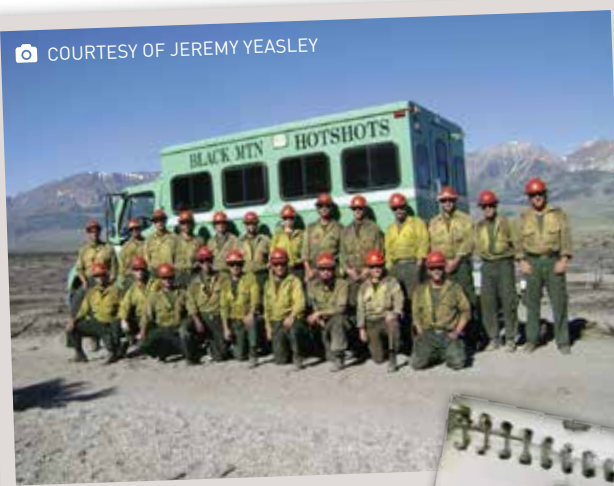
Fire assignments drop hotshot crews all over the country – you never know where – and when you're not working you eat papaya slices, drink Gatorade, and chew as much tobacco as you can. When you get a chance to break from battle, you take it.

Downtime is at once a blessing and a curse, wrapped up together like a fire camp breakfast burrito. The blessing is you're not busting your tail on a tool or chainsaw. The curse is that during downtime, minutes inch by as slow as creeping ground fire. But this is when you learn about people.

You joke and chat and discuss everything. Dave and Tony argue about social security and welfare; Jesse has a grouse strapped to his pack; Nick will later pluck and cook it over a campfire; Kelly freaks out; Kevin bets he can dunk a basketball and the pot's up to \$700 he can't.

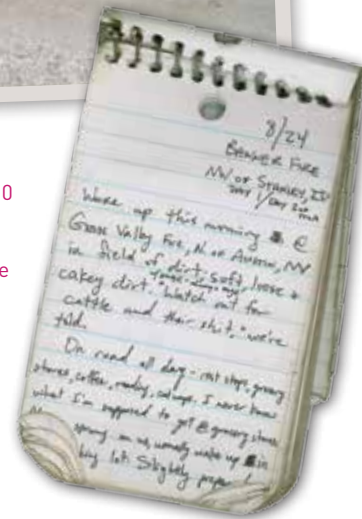
People can be more than the stories they tell; they often are the stories themselves.

In this edition of *Mountain Outlaw*, you'll read about people. We talked to firefighters and those planning for our protection in the growing wildland-urban interface. We interviewed a conservationist seeking answers to how



COURTESY OF JEREMY YEASLEY

Above: The Black Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew in 2010 on the Twitchell Canyon Fire in central Utah. Right: O'Connor's notes from the Idaho Banner Fire during the 2010 wildfire season.



people and the wild can coexist. We consulted beekeepers and bike riders, ultramarathon runners and dancers.

We built this magazine on the shoulders of characters and the stories they live.

All life and action is perspective. People feel and act and construct and destroy; but even if a story isn't about people inherently, it actually is: a story exists in the interpretation. We invite you to join the Outlaws who make this book what it is: a larger story about the fascinating individuals who make life worth living.

Joseph T. O'Connor, Managing Editor  
joe@theoutlawpartners.com



On May 17 the ski, mountaineering and conservation communities lost a dear friend. Luke M. Lynch of Jackson, Wyoming, died in an avalanche in Grand Teton National Park on Mount Moran. Lynch was a regular contributor to *Mountain Outlaw*. He loved his family and the mountains, and brought that energy to everything he did. Our heartfelt thoughts are with his wife Kathy and three boys, Max, Will and Sam. Luke, you will be deeply missed.





Photo: Gibeon Photography

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**TODD WILKINSON** has been a nationally renowned journalist for 30 years. He recently penned the critically acclaimed book, *Last Stand: Ted Turner's Quest to Save a Troubled Planet*. His forthcoming *Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek: An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone*, features 150 images of grizzlies by Jackson, Wyoming-based photographer Thomas D. Mangelsen. Wilkinson lives in Bozeman, Montana. ("The Coming Infernos," Page 50)



**CAITLIN STYRSKY** writes from West Yellowstone, Montana. She uprooted her city life in Austin, Texas, in 2014 and moved to Big Sky Country in search of mountains, rivers and wide-open spaces. You can find her fly fishing, teaching yoga, or exploring the great outdoors. ("The Last Glacier Project," Page 68)



Twelve years ago, **MIKE REID** got serious about photography and began as a nature and landscape photographer. After a six-year stint shooting weddings, he turned his focus to dance imagery. Reid lives in Boise, Idaho. His photograph of dancer and instructor Jennifer Waters appears on Page 101.



**EVELYN SPENCE** is a freelance writer, skier, runner, and lapsed fly fisherman in Seattle, Washington, where she lives with her husband and young son. Her work has appeared in *Sunset*, *Bloomberg Business*, *Bicycling*, *Ski*, and *Backpacker*. ("In Sanjayan's Eyes," Page 64)



**WILLIE BLAZER** spent five seasons as a wildland firefighter; one with the Missoula Smokejumpers. He lives in Ennis, Montana, with his wife Robin, two daughters, and a bird dog named Rooster. He and Robin own Willie's Distillery in Ennis. ("Fire and the Human Tetherball," Page 44)

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## BIG SKY FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

JULY 25-26 / BIG SKY, MONTANA

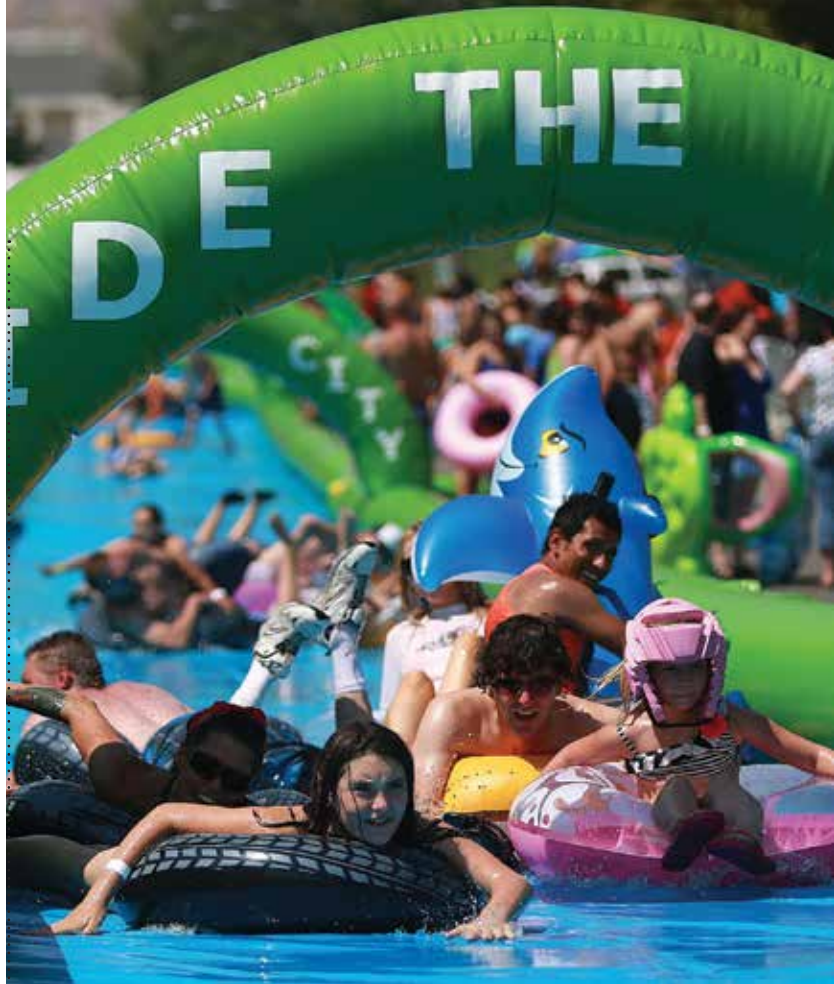
### EVENTS

Celebrate one of Montana's premier outdoor activities near one of the nation's famous blue-ribbon trout streams.

The Big Sky Fly Fishing Festival is a multi-day, family-friendly celebration of fly fishing on the Gallatin River, connecting community to the waters, fish and habitats that are vital to the sport. Event proceeds support conservation and restoration efforts by the Gallatin River Task Force within the Upper Gallatin watershed.

The festival kicks off Saturday, July 25 at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill with the Hooked on the Gallatin Banquet and Fundraiser, an evening of delicious food, wine, live music, and silent and live auctions.

The weekend continues Sunday at the Big Sky Town Center Park with Orvis 101 and 201 workshops; casting competitions; fly-tying demonstrations; information on river conservation; live music; and much more. Lone Peak Cinema will host two screenings of the 2015 F3T Fly Fishing Film Tour on Sunday evening. - *Kelsey Dzintars*



## SLIDE THE CITY

AUGUST 8 / BILLINGS, MONTANA

AUGUST 22 / BUTTE, MONTANA

Gather your water wings, fill up the squirt guns and get ready for the biggest, baddest slip-and-slide party to ever visit The Treasure State. Slide the City tours the country with a 1,000-foot waterslide and is setting up in 192 cities this summer. Hot Montanans looking for a family-friendly way to cool off can propel down the bright blue- and green-cushioned vinyl slide coming to Billings and Butte in August.

Register as a VIP slider and launch an hour early, stay an hour late, and glide as much as your heart desires in between. VIPs receive an inner tube and a swag bag including a mouth guard, T-shirt, hat and temporary tattoo. Registration is open online until the day of the event.

Not only do folks at Slide the City know how to put on a soaking good time, they also know the importance of water conservation. The water - all 12,000-16,000 gallons of it - is recirculated throughout the event then treated and recycled back into the community at the end of the day. - *Alexis Deaton*



## ASC'S GALLATIN MICROPLASTICS INITIATIVE

### CAUSE

A sobering study published in the journal *Science* in February found that nearly nine million tons of plastic lands in the world's oceans each year. Much of it travels by way of creeks leading to rivers, which dump their contents into bays and gulfs. And much of it takes the form of tiny plastic particles.

In an effort to head off these pollutants, Bozeman-based nonprofit Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation is expanding its own worldwide marine and freshwater studies this fall to include the Gallatin River watershed.

By focusing its five-year Microplastics Initiative on the Gallatin and its tributaries, ASC hopes to reduce the amount of microplastics – particles smaller than 5 millimeters in diameter – that seep into local rivers.

“Microplastics attract other toxins including DDT, BPA and pesticides,” said ASC’s founder

and executive director Gregg Treinish. “When ingested by aquatic life, the concentration of the toxins magnifies as they move up the food chain.”

Sources of microplastics include nylon fibers that washing machine filters don’t catch; broken-down plastic bags and bottles; and micro-beads from face wash and toothpaste that enter drains and eventually waterways.

ASC will train 50-75 volunteers to collect the first water samples beginning in early September, and is accepting applications this summer from paddlers, anglers and backcountry hikers who are passionate about area rivers.

Together with partners and sponsors including the Gallatin River Task Force and the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, ASC is tackling a monumental problem, and beginning here at home.  
– *Joseph T. O'Connor*



Merrill Warren collects water from Bozeman Creek during the Gallatin Microplastics Initiative preliminary sampling. All 10 initial samples from around the watershed were polluted with microplastics.

📷 EMILY STIFLER WOLFE

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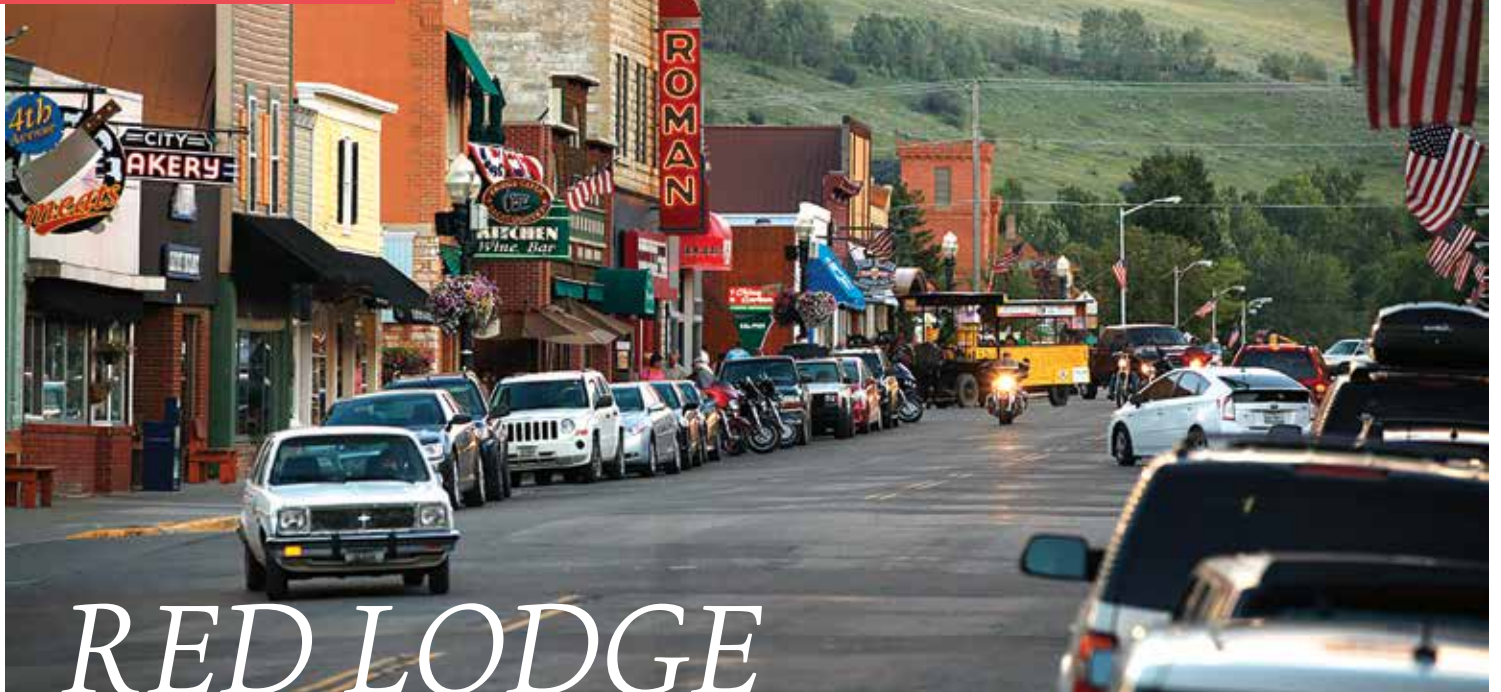


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# RED LODGE

## VISIT

Red Lodge, Montana, is the quintessential small town where easygoing locals frequent mom-and-pop businesses in the historic buildings lining the main drag. The surrounding valley and mountains were home to Crow Indian tribes before the town was established in 1884 during a coal-mining boom. Today, Red Lodge is the perfect Greater Yellowstone basecamp for outdoor getaways.



## DON'T MISS:

**BEARTOOTH PASS HIGHWAY** – Drive this route all 68 miles from Red Lodge to Yellowstone National Park. The engineering feat, completed in 1936, winds from the valley floor to nearly 11,000 feet and provides prime access to backcountry skiing, hiking, climbing and spectacular views.

**IRON HORSE RODEO** – This family-friendly crowd-pleaser features an arena where bikers compete in a motorcycle obstacle course, slow race, and weenie bite, among other events. The Iron Horse Rodeo caps off the Beartooth Rally, an annual three-day motorcycle fest now in its 21st year, scheduled for July 17-19.

**BEARCREEK DOWNS PIG RACES** – A swine rendition of the Kentucky Derby, attendees place bets on pigs racing around a track at Bearcreek Saloon and Steakhouse outside Red Lodge. Winnings are split 50/50: half going to victorious bidders, half placed into a college-scholarship fund for local youth. Races are held nightly from Thursday through Sunday all summer until Labor Day weekend. – *Ersin Ozer*

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY MONTANA, BOTTOM LEFT: DREW STOECKLIN





Scanlan in Bozeman, Montana  
YOGESH SIMPSON

**“THE SHAPE OF THINGS GONE MISSING,  
THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME”**  
MARTHA SCANLAN

**RECORD** Acclaimed Montana singer-songwriter Martha Scanlan is touring this summer for her third solo album. Scanlan wrote the bulk of “The Shape of Things Gone Missing, The Shape of Things to Come,” on the eastern Montana ranch where she’s lived and worked the past five years.

“I had stepped away from music to do the ranch work,” says Scanlan, who released her last album in 2011. “When I finally went to write the songs, I realized I’d been working on them all along.”

In the past, Scanlan has collaborated with a long list of musicians and producers, including T-Bone Burnett and Levon Helm. This album shows a subtle turn toward more indie rock influences, featuring Helm’s daughter Amy and members of popular Portland, Oregon bands The Decemberists, Black Prairie, and Delorean.

The independent release is available on iTunes and Amazon.com, and tour dates are listed on Scanlan’s website at [marthascanlan.com](http://marthascanlan.com). - *Yogesh Simpson*



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# RUN FOR FUN

The word "marathon" can be tiring to even consider. While we can't all tackle a 26.2-mile run, some race organizers are now taking the initiative to make events fun rather than grueling. Take your pick from these runs in the West and decide how to train for mud-dashing or testing your mettle in a ring of fire.



**THE DIRTY DASH**  
SEPT. 12, 2015

The Dirty Dash is a muddy run through an obstacle course where boot camp meets inner-childhood thrill. Contestants make their way through various obstacles including mud holes, slip and slides, and rope walls with names like "Hogs on a Log," "Pork's Peak," and "The Rinse Cycle."



**COLOR ME RAD**  
SEPT. 19, 2015

Color Me Rad is loosely based on the India-based Hindu Festival of Colors, known as Holi, where festive colors symbolize winter's end and spring's beginning. In this 5K, coordinators throw colored cornstarch in the air and attendees to represent the transition from grueling runs to the beginning of some serious fun.



**TOUGH MUDDER**  
SEPT. 19-20, 2015


Tough Mudder is a team-oriented, military-themed obstacle course designed to test physical and mental strength. This race places camaraderie over rankings and allows participants to experience exhilarating obstacles such as fire, water, ropes and heights that promise to test the human will.




**bRUNch Run**  
OCT. 11, 2015

What better way to combine the best meal of the week with exercise? The morning starts with a timed 5K or 10K run around Central Park-Stapleton and finishes downtown where bRUNchers can dine at a variety of restaurants. Race organizers donate a portion of event proceeds to the Humane Society of the Boulder Valley.


**5K** MISSOULA, MT

 NOTHING TO SWEAT OVER, JUST BRING A SMILE

**5K** BILLINGS, MT

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# POLLINATING AN ECONOMIC BOOM

For beekeepers, there's money in almonds despite colony losses

BY MARIA WYLLIE

**B**eginning in November each year, Montana beekeepers load thousands of honeybee hives on flatbed trucks and migrate to California's Central Valley for the coming almond pollination, a major event in commercial beekeeping.

The Golden State has a virtual monopoly on the crop, producing approximately 80 percent of the world's almonds, which require pollination by 1.6 million – more than half – of America's bee colonies. This means big business for beekeeping states like Montana, which ranked fourth in honey production in 2014 and is home to about 160,000 colonies.

Without the help of honeybees, we wouldn't have almonds – a primary reason the insect's declining health is raising eyebrows. It's been a topic of debate since 2006, when beekeepers started seeing significant colony attrition in the U.S., suffering an average annual loss of 32 percent. >>

A honeybee pollinates an almond flower in California's Capay Valley.

 KATHY KEATLEY GARVEY



Some beekeepers attribute these fatalities to Colony Collapse Disorder, a phenomenon occurring when a hive's worker bees mysteriously disappear, but the queen remains. However, CCD itself is quite rare, according to Cam Lay, Natural Resource Program Manager for Montana's Department of Agriculture.

"Usually when a hive dies, you can tell why," says Lay, who inspects apiaries – or collections of beehives – and issues health certificates allowing companies to bring their bees into California for pollination services, and then back to Montana where they're based.

Instead, high annual bee losses usually result from a complex variety of factors ranging from poor bee management and nutrition, to pathogens and agrochemical exposure. But a definitive cause is up in the air.

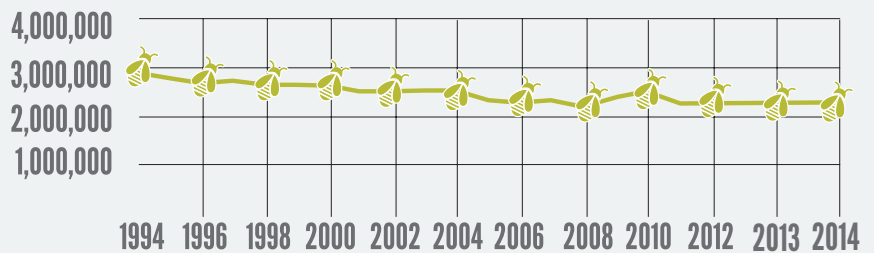
"The real answer is we still don't know," said Michelle Flenniken, an assistant professor at Montana State University's Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology. For one study, Flenniken and her team are examining the role of pathogens – including viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi – on honeybee health before, during, and after almond pollination.

"You really need to know what pathogens are present before you can correlate any of them with colony loss," she said.

Despite these losses and recent reports claiming bees are in dire straits, honeybees are not facing extinction and our nation's food supply is not running out. Beekeepers are actually doing well because, right now, there's money in bees.

An almond has two primary needs: water and honeybee pollen. Approximately one gallon of water is needed to grow a single

## NUMBER OF U.S. HONEYBEE COLONIES



**32%** AVERAGE ANNUAL COLONY LOSS SINCE 2006



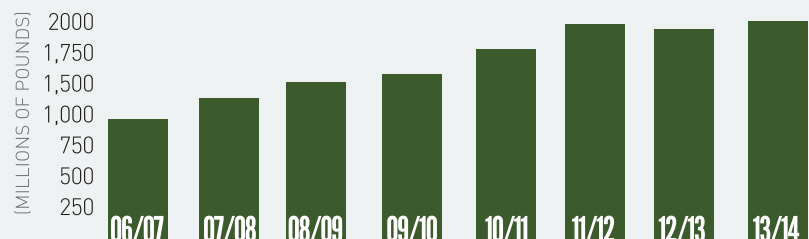
CALIFORNIA ALMOND PRODUCTION REQUIRES **1.6 MILLION** U.S. BEE COLONIES (60%)

## CALIFORNIA ALMOND CROP YEAR RECORDS

**2013/14**

- HIGHEST OVERALL SHIPMENTS EVER
- 2ND HIGHEST PRODUCTION LEVEL
- SHIPMENTS UP 3.8% AT 1.94 BILLION LBS.

## GLOBAL SHIPMENTS ALMOND CROP YEARS 2006-2014



SOURCES: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, 2014 ALMOND ALMANAC  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY



Michelle Flenniken inspects a frame of bees from a colony at a research farm on MSU's campus in Bozeman.

KELLY GORHAM



HONEYBEES POLLINATE

**>130 CROPS**  
WORLDWIDE



**33%**

OF GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION VOLUME RELIES ON POLLINATORS TO SOME DEGREE

HONEYBEES CONTRIBUTE

**\$15 BILLION**

TO THE VALUE OF U.S. CROP PRODUCTION ANNUALLY

almond, a problem for California's drought-ravaged agricultural landscape. Because honeybees are the only pollinators, almond growers pay the highest rental fees for their services, consequently dictating much of what happens in commercial beekeeping.

"All the commercial guys migrate [to California]," Lay said. "They can't afford not to."

Greg Fullerton, president of the Montana State Beekeepers Association and owner of Glacier County Honey in Babb, Montana, says the almond industry is a central reason why people are running so many hives right now. He points to poor management practices as a reason for colony losses, and says some beekeepers are losing colonies because they're raising more bees than they can handle.

"It's like overgrazing cattle," Fullerton said. "It's profitable enough now that everyone's running way more than what I consider their economic threshold."

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, honeybees, which are considered a specialty crop at the state and federal level, provide \$15 billion annually in agricultural products including honey and pollination services.

Glacier County Honey is a small-scale operation, cultivating approximately 1,600 colonies and working on a hive-to-hive basis rather than running up the numbers. By comparison, many of the bigger commercial companies are running multiple thousands of hives but don't have the resources to adequately manage them, according to Fullerton.

"I don't think the bees are completely dying across the country, and we're going to be without," he said.

A second-generation beekeeper, Fullerton says his family saw a mere 2-3 percent loss of bees in the 1980s and '90s. Now he sees 25 percent losses annually – a decline he believes is a consequence of increased stresses, such as new mites, pesticides and frequent migration. >>



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**“IT’S LIKE OVERGRAZING CATTLE. IT’S PROFITABLE ENOUGH NOW THAT EVERYONE’S RUNNING WAY MORE THAN WHAT I CONSIDER THEIR ECONOMIC THRESHOLD.”**

Still, Fullerton doesn’t believe the bees are disappearing anytime soon. He and other apiarists cut their losses by splitting one colony into two and adding an extra queen. This is typically done right before almond pollination so the required 1.6 million colonies are ready to go.


Splitting hives enables beekeepers to meet the soaring demand for almonds, as well as more than 130 other crops pollinated by honeybees such as citrus fruits, alfalfa, and canola oil. The technique has also kept the average number of bee colonies in the U.S. at 2.5 million – a figure that hasn’t changed much since 2006, even when considering the 32 percent average annual loss.

“The business has continued to thrive,” Fullerton said. “Beekeepers are doing quite well.”

But Flenniken says splitting hives to meet demand is a poor method of balancing bee attrition. “If you think of honeybees like any other agricultural crop, we would not tolerate a 32 percent annual loss,” she said.

Increasing losses are also requiring beekeepers to work harder to maintain their hives. This compromises many of the foods we rely on for a solid, nutritious supply – a major reason why the Almond Board of California supports ongoing honeybee research, according to the group’s website.

The \$6.4 billion industry couldn’t exist without honeybees, and if demand for almonds – one of the world’s favorite snacks – increases as expected, it remains to be seen if the honeybee supply can keep up, even when splitting hives.

Consequently, while the bees aren’t likely to disappear, the cost of pollination services will rise. This means food prices will go up, and you’ll either need to find a new go-to snack, or pony up for almonds. 

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OUTREACH

# NEPAL

A devastated nation faces years of rebuilding after 122 earthquakes in 28 days

BY ERIC LADD 📷 WES OVERVOLD

▶ View video coverage at [explorebigsky.com/nepal](https://explorebigsky.com/nepal)







On April 25 at 11:56 a.m. the earth shook at the top of the world.

Avalanches cascaded off Mount Everest; small farming villages throughout Nepal were leveled; Kathmandu fell into a state of panic as a 7.8-magnitude earthquake left thousands dead. Damage was catastrophic.

Nepal was already one of the world's poorest countries lacking infrastructure, organization, or any plan to handle a disaster of this proportion. Aid groups from around the globe dispatched small crews to help with collapsed buildings, trapped Nepalese, road-system failures, and entire villages leveled. In one case, the 400-resident village of Langtang, located on a popular trekking route for tourists, was completely buried under rock and ice. The event took place in less than 15 seconds.

Then on May 12 the unimaginable happened: a second earthquake struck. This 7.3-magnitude quake made a bad problem much worse, further eroding the mental confidence of many Nepalese as they raced into fields fearing the "big one" was coming next. The death toll for both earthquakes has topped 8,500 and many are still unaccounted for.

Three weeks after the first earthquake, aid groups began packing up and leaving behind limited resources. As of May 19, a total of 15 helicopters existed in all of Nepal, a country nearly the size of the state of Illinois. Global media attention has shifted away from this catastrophe.

Layer in hundreds of aftershocks; aid groups challenged by government politics; a looming monsoon season; and an estimated 500,000 homes destroyed, and you have a nation facing years of rebuilding. >>







## Maina Kumari Dhaka

Maina Kumari Dhaka is angry. Most Nepalese I met were somewhat calm but this 60-year-old mother has reached a breaking point. Standing on the pile of rubble that was once her home, she points at the basement area and describes how all her stored food was buried; how the kitchen is buried; how the bedroom is buried.

The earthquake hit in the middle of the day and most people were outside working. Maina and her daughter-in-law, Januka, live next to the pile of rubble in a tarp shelter with a metal roof and are slowly digging out their personal belongings. It's a slow and dangerous process as overhead wires, sharp metal, and unstable rock walls surround the scene.

Maina grabs my hand and pulls me down to a barn area where hiding behind walls of hay is a cow and her new calf – a cherished Hindu belonging. "Three dead, three dead," Maina says, pointing at the gravesite neighboring the barn. She then points to a rope sticking out from the rubble and describes having to cut the rope from her cow's neck then digging the animal out from beneath the debris by hand. As she strokes the cow's back I see the fear in the animal's eye. 🐮







Don't forget Nepal. A few aid groups are providing direct ways you can help:

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L: Dr. Peter Schmieding of Tsering's Fund hands out candy to children.  
R: Nepalese in a remote village line up for three tons of rice purchased by Tsering's Fund following the April 25 earthquake.





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# O U T B O U N D G A L L E R Y

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## PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

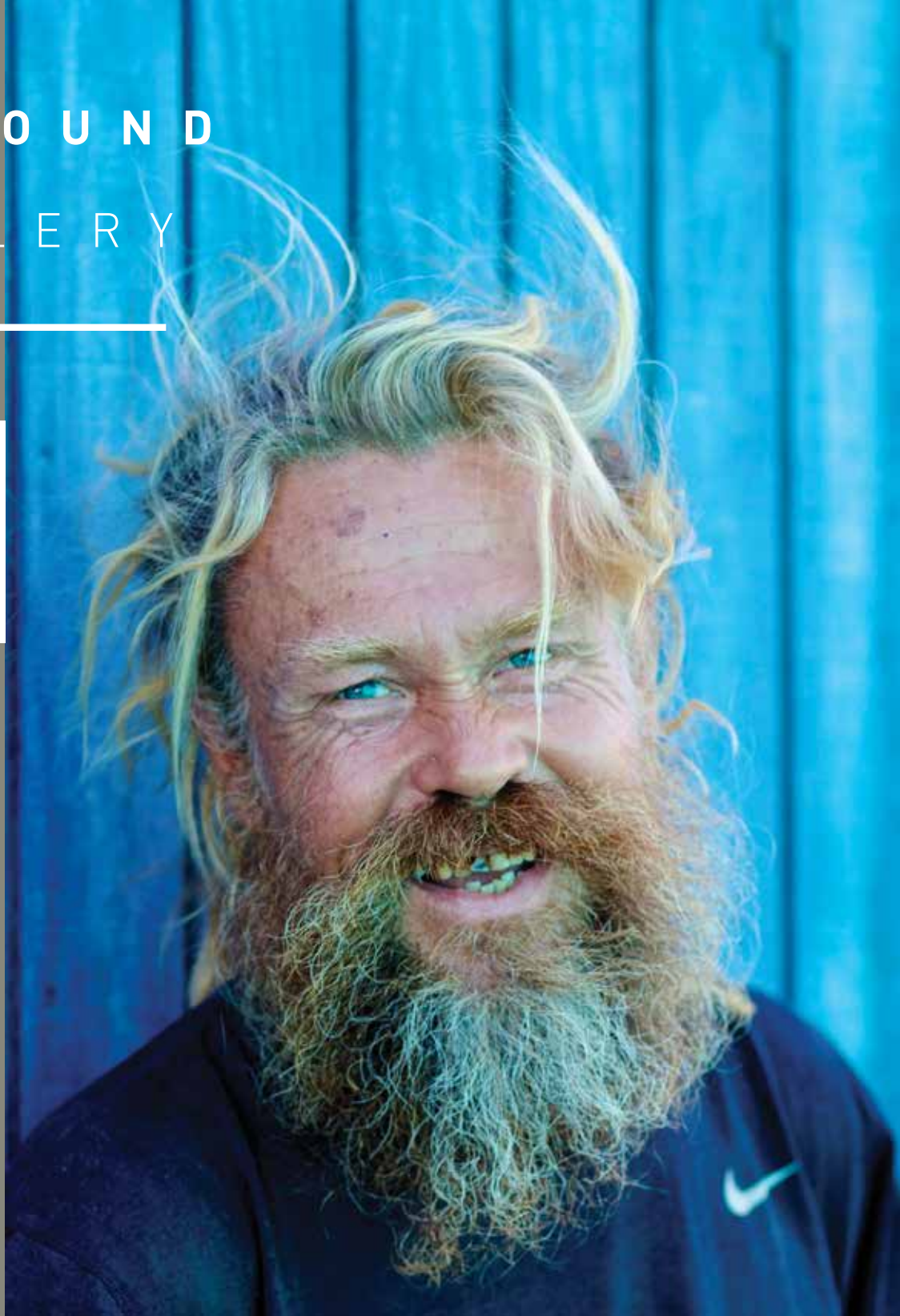
**“It’s one thing to make a picture of what a person looks like, it’s another thing to make a portrait of who they are.”**

– Paul Caponigro, *photographer*

*Mountain Outlaw* asked photographers around the world to submit portraits with short captions that tell fascinating stories. Aside from our direction that the subject should be a human figure, we left the definition of “portrait” up to the artist.

Pictured on the following pages are the selected finalists. We now ask you, the reader, to vote for your favorite photo. The winning photographer will receive \$1,000 in cash and prizes.

Visit [explorebigsky.com/photocontest](http://explorebigsky.com/photocontest) by September 1 to place your vote.



### **PATRICK**

OLIVIA BELLINGER

---

Patrick hails from Germany but is now a regular on the streets in Paia, Maui, in Hawaii. As we walked to the blue wall that matched his eyes perfectly, I asked Patrick, “What’s going on today?” and he said “My feet!” Then he laughed his terrifying laugh that either intrigues you or sends you running for cover. He admired my camera as I handed it over to let him snap a photo and he tells me a photographer with a bigger, nicer camera told him once that he looks “just like Brad Pitt.”





## COURAGE

📷 RICHARD HORST

---

I'm of the firm belief that some people have that special genetic trait or ability to communicate with equine. After watching my daughter spend time on her pony and around the other horses, there is little doubt of her abilities. I find myself watching her move amongst them. I'm in awe of her powerful gentleness; no uncertainty or hesitation by either her or the horses. She reveals emotion you can feel like thunder that echos from the mountains. She is just like her mom ... Then I remind myself, "Hey, if you wanna be a photographer, you gotta use your camera." And I press the shutter release...

## KOLYA

📷 JILL BOUGH

---

Kolya was once the talk of his farming community in central Russia. He was the infamous tractor driver who loved dancing with the ladies at Sunday picnics. The end of communism brought the end to Kolya's life as he knew it. No longer did the state send gas for his tractor to run. Fields turned to weeds and the dances ended as women struggled to maintain a hand-to-mouth living for their families. They were lucky; they had animals and children to keep them busy. Kolya had only his vodka. He died shortly after this photo was taken.





## JOHN

📷 CYNTHIA MATTY HUBER

I am intrigued by ranchers who dig their life's work out of the land, day in and day out, 365 days a year. John Hoiland's family came to Montana in 1906. He never married. His parents died, leaving John to move relentlessly from one chore to the next until daylight is gone. "I have to do what three of us did," he says. Some of the outbuildings that sprawl across John's acres seem to be hanging on for dear life; the workload for this 88-year-old man is daunting and I wonder what keeps him going.



## DIAMOND

📷 ETHAN CONFER

Like clockwork, Diamond arrives in Yellowstone National Park sometime in mid-July and always has me assist her with her luggage. She grew up in the Jewish community of Pikesville, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore, and visited Yellowstone via train for the first time in 1938 when she was seven years old. Diamond is a retired pediatric orthopedic surgeon, a mother of one, a grandmother of two, and has been a widow for the past 10 years. She always travels alone and considers herself a "geyser gazer." I get the feeling she picks one geyser a day and waits patiently for hours until it erupts. She plans on returning next year.

**Bonsile Mkhonta**





## BONSILE

📷 JAKE PETERSON

In the landlocked country of Swaziland in South Africa lie the Mzimba Mountains. These rocky, grassy hills are home to the Lamgabhi community, and its women are part of the fair trade organization, Gone Rural. The women work hard to support their families by handpicking the Lutindzi grass that grows between the mountainside rocks, and then sell hand-woven housewares to Gone Rural. Bonsile and the others toil to provide better futures for their children, while organizations like Gone Rural bring in donor support to build wells for clean water, electricity for homes, and recently a community center where they conduct business.





It was a brutally hot day in Sandusky, Ohio. I was wandering Main Street waiting for the ferry to Kelly's Island, when along came these kids cruising the sidewalk: a perfect summer vignette. The young girl's face seemed to demonstrate her pride in captaining the ship while her brothers were perhaps inversely insecure for being but passengers. Maybe they took turns, but in this configuration it appeared a metaphor for the strong role of females in African-American culture.

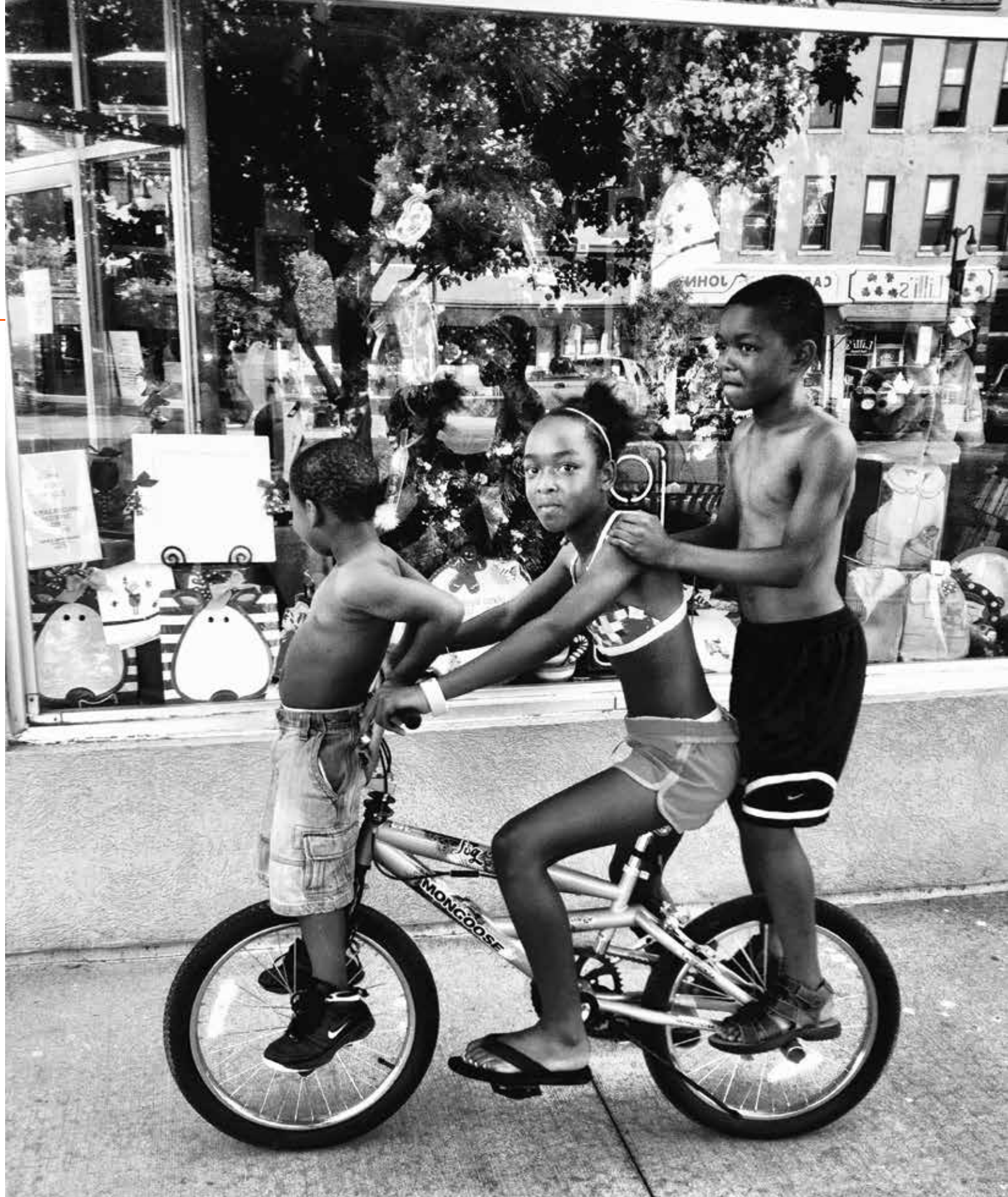


## DUCK

JESS MCGLOTHLIN

Maybe this is what every fly fisherman wants to be when he grows up. Duck Johnston, a seasoned angler who can tie knots at the speed of a professional guide and out-fishes the youngsters, enjoys every day he can spend on Montana's Missouri River. During a long, spring week full of photo-shoot logistics, Duck made the crew laugh, showed up with drift boats when they were needed, and rowed more than his fair share. Some folks are worth having around just for their spirit, and Duck is easily one of those select few.





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# FIRE HUMAN TETHERBALL BY WILLIE BLAZER

**My static line is hooked and I'm standing in the open door, taking in the roar of the plane, the smell of jet fuel. The fire is 1,500 feet below, on a knife ridge in the rugged mountains of northern Montana. I ready myself to jump.**

As a rookie smokejumper out of the Missoula base, it's my job to parachute into remote terrain where a wildfire is reported. When I hit the ground, I'm a wildland firefighter. I just have to get there.

Exiting the Twin Otter plane, I slice through 30-mph wind in a tight body position – chin down, elbows tucked in, knees and feet together. This is cannonball position.

Falling fast now and counting: 1,000 ... 2,000 ... 3,000 ... 4,000 ... I feel the shock of my canopy fully inflated - no need to open my reserve chute. Check canopy. Damn, the suspension lines are twisted.

I reach up to spread the risers apart and kick my feet in a bicycling motion. My lines untwist.

It's quiet under a canopy at 1,000 feet, but no time to enjoy it. I have one minute until I hit the ground.

I see my jump buddy, veteran Missoula smokejumper Ran Crone, 200 feet below me and quickly realize the raging winds are pushing us in the wrong direction, toward a dreaded snag patch – think old telephone poles with spiked tops.


We're at the mercy of the wind, and Ran's heading for a gnarly, 80-foot-tall snag.

I see his parachute catch the top of the dead tree. His body starts whipping around the snag like a tetherball, and increasingly faster. I hope the tree won't break on him, as I rapidly descend, preparing for a similar punishment.

Jumping from the aircraft isn't the scary part – in smoke-jumping, it's the landing.

BAM! Feet, ass, head and a couple flips crumple me against a small tree. My chute is hooked in a 20-foot snag but I'm safely on the ground. I dump my gear and radio the plane, then run a quarter-mile through the snag patch to find my buddy high up in the dead tree, completely wrapped in his suspension lines.

Ran says he's OK, and we break up laughing. I radio the aircraft to drop the parachute with climbing spurs in case I need to shimmy up and cut him loose. But after 15 minutes, Ran manages to cut himself from his cocoon and rappel to the ground.

We go to work, gathering our packs, chainsaw and Pulas-kis, and head a half-mile along the rocky ridge to the fire. We contain it in short order and prepare for the best part of smokejumping: “para-camping” with cowboy coffee and a can of Spam. We'll think about our five-mile slog out with 100-pound packs in the morning. 





A Missoula Smokejumper exits a Douglas DC3 aircraft to respond to rapidly growing wildland fire just west of Paradise Valley with the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in the background. 📷 JON MARSHALL



# TWO THOUSAND MILES | BY JON TESTER

**They're two worlds apart, Big Sandy, Montana, and Washington, D.C. One's home, the other's not. But a farmer's mind is always on the farm no matter how many miles separate him from his crop.**



An aerial view of Sen. Jon Tester's working 1,800-acre organic farm in Big Sandy, Montana. As dryland farmers, Tester and his wife Sharla depend on rainfall rather than irrigation to water their crops.



Tester, the senator, signs a letter to a constituent from his office in the Hart Senate Building on Washington D.C.'s Capitol Hill. Right: Tester, the farmer, negotiates with a grain auger at his Montana farm.

It's a Wednesday night in D.C. I get to bed around midnight knowing that I'm heading back home after votes tomorrow afternoon.

But I can't sleep.

They're predicting a storm in Big Sandy on Saturday, meaning I'll only have Friday to finish planting peas and get 200 acres of wheat planted before I'm done with spring seeding. Fortunately, my wife Sharla has been planting all week, so I'll only need one more day to get all the seed in the ground. But with my busy Senate schedule, days on the farm are hard to come by.

It's not the weather forecast that's keeping me awake though. There's enough light shining in from the street that I can make out every object in the room. I hear police sirens in the distance.

The noise is constant in this city. Somehow I manage to fall asleep.

On Thursday, I wake up early and put in a busy day in the Senate meeting with four groups from Montana, rushing to the floor to vote, hearing testimony in a committee. I barely make my flight back home.



My truck is sitting in the airport parking lot when I land in Great Falls. I get in, drive off and get to the farm in an hour. After washing up, I crawl into bed and close my eyes.

There's no noise. When I turn my head toward the window, stars offer the only light I see.

I wake up before the sun does, get dressed, drink a cup of coffee, and put on a baseball cap so faded you can't make out the team's name.



When the sun comes up there's a light dusting of snow on the ground, about a tenth of an inch.

One of the bearings is out on the packer wheel. That's four hours down the tube. After smashing a couple fingers replacing the bearing, I'm driving the tractor.

I make long, wide passes over bare earth. I can see the Sweet Grass Hills in the distance over 80 miles away. That's almost to Canada. I look to the east and see a small herd of antelope standing still. I listen to the low groan of the tractor motor.

Being on the farm rejuvenates me. It's the open space, the quiet, and the physically demanding work. It's getting my hands dirty and a little beat up.

It's home. 

*U.S. Senator Jon Tester bails from Big Sandy, Montana. He and Sharla still farm the land his grandparents homesteaded in 1912. He was elected to the United States Senate in 2006, and reelected in 2012.*

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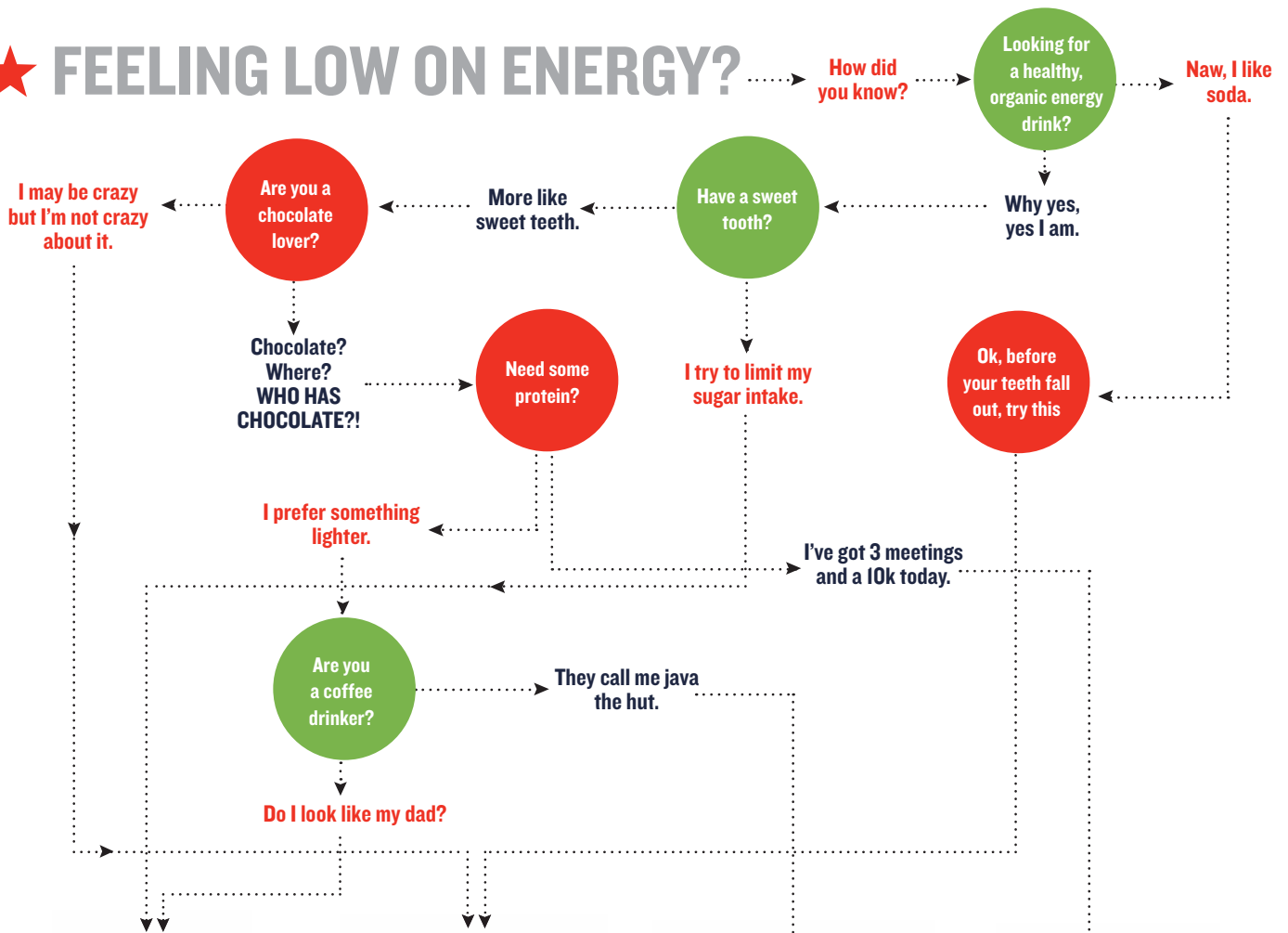
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NOW

For over a century, Montana has figured at the center of American wildfire policy. Climate change is again making it ground zero.

BY TODD WILKINSON

# THE COMING INFERNOS

A Mormon Lake Hotshot keeps his head up during night shift in the Gila Wilderness. Whitewater-Baldy Complex, New Mexico, 2012.

📷 KARI GREER



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“HYPOCRITES! YOU KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET CONDITIONS ON EARTH AND IN THE SKY. HOW IS IT THAT YOU DON’T KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET THE PRESENT TIME?” LUKE 12:56

**FROM LONE MOUNTAIN’S TOWERING IVORY ZENITH,** all would seem right with the world. It’s late winter 2015 and a fresh dump of powder has padded the snowpack on Montana’s best-known skiing icon, pushing total accumulation for the season to around 20 feet, half the snow Big Sky Resort received in the 2013-2014 season. Off in the distance, I see tiny plumes of smoke puffing out of chimneys on rooftops tucked snugly into ever-green groves.

As I kick into descent, I’m not thinking of what meteorologists are forecasting in their crystal balls for the dog days of summer. Writing about the American West for nearly 30 years, I’ve never forgotten the old agrarian adage: Only fools predict the weather.

Still, the harbingers this year are hard to ignore. California is tinder dry, gripped by its worst drought in 1,200 years. The Golden State’s science-informed governor, Jerry Brown, is calling lower precipitation “the new normal.” Across the Colorado River plateau, lakes Mead and Powell have dropped to their lowest levels since the reservoirs were first created to store water for tens of millions. In the northern Rockies, snow in the high country was fractionally below “average,” while balmy temperatures in the valleys made this past winter one of the mildest in recollection.

My backyard in Bozeman, where in years past I could reliably freeze an outdoor hockey rink for the kids, held bare grass in February. And some stretches of Yellowstone National Park’s roads this spring were plowed and made accessible to motorists earlier than any year since 1988, when wildfire scorched 1,250 square miles of the park.

As of late May, many public land managers believe the West may be in for another epic, budget-busting year of battling wildfire, with federal hotshots, smokejumpers and Pulaski-toting Type 2 handcrews being deployed to halt nearly unstoppable flare-ups. Very likely, as you are now reading these words, woodsmoke might be drifting into view.

Montana has her own place within the lore of modern firefighting. The state’s western-forested mountains served as a main front for the “Great Fire of 1910.” Over a span of just two days in late August of that year, about 3 million acres were blackened, earning the “Big Blowup” distinction as the largest forest fire in U.S. history. A handful of small Montana towns were completely destroyed in a hydra-headed blaze that touched 10 national forests in three states.

Montana’s mystique is also immortalized in literature. Second only to *A River Runs Through It*, Norman Maclean’s next best book is *Young Men and Fire*, his nonfictional exploration of the tragic Mann Gulch Fire near Helena. The 1949 inferno claimed the lives of 13 smokejumpers and served as a catalyst for research into wildfire behavior.

Today, Montana remains a hub for firefighting and training. Missoula is home base for a legion of smokejumpers and to Neptune Aviation, a private company that has provided a squadron of fire-attack aircraft enlisted by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, responsible for thousands of sorties. On top of it, some of the nation’s crackerjack Native American fire teams deployed west-wide hail from the Treasure State.

**NO MATTER WHERE ONE LIVES IN THE WEST** – especially if you dwell in what’s called the forested “wildland-urban interface” – the looming threat of wildfire is never far away.

I’m reflecting on wisdom imparted to me 27 summers ago by Dr. Don Despain. In 1988, the Yellowstone National Park botanist watched nearly 800,000 acres – more than a third – of America’s first national park burn in a historic outbreak of wildfire. That was the same year the first-ever public hearing on climate change was held on Capitol Hill, featuring warnings from a mid-career NASA climatologist named James Hansen. >>



**HALF MY LIFE AGO**, Despain shared these pearls: You can never gauge the probable severity of a fire season solely by gauging mountain snowpack in March because weather patterns can change, he said.

Second, while it's inordinately difficult to forecast the weather, it's actually easier to project the trajectory of climate since it involves an accumulation of

objectively traceable trend lines, Despain said. Experts note today that six of the hottest years on record worldwide have happened in the last decade. A recent issue of the

journal *Yellowstone Science* confirms that the Yellowstone interior has been drying out, having potentially radical implications for wildlife and even geothermal features that function like clockwork, based on natural availability of precipitation.

Third, parts of the West are always going to burn, Despain noted, because the very environment we love has been forged by fire for eons.

When Despain and I visited again this April, the retired scientist offered an addendum to point number three: The West is indeed going to burn, but it is going to burn bigger and more often due to climate change. What's left in its wake may not be the kinds of ecosys-

tems we and our ancestors are accustomed to interacting with.

"We need to adapt because our previous approaches to suppressing major conflagrations, declaring war on them, and trying to pay for them have been both an exercise in futility and we know it's economically unsustainable," he said.

The U.S. government isn't far off from Despain's observations, according to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"Climate change, drought, fuel buildup and insects and disease are increasing the severity of catastrophic wildfire in America's forests," Vilsack declared in a 2014 report that noted the Forest Service's ability to function was being crippled by the costs of fighting wildfire.

"In order to protect the public, the portion of the Forest Service budget dedicated to combating fire has drastically increased from what it was 20 years ago. This has led to substantial cuts in other areas of the USFS budget, including efforts to keep forests healthy, reduce fire risk, and strengthen local economies." It's a robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul scenario, though Uncle Sam, Vilsack noted, has got a hole burning in his pocket.

**CONSIDER THESE FACTS:** Today, firefighting costs and prevention have soared past \$2 billion annually and engulf almost half of the Forest Service's total budget. Add in firefighting costs on BLM holdings and it rises well past \$3 billion.

The number of wildfires has doubled on public lands since 1980, and those

**TODAY, FIREFIGHTING COSTS AND PREVENTION HAVE SOARED PAST \$2 BILLION ANNUALLY AND ENGULF ALMOST HALF OF THE FOREST SERVICE'S TOTAL BUDGET.**







Fire explodes near the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park in early September during the 1988 wildfires.

 MIKE COIL

---

fires ever increasingly are threatening the same watersheds that deliver the aqua flowing to 20 million taps and yielding clean rivers.

According to the USFS, fire season lengths have increased between 60 and 80 days over the last three decades. While the agency claims that 230 million acres of public lands in the West are in need of fuel reduction, at most 3 million acres a year are receiving treatments, meaning the backlog only grows. Plus, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack noted in 2014 that about a half-billion dollars' worth of Forest Service fire-prevention projects were put on hold and spent instead fighting fires.

“You don’t need to be a genius to do the math,” says Ray Rasker, co-founder of Bozeman-based Headwaters Economics, which has become an important national player in trying to address this vexing conundrum.

**LAST YEAR, HEADWATERS PUBLISHED A REPORT** whose primary author was Dr. Ross Gorte, a retired senior policy analyst with the Congressional Research Service, renowned for its fact-finding advisory role to Congress.

“Wildfire threat and protection costs are likely to rise because of climate change and continued home development. Currently, the majority of private wildlands are undeveloped; only about 16 percent of the wildland-urban interface in the West is now developed, and the remaining 84 percent is available for development,” Gorte wrote. If just half of the wildland-urban interface is developed in the future, the \$2.2 billion annual firefighting costs could more than double. By comparison, the Forest Service’s total average annual budget is \$5.5 billion. >>





An unidentified smokejumper makes an early morning recon of the previous day's work.

📷 JON MARSHALL

Another Headwaters' report found that, statewide in Montana, protecting homes from wildfires costs an average of \$28 million annually. If development near fire-prone forests continues, costs to protect homes likely will rise to \$40 million by 2025. Just a 1-degree F increase in summer temperatures would at least double home-protection costs. Additional development and hotter summers combined could increase the annual cost to exceed \$80 million by 2025, and that doesn't include the likely hundreds of millions to safeguard watersheds important to drinking water and to forest rehabilitation – costs currently underwritten by the federal government.

The firefighting question figures prominently at the heart of a controversial issue. Gorte's examination throws cold water on assertions from conservative lawmakers in state legisla-

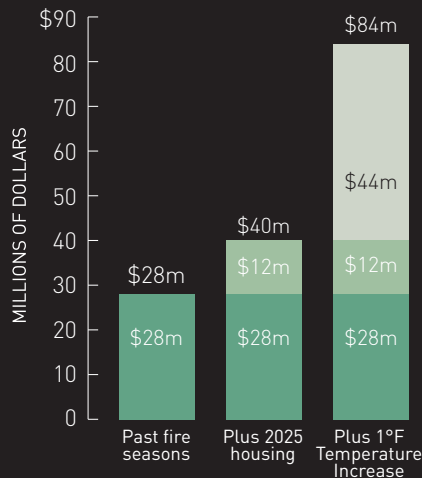
tures and Congress that federal lands should be turned over to states for "better management." Not only is it currently illegal to transfer federal lands, but the costs and liabilities of having states take over firefighting costs could obliterate their budgets.

That assessment is corroborated by another recent report, "The Wildfire Burden: Why Public Land Seizure Proposal Would Cost States Billions of Dollars," prepared by the Denver-based conservation group Center for Western Priorities.

U.S. Sen. Steve Daines of Montana has called for more intensive logging which he and others claim will prevent wildfires from erupting, a contention disputed by Yellowstone's former fire guru, Despain.



## AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF PROTECTING HOMES FROM WILDFIRES IN MONTANA



SOURCE: HEADWATERS ECONOMICS

When ecologist George Wuerthner with the Foundation for Deep Ecology edited the coffee table-sized book *Wild Fire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*, he cited numerous scientific studies showing that the “logging-one’s-way-out-of-fire-danger” mentality was misguided.

The Smokey the Bear era that dominated the 20th century brought decades of wildfire suppression while, ironically, setting the stage for even bigger fires and leading to the arrogant attitude that development could occur anywhere.

“We are used to doing things as we please and being left alone,” said University of Montana economist Thomas Power. “The federal and state governments pick up the tab. Some of us even demand that the entire forested landscape be fireproofed – as plausible a concept as stopping a hurricane or earthquake, at a cost of billions of taxpayers’ dollars and untold environmental costs.”

EVERY JOURNALIST I KNOW who was covering the Yellowstone fires of 1988, has scenes seared in our brains. Vivid in my memory are the mushroom clouds that erupted like atomic blasts with each major blowup.

Nothing will ever compare to the surreal vision of Sept. 7, 1988, when the North Fork Fire made a dead-aimed run at the development complex encircling Old Faithful Geyser.

Meteorologists predicted that the breeze would pick up briskly the following day. The forecast prompted Park Service officials to evacuate thousands of visitors and concession employees. Staying behind was a corps of firefighters, park staff, and maybe two-dozen journalists.

Indeed, the zephyrs picked up, attaining gale force and driving the inferno straight toward the historic Old Faithful Inn in a deafening roar. Scurrying for safety, we huddled around the treeless apron of Old Faithful Geyser as blackness engulfed us, firebrands racing horizontally overhead. Some firefighters believed the inn would be lost. At the last minute, the wind changed direction only a few degrees and miraculously the building survived.

No major irreplaceable structure was lost in Yellowstone that entire summer, a testament to the fact that thousands of firefighters and most of the then-record \$120 million was spent on protecting people and buildings.

Despain notes that it’s a huge waste of money to continually attack a fire that is rolling across wild country. No matter how much retardant expensive slurry bombers drop, no matter how many fire lines are cut by bulldozers, and, poignantly, no matter how many trees are felled in the name of reducing fuel loads, fires are going to start and race as long as conditions are dry.

The decision before us is where we build. “We’re not going to stop fire but we can anticipate, just as we do with rising water in flood plains, where they’re going to be,” Headwaters’ Rasker says.

Where does personal responsibility begin and end? Let’s be clear, no one who owns an abode in the woods wants to be lectured about fire risk any more than the folks who build dream homes along rivers want to be chided about floods. But should risky decisions be supported with federally subsidized firefighting and federally subsidized flood insurance?

Rasker argues that the more America denies it has a serious problem, the deeper a hole it is digging. He believes strongly that federal and state land managers having to answer to an increasingly frugal public see the writing on the wall.

THOUGHTFUL INVESTMENTS IN SMARTER PLANNING NOW will deliver exponential dividends in the years to come, he says. Rasker’s evangelizing earned him an audience in 2014 with top officials in the U.S. Interior and Agriculture departments in Washington, D.C., including a meeting with Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and wildfire and budget strategists.

“At first, thinking like an economist, I thought the solution was simply to bill county and city governments for their share of the subsidized federal firefighting bill,” Rasker says, admitting that his own opinion has shifted. “I thought that would correct the moral hazard of allowing any development to occur in dangerous places while the rest of us pay the bill and young men and women risk their lives. I thought this would create a powerful incentive for better land-use planning.” >>

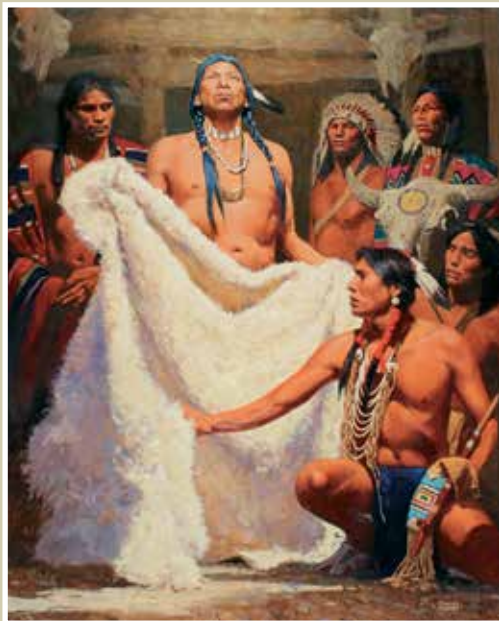




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But given the deep partisan divide that exists in Congress, that kind of approach, albeit a paragon of fiscal responsibility, was still a non-starter.


So Rasker went again to Washington in April 2015 and offered a carrot. Of the Forest Service's \$2.2 billion annual firefighting budget, he proposed devoting just 1 percent of it – \$22 million per year – to create a land-use planning assistance grant program that communities can apply for. These communities would be eligible for \$200,000 to hire land-use planning consultants who specialize in fire-risk reduction, and specialists who can do fine-scale risk mapping just as flood zones are mapped.

“We need to create a series of incentives and regulations that force future developments to consider and prepare for the reality of wildfire being accelerated by climate change,” Rasker says. “It doesn't mean we don't develop. It means we develop smarter.”

Already, a pilot project in the downhill ski industry province of Summit County, Colorado, is showing how the program can work and Rasker fully expects that it can be applied more widely across the West and forested Montana. The Forest Service is now looking to expand the project to five more Western communities.

**AS YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK BURNED** in 1988, its fires were defeated only by snow and not human combat. Still, members of Wyoming's Congressional Delegation invoked their own incendiary rhetoric. One elected official demanded that Despain and Yellowstone Superintendent Bob Barbee be fired for “allowing the park to burn.” Another characterized the national park as a charred moonscape that would never recover. They were wrong.

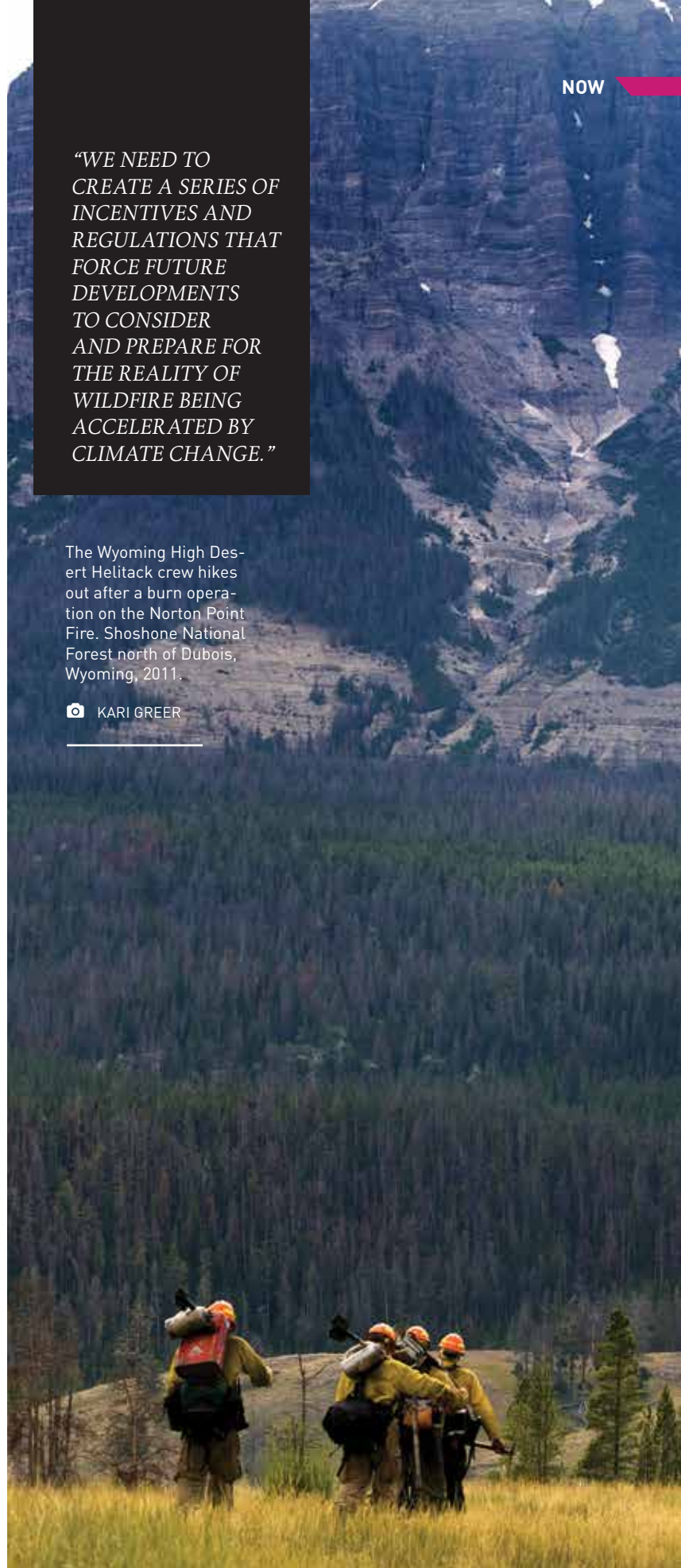
Today, every study affirms that Yellowstone is none the worse for wear. Not long after that distant summer, John Varley, the now-retired Yellowstone research chief, offered a poignant observation.

Mother Nature never does anything that results in her own destruction, Varley said. What people do to the environment, jeopardizing their own life-support system by exacerbating climate change, however, is another matter. We ignore it at our peril and when the heat gets turned up we'll pay the price. 

*“WE NEED TO  
CREATE A SERIES OF  
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AND PREPARE FOR  
THE REALITY OF  
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ACCELERATED BY  
CLIMATE CHANGE.”*

The Wyoming High Desert Helitack crew hikes out after a burn operation on the Norton Point Fire. Shoshone National Forest north of Dubois, Wyoming, 2011.

 KARI GREER





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# Trifecta ON THE Fly

Have a three-day weekend in Montana? Here's the perfect fly-fishing road trip.

BY PATRICK STRAUB | 📷 TYLER BUSBY

**You've read the hype: Paradise Valley and the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout eating dry flies bigger than silver dollars. Ennis and Three Forks with their real-time cowboys riding bareback on Main Street and rainbow trout in every riffle. Craig's hip fly-fishing culture and the Missouri's thousands of trout per mile.**

Fishing the Yellowstone, Madison, and Missouri in three days is not your parent's fly-fishing road trip. It's a lot of windshield time but the rewards are vibrant local color and plenty of trout to gobble your flies.

Our lives are cluttered with cell phones, Facebook and Netflix. Finding time to solve our problems, or to enjoy our good fortune, is at a premium. You might have to hire-out some help with the kids, but make sure you prioritize a long weekend to fish this summer.

Renowned fly-fishing author John Gierach said it better than anyone: "The solution to any problem – work, love, money, whatever – is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be."

Where is the number for that life coach? I need to send a text saying I'm unavailable for the next three days.





## THE *Yellowstone River* & LIVINGSTON

1

Authentic as it gets. Fifty miles upstream or downstream of Livingston, the Yellowstone River is ideal for the float- ing angler. The upper stretches near Gardiner and Emi- grant serve the best chance of catching a native Yellow- stone cutthroat trout, and the river below Livingston and past Big Timber is home to trophy browns.

May and June often see the water too high and muddy due to spring runoff, but when the river begins to drop and clear, salmon flies dominate and hatches of stoneflies and caddis continue into late summer. Fall anglers will find Blue Winged Olives and brown trout eager for streamers. Livingston is a town full of eccentrics, but they appreciate quality lodging and good food.

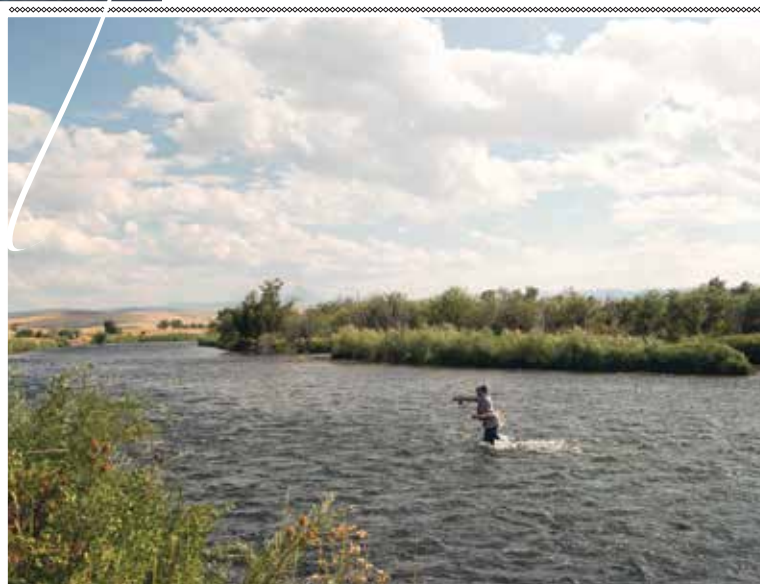


KYRA AMES

**Stay:** The Murray Hotel: A century-old classic, elegant and refined.

**A.M. catch:** Pinky's Café: Locals' breakfast joint. Think eggs, biscuits and gravy.

**P.M. catch:** Montana's Rib and Chop House: Stellar meat, fishbowl Margaritas and wine list.



## THE *Madison River* & ENNIS OR THREE FORKS

2

There are two distinct sections of this famous river to choose from. The "Upper" refers to the water above Ennis Lake near the town of Ennis, and you should venture here between mid-June and early September. The "Lower" is the river downstream of Ennis Lake, and in play anytime of the year, save high summer when water temps warm and recre- ational floaters dominate.

Both river sections produce mainly rainbow and brown trout, with a rare Westslope cutthroat brought to hand. The Lower cuts through a canyon then a broad valley and meets the Jefferson and Gall- atin rivers to form the Missouri near Three Forks. It's notorious for big browns, but doesn't harbor high fish numbers or grandiose scenery. The Upper is fished more, home to more trout, and flanked by snowcapped peaks. Salmon flies hatch in June, cad- dis shortly after, and Blue Winged Olives in fall.

The towns of Ennis and Three Forks serve these rivers, and bank on Western charm and service.



**Stay:** Sacajawea Hotel (Three Forks): Beautiful and comfy boutique digs.

**A.M. catch:** Yesterday's Soda Fountain (Ennis): Friendly, affordable café with stick-to-your ribs brekkie.

**P.M. catch:** Gravel Bar (Ennis): Montana classic for drinks and hearty dinner.





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“ The Missouri’s fish count hovers in the 4,000- to 6,000-per-mile range and most are over 14 inches. ”




## THE *Missouri River* & CRAIG

3

Affectionately called “The Mighty Mo,” this tailwater fishery emerges from Holter Dam about seven miles south of the small drinking, big-fishing town of Craig, arguably the most happening spot in Montana fly-fishing circles. This is the big finish. If catching fish supersedes the act of “going fishing,” the Mo is in your wheelhouse.

The Missouri’s fish count hovers in the 4,000- to 6,000-per-mile range and most are over 14 inches. Pale Morning Duns and caddis hatch in June and run through summer. The trico hatches are sporadic and begin in late July. Fall brings small Blue Winged Olives, October caddis, and brown trout looking for a meal, not a morsel.

Fly-shop owners and outfitters primarily run Craig, but don’t be fooled. There are some gems for lodging and good grub. 

**Stay:** Missouri River Ranch: The best lodging and food to match the fishing quality. Period.

**A.M. catch:** Missouri River Trout Shop: Hot coffee, breakfast burritos and sandos.

**P.M. catch:** Izaak’s Restaurant: Wagyu beef burgers, delicious pasta and drinks.

*Patrick Straub is the author of six books, most of them on fly fishing. When he’s not seeking the next hatch or a decent cut of red meat, he’s running his three businesses: Gallatin River Guides, Montana Fishing Outfitters, and the Montana Fishing Guide School.*

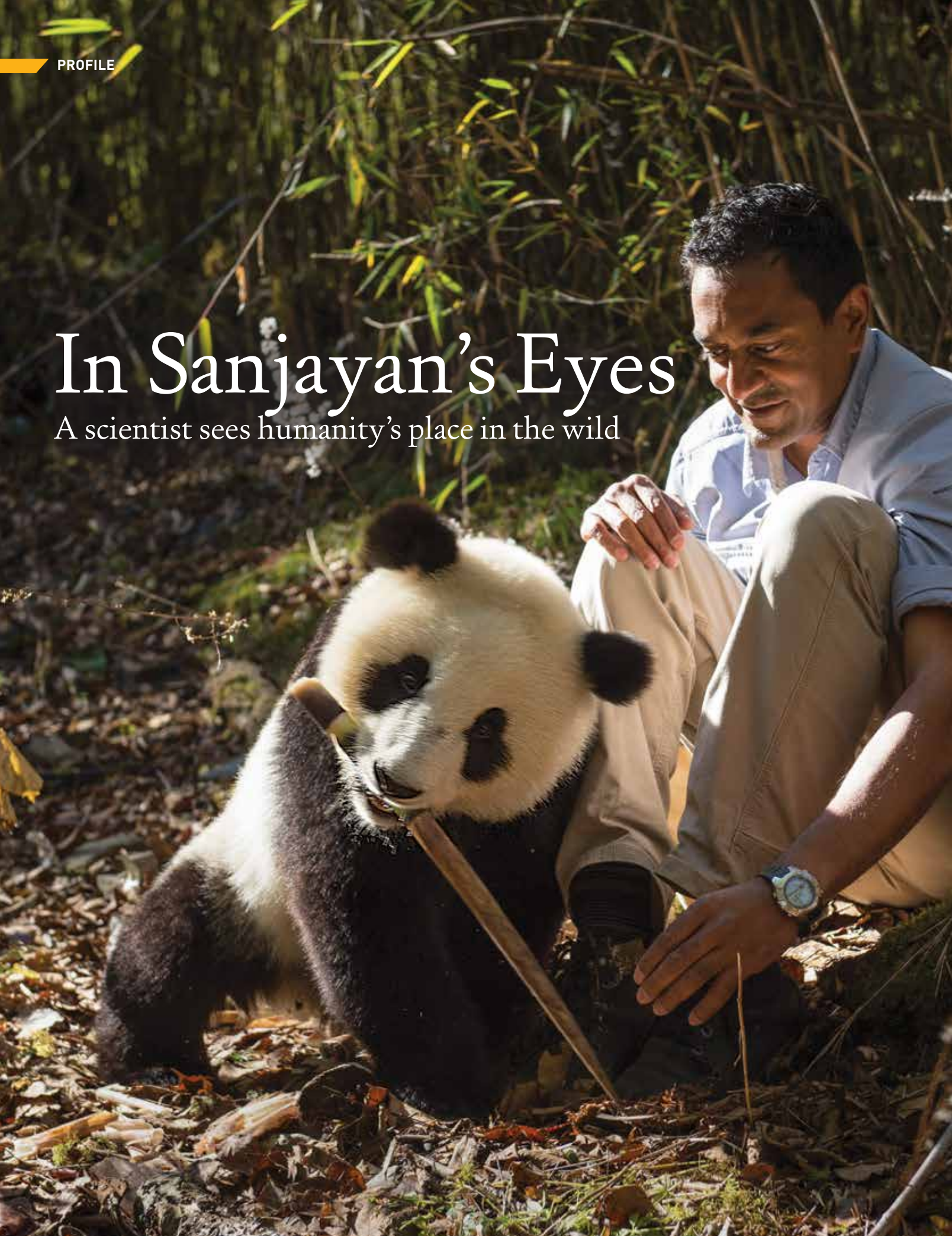




PROFILE

# In Sanjayan's Eyes

A scientist sees humanity's place in the wild





**THERE ARE SOME OBVIOUS THINGS THAT PUT MONTANA ON THE MAP:**

Glacier and Yellowstone national parks. Ranching. Open spaces. Jagged peaks. For conservationist M. Sanjayan, it's a bit more complicated.

"If Lewis and Clark were to retrace their steps through Montana today, they'd see the same plants and animals that were there 200 years ago," says the eco-celebrity, storyteller, fly fisherman, spokesperson – and Montana resident. "It's one of the few places on earth where humans haven't made a big mess."

And he should know: As a former lead scientist at the Nature Conservancy, environmental contributor for CBS, and now executive vice president and senior scientist at Conservation International, Sanjayan sometimes travels every month of the year. For his latest series, *Earth: A New Wild* – which recently aired on PBS – he visited 29 countries. He paraglided with Himalayan vultures in Nepal. He roamed the mangroves of Bangladesh looking for man-eating tigers. He played midwife to an enormous lemon shark, tumbled around on the floor with 14 baby pandas, and politely declined the opportunity to castrate a reindeer with his own teeth.

But *Earth* is far from a classic nature show, those epics that often come across "as a collection of incredible and isolated jewels," says Sanjayan, 48. For several years of filming, he sought out situations where humans and nature meet by clashing and cooperating, blending realism and optimism into a portrait of our planet as it is: a home to seven billion people and counting (and, thus, clearly a new kind of wild).

Sanjayan's outlook – that humanity is and must be central to the conservation conversation – isn't universally accepted. And as a host, he acknowledges that he goes against type: no khaki safari hat, no dry tone, yet with just enough British inflection to channel a touch of legendary BBC broadcaster David Attenborough. "People probably think to themselves, 'Who's the brown guy? Where's he from?' But I think it makes me a better narrator."



Where Sanjayan is from plays an integral part in how he sees the world and our place in it. Born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, he and his family fled an escalating civil war when he was six years old, ending up in Sierra Leone. He grew up with the African jungle as his playground. "In the southern hemisphere, there's a different sensibility as to why nature is important," he says. "You can't romanticize it as much when the tiger is literally trying to eat you."

Sanjayan earned degrees in biology and ecology from the University of Oregon and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Cruz. In 1997, he took his first fly-fishing trip to Montana, drawn to the rivers of the West by the words of David James Duncan in his book, *The River Why*. "I felt the pulse of the water. The metaphor for life," Sanjayan says. "I thought, 'I'd love to live here.' Now I have a place near an upper stretch of Rock Creek." >>

Downtime. M. Sanjayan plays with a giant panda at China's Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda at Wolong National Nature Reserve in 2013.



“IN MONTANA, CONSERVATION ISN’T ABOUT LOVE. LOVE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH.”

**He noticed something else** as he started spending more time around Montana’s mountains and prairies. “It has the same utilitarian feel as Africa,” he says. “You’re forced to deal with the consequences, to walk the talk. Montana prevents me from becoming a theoretical conservationist. I feel very much at home.”

In fact, Sanjayan’s idea for *Earth* stemmed directly from living in the West – and interacting with local ranchers and landowners. “Even though they don’t share my politics and they don’t share my religion, deep down I know that they love the land,” he says. “Though they wouldn’t express it in those terms. In Montana, conservation isn’t about love. Love alone is not enough.”

Rather than film a segment about the pristine grandeur of Yellowstone or Glacier national parks, or the Bob Marshall Wilderness, his crew settled on the working countryside of the Centennial Valley, where Bryan Uring, general manager of the J Bar L Ranch, uses holistic grazing practices to manage cattle. As Sanjayan explains on his show, the cows act like bison, and Uring plays the wolf. “It’s as spectacular as any park, except cowboys actually use the landscape,” he says. “It gets to the grit of things, to the possibility of conflict.”

Uring, for one, thinks Sanjayan is a perfect messenger for what he considers a relatively new narrative. “He’s a very good people person,

charming and witty and very, very bright,” Uring says. “He gets how to be a presenter. That’s his gift.” Not only that, Sanjayan paints a picture of what’s working – and what’s not.

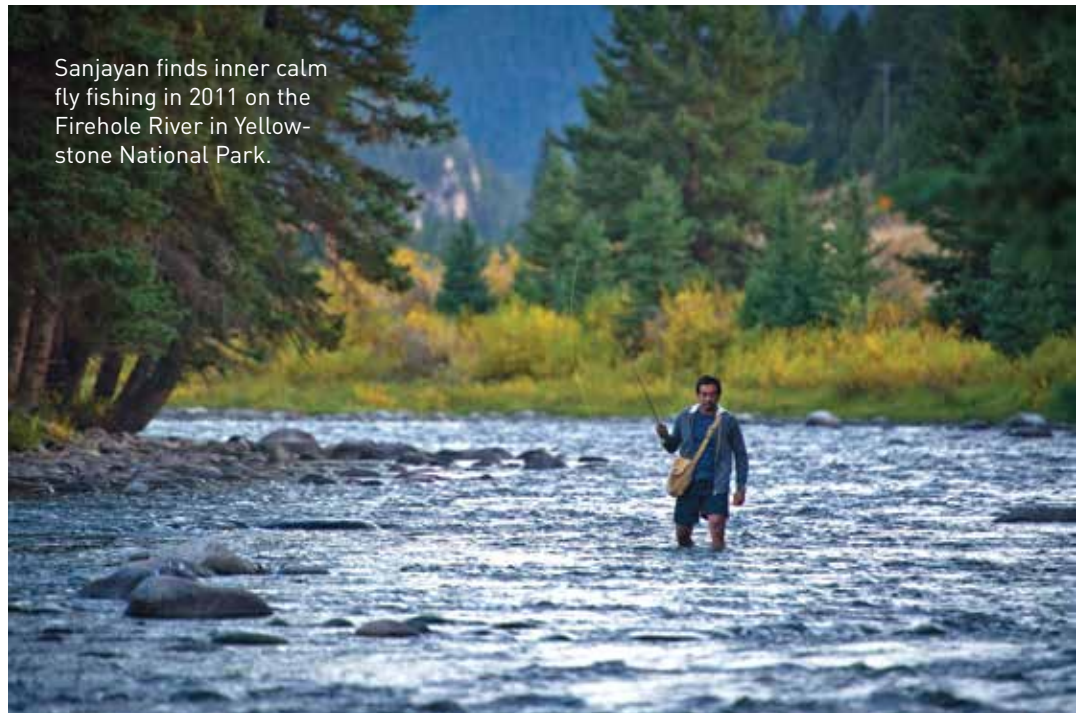
“I’m tired of hearing of all the pessimists and doomsdayers who aren’t coming up with solutions,” Uring says. “Sanjayan is inclusive rather than divisive.” Adds photographer and filmmaker Pete McBride, who guided Sanjayan down the Colorado River for another *Earth* segment, “He brings a youthful energy and even humor to his work, which is so needed when tackling not-so-sunny stories.”

On camera, Sanjayan’s wonder and bafflement and sadness – at dried-

up rivers, at ailing coral – all come through much more than you’d think for someone who describes himself as an introvert. “I’m not faking it,” he says, “but I put on my armor.” His shy side is why he always comes back to fly fishing – and Montana – after whirlwind trips to China, Kenya, Mexico, Ukraine. “It’s an excuse to be alone. No one there questions me,” he says.

And, after fishing a stretch of Rock Creek near his home hundreds of times, Sanjayan says he still gets skunked. “I can’t believe nature is that unpredictable. It has its own tricks, no matter what humans do. It makes me realize that we’re all going to be OK.” 🐾

Sanjayan finds inner calm fly fishing in 2011 on the Firehole River in Yellowstone National Park.





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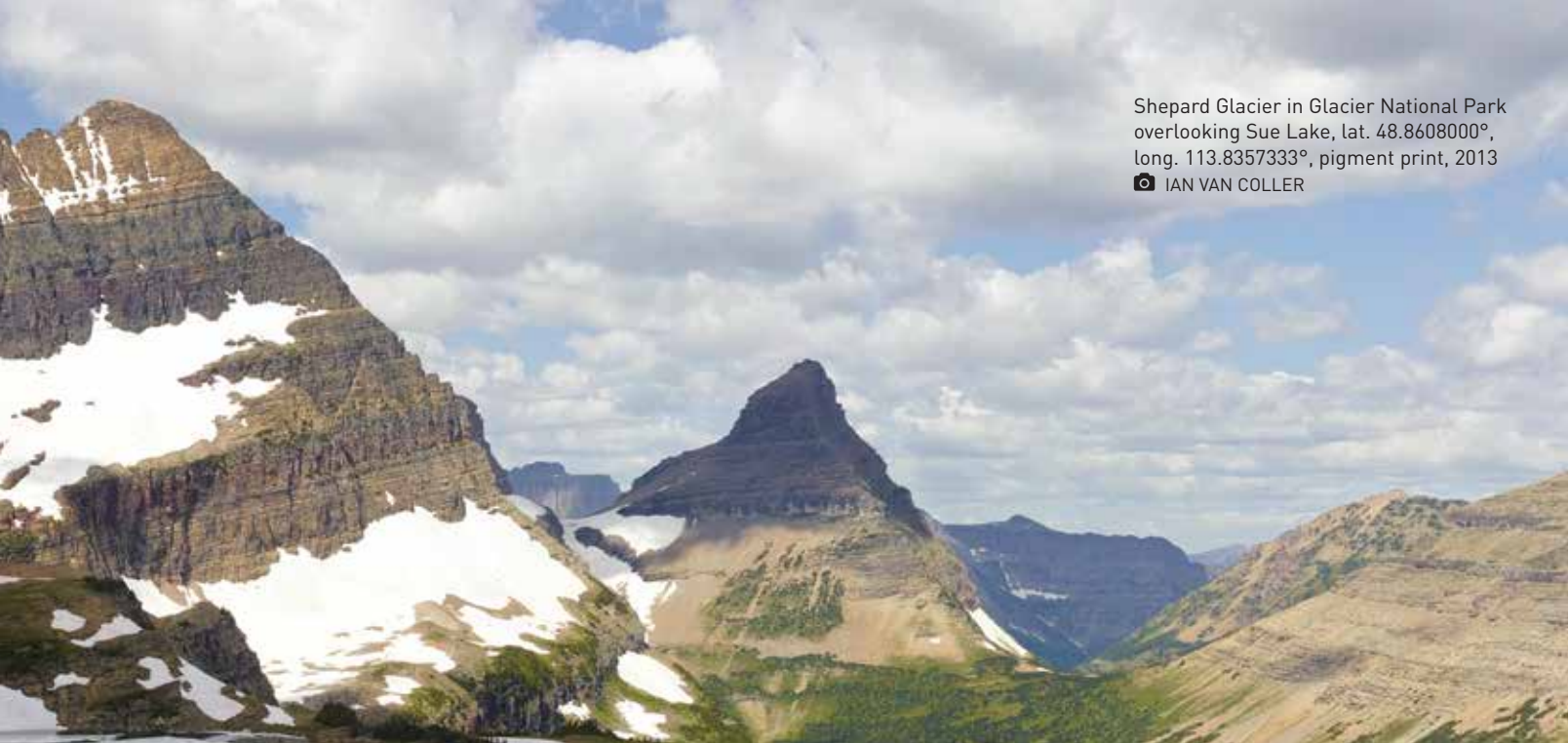
# THE LAST GLACIER PROJECT

INTERPRETING A CHANGING  
LANDSCAPE | BY CAITLIN STYRSKY

The steady decline of glaciers in Montana's Glacier National Park is no secret. Only 25 of the park's original 150 remain, and studies by the United States Geological Survey predict the park's largest glaciers could disappear as early as 2030. Though the USGS provides a wealth of analytical data on these shrinking ice masses, public awareness remains low.

Three artists from across the country set out to document the disappearing glaciers and create a new type of historical record. Todd Anderson, Bruce Crownover and Ian van Coller formed The Last Glacier project as a means of chronicling the fading glaciers through an artistic lens. The project will culminate later this year with the publication of a limited-edition artists' book, featuring reductive woodblock prints and





Shepard Glacier in Glacier National Park overlooking Sue Lake, lat. 48.8608000°, long. 113.8357333°, pigment print, 2013  
📷 IAN VAN COLLER



large-scale photographs of 13 glaciers within the park.

Anderson, an artist and assistant professor of printmaking at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, initiated the project shortly after hearing about the disappearing glaciers. As an outdoorsman, the news was devastating. “I realized that somebody needed to do something, or at least document their disappearance,” Anderson said. He made his first trip to examine the glaciers in 2010 and quickly recognized the project’s potential to resonate with the public.

“Reports don’t necessarily reach the public in the way that art can,” he said. “You don’t have to be a scientist to understand what’s happening.”>>



Above: Bruce Crownover uses a brayer to ink a woodblock print.

📷 JAY JURADO

Below: Old Sun Glacier: from Ptarmigan Trail, reductive woodcut print on Okawara, 2014 BY BRUCE CROWNOVER, 📷 JIM WILDEMAN



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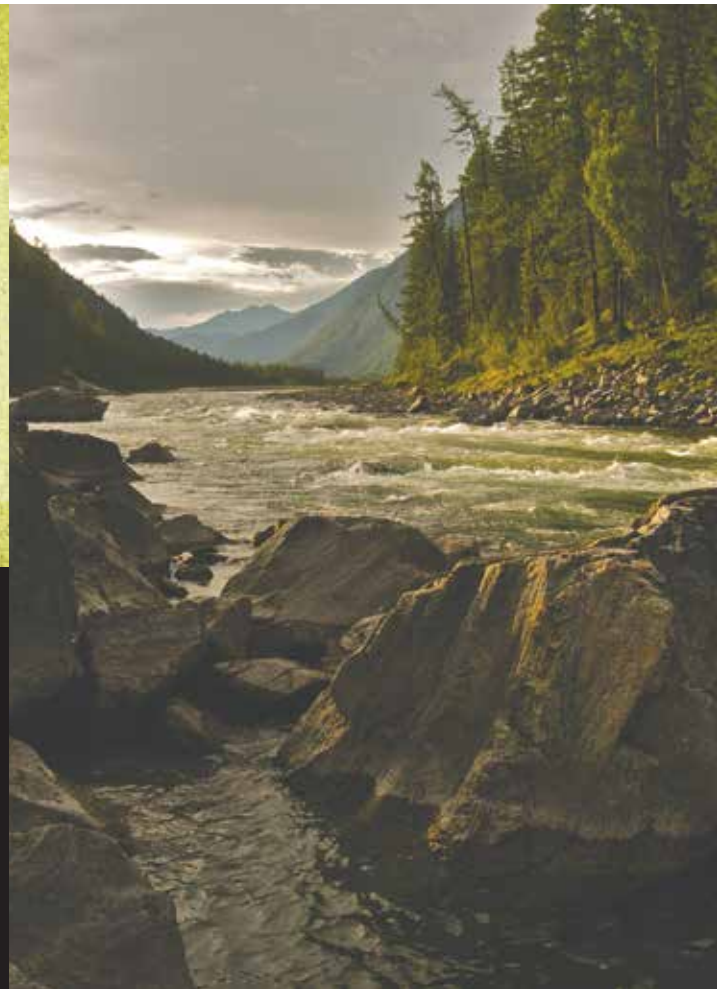
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**CENTRE SKY ARCHITECTURE**

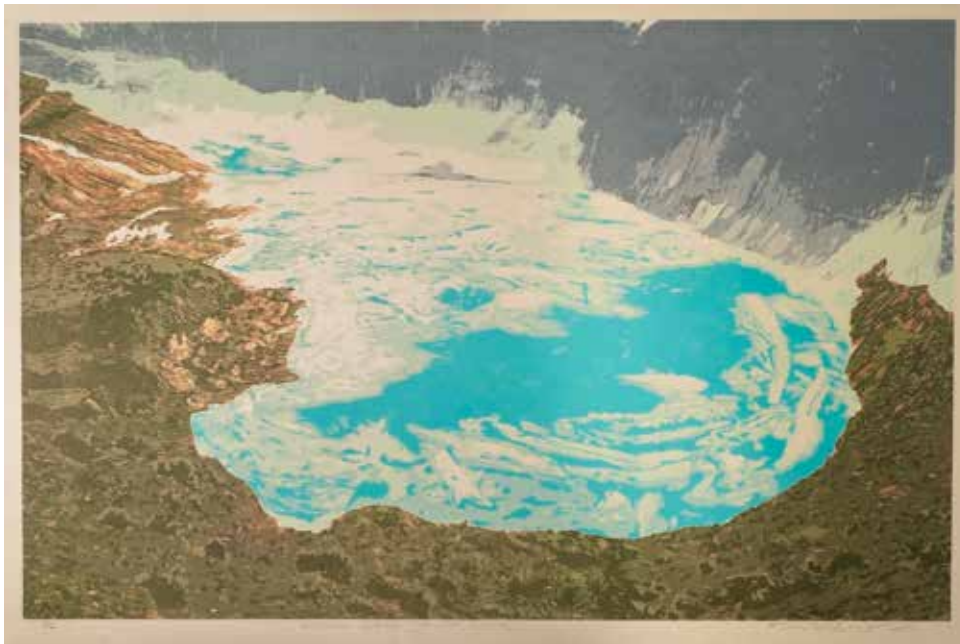
BIG SKY, MONTANA    BOZEMAN, MONTANA    [CENTRESKY.COM](http://CENTRESKY.COM)    DENVER, COLORADO    WHITEFISH, MONTANA


JAMIE DAUGAARD, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP



PHOTO CREDIT: RYAN DAY THOMPSON





Above: Grinnell Glacier, lat. 48.751667°, long. 113.7275°, reductive jigsaw woodcut print on Okawara, 2014  
BY TODD ANDERSON,  CARLY HILO

Right: Grinnell Glacier, lat. 48.7598°, long. 113.729233°, pigment print, 2013  IAN VAN COLLER

Crownover, a printmaker from Madison, Wisconsin, and van Coller, a Bozeman, Montana-based photographer originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, joined the project in 2011. The artists visited the glaciers over the last four summers and created unique artwork based on their experiences. Anderson and Crownover produced woodblock prints while van Coller created large-scale photographs. Together, the artists generated a distinctive blend of images to convey an experiential interpretation of the disappearing glaciers.

But documenting the fading ice fields was far from easy. Seasonal and personal constraints made it difficult to spend large periods of time in the park. The men also struggled with the physical challenges of hiking to the glaciers, since some are as far as 20 miles into the backcountry. They then translated the enormous landscapes into art.


The limited-edition book is slated for completion in winter 2015 and will contain 23 original prints on Japanese paper with each image spread across two pages. A floating spine will allow the book to open 40 inches by 24 inches and lay completely flat. Only 15 copies will be created.

“It allows the viewer to experience images in a different way from a mass-produced coffee-table book,” said van Coller, also an associate professor of photography at Bozeman’s Montana State University. The volume will cost upwards



of \$6,500, and individual prints sold separately will go for about \$800, according to van Coller, who expects museums, universities, or private collectors to purchase the book.

The artists believe the project will serve as an educational tool to help initiate conversations about the vanishing glaciers. “We hope that people, through art, experience the landscape in a different way,” van Coller said. “And that they might create some kind of emotional connection.” The project’s next step, like the glaciers themselves, remains to be seen.

Each artist plans to continue examining human interaction with the environment through art. “The impending loss of the glaciers motivates me to spend more time with nature,” Crownover said. “I simply want to absorb the places that I find so beautiful before it is too late.” 

*“WE HOPE THAT PEOPLE, THROUGH ART, EXPERIENCE THE LANDSCAPE IN A DIFFERENT WAY. AND THAT THEY MIGHT CREATE SOME KIND OF EMOTIONAL CONNECTION.”*



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# SWEET A

NEW ZEALAND'S

PEOPLE +  
PLACES  
+ PATHS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIC LADD



Gazing out at the deep blue from New Zealand's South Island near Milford Sound.



S.

Travel – mental or physical – offers your mind freedom from daily burdens and gives your soul space to dream. But distant travel gives you the opportunity to discover gems in a different landscape – the stories of its people, the smells of its authentic recipes, and the emotions associated with its history.

The New Zealand countryside and its people have much in common, and are at once diverse, understated and powerful. When you meet a “Kiwi” on a trail or in a tavern, you quickly gather that these folks live a philosophy supporting simple rules driven by nature and lack of burdensome attachments. And that nearly everything “good” is described using the term “Sweet as.”

As the country evolves, it’s becoming more rare to meet a Kiwi – a term shared by both the national bird, now nearly extinct, and the hearty native New Zealander – but a chance encounter leaves an imprint.

New Zealand, an archipelago located 900 miles southeast of Australia, offers millions of acres of pristine countryside and is a gathering point for global travelers. One must simply stand at a trailhead and witness the array of nationalities exploring this country to understand its allure – a pilgrimage for nature tourism.

In a single day you can sit on a remote pebble beach admiring fur seals and penguin colonies; hike

through lush rainforests among 10,000-year-old trees; fly fish in gin-clear rivers; taste award-winning wine; and watch the sunset on shores of glacier-fed, sapphire-colored lakes.

This island nation once held a population of more than 200 bird species – and no mammals other than bats. The country still has one of the most diverse bird populations on earth, but human disturbance has challenged an ecosystem that now relies on concerted efforts for protection.

New Zealand is over 900 miles long running on a north-to-southeast axis, with 33 islands and more than 1,900 plant species all set within a mild and temperate maritime climate. Despite it’s size, don’t try to see it all in one holiday, pick a zone within the country and slow down to immerse yourself in that region, or else prepare yourself to move there. Giving advice on travel in New Zealand is like trying to teach someone to golf, it’s best to just keep it simple.

Sitting in 10D on the flight home to the states, I recalled my recent travels and the associated fading memories. While a litany of experiences shaped my journey, three key components stand out to me and represent the beautiful country of New Zealand: its people, its places and its paths. No doubt I’ll be back.

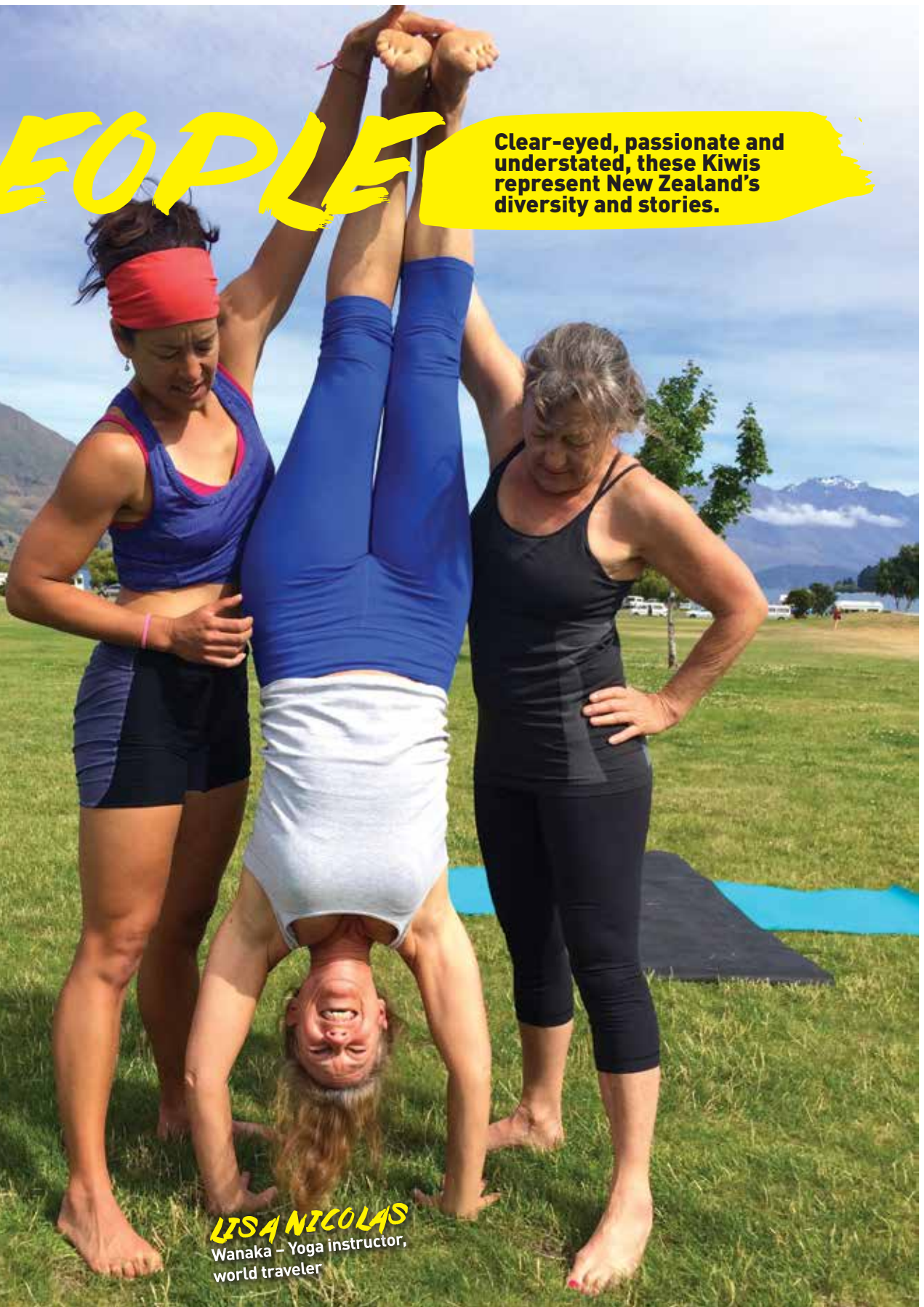
Sweet as. >>





# PEOPLE

Clear-eyed, passionate and understated, these Kiwis represent New Zealand's diversity and stories.



**LISA NICOLAS**  
Wanaka – Yoga instructor,  
world traveler

A ski model, world traveler and adventurer, Lisa Nicolas now leads yoga students toward enlightened paths. An Aussie with crystal-blue eyes and red hair, Nicolas grew up farming then found her way to the Swiss Alps where she spent many years skiing for the cameras. She now finds herself in settings like the lakeshore of Lake Wanaka leading students through weeklong yoga seminars. Next stop, Nicolas says: Morocco by way of India and China.





**TONY ENTWISTLE**  
Nelson – Fly-fishing guide,  
conservationist

If God recreated a legendary 15-pound brown trout in the form of a fishing guide, it would be Tony Entwistle. Having guided anglers for more than 30 years, Entwistle is known as the “godfather of New Zealand fly fishing.” Spending a day with him on a river is as effective as a semester with courses in river ecology, backcountry travel, life advice and, yes, how to cast to the elusive New Zealand brown trout.



**SUE DRYDEN**  
Napier – Kaka Coordinator,  
bird enthusiast

With a quick pace and broad smile, Sue Dryden whistles as she fills birdfeeders. “I skipped lunch today so I could come hang out with my birds,” she says. Dryden helps run the bird sanctuary at Cape Sanctuary Wildlife Preserve where critical work is taking place to support the re-introduction of species including the kaka and the kiwi. Dryden guides kiwi walks and introduces guests to the preserve’s breeding programs.



**MILAN RITSCHNY**  
Marahau – Stand-up paddleboard guide

Milan Ritschny was born and raised at the trailhead of New Zealand’s busiest national park, Abel Tasman. Ritschny’s family owns the famed Park Café, an organic-based restaurant that services the thousands of visitors who enjoy the park’s pearl-white beaches and aqua-blue waters. Spend a day with Ritschny – who also owns the only SUP guiding company in the park – to experience a slower pace highlighted with stories of growing up on these waters.



**GERRY MCSWEENEY**  
Lake Moeraki – Lodge  
owner, scientist

Step into the native forest surrounding Gerry McSweeney’s wilderness lodge on the shores of Lake Moeraki, and you’ll witness a man in his element. A former New Zealand Department of Conservation scientist-turned-lodge-owner, McSweeney guides guests on native bush and beach walks, and paddles on the neighboring lakes and rivers. He lets people connect with nature, slow down and experience the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area he now calls his backyard.

## FEATURED TOWN: WANAKA

Nestled in a glacier-moraine valley, Wanaka is an idyllic mountain town on the shores of 26-mile-long Lake Wanaka. The town is on the cusp of major growth as international tourists descend on its eight-block main street, and explore the nearly endless adventures within an hour’s drive. Set in the Otago Region, fruit farms and vineyards surround Wanaka, and hiking and biking trails snake in all directions. Boating on the 1,000-foot-deep lake is a notable draw especially during the holiday season when the population grows by a factor of 10. For now, Wanaka remains a slow-paced town trapped in the ‘80s, boasting coffee shops without Wi-Fi and long conversations on park benches.





The Golf Course at Cape Kidnappers is among the world's top 100  
 📍 CAPE KIDNAPPERS

# PLACES

New Zealand offers fine accommodations for the weary traveler. These digs rise to the top.

## ✦ THE LANDING PAD

### The Langham - Auckland

Tucked into the center of Auckland, the Langham is the perfect location to shake off the jet lag from your journey to New Zealand. This well-appointed hotel is within walking distance to many of the city highlights and has a world-class spa.

## ✦ THE LUXURY FARM STAY

### Cape Kidnappers - Napier

Arguably one of the finest resorts in the country, Cape Kidnappers is part of a three-lodge collection and offers guests a luxury stay on a beautiful, 6,000-acre sheep farm overlooking its golf course rated among the world's top 100; the famed wine country of Hawke's Bay; and rolling hiking trails.

## ✦ THE BOUTIQUE RESORT

### The Resurgence - Nelson

Nestled at the foothills of two national parks, the Resurgence Lodge is a boutique resort reminiscent of an opulent tree house. In close proximity to Abel Tasman and wine country, the family-run operation offers organic, home-cooked meals and friendly concierge service to help plan adventures.

## ✦ THE HOMESTAY

### Peak Rentals - Wanaka

Finding a home base is an ideal way to enjoy New Zealand. Rent a home or condo and allow for some space and time to soak-in a region. Peak Rentals manages a large portfolio of properties ranging from studio condos to larger homes suitable for family reunions.

## ✦ THE OASIS

### The George - Christchurch

Situated adjacent to North Hagley Park, the George is an oasis in Christchurch, still rebuilding from the devastating earthquake of 2011. Take a short walk to the Christchurch Botanical Gardens or wander down the street to the Strawberry Fare restaurant for one of the finer meals and best desserts in the city.







Clockwise from L:  
Beach walk with  
Wilderness Lodge  
Lake Moeraki, a  
kaka bird at Cape  
Sanctuary Wildlife  
Preserve, Wanaka  
Helicopter Tours

**BY BEACH WALK**

Take a stroll along the protected and secluded coastline of the South Island while getting rare exposure to colonies of penguins and seals, and scoping out waterfalls and crashing waves. The full-day walk is a signature adventure provided by Wilderness Lodge Lake Moeraki, and led by knowledgeable guides.

**BY FLY ROD**

New Zealand is blessed with some of the clearest streams in the world, and also some of the healthiest populations of brown trout. The average size of these freshwater fish in New Zealand is four pounds, but urban legend has them reaching 15 pounds or more. Fishing in New Zealand can become an addiction and many of the guides like Queenstown-based fishing master, Ayato Otsubo, got the fishing bug years ago.

**BY HAAST PASS**

The suggested route driving to or from the west coast of New Zealand's southern island is via Haast Pass. This setting jumps straight out of Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, the road winding along deep blue streams at the toe edge of the glaciers.

# PATHS


There are myriad ways to experience New Zealand, but the following adventures will blow you away.



**BY CHOPPER**

A family-run operation logging 35 years of flying through the Southern Alps, Wanaka Helicopters offers a variety of tours ranging from small and scenic to the ever-popular marriage-proposal flight. Tours to Milford and Doubtful sounds are "must dos" – multi-hour flights whisking passengers up to glaciers where they can touch the snow, then minutes later to the Tasman sea to dip their feet in the sand and surf.

**BY PADDLEBOARD**

Abel Tasman National Park hosts more than 200,000 people every year and over 98 percent of the park's visitors see this emerald cove segment of the country via hiking, sea kayaking, boat transport and sailing. A lucky few discover the park through one of its newest operations, Abel Tasman Paddleboarding. 





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John Nieto, "God's Dog," 68" x 84"



# Room to Roam

By Katie Morrison

## YRP

### Yellowstone Ranch Preserve

- Nine ranch lots on 753 acres on the Horse Butte Peninsula of Hebgen Lake
- Private Marina with over one mile of shoreline
- Bordered by Forest Service lands
- Five miles from Yellowstone National Park
- Six miles from Yellowstone Airport
- Whiskey Jug Cabin:  
3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms







ast, present and future roll into one moment across the landscape of grassy hills and wetlands near the western border of Yellowstone National Park. A bison cow treads across an open meadow toward the lakeshore, preparing to birth her new calf on a chilly, sun-filled morning in May. She made this pilgrimage to her natal ground, along with a herd of more than 400 other bison, to continue the cycle.

An eagle soars overhead scouting for trout, which are rising to feed on the hatching midges, and a lone coyote scampers up the hillside into the nearby aspen grove. Snowcapped mountains loom in the distance, melting into the Madison River below.

This blink in time has been repeated here every spring for centuries. The mother bison's eye holds both the prehistoric past along with the vision of her calf's future.

Yellowstone Ranch Preserve hosts this ephemeral scene. A privately owned property just five miles from Yellowstone National Park, the 753-acre ranch is held in a conservation easement with Gallatin Valley Land Trust.

"Yellowstone Ranch Preserve provides some of the highest quality and secure wildlife habitat, winter range, and scenic open space of any property in the vicinity," says Penelope Pierce, Executive Director for GVL. "The easement on the ranch protects these values from unmanaged development and ensures that people and wildlife will continue to thrive and coexist."

The combination of open, recreational and developable spaces within the property create richness by blending natural history

with modern accessibility. The ranch is an opportunity to create the harmonious environment of a healthy ecosystem unified with comprehensive amenities, both existing and yet to be imagined.

Yellowstone Ranch Preserve encompasses Theodore Roosevelt's great vision of recreational enjoyment in nature. A marina completed in 2009 provides access to Hebgen Lake, known for its exceptional trout fishing, waterskiing, kayaking and paddleboarding. Miles of mountain-biking and hiking trails surround the property, which is bordered by Forest Service land.

Tucked into the southeast corner is the understated Whiskey Jug cabin. Modern and comfortable, utilizing the area's natural elements, it invites you to cozy up to the rock fireplace, tell stories over dinner, and rest under the moonlit sky.

The Latin term "sui generis" aptly suits the property. Yellowstone Ranch Preserve is "of its own kind." The land holds a rich history; inhabited by a diverse ecosystem of wildlife and flora, with native tribes, explorers, fur trappers, and ranchers occupying intervals in its storied past. In recent years the preserve was utilized as a guest ranch, then a family lodge.

Now, Yellowstone Ranch Preserve is itself in a rare moment, full of new possibility with a plan to conserve its most valued benefits and anticipate the next sculptor who will create their own legacy.

*Yellowstone Ranch Preserve is being offered for sale, in its entirety, by L&K Real Estate. For more information or to schedule a private tour call (406) 995-2404.*





WE PITTED A TRADITIONAL MOUNTAIN-MAN MINIMALIST AGAINST HIS NEW-AGE, TECHY COUNTERPART TO DECIDE WHO WILL TAKE HOME THE CROWN IN THE ...

# BATTLE FOR THE

Backpacking gear reviews come in many forms: headlamps with the most red-light strobe settings; the top five roomiest tent vestibules; the most efficient titanium-coated spork on the market.

But rather than test the industry's micro solar chargers (What? You're backpacking!), *Mountain Outlaw's* editors are giving our readers practical backcountry knowledge combined with beta on some of the lightest backpacking gear on the planet. Weight matters.

IN THIS CORNER ...

## JEFF SAAD

**OCCUPATION:** Chiropractor

**BACKCOUNTRY TECHNIQUE:** Minimalist

**GEAR WEIGHT:** 18 pounds

**PHILOSOPHY:** "The less you carry, the less you have to buy."

Jeff Saad takes his backpacking seriously. He starts his campfire with flint and steel. If it's raining, he heats oatmeal with U.S. government-issue tri-oxane tablets and he once poked holes in a trash bag to avoid carrying a waterproof jacket.

Saad is all about packing light – his gear weighs all of 18 pounds. He doesn't carry a tent (sleeps under a tarp). He won't pack-in a camp stove (cooks over open flame on an ancient 6-by-3-inch grill grate and a 1-liter titanium pot). He strains coffee grounds through his mesh tarp bag to avoid the bulk of filters. He's a minimalist and proud of it.

**"I HAVE TWO TO THREE USES FOR EVERYTHING. CARRYING LESS DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE LESS. I'M SUSTAINABLE OUT THERE."**





# FEATHERWEIGHT [BACKPACKER] TITLE

BY MOUNTAIN OUTLAW STAFF

IN THIS CORNER ...

## ERSIN OZER

**OCCUPATION:** Outlaw Partners' Media and Events Director

**BACKCOUNTRY TECHNIQUE:** Light, technical, ultramodern

**GEAR WEIGHT:** 25 pounds

**PHILOSOPHY:** "I have the equipment I need to be quick on the trail and not sacrifice anything that will help me enjoy the mountains to the fullest."

Ersin Ozer is on top of his gear, gizmo and gadgetry game. New gear is lighter, he contends, and he's willing to back it up. We outfitted Ozer in the latest, lightest gear we could find to see how he fared against Saad and his minimalist technique. Ozer believes sporting light, efficient gear ensures he won't be caught with his rain fly down.

**"SURE, YOU CAN CARRY 18 POUNDS, BUT YOU'LL BE SLEEPING UNDER A TARP."**



## THE REVIEW BY ERSIN OZER

### 1 **OBOZ FIREBRAND II BDRY HIKERS**

**1 POUND, 2.3 OUNCES**

Built with variable terrain in mind, these lightweight kicks are versatile. They were tested through shallow creeks, traversing scree-covered slopes, and tromping in the mud. The best features, in addition to waterproofing, are the tough, reinforced rubber toe caps and snug BFit Deluxe insoles that support high-impact zones underfoot. **\$140**

### 2 **ARC'TERYX ALTRA 50 BACKPACK**

**3 POUNDS, 4 OUNCES**

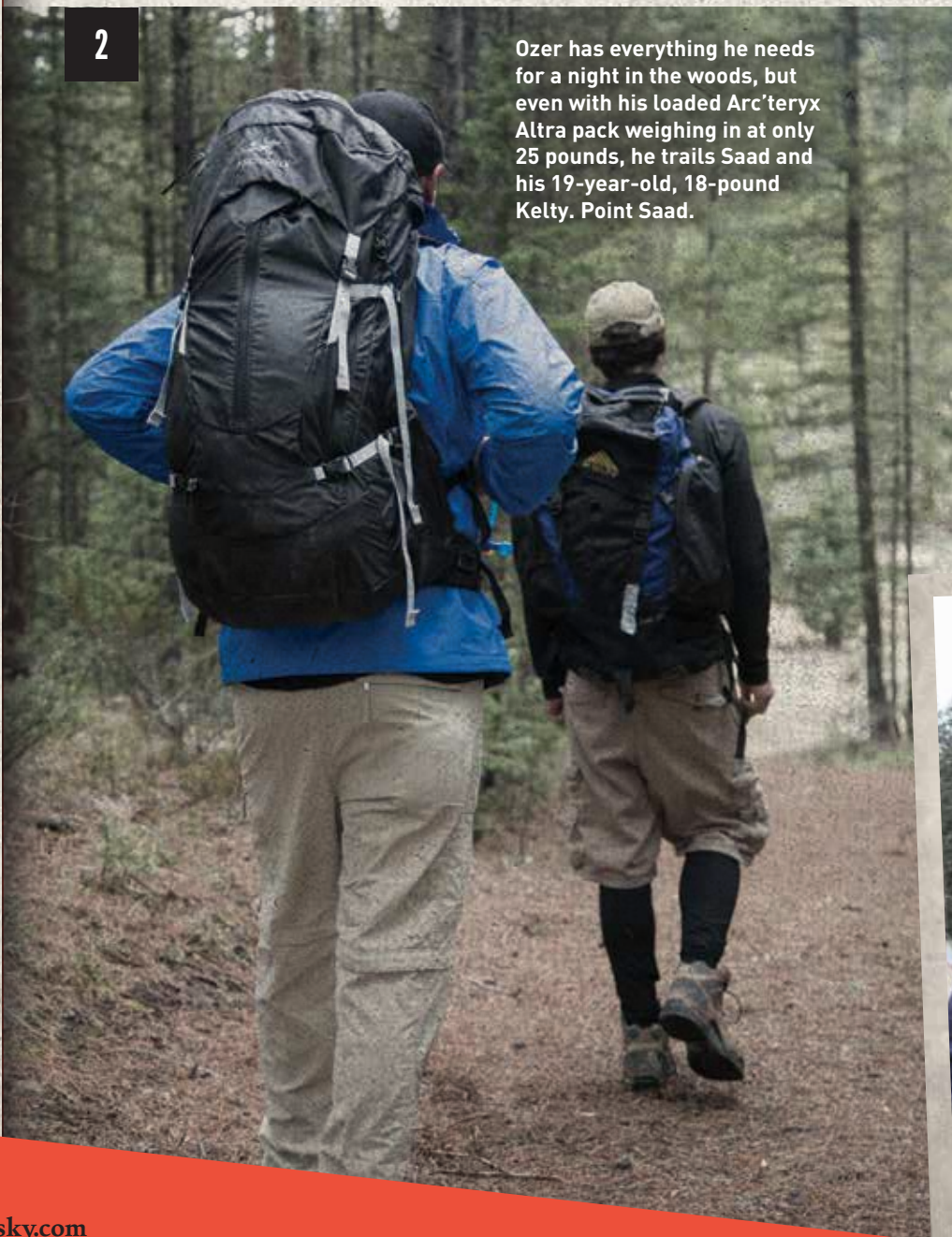
Backpacks have traveled far since the days of bulky, aluminum frames. The Altra 50 is built lightweight and strong with ripstop fabric and a 50-liter chamber including side and top access zips, one-handed side pockets, and a lid with two zippered compartments – and still has room for a 2-liter hydration bladder. The narrow profile hugs your body and adjusts easily to minimize pull and maximize mileage. **\$289**

### 3 **BIG AGNES FLY CREEK UL2 TENT**

**2 POUNDS, 5 OUNCES**


With enough room to sleep two, plus your dog, the featherweight Fly Creek UL2 takes up minimal pack space while keeping you light on your toes for that extra mile. This tent is a breeze to set up and take down, and its breathable nylon and poly mesh eliminate perspiration for a dry night's rest. **\$350**

📷 WES OVERVOLD



Ozer has everything he needs for a night in the woods, but even with his loaded Arc'teryx Altra pack weighing in at only 25 pounds, he trails Saad and his 19-year-old, 18-pound Kelty. Point Saad.





Saad thinks Ozer's Big Agnes tent has nice bells and whistles, but he's already set-up his tarp shelter and lounging inside. Point Saad.

3



4

4 **JETBOIL FLASH LITE STOVE**

11 OUNCES

New for 2015 and 3 ounces lighter than previous Flash models, the Flash Lite cooking system is perfect for multi-day treks and a critical asset during fire-restriction years. Throw in the Jetboil Coffee Press attachment – which stores inside the 0.8-liter vessel – and you'll have two cups down before your buddy using his caveman method boils his water. **\$100**

5 **DUCKWORTH MAVERICK SNORKEL HOOD**

7.5 OUNCES, MEN'S LARGE

These threads are made with 100 percent merino wool from Montana-raised sheep and the Maverick Snorkel makes an ideal baselayer for a big day on the trail. The close-fitting hood keeps your dome warm at night while you're hanging by the fire and it's designed to fit under a bike or climbing helmet. **\$120**



5

Ozer shares a cup of Joe pressed in his Jetboil Flash with Saad, whose water is still heating in his two-decade-old pot on the fire. Two points Ozer (one for coffee on the quickstep; one for sharing).

**OUR CONCLUSION:  
MINIMALIST OR MODERNIST?**

Both philosophies have their place on the trail, but no matter what route you decide to take, remember the importance of preparation and savvy.

Be familiar with your surroundings. Carry a map, compass and, if you're in Montana, bear spray – and tell someone where you'll be and when to expect your return, lest you suffer an "Into the Wild" fate. Have the necessary skills before you head into the mountains. – Joseph T. O'Connor 🐾

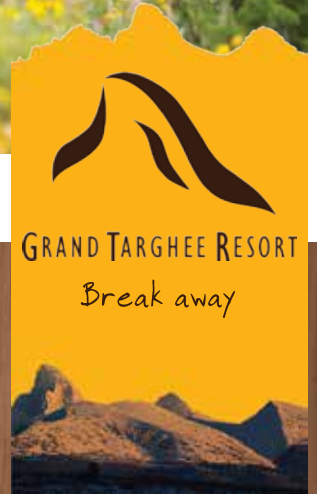


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THE  
-GROWING EMPIRE-  
OF  
**TRAILS**

BY MARIA WYLLIE

Big Sky Community Corporation's Uplands Trail was completed in August 2014 as part of Phase 1 of the Community Center Trails project in Big Sky.

 TYLER BUSBY



**Opie Jahn grew up in rural Cheboygan, Michigan. One of his earliest memories is walking through the woods on the meandering trail that connected his home with his grandparents' summerhouse a quarter-mile away.**

"To this day I can walk through that trail in my memory," Jahn says. "I know all the little roots, all the little bumps. I know what the creek smells like."

For Jahn, it was an early, subconscious connection with the environment along this trail that led him to move west and be closer to nature on a daily basis. Now an avid mountain biker, Jahn, 38, is a proponent of the growing trails system in Big Sky, Montana, where he's called home for eight years.

Having previously lived in the area from 1999-2005, Jahn was surprised to see how little the trails system had grown when he returned in 2013. In just the past year, however, roughly 10 miles were added to the Big Sky trails network, through the help of local developers, Boyne Resorts, and the Big Sky Community Corporation. And that number is only growing.

"We're coming into a period of time where trails are becoming very cool and public," says Jessie Wiese, executive director of BSCC, a nonprofit working to improve and expand local parks and trails.

"That's a shift for our community to ... see trails as a valuable asset," she said, adding that in the 1990s the Big Sky Trails Committee worked to prevent trail closures due to increasing development, as well as to create a cohesive plan for building an interconnected trail system throughout Big Sky.

BSCC's latest endeavor is called the Community Center Trails project. The Simkins family, which is responsible for much of Big Sky's Town Center development, awarded BSCC with eight miles of centrally located trails easements in June of 2013, which will help link neighborhoods and business centers.

BSCC finished Phase 1 of the project's four phases in August 2014 with the completion of the Hummocks and Uplands trails, an endeavor that added five miles of moderate terrain for hikers and bikers. Planning continues this summer for Phase 2, which is a 2.2-mile trail that will link Hummocks





Kyla Simonson riding singletrack on Garnet Mountain, located in Gallatin Canyon.

 TANYA SIMONSON

**“WE SEE TRAILS AS BEING ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SUMMER AMENITIES WE CAN DEVELOP, BOTH FOR TOURISTS AND THE COMMUNITY.”**

and Uplands to Ousel Falls Trail and allow users to seamlessly connect to the Gallatin National Forest trails extending south.

Investing in an interconnected trails system is a no-brainer for developers like Bayard Dominick, Vice President of Planning and Development for Lone Mountain Land Company, which is collaborating with Boyne and BSCC to construct more than 30 miles of new trails by the end of 2015.

“We see trails as being one of the most important summer amenities we can develop, both for tourists and the community,” Dominick said.

LMLC is the development arm of CrossHarbor Capital Partners – the Boston, Massachusetts-based investment firm that owns Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin, and has majority interest in the group that owns the Yellowstone Club.

The partners are working to create a “village-to-village” trail experience, linking the Big Sky Mountain Village, the Meadow Village and Town Center, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, and the Moonlight and Madison lodges.

“It’s a really important part of community building – connecting all the neighborhoods,” Dominick said. “We will continue to build trails as we move forward with development.”

Big Sky’s summer market is smaller compared to winter, meaning it’s one of the most important markets for growth, according to Dominick. Having an interconnected trails system, he says, is a cost-effective way to enhance the summer experience.

While expert, downhill mountain biking trails are prevalent in Big Sky, the new multi-use trails will encourage greater inclusivity. “We’re trying to make it so there’s a trails network for all levels of bikers and hikers,” Dominick said. “You don’t have to be an expert to enjoy them.”

Dominick envisions a European experience, connecting trail users across mountain peaks where they can stop and enjoy on-mountain dining, view wildlife, and never step foot in a car. >>



## TRAILS BY THE NUMBERS

Now more than ever, trails are becoming vital parts of community infrastructure nationwide.

Headwaters Economics, a nonprofit research group based in Bozeman, Montana, works to improve community development and guide land-management decisions in the West. Recently, the group compiled more than 90 studies on the impacts of trails, with the goal of helping community leaders, elected officials and trail users better understand the benefits of trails.

“We got interested in this because there isn’t one single super-study that answers all the questions,” said Chris Mehl, Bozeman City Commissioner and Policy Director at Headwaters.

Four main themes emerged from the studies:

- Trails can generate business impacts and create new jobs
- Trails are a valuable part of residents’ quality of life
- Homes near community trails often have higher property values
- Trails are associated with increased physical activity and improved public health

Mehl says trails serve as tools, helping towns compete for economic development. “The communities that have [trails] have a competitive advantage compared with communities that don’t,” he said.

Wyoming is seeing similar impacts. A Jackson Hole Pathways and Trails survey released in May analyzed Teton County residents’ uses and opinions of local pathways and trails. Headwaters Economics along with Boulder, Colorado-based market research firm RRC Associates directed the first-of-its-kind survey.

When asked the top two reasons why people move to or stay in Teton County, 96 percent of participants said outdoor recreation, and 91 percent said access to public lands.

“Trails are the key to both of these things,” said Lauren Dickey, Education Director for Friends of Pathways, the community’s advocate for a complete pathways system. Dickey shared another stat: 90 percent of those surveyed said they use trails an average of 13.6 days per month – approximately every other day in summer and one in three days during winter.

“That’s incredible,” she said. “It’s the access we have – trails are a core to life here. Maybe you don’t move here because of the access to trails, but now that we’re here we couldn’t live without it.”

For Opie Jahn, increased accessibility means he rides his bike more because he can. “I go out to my garage, put my gear on, ride across the field, and I’m on singletrack,” said Jahn, who lives in Big Sky’s Southfork subdivision. “I can link everything together.”

From a quality of life perspective, connectivity and accessibility are significant in the face of community growth. Bozeman is currently home to approximately 40,000 people and Mehl anticipates it will reach 150,000 by 2065.

Realizing this substantial population growth requires planning ahead, Bozeman residents voted in favor of a Complete Streets policy in 2010, as well as a \$15 million bond in 2012 to build trails and buy parklands.

JACKSON HOLE PATHWAYS  
AND TRAILS SURVEY 2014/15

**90%**  
**OF THOSE SURVEYED  
SAID THEY USE TRAILS  
AN AVERAGE OF**

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DAYS**  
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APPROXIMATELY  
EVERY OTHER DAY IN  
SUMMER AND ONE IN  
THREE DAYS DURING  
WINTER.**



Lone Mountain serves as backdrop for Big Sky bike riders along the Crail Ranch Trail.

 TYLER BUSBY

“Property prices are going up, and if we don’t do it now ... it either won’t be possible to put in a large community park, or we’ll have trails to nowhere that dead end on both sides,” Mehl said. “The days when you go to the trailhead and expect that you’ll be the only car there – those days are over.”

Even so, he says, we need not despair. “We aren’t the first ones to do this, but we have to plan for it.”

Big Sky, too, has experienced the struggle of adding trails after subdivisions have already been platted, resulting in missed opportunities for connectivity, according to BSCC’s Wiese, whose organization now must negotiate with land-owners over trail easements. “Connectivity is harder than it would have been because it’s now all subdivided,” she says.

Even though developers are required to set aside open-space parcels, they’re often placed in undevelopable spots. This makes building trails difficult, says Pete Costain, who owns Whitefish-based Terraflow Trail Systems and is leading the construction of this summer’s trail-connecting projects in Big Sky.

“Although substantial designated open space exists within Spanish Peaks, the corridors that exist often did not provide the ideal alignment for functional trail layout,” Costain said, referring to the network of Spanish Peaks Mountain Resort trails he built in Big Sky last summer. “Many of the open-space corridors follow drainages or marshy areas, which led to complex route-finding scenarios.”>>





**“IF YOU BUILD  
A GREAT TRAIL, PEOPLE WILL TEND  
TO STAY ON IT, AND THAT MEANS  
FAR LESS EROSION OR  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
EFFECTS...”**

Dominick, who saw Terraflow’s work firsthand when he lived in Whitefish, calls Costain one of the world’s best trail builders. Costain helped solidify Whitefish as one of the country’s premier mountain-bike destinations through his work at Whitefish Mountain Resort and on the Whitefish Trail, which consists of seven city-sanctioned trailheads near town and over 25 miles of natural-surface trails, and is designed for a wide variety of users.

But even with advanced planning, Wiese remains apprehensive as the Big Sky trails system continues to expand.

“My biggest concern is how will we continue long-term to find funding to maintain all these assets as our organization grows,” she says. “Everyone gets really excited about getting new trails, but it’s far less sexy and exciting having to maintain [them].”

Costain says maintenance can be reduced with proper up-front design, but that still doesn’t solve BSCC’s struggle to find enough resources to meet the community’s growing demands.

A trails system will ultimately reflect the majority interests of an area’s residents, Mehl says. “The community will decide how much they’re willing to spend [and] where the priority is.”

## A CONVERSE ARGUMENT

Some conservationists, specifically open-space proponents, argue that trails are hurting public lands – whether encroaching on wildlife habitats or degrading the terrain. Private landowners who purchase property with conservation in mind often want to preserve the land and prevent the public from using it, which makes it tricky for groups like BSCC that are working to build trail loops and create connectivity.

“Unfortunately, conservationists and recreationists ... have been at odds on this topic, and I think we should focus on working together because there are plenty of things we agree on,” said Dickey, adding that FOP supports the Bridger-Teton National Forest’s wildlife-first approach.

Trails advocates are also quick to remind us that hiking or biking a trail will have a more positive impact on the environment than driving a car.

“If you build a great trail, people will tend to stay on it,” said Penelope Pierce, Executive Director of the trails and conservation nonprofit Gallatin Valley Land Trust in Bozeman. “And that means far less erosion or environmental effects than people wandering off of them. We get people out of their cars, which helps to reduce air pollution and prevent climate change.”

Once people experience nature on trails, they typically learn to appreciate and protect it, Pierce added.

The education component is critical. Incorporating signage on trails to educate users can help prevent conflict with wildlife and teach people about open space, says BSCC Project Coordinator Emily O’Connor.

“That’s a real opportunity we see with the Hummocks and Uplands trails,” O’Connor says. “We are starting to talk with different organizations to get interpretive panels and more school programs out there. [Trails] can be utilized for recreation, but also education.”

Like building any street, sidewalk or building, implementing trails is about conscientious development. “We aren’t looking to put trails on every tract of land possible,” Wiese said. “We are just looking to create a system of trails that connects people to why they live here ... the environment.”

Ousel Falls Trail sees 20,000 users in a three-month period during the summer and is by far Big Sky’s most popular trail. Whether she’s working on the trail or walking her dogs, Wiese sees how the beauty blows visiting hikers away.

“Getting those people reconnected to nature – it’s life changing,” she said. 

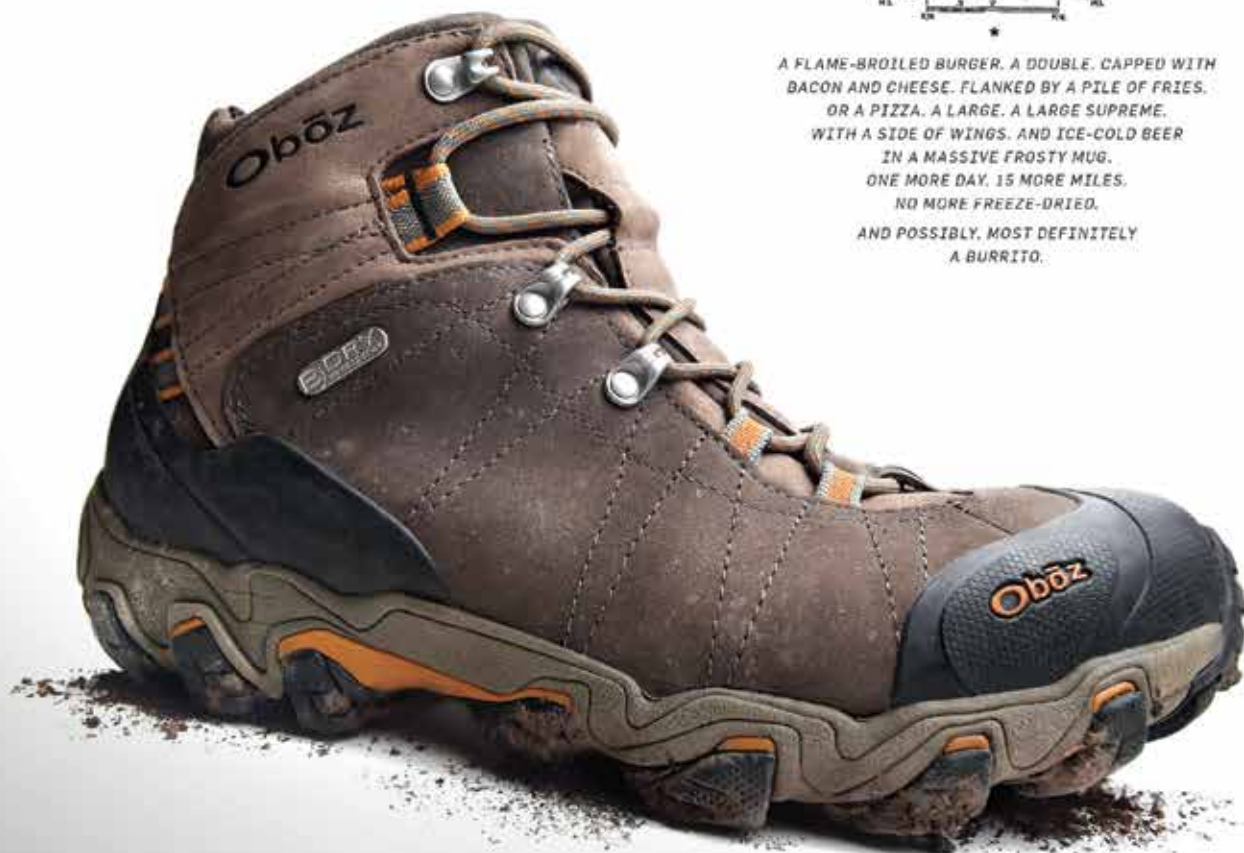




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# TO THE SUMMIT AND BACK

Inside the head of an ultramarathon runner

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TYLER ALLEN

A sea of tiny lights bobs in the inky darkness, and heavy frost coats the grass. At the stroke of 6 a.m., an elk bugle pierces the bone-chilling air and headlamps burst up the hill like fireflies, escaping the explosion of cowbells sounding from the frenzied crowd.

The second annual Rut 50K ultramarathon begins on a 33 F September morning at southwest Montana's Big Sky Resort, and as encroaching dawn obscures lingering stars, the next wave of runners gathers at the start line. Among them is Scott Hoeksema, a 36-year-old restaurant owner.

Hoeksema joins nearly 400 runners – many among the world's elite – for the 50-kilometer race, summiting Big Sky's 11,166-foot Lone Mountain en route. He signed up not for a chance at the podium, but to test his resolve on the punishing course. Hoeksema owns Big Sky's Lotus Pad Thai restaurant with his wife, Alex, and ran the inaugural 2013 Rut 50K in 9.5 hours, a day after Alex gave birth to their daughter Clove.

Thirty minutes before the race Scott contemplates the course's new terrain. "We'll see what that does to the times. It could slow people down," he says. The 2014 race saw the addition of the Headwaters Cirque where, in winter, skiers negotiate 55-degree chutes.

"I think about being light and being like a cloud," Scott tells me. "I've read about the fast runners of Tibet where they meditate while they run ... it helps them run for days on end." >>

Kilian Jornet descends from Lone Mountain's 11,166-foot summit on his way to a Rut 50K victory at Big Sky Resort on Sept. 13, 2014.

"I THINK ABOUT BEING LIGHT  
AND BEING LIKE A CLOUD..."





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L: Racers negotiate the final steps of Alto Ridge, 10 miles from the finish line at one of North America's premier mountain running contests. R: Ten hours and 50 minutes after he began The Rut, Scott Hoeksema crosses the finish line with his oldest daughter, Lily.

Scott was able to eat an apple earlier in the morning, but that's all he could stomach. He ate a big bowl of cheesy grits last night and hopes those calories will sustain him until he reaches the Madison Lodge aid station 7.5 miles away.

Shortly after 7 a.m., Killian Jornet gallops down the hill to the Madison base area, grinning as he downs some water and joking with volunteers wrapped in puffy coats, hats and gloves. Widely considered the most dominating trail runner on Earth, Jornet is three minutes behind leader Sage Canaday, a deficit the Spaniard closes on Alto Ridge, the steep, talus spine leading to Lone Mountain's summit. Jornet will win the Big Sky race in just over five hours, locking up his 2014 Skyrunner Ultra World Series title with the victory.

Scott arrives at 7:43 a.m., 45 minutes after Canaday.

"I do best in the cold," says Scott, sucking in the icy air. "I feel good. Stomach's a little bit crampy ... besides that I'm ready to roll." He forces down some water,

HE RELEASES A DEEP BREATH AND AFTER A FEW LEADEN STEPS, SETS OFF FROM THE SUMMIT FLASHING ME A FORCED SMILE. "THIS IS FUN!"

takes a few deep breaths and prepares for the grueling climb up Lone Mountain.

"I'm just trying to stay slow and steady, not burn myself out." He jogs up the trail and out of sight.

As runners negotiate the last 100 feet up Alto Ridge, a small crowd eggs them on with cheers and a sustained din of cowbells. The summit aid station includes a smorgasbord of fluids, performance gels, chips, candy, and a pile of bacon.

Scott ambles to the summit shortly after 1 p.m., grabs a few pieces of watermelon and carefully sits down on the talus. Struggling to catch his breath, his speech is labored.

"It's so good to be at this point, I tell you what ... just a little more climbing up Andesite [Mountain]. Going down here ... I think this will be the hardest part. This is going to pound my knees."

Scott rises and gingerly walks around to keep from cramping. He releases a deep breath and after a few leaden steps, sets off from the summit flashing me a forced smile. "This is fun!"

The final aid station sits five miles from the finish line atop 8,800-foot Andesite



Mountain, accessed only by negotiating the last climb up the ski trail, Africa.

"That's the hardest part of the whole day," Scott says. "Africa's just straight up."

Just before 5 p.m., Scott jogs downhill toward the Big Sky base area, 10 hours and 50 minutes after he began. Hundreds of fans spur each runner's final steps with cowbells and cheers. His five-year-old daughter Lily and her friend run out and cross the finish line with him.

After downing a bottle of India Pale Ale in one shot, Scott crumples to the grass while Alex massages his calves. "It takes a village," she says.

Scott takes off his shoes to find his big toes sticking out of each sock. He tells me about bloodstains on the rocks of Alto Ridge, and how at one point his exhaustion became disorienting. "I definitely wasn't thinking straight."

He's not sure he'll do it again. The summer-long training is a huge commitment on its own.

"It's just hard," says Scott, squinting into the late day sun. "It's hard." 🐎



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As a teenager, Jennifer Waters taught kids to dance in a tiny studio fashioned in her mother's Idaho garage.

The younger Waters helped her mom teach jazz, ballet, tap, and hip-hop, and began leading her own classes when she was just 14. She worked as many as five hours at the studio each day after school, and taught classes on weekends. Additionally, Waters spent time honing her own craft, dancing with school teams and for dance companies.

"I didn't have a lot of free time as a kid," says Waters who, now at 36, still fills after-school hours with dance instruction. "I was just addicted. Completely addicted to dance." >>

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black sleeveless dress and brown cowboy boots, is captured in a dynamic backbend pose. She is leaning far back against a light-colored brick wall, with her right leg extended vertically upwards and her left leg bent at the knee. Her arms are extended outwards, and her head is tilted back. The background is a textured brick wall with some shadows and a vertical crack. A large green circle is overlaid on the lower left portion of the image, containing the title text.

# *The* DANCE *Lady*

BY WHITNEY BERMES

Jennifer Waters, the "Dance Lady," cutting loose.

MIKE REID

explorebigsky.com

MOUNTAINOUTLAW

101





L: Waters and her ballet students form a circle, preparing to plié. R: Ava Staudt does the "pony" with Devan Miller (left) and Piper Dodd (right).  
 WES OVERVOLD

On a sunny April afternoon outside the closed double doors leading into the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky, Montana, the sound of children's laughter was crystal clear. Inside, eight preschoolers occupied the stage, dancing and prancing, shaking and jumping along to Waters' seasoned instruction.

"Hands together. Ready position," Waters told the kids, ranging in age from 4 to 6. "Do you have your smiles on?" Waters starts the music and the children begin a short ballet routine called the "Magic Dance" that Waters kindly coaches them through, her strong, elegant frame sitting cross-legged in front of them.

This return to teaching kids dance has become a nearly full-time job and

*"I just love their imagination. It's so fun watching them change and learn and use their creativity."*

a new title – the "Dance Lady." "It's kind of funny to be known as the Dance Lady," Waters said, flashing a bright smile. "I'm OK with it."

Not long after moving from Boise, Idaho to Big Sky with her husband Justin in December of 2011, Waters hashed out a plan to get back to teaching. "I told every single person I met that I was looking for a place to teach a dance class. I was just really missing it," said Waters, who worked at Big Sky Resort's Paparazzi Fur and Leather when she first moved to town.

Thanks to some grassroots networking, in 2012 Waters started teaching an after-school program at Ophir School, as well as Santosha Wellness Studio and the resort. The next winter she rented the cafeteria at Ophir, holding fall and winter dance sessions.

This year Waters moved to WMPAC, adding a spring session that now includes ballet, tap, jazz, creative movement and parent-led classes. She also has plans for a short summer camp in August. "It was my dream to offer more than just ballet," she said. "I want to expose these kids to all the [dance] styles."




For Waters, teaching children is a way to remain youthful, a way to share her passion, a way to connect to the Big Sky community. "I feel like I'm like the female version of Peter Pan and I don't want to grow up," she said, laughing. "I just love their imagination. It's so fun watching them change and learn and use their creativity."

No matter the style, dance helps kids with many aspects of their lives, Waters explained. It's exercise. It's socialization. It's memorization. It's coordination. And it's confidence.

"When they finish, they feel so good about themselves and a sense of belonging," she said. "I want them to learn in my class how to set your mind to something and accomplish it."

Shana Seelye sat back in her seat at the performing arts center, watching as her 6-year-old daughter Frankie tapped away on the stage. Frankie started with Waters in 2013 and has taken part in a few of her sessions. "[Frankie] has a really good time," Seelye said. "Jennifer's so good with them - the patience of a saint."

Over the years, Waters' dancing and instruction have built her Dance Lady identity, something she hopes to share with her students for years to come. 

*Whitney Bermes is a born-and-raised Montana writer living in Bozeman. When she's not writing, Whitney enjoys biking, drinking microbrews and exploring southwestern Montana.*



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HEATHER ERSON

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2 ounces cherry bark-infused Woodford Reserve bourbon  
2-3 dashes Angostura bitters  
4 dashes elderberry syrup  
8-10 ounces organic orange juice  
Splash organic sour cherry juice  
Squirt raw agave  
Ice cubes

Fill a wide-mouth mason jar with 3 ounces of organic wild cherry bark. Top with Woodford Reserve or your preferred bourbon. Let this infuse anywhere from 48 hours to two weeks. Leaving the cherry bark in longer will only increase the flavors. When you have the desired infusion strength, strain with cheesecloth into a clean bottle. Add all ingredients to a 12-ounce glass, shake, pour, and enjoy!





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16 ounces Willie's Bighorn Bourbon  
 8 ounces Bozeman Spirits' 1889 Whiskey  
 12 ounces Wildrye Ramsdell's Parrot Brum  
 9 ounces Wildrye Montannassee Corn White Lightning  
 16 ounces fresh lemon juice  
 3 ounces juniper cordial\*  
 1 pound grapefruit oleo saccharum\*\*  
 ½ ounces yarrow tincture\*\*\*

\* Puree ½ cup dried juniper berries with ½ cup water and ½ cup sugar. Let stand in refrigerator for two days and strain

\*\*Muddle peels of ten grapefruits into 1 pound sugar until sugar is fully hydrated with grapefruit oil

\*\*\*Soak 1 cup dried yarrow in 1 cup 90-proof vodka for three weeks. Strain yarrow from vodka

Add ingredients into a pitcher and stir. This mixture is pretty boozy so we dilute it to a drinkable level by adding 6-8 cups of water. Strain mixture into a large bowl over fresh ice and garnish with the leftover grapefruit peels and brandied cherries.

## MONTANA SKY MANHATTAN

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#### HOME RECIPE

2 ounces Buffalo Trace Bourbon  
 1 ounce Taylor Fladgate 10-year Tawny Port  
 1-2 dashes Angostura aromatic bitters  
 Orange slice for garnish, light on fire

#### RAINBOW'S RECIPE

Buffalo Trace Bourbon, Taylor Fladgate 10 yr. Tawny Port, and house-made aromatic and orange bitters are aged for two months in a used whiskey barrel from Roughstock Distillery. Served with a spherical ice cube and garnished with flamed orange.



STEPHANIE CAMOSSE



## COULOIR'S TRIPLE GEM

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Jackson Hole Mountain Resort's award-winning Couloir Restaurant is a premier fine-dining establishment located at the top of the Bridger Gondola. The Couloir experience begins with an evening gondola ride that drops guests off at the 9,095-foot summit.

Boasting delicacies from an ingredient-driven menu, spectacular views, and impeccable service, Couloir is the ultimate dining experience. The restaurant has received multiple Wine Spectator awards and has been featured in major food magazines including *Condé Nast Traveler*, and *Food and Wine*. Executive Chef Wes Hamilton is known for his creativity and raw talent, and was recently invited to cook at the prestigious James Beard House. Guests will enjoy exceptional hospitality, excellent cuisine and outstanding views making for an unforgettable experience. 3395 Cody Lane, Teton Village, Wyoming [jacksonhole.com/couloir-restaurant](http://jacksonhole.com/couloir-restaurant) (307) 739-2675

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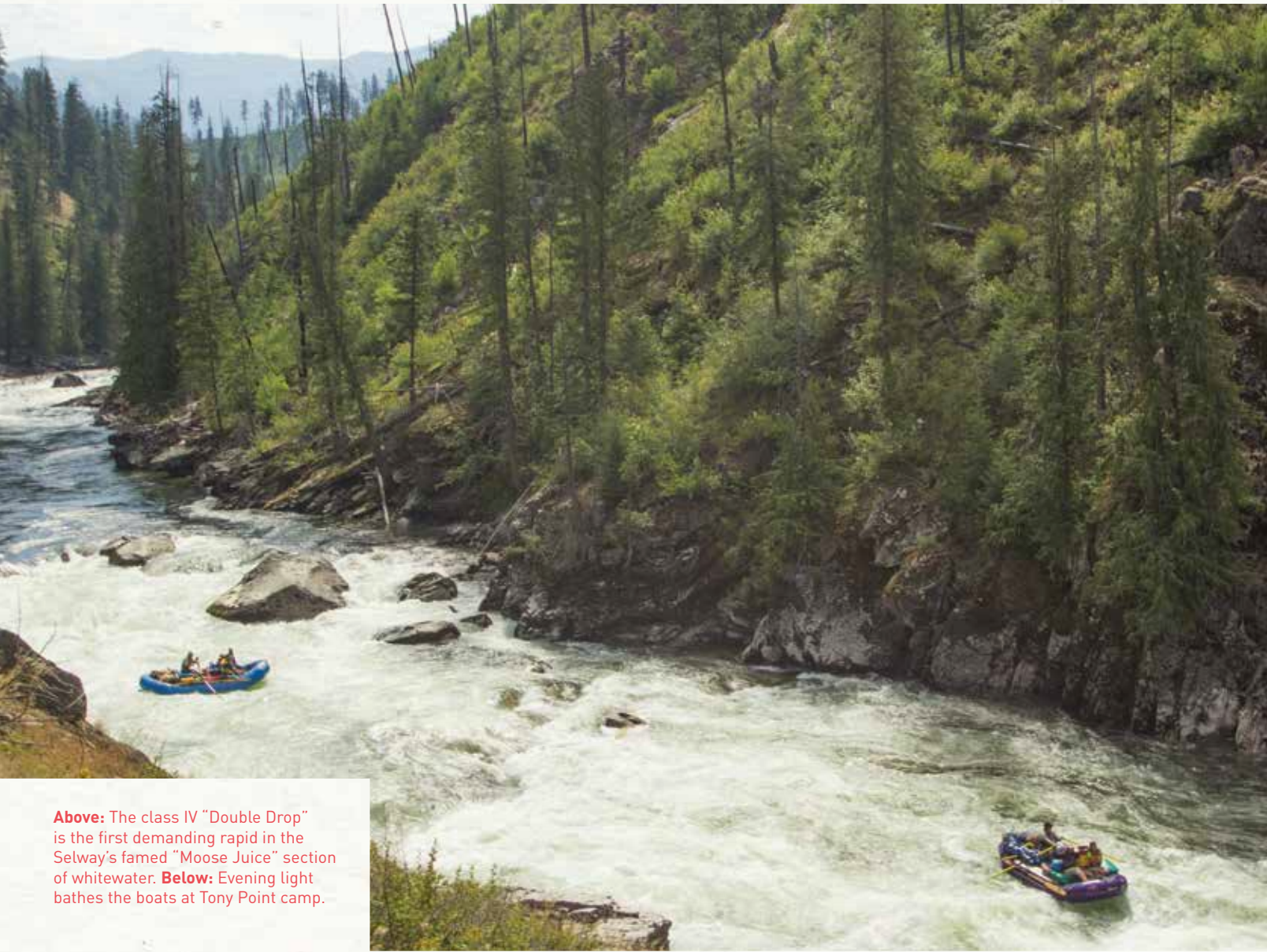
**2 ounces Grand Teton Vodka**  
**6 ounces ginger beer**  
**1 fresh lime wedge**

**Combine over ice in a copper mug and enjoy!**

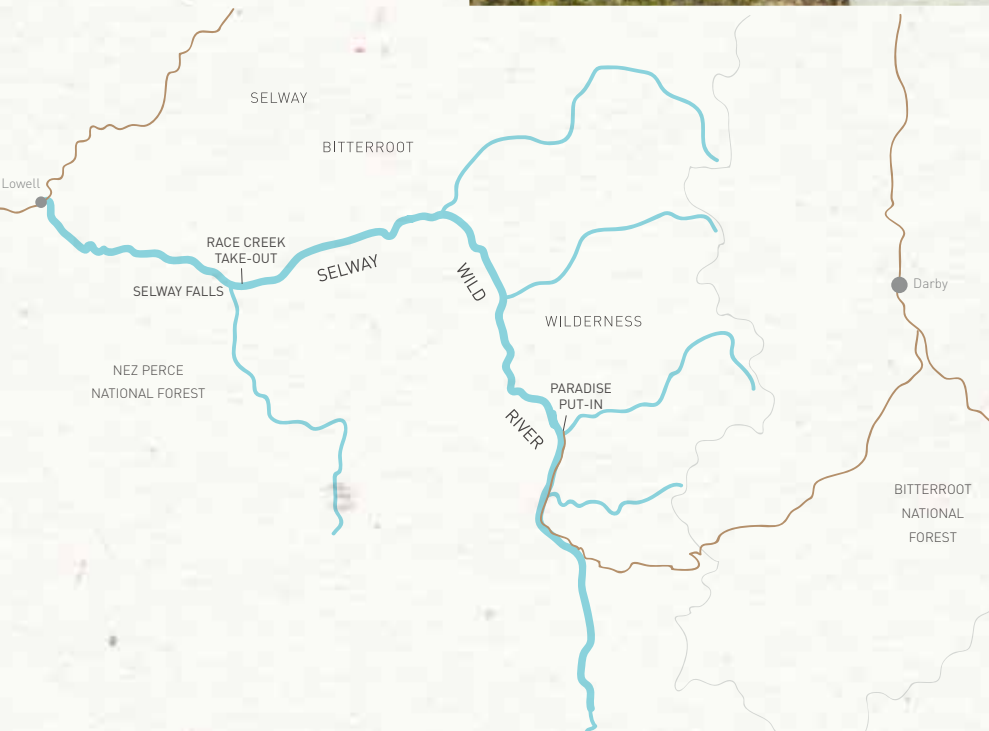


GRAND TETON DISTILLERY





**Above:** The class IV “Double Drop” is the first demanding rapid in the Selway’s famed “Moose Juice” section of whitewater. **Below:** Evening light bathes the boats at Tony Point camp.







# THE 'SEL WAY'

Idaho's unrivaled wilderness whitewater

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TYLER ALLEN

**T**HE ASCENDING, FLUTELIKE SONG of a Swainson's thrush fills the air as our boats silently glide between hulking granite boulders. Sunlight filters through the verdant fans of Western red cedar boughs above us as our four rafts drop into "Goat Creek" rapid.

We're deep in the Bitterroot Mountains, on day two of a six-day float down Idaho's Selway River, one of the crown jewels of North American boating. The 47-mile trip is held in similar regard to the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon and Idaho's Middle Fork of the Salmon.

We launched in early July, at a put-in aptly named Paradise where White Cap Creek joins the Selway. One is immediately struck by the water clarity: Nearly every rock passing beneath the boat appears in sharp focus.

The lead guide and owner of SOAR Northwest, 40-year-old Ari Kotler, told us the water is so pure he drinks it straight from the river.

Our group of 16 includes three other guides as well as Kotler's wife Danielia and her friend; two men in their early 60s who originally met on a 2007 NOLS course; and a group of eight longtime friends associated through academic science.

We camp the first night on a grassy bench perched a few feet above the river. Jim Brockman, one of the clients and an ace fisherman, stands statue-still at dusk watching the water flow slowly by. "We're here one night," Brockman says, his gaze locked on the water. "This river's been doing this for millions of years."

Kotler and his three other guides cook a dinner of salmon, salad and Greek yogurt-mashed potatoes. Wilderness river guides work 24-hour days. After they safely navigate the boats to camp each afternoon, they unload the rafts, set up the camp kitchen, cook dinner, wash dishes, and entertain the guests. They're ready to snap to attention should any emergencies occur during the night, and load camp back into the boats each morning.

Kotler has already implored us to embrace the "Sel Way," leaving the trappings of modern life behind and being present in the wilderness. Guide Joe Lindsay echoes that sentiment after dinner, while we're gathered around the fire.

"This is a big day [and] I want to acknowledge it," Lindsay tells us. "This is a day of transition when you leave the planes, cars and travel." >>



**I** FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE SELWAY as a wilderness river guide in Oregon and Idaho nearly a decade ago in my twenties, and always expected to be on the oars when I first floated this canyon. But having spent little time rowing since my guiding days, I was happy that Kotler and his team were responsible for our safe passage.

The Selway is unique in that it's the only U.S. river that received immediate inclusion in the 1964 Wilderness Act – as part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness – and instant designation as “wild” under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

A limited permit season from May 15 to July 31 was designed to protect the isolated nature of the Selway, and allows only one launch per day. In 2015, private boaters submitted 3,600 applications for just 62 permits. Comparatively, 387 permits are available for the Middle Fork of the Salmon season, which runs from May 28 to Sept. 3.

Prior to May 15, the Selway is often swollen from spring runoff requiring expert big-water boating skills. After July 31, the river can be very low and technical, and smaller boats like kayaks and rafts shorter than 14 feet may be necessary to navigate the shallow boulder gardens.



**Above:** The SOAR Northwest Selway guide crew: Orea Roussis, Joe Lindsay, owner Ari Kotler, and Shane Moser. This summer, SOAR will begin running trips on the Main Salmon River from late July through October. **Below:** Jim Brockman coaxing cut-throat trout to the surface, below the bridge at Selway Lodge.







Guide Joe Lindsay drops his raft into a big trough in "Jim's Creek" rapid.

**WE SPEND THE SECOND NIGHT** at Tony Point, across the river from where Moose Creek joins the Selway. Kotler tells me there's a lot of energy here above the "Moose Juice," a 5-mile run of class III-IV rapids that lands the river on every serious whitewater enthusiast's tick list. If you can't feel it, you can certainly hear it: Moose Creek nearly doubles the river's volume and tumbles out of sight around the next bend, and the canyon's gradient here increases from an average of 28 feet per mile to 50.

We have two nights to contemplate this rowdy stretch of water, spending a layover day at the Moose Creek confluence. A few of us spend the morning hiking to a fire lookout tower on top of 5,300-foot Shissler Mountain. From this vantage point it seems like we can see the entirety of the 1.25-million acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. I cool off in the afternoon at the sandy point dividing the two streams, casting big flies to hungry cutthroat.

The Moose Juice is where the Selway gained its reputation as a demanding wilderness whitewater trip. In high water, rapids named "Double Drop," "Little Niagara," and "Ladle" – a long

maze of maneuvers, and considered the crux rapid of the trip – become gauntlets of big waves and boiling holes. This time of year, at medium flow, the drops are sheer but lose some of their punishing consequences.

The rapids, though, still have muscular energy. Our guides expertly lace the rafts through steep boulder gardens where the charging water uncoils from static obstacles in big, frothy waves. Kotler says despite the Selway's reputation as a challenging trip, it's feasible for nearly any client once the river drops to this level. He guided the river's first quadriplegic descent in 2012.

We stop for lunch at Tango Bar and crack celebratory cans of beer; the guides are conspicuously relaxed with the meat of the whitewater behind us. Large eddies above and below the beach are teeming with trout. Brockman brings them to the surface with flies and artful casts; I find them with a snorkel and mask, gathered in the deep, green recesses.

The fishing catches fire downstream of Tango where I hook a rose-colored, 15-inch cutthroat on a yellow stimulator, then another equally beautiful fish on a grasshopper fly. >>



We camp at Pinchot Creek that night, at the top of a giant gravel beach beneath towering Ponderosa pines. As the river dropped, it trapped a freshwater pool above the gravel bar, where we find coiled strings of Western toad eggs – some would be 30-foot long stretched end to end. Cutthroat smolt dart around the egg masses and caddis nymphs crawl slowly, dragging their tiny stone casings like hermit crabs.


We spend the layover day fishing off the gravel bar, swimming through the rapid above camp and reading in the shade. For lunch, Kotler and crew cook up hot Reuben sandwiches with homemade coleslaw and grill massive Montana-raised New York strip steaks for dinner.

A soft, steady rain begins at dawn on our final day. Damp, heavy air is pierced intermittently by winter wrens singing their frenetic yet musical pleas to find a mate. The sky clears by breakfast, but our group is

subdued knowing that modern life will return downstream.

“The last day is very sad,” Nancy Konopka told me earlier in the week. “After the last big rapid you wonder if takeout is around the next bend.” This is the fourth time since 2005 she and her husband Allan have floated the Selway with SOAR Northwest. I feel the melancholy too, knowing I’ll be driving back to Bozeman, Montana, instead of reloading for the next launch with Kotler and his team.

At the wilderness boundary, the rafts stop at a rocky beach. “Try to stop and reflect on the trip,” Kotler says. “Take a stone with you if you haven’t already. Thank the river for giving us safe travels.”

I pick up a heart-shaped rock to add to my collection from other Western rivers, knowing this memento of the “Sel Way” will be unrivaled. 



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SUMMER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10:00-11:00am Adult Ballet (see website for specific dates)  6:00-7:15pm All Levels Yoga	8:00-8:45am Sound Bath Meditation (see website for specific dates) 9-10:15am All Levels Yoga 5:30-7:00pm All Levels Vinyasa Flow Yoga 7:30-9:00pm Therapeutics/Yoga Nidra	7:00-8:00am All Levels Yoga  8:15-9:15am Core Focused Pilates  9:30-10:45am All Levels Yoga  6:30-8:00pm All Levels Yoga	7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga  9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga  11:00-12:00 All Levels Yoga Community Class (held outside in Town Center weather permitting)	7:00-8:00am All Levels Yoga  8:15-9:15am Roll it out Pilates  9:30-10:45am All Levels Yoga	8:30-9:30am Level II Yoga  10:00-11:30am All Levels Yoga  5:30-7:30pm The Practice (Level II-III) (on the 1st and 3rd Fridays)	9:00-10:15am Ashtanga Flow  <b>Please see website for more details on classes and teachers.</b>





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# RELAX

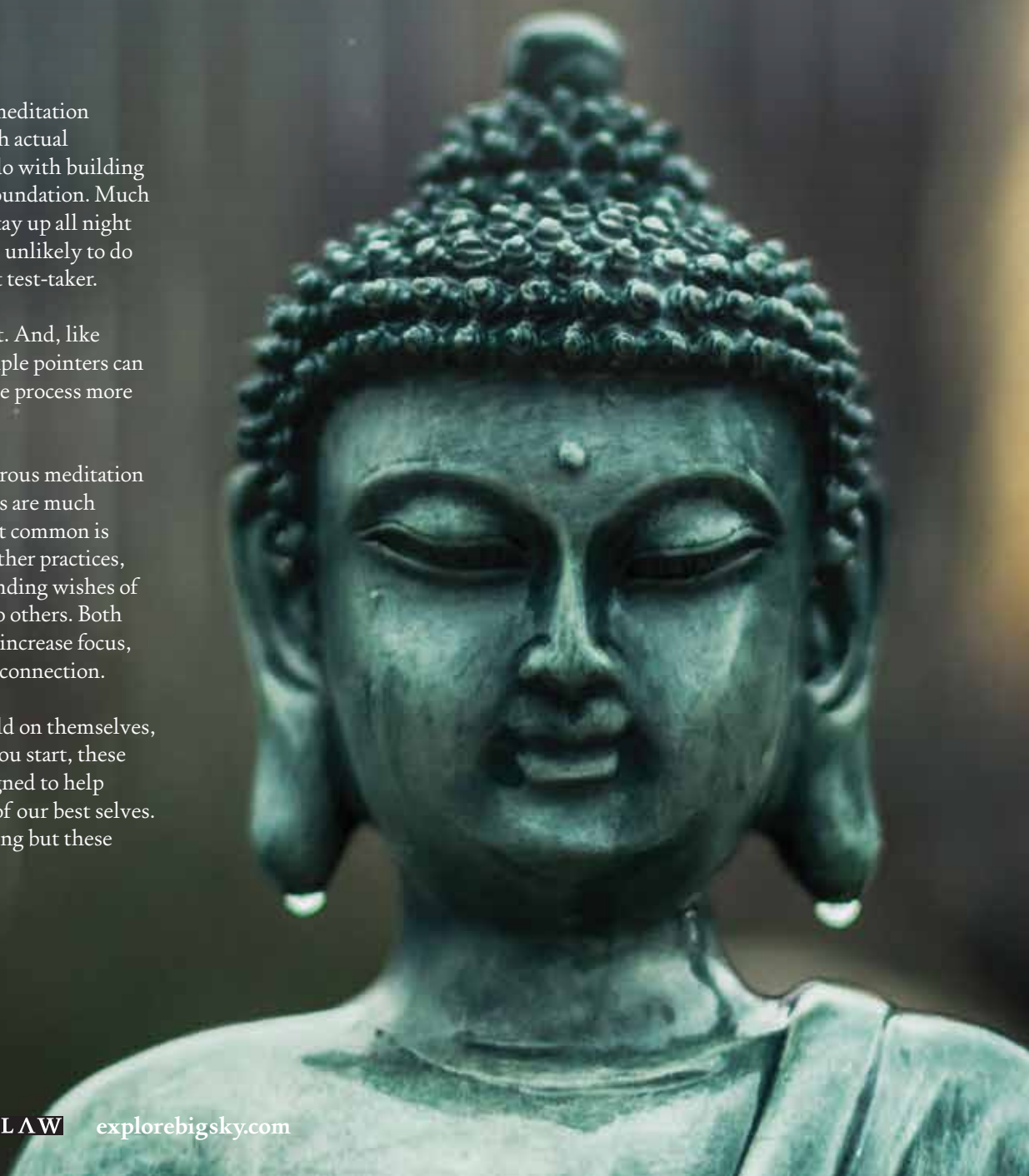
*Strategies for Successful Meditation | By Megan Mook*

Cultivating a successful meditation practice has less to do with actual meditation, and more to do with building a firm but kind-hearted foundation. Much like taking a test, if you stay up all night and skip breakfast, you're unlikely to do well even if you're a great test-taker.

Meditation is no different. And, like anything in life, a few simple pointers can reduce stress and make the process more enjoyable.

Although there are numerous meditation techniques, the guidelines are much the same. One of the most common is monitoring the breath. Other practices, such as Metta, include sending wishes of kindness and wellbeing to others. Both techniques reduce stress, increase focus, and create a sense of interconnection.

The techniques often build on themselves, but regardless of where you start, these age-old practices are designed to help move us in the direction of our best selves. The process can be daunting but these strategies can help.





### Rethink your definition of meditation.

Meditation isn't about "not thinking;" it's about cultivating a healthy perspective on our thoughts. During meditation we're learning to tame and enhance our minds, not stifle and silence them.

**Get physical.** Be as healthy as you can by considering what you eat and getting plenty of exercise with adequate recovery time. Research from the Division of Sleep Medicine at Harvard Medical School suggests that a consistent sleep schedule significantly increases overall energy, which means when your alarm goes off you're rested enough to get up and meditate.

**Be Nice.** The bottom line is, if you behave in ways that hurt others by lying, stealing or manipulating, for example, it's unlikely that you'll want to sit quietly with yourself. Furthermore, you'll find it difficult to concentrate. If you're serious about meditating, be kind.


**Stop being so busy.** This is our biggest task in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; ironically, this advice comes from *The Stages of Meditation*, a text that dates back to 750 A.D. Modern life is busy, but we don't need to make ourselves even busier. Here are some helpful guidelines:

- Get clear about your goals, and let your decisions reflect them. If your goal is being less busy, narrow your commitments down to the essentials.

- Stop multitasking. "Do one thing at a time – mindfully," is a classic meditation instruction, yet in this age of social media and email, it can seem like an impossible challenge. The solution? Stop fooling yourself; multitasking makes you feel like you're getting more done, but in truth you're being less productive. Try checking emails, social media and texts only during designated times of the day.

The above advice lays the foundation for a solid meditation practice. Still, there's one more piece dealing with the deeper aspects of our humanity: learning to be patient and kind with ourselves.

Tibetan Buddhist lama Dr. Lozang Jamspal underscores this importance by asking, "Without patience, how can one ever meditate well?" Be patient with yourself as you learn to meditate.

Treat yourself like a child who's trying to learn something exciting and unfamiliar. Expect to get off track – it's a part of learning, not a sign of failure. Imagine a child learning to ride a bike. You can get frustrated when she falls off or you can pick up her bike, dust off her knees, and give her a loving push. It will take practice for her to learn to be steady, but if she feels loved and supported, she won't avoid the challenge – and she might even enjoy it along the way. 

.....  
*For the past 15 years, Megan Mook has immersed herself in the study of Buddhist philosophy and meditation, living and studying in monastic communities in the Zen, Theravada, and Tibetan traditions. She holds a master's degree in Buddhist Studies and teaches meditation and yoga in New York City.*







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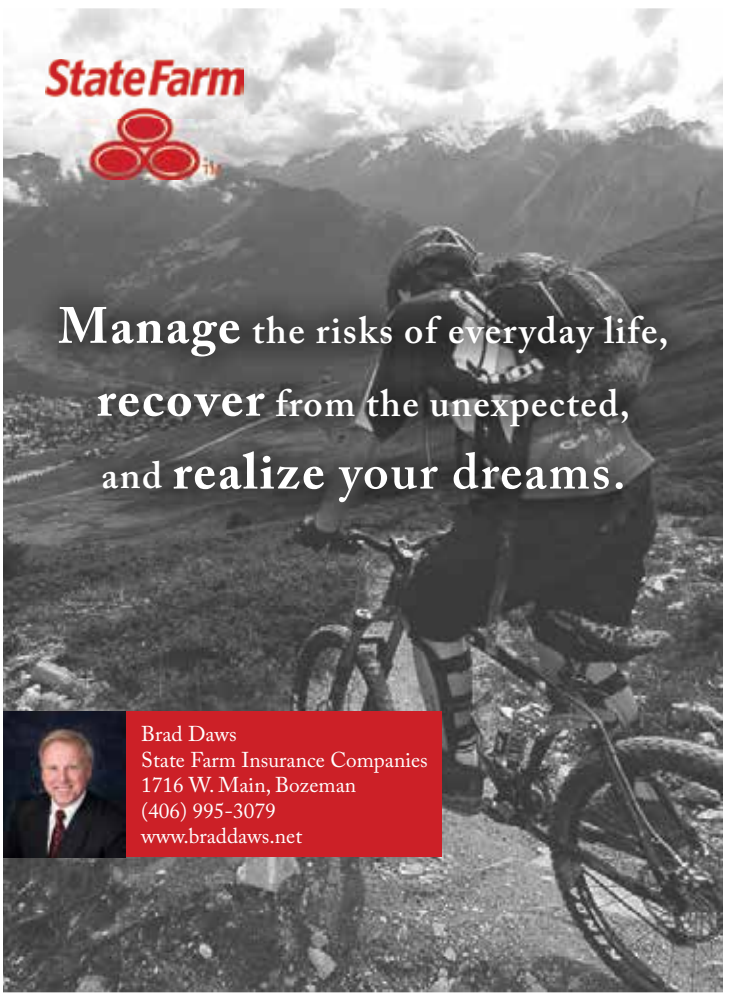
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FEATURED OUTLAW: **LYNSEY DYER** BY MEGAN PAULSON



## Growing up in Ketchum, Idaho, Lynsey Dyer has never been “just a girl.” And to anyone who told her she couldn’t do something, you can bet she proved them wrong.

As a downhill ski racer on the Sun Valley Ski Team, Dyer won a Junior Olympic gold medal at age 16. She credits the experience as pivotal to her personal growth, but also glimpsed a darker side of the ski-racing culture. “While it taught me discipline, life skills, and a solid platform for skiing at a young age, I couldn’t resonate with the bullying and head games [in ski racing],” said Dyer, now 32.

It wasn’t long before a passion for deep snow and the desire for freedom lured her outside ski-area boundaries. “I would totally ditch ski races to go ski powder,” she said. “It never failed: If it was race day, it was going to be a powder day. When I was in Jackson, Wyoming, my cousin A.J. Cargill would kidnap me from the race and we’d go jump off things in the backcountry.”

Dyer says these out-of-bounds experiences were the first times she felt free, finally able to make her own choices and not fall into the trap of expectation.

Dyer found other expression in photography and art. After studying graphic design and photography at Bozeman’s Montana State University, Dyer used her experience to create graphics for skis, posters, T-shirts and even jacket linings for Eddie Bauer, Rossignol and Quicksilver.

An accomplished surfer as well, Dyer modeled and hosted broadcasts for ESPN and Outside TV. But even as an athletic and attractive

5-foot-6-inch blond, she wanted her life to represent something greater.

“Back in the day I thought I wanted to be a Roxy surf athlete, but then I found out that the people they used weren’t real surfers,” she said. “It really crushed my concept of what was being portrayed.”

Statistically, Dyer notes that females are under-represented in the action sports industry. She identifies an overall trend in the women she meets: internal reflection – conscious or unconscious. “Unfortunately, the messages we get from the media and fashion industries reiterate we are only as valuable as we look, so it’s limiting from the beginning.”

In 2007, Dyer co-founded SheJumps.org, creating a movement with business partners Vanessa Pierce and Claire Smallwood to help females reach their potential by challenging themselves in the outdoors.

“Lynsey has always been the dreamer in the group,” said Smallwood, co-founder and Executive Director of SheJumps. “[She] is the one who is fascinated in the idea of keeping things magical and special, [and] – combined with Vanessa’s and my penchant for impactful results – the blend of dreams and hard work really comes together.”

SheJumps spearheads programs and activities dedicated to female outdoor enthusiasts; youth initiatives aimed at helping young girls build life skills; outdoor education programs teaching technical savvy; and a dedicated social networking site where women from around the world can share stories, plan adventures, and give back to communities through grassroots efforts.

“A lot of girls question themselves, and feel like they have to please everyone,” Dyer said. “Society doesn’t judge in the mountains; everyone is encouraged to push their comfort zone, and it’s OK to fail and ask questions.” >>





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It's summer somewhere ... and you might find Lynsey Dyer shredding at Las Leñas in South America in August. Here, Dyer takes on the GoPro Athlete Camp with CMH Heli near Revelstoke, B.C.

📷 COURTESY OF LYNSEY DYER

**“I want to be the Barbara Walters of action sports ... be able to ask the right questions, provide good opportunities to share, and be thoughtful in everything I do.”**

In 2013, Dyer conceptualized *Pretty Faces*, a ski film celebrating the women who thrive on snow. “I wanted to give young girls something positive to look up to,” Dyer said. “I wanted to give them [ski films like] *The Blizzard of Aabbb’s* ... or *High Life*, but done in a way that also shows the elegance, grace, community and style that is unique to women in the mountains.”

Those mountains are a metaphor for life unbridled, says Dyer, who feels strongly about living a life of proof and challenging her own insecurities. By encouraging the women she meets to believe in themselves and showing them how to succeed in the mountains, Dyer feels confident they will apply that experience to other parts of their lives.

“It may sound funny, but I encourage all girls to be ninjas, because you have to play the game in order to change the game,” she said. “I tell them to ‘ninja your dreams into reality.’”

Dyer’s SheJumps movement illustrates her passion to make changes on a grander scale: preserving the sport of skiing, while galvanizing women to further progress

and integrate as industry leaders. The strong women she emulates keep those priorities in the forefront of her mind.

“I want to be the Barbara Walters of action sports,” Dyer said. “Be able to ask the right questions, provide good opportunities to share, and be thoughtful in everything I do.”

Jane Goodall has long been Dyer’s most inspirational role model, she says, pointing to the British anthropologist’s 55-year chimpanzee study in Tanzania. “Jane was famous for what she was doing, not what she looked like. She was passionate about what she did, didn’t ask for favors, and didn’t let anything stop her.”

Beyond her work with women through SheJumps, Dyer feels personal responsibility for preserving the environment, calling global warming and receding glaciers urgent concerns for the ski industry.

“As skiers, we are the first species to go,” Dyer said. “What else can I teach my kids someday to replace skiing? Nothing.

“In skiing there’s a true community - being able to rip down a powder field with friends and share in that magical experience. It’s that experience that I desire to share – and I know it will ultimately lead to inspiration and elicit change for the better.” 🐎





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