



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

Think Big for Bicycles

Cities investing in bicycle lanes and other improvements for cycling should think big, according to a study (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1307250>) published in April 2014 in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*. Comprehensive investment in bike lanes along arterial roads and features that help cyclists cross intersections and help quiet traffic on side streets will attract a critical mass of cyclists and yield greater per-dollar returns than piecemeal investments, the study concludes.

The authors compared the effects of policies to increase bicycle commuting in a car-dominated city—Auckland, New Zealand—and explored the role of participatory modeling to support transport planning in the face of complexity.

“If [Auckland] built a network of separated lanes and slowed down traffic speeds, it could increase cycling 40% by 2040, but adding a few lanes in a few places might only increase bike traffic by 5%,” states an article (www.fastcoexist.com/3034354/the-cities-that-spend-the-most-on-bike-lanes-later-reap-the-most-reward?partner) in *Fast Company* that summarized the findings.

For every dollar invested in a comprehensive bike-friendly network, Auckland would save up to \$24 in return through decreases in traffic, pollution and public health problems, *Fast Company* reports. •



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Private Lands Play Growing Role for Hunters

Increasingly in the West, some of the best hunting experiences are on private lands, according to Blake Henning, vice president of lands and conservation for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Among the reasons: Elk and deer are drawn to ranchlands, and public lands tend to have less active habitat management and more predators, he notes.

In recent years the foundation’s members have stepped up to raise money for programs that purchase public hunting access agreements. Wyoming members in 2014 raised and donated \$45,000 to the state’s voluntary public access program. In Idaho, the foundation stepped in with a \$50,000 donation to fill a gap when anticipated Farm Bill funds for voluntary public access programs were delayed in Congress.

In a number of cases, these agreements also open hunting on public lands “land-locked” by surrounding private lands. Wyoming’s program in 2013 provided hunting access to more than 2.84 million public and private acres as well as fishing access on 96 stream miles and 4,912 lake acres. As of October 2014, Idaho’s program had made more than 1 million public and private acres available to hunters.

A 2012 study (www.nssf.org/share/PDF/VPA_HIP_Benefits_Report_Southwick_June2012.pdf) by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies found that every dollar invested in voluntary public access programs generates more than \$13 in local spending in Idaho.

For the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, these programs help to keep its members engaged in both hunting and wildlife conservation, according to Henning. “One of the main reasons people stop hunting is due to difficult access to wildlife,” he says. •

Multicultural Speakers Bureau Debuts

"For almost 20 years I've lived in a world of duality, where the environmental boards I sit on bemoan their lack of diversity, and the grassroots groups are nonplussed as to why they can't connect to the mainstream conservation organizations," says Audrey Peterman, a conservation advocate and co-author of *Legacy on the Land* and *Our True Nature*.

To address this disconnect, Peterman and her husband, Frank, co-founded the Diverse Environmental Leaders (DEL) National Speakers Bureau (delnsb.com), bringing together a range of environmental and outdoor experts from across the country. DEL is available to consult with organizations on community engagement, management strategies, cultural awareness training, communications and workforce diversity, among other topics.

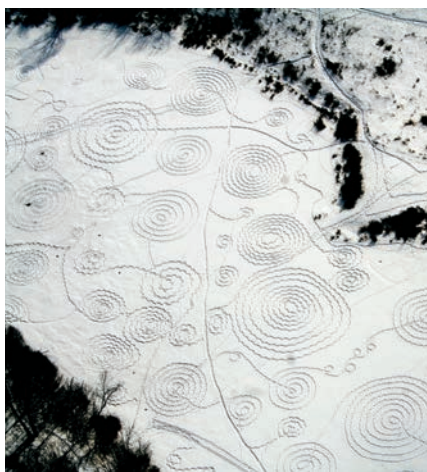


Members of the Diverse Environmental Leaders National Speakers Bureau gather for a training session at Grand Canyon National Park.

The DEL launch coincided with a report by University of Michigan professor Dorceta Taylor that finds the "current state of racial diversity in environmental organizations is troubling, and lags far behind gender diversity." "The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations," released in July 2014 for Green 2.0 (diversegreen.org/report), found that non-whites accounted for less than 13% of staff hired at environmentally affiliated government and nongovernment organizations over the past three years. Insular recruiting

practices and unconscious bias are likely to blame, according to the report. Furthermore, Taylor identifies an urgent need for traditional environmental organizations to diversify their support base to remain relevant in the coming years.

These are precisely the issues DEL can help address, according to Peterman. "We intend to be a resource for the conservation sector. We provide a whole gamut of services that, if embraced, can lead to the greater diversity of conservation groups in a very short time," she says. •



Artist Sonja Hinrichsen worked with 50 volunteers on snowshoes over three days to make these patterns in snow on the frozen surface of Sutherland Pond at the Ooms Conservation in Chatham, NY, protected by Columbia Land Conservancy. The land trust partnered with the Millay Colony of the Arts, and aerial photography was provided by LightHawk.



Book Explores Schism

In the book *Black Faces, White Spaces* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014), author Carolyn Finney takes a multidisciplinary approach to explain reasons and perceptions that African Americans are underrepresented in nature and outdoor recreation, as well as in the mainstream environmental movement. Finney is a professor at the College of Natural Resources at the University of California, Berkeley, a writer and performer, and member of the Diverse Environmental Leaders National Speakers Bureau. •