

May Newsletter, 2023



Our quarterly community newsletter, highlighting all the wonderful things about Crowley Ranch Reserve.



This March had many grey, overcast days with high snow levels... we watched the animal tracks come and go as Spring Break vacations flew past children and grandparents...

When the winds began to pick up in early April, migratory birds began their journey up through Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. By late April, our lakes began to melt and became overnight spa resorts for the Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals, Common Mergansers, Buffleheads, Mallards, and Lesser Scaups. Even some of the shore birds like the Plovers were back.

Now May is truly alive with wildflowers, sunshine, and new wildlife families.

Welcome to SPRING in the San Juan's!!!









Bobcats



BOBCATS

Bobcat / kúpuch

The most common wildcat in North America is the bobcat, named because of its short black, white-tipped tail. The bobcat can weigh up to 20 pounds, reaching nearly 2 feet in length, and stand 2 to 3.5 feet high.

Despite its striking resemblance to the household cat, the bobcat is a fierce predator. Preferring rabbits to anything else, it will also prey on rodents, birds, raccoons, foxes and even adult deer and domestic cats on occasion. As incredibly skilled climbers, bobcats easily maneuver around rocky terrain and climb up tall trees when pursuing their prey. Bobcats are quiet hunters who pounce on their prey and kill it with one bite. These large cats are known to leap up to ten feet in the air.

Bobcats only hunt from dusk to dawn.

Bobcats favor remote rocky outcrops and heavily wooded areas, though they are, at times, found on the urban edge. Rugged terrain, deep forests and caves make perfect dens and hunting grounds. The home ranges established by bobcats are vast and guarded.

Bobcats have excellent vision and hearing and a well-developed sense of smell. Unlike the domesticated house cat, bobcats enjoy the water and are very good swimmers.

Typically mating February to March with an average litter of two to three kittens; the young stays with the mother 7-12 months. Their life span can be 10-15 years.



BOBCATS





BOBCATS





Bobcat / kúpuch

Bobcats have various dens in their territory. The main one, called a natal den, is usually a cave or rock shelter. They sometimes choose hollowed-out trees, fallen trees, or take over abandoned beaver lodges and earthen burrows.

Bobcats keep auxiliary dens scattered across their territory, using them for cover or to keep kittens close by while hunting. These dens may consist of rock ledges, brush piles, and even stumps. Bobcats spray urine at the entrances of shelters to ward off intruders.

Bobcats run at speeds of up to 30 mph. They are more sprinters than distance runners, as they only run for short distances when attempting to capture prey. Their hunting running gait is another way that a bobcat lives up to its name: they sometimes run like a rabbit, placing their hind feet in the same place as their front feet. This style of running creates a bobbing appearance when they run.





What do you do when it's cold and grey outside? You begin an *indoor* gardening project!

Mushrooms!



A plant of improbable beauty... Whatever you think of mushrooms, fungi are incredibly important for a healthy environment and help people in making many kinds of food and medicine.

Colorado hosts the second-largest mycological habitat in the nation and is home to between 2,000 and 3,000 species of mushrooms.



**It should go without saying, but
it is an incredibly **bad idea** to
harvest and eat mushrooms in
Colorado, or anywhere else,
without knowing exactly what
you're doing!**

Inky Caps



**Shaggy
Parasol**

Artomyces pyxidatus



Always keep an eye out for **poisonous
vs. non-poisonous...**



Fly Amanita

Waxy Caps



Blonde Morel





Witches Butter!







WHOOOOOO Needs a Good Laugh?



Q. What do you
call a blind
dinosaur?

A. Do-you-think-
he-saurus.

Q. How does the man in
the moon cut his hair?

A. Eclipse it.

Q. Why did the starfish
blush?

A. Because the sea
weed.





Two silkworms had a race. It ended in a tie...

Q. Why was six scared of seven?

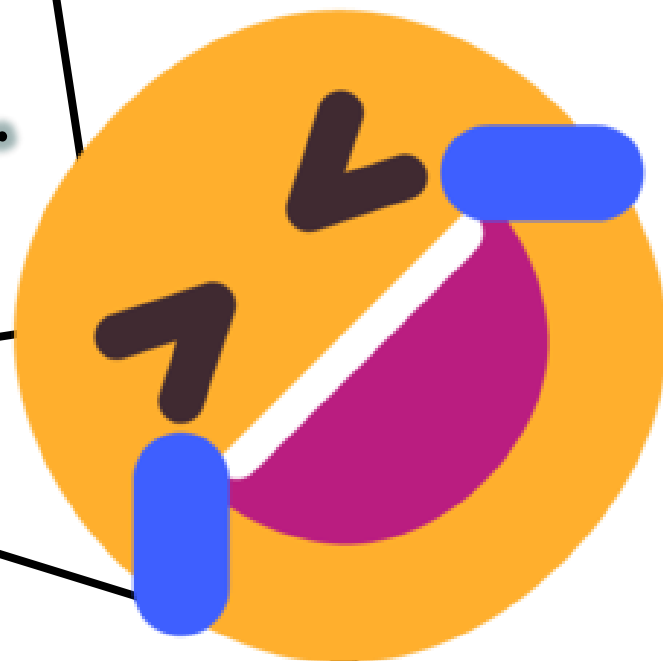
A. Because seven eight nine.

Q. If a butcher wears a size XL shirt and a size 13 shoe, what does he weigh?

A. Meat.



I wrote a song about a tortilla.
Well actually, it's more of a rap...



Q. What
vegetables do
librarians like?

A. Quiet peas.



Q. What do you call a
fake noodle?

A. An Impasta.



Q. What room has no floors, walls or ceiling?

A. MUSHROOM!

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Interrupting Cow.
Inter....
MOOOOO!

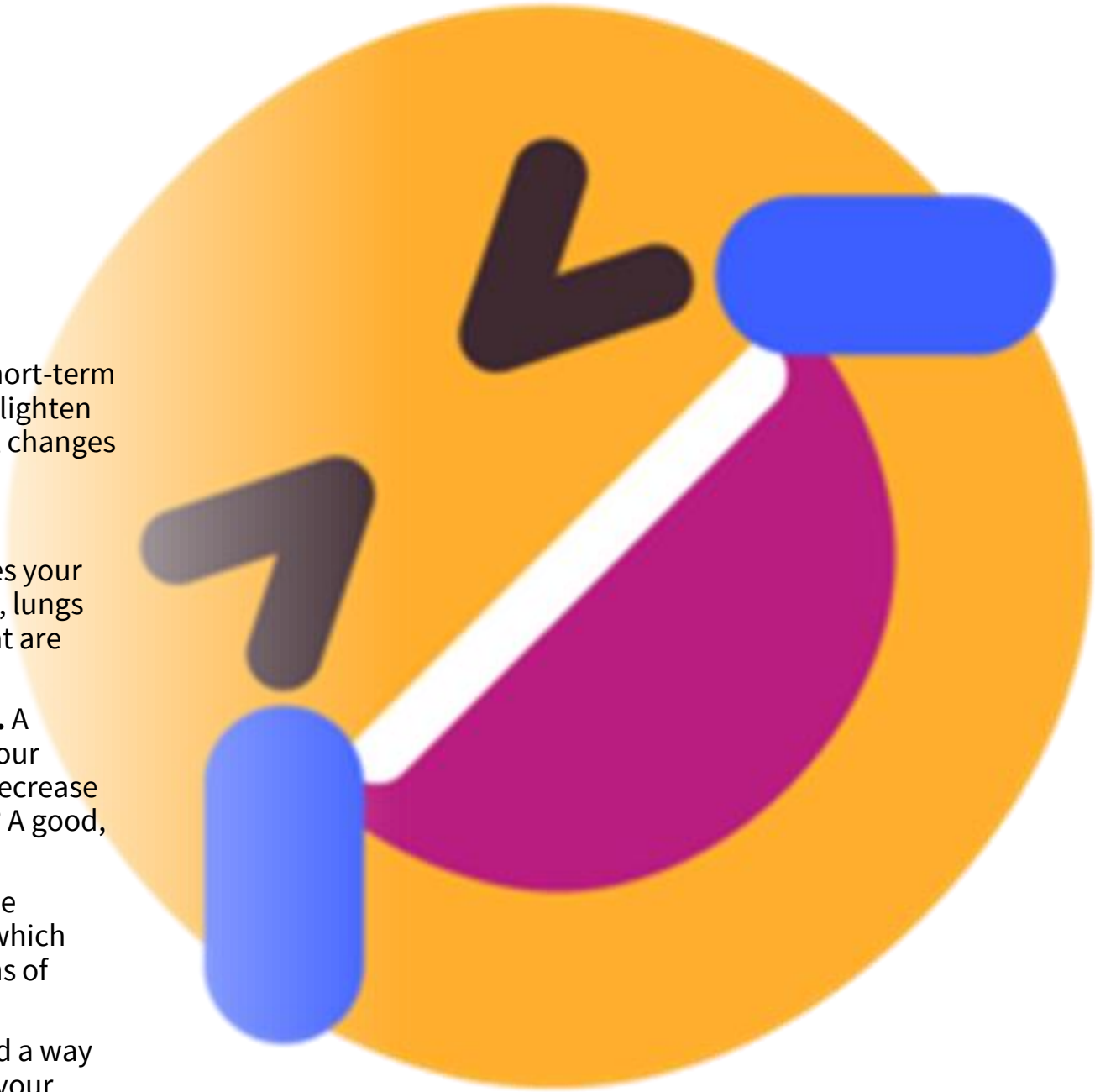
Q. Name three days consecutively where none of the seven days of the week appear.

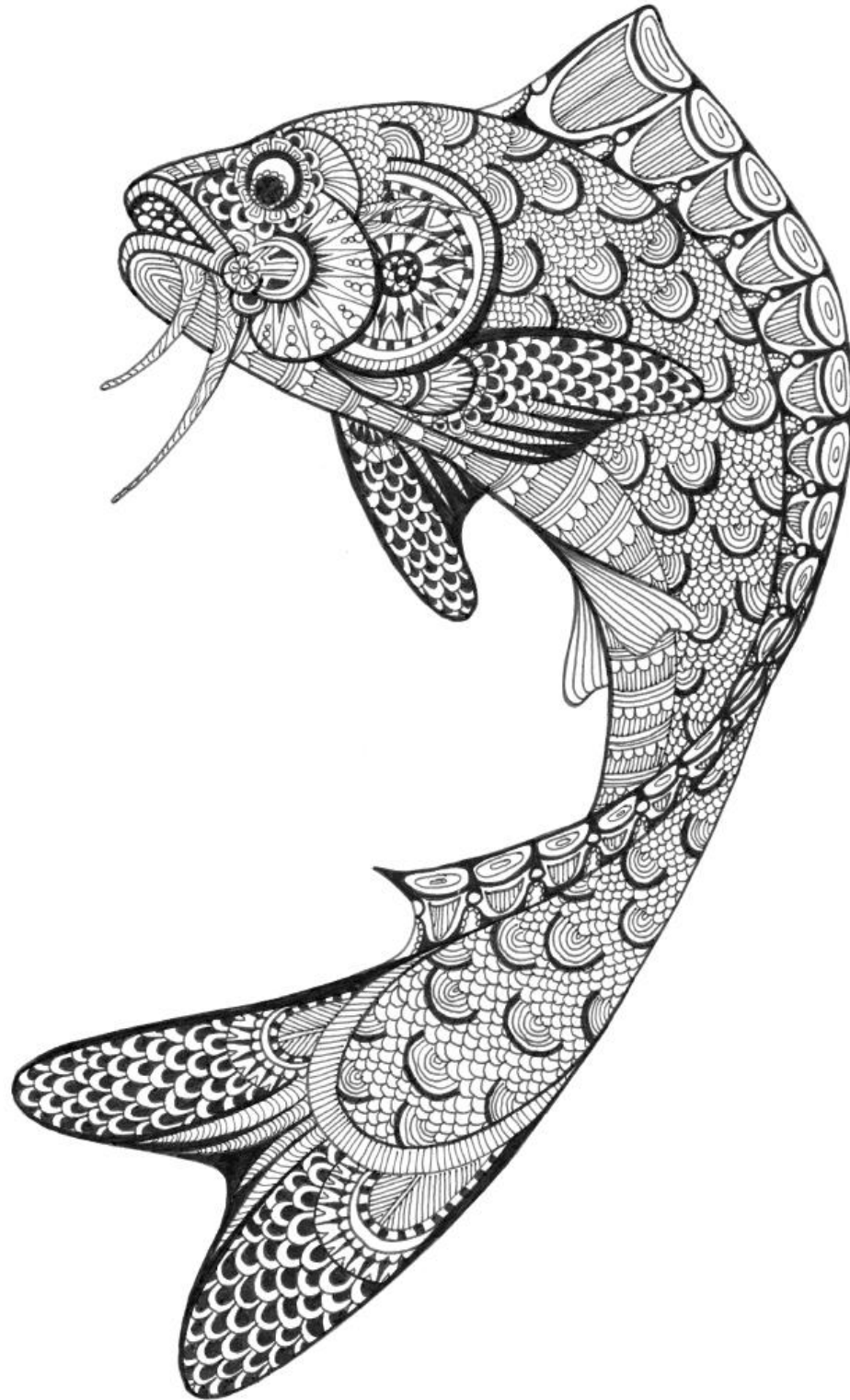
A. Yesterday, today, and Tomorrow

Laugh and the world laughs with you!

Short-term benefits A good laugh has great short-term effects. When you start to laugh, it doesn't just lighten your load mentally, it actually induces physical changes in your body. Laughter can:

- **Stimulate many organs.** Laughter enhances your intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates your heart, lungs and muscles, and increases the endorphins that are released by your brain.
- **Activate and relieve your stress response.** A rollicking laugh fires up and then cools down your stress response, and it can increase and then decrease your heart rate and blood pressure. The result? A good, relaxed feeling.
- **Soothe tension.** Laughter can also stimulate circulation and aid muscle relaxation, both of which can help reduce some of the physical symptoms of stress.
- **Laugh and the world laughs with you.** Find a way to laugh about your own situations and watch your stress begin to fade away. Even if it feels forced at first, practice laughing. It does your body good!







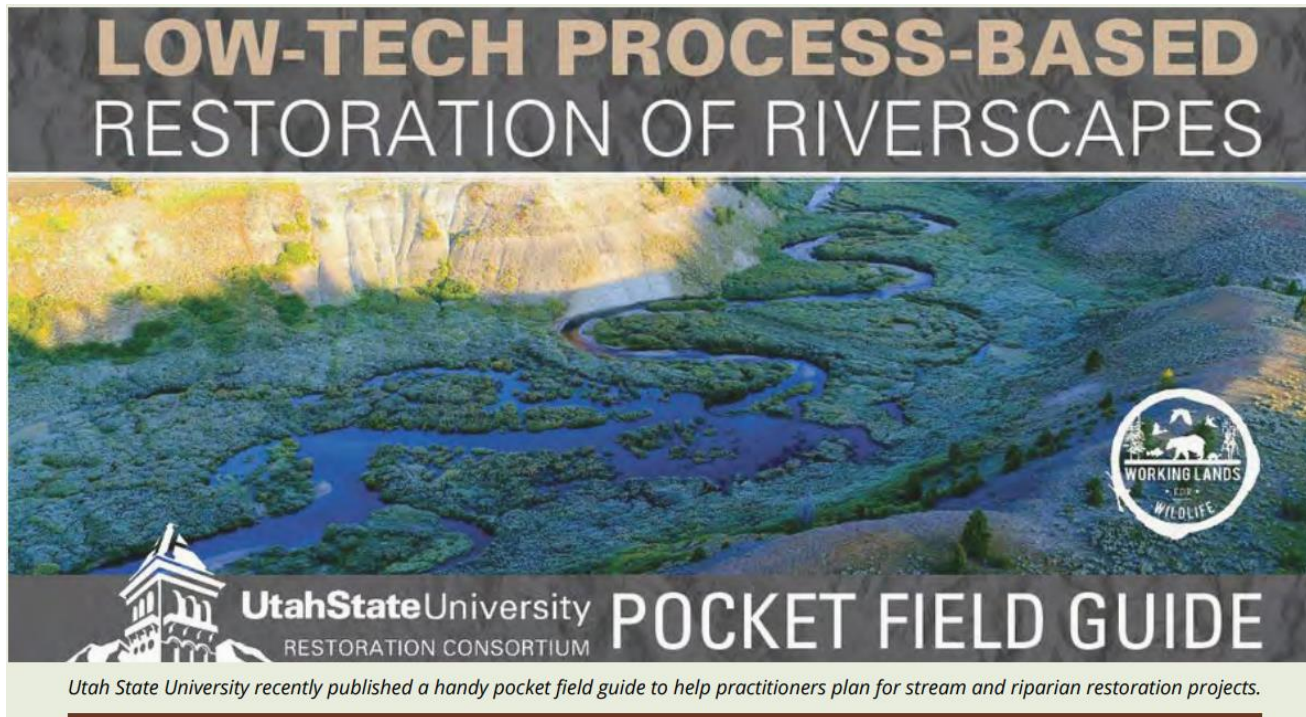
<https://chamapeak.org/project-areas>

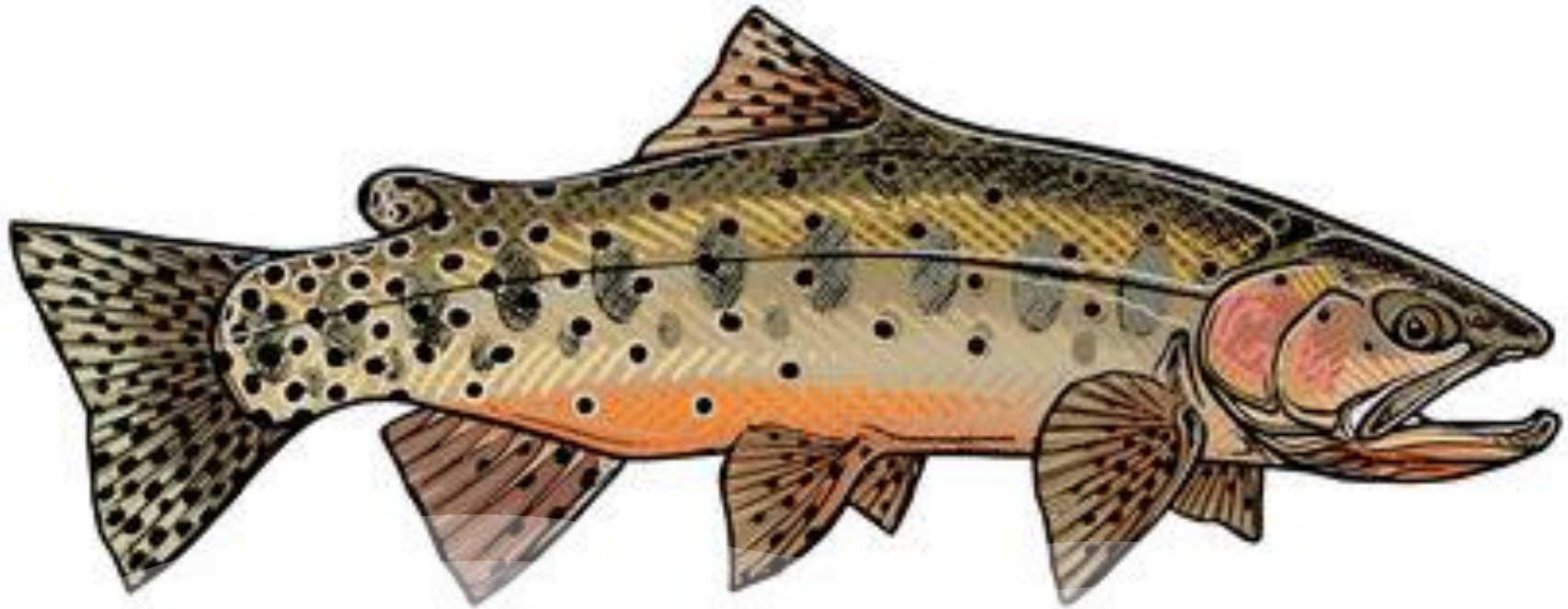
- The Chama Peak Land Alliance is a diverse group of conservation-minded land stewards committed to embracing and practicing responsible land, **water and wildlife stewardship** in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico for the benefit of our tri-cultural heritage and for generations to come.

What's Happening Nearby?

Stream and Riparian Restoration

The CPLA region is home to incredibly important riparian ecosystems that provide crucial habitat for diverse species and supply water for downstream users. They are working with numerous partners to promote riparian restoration in the region, with their primary goals being protect quantity and quality of water, slow down the movement of water where appropriate, raise the water table of riparian and wetland systems, and create stream habitat complexity. They continue to work with partners to promote the use of low-tech, process-based restoration techniques.





San Juan Cutthroat



Hardy: Cascapedia Reel



Hardy: split cane fly rod



Native ranges of Colorado's six distinct lineages of cutthroat trout follow major drainage basins.



Hardy: split cane fly rod

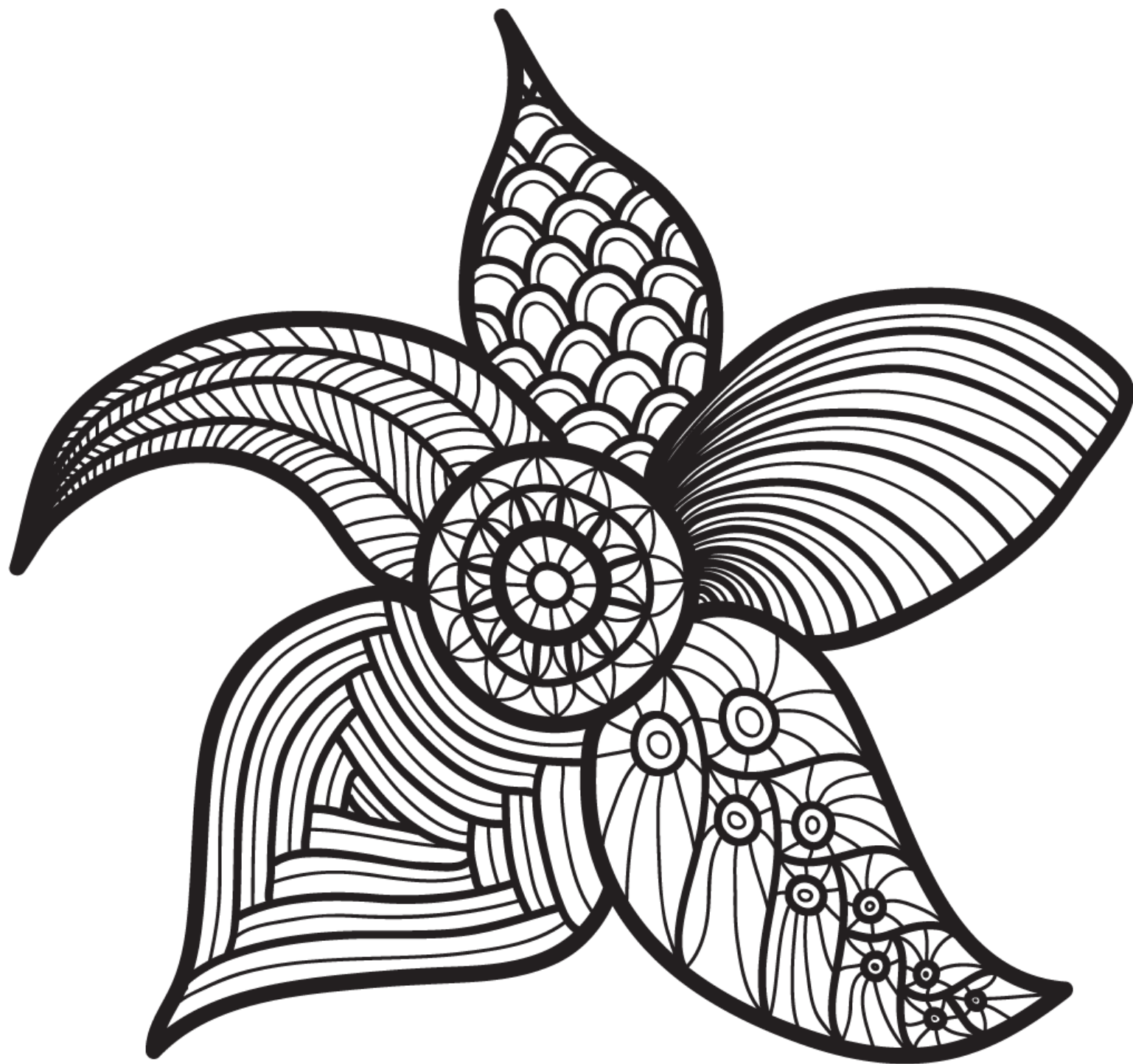


Hardy: Narrow Spool Perfect Fly Reel

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/sanjuan/recreation/fishing>

- **Know Before You Go**
- Visit **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** for the following information:
 - Fishing License: Purchase or find a license agent near you.
 - Fishing reports, conditions and guidance
 - Fishing Regulations including boat inspections
 - Information on **invasive species**
- **Colorado Fishing Atlas**: Interactive mapping tool offered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife to search for fishing opportunities by species, specific interest or proximity to your home or destination.
- **Colorado Fishing Guide**: Download the most current issue.
- For additional questions, contact the local Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 970-247-0855.

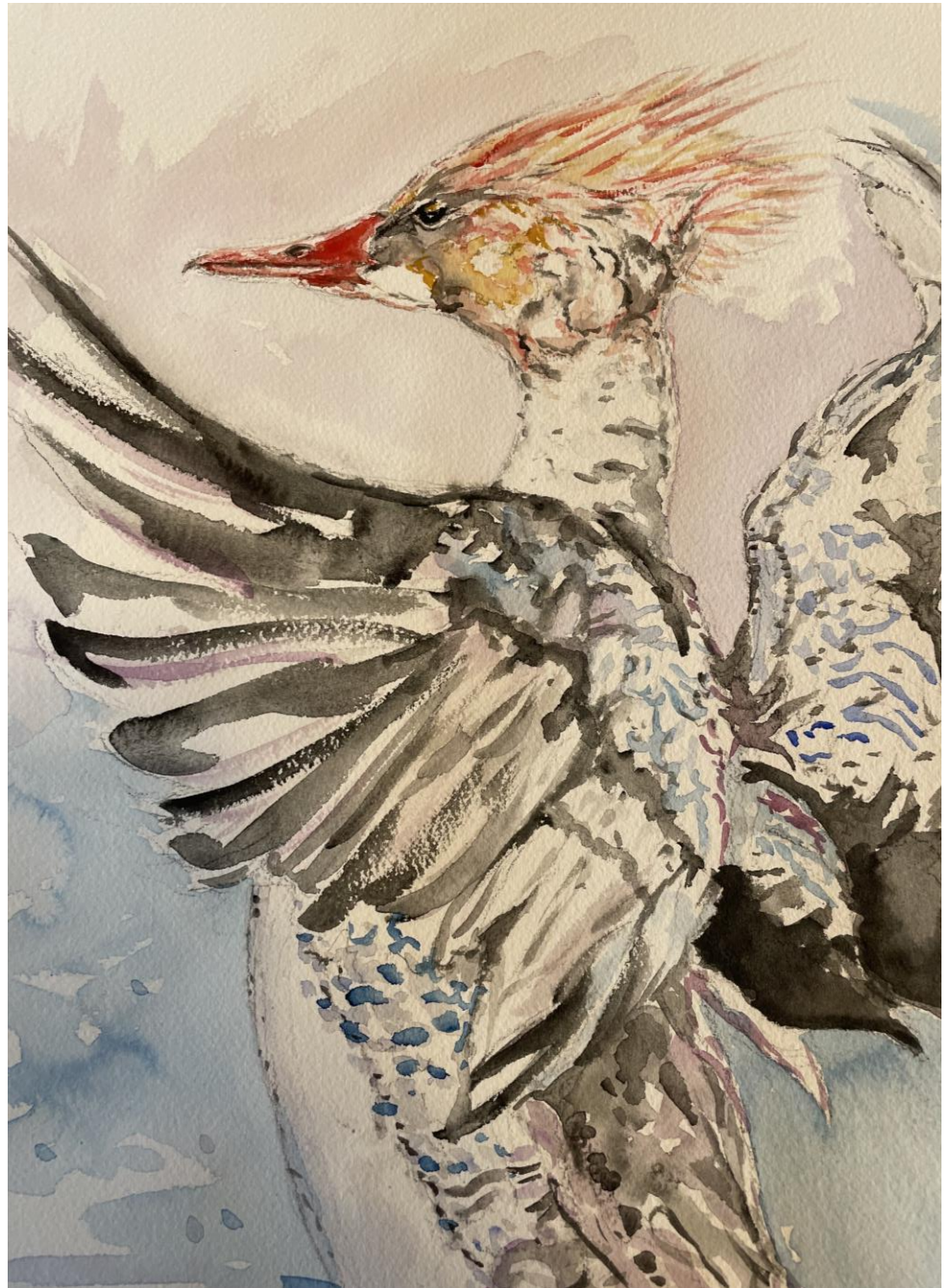






**Welcome Catrinka
Randall & and her
husband, Randall
Balmer, our newest
neighbors.**

**Excited to have you
here!**





<https://www.catrinka.art/about>





Let's Hit the Road!!

Where to find some of the best ancient sites, ruins and petroglyphs in the American Southwest...

1. Mesa Verde is one of the best-preserved pieces of ancient history in the U.S.
2. Known as the “world’s longest art gallery” Nine Mile Canyon has some of the best Indian rock art in the country, dating back 1,000 years.
3. One of the most impressive Native American sites in the entire U.S. and a true hidden gem, River House is a multi-room cliff dwelling that can only be reached by river.
4. Navajo people have continuously lived in Canyon De Chelly for 5,000 years; the surrounding landscape with its sandstone spires and towering canyon walls is so beautiful!
5. In the remote Chaco Canyon you’ll find the remains of a sweeping community that was said to be the trade and spiritual center of the Ancient Puebloan culture.



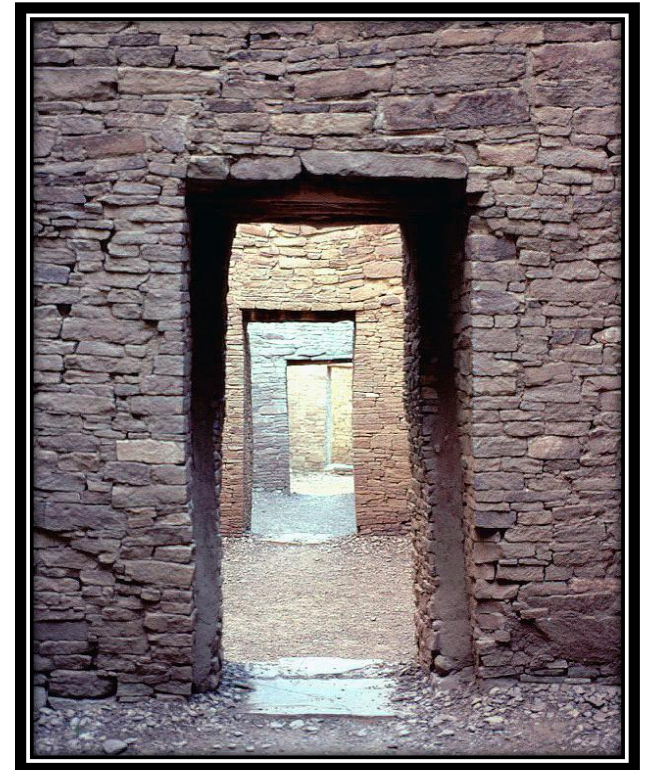


Thank You!

- ❖ “Ahéhee’ = Jicarilla Apache
- ❖ Tog'oiak'= Ute Mountain Ute

Native greetings in the tribal languages of Colorado:

- ❖ Apache (Jicarilla): Dá nzh! (pronounced "dahn-zhone")
- ❖ Arapaho: Hebe! (pronounced "heh-beh")
- ❖ Cheyenne: Haáhe! (pronounced "hah-heh")
- ❖ Comanche: Maruawe! (pronounced "mah-ruh-ah-way")
- ❖ Kiowa: Hacho! (pronounced "hah-cho")
- ❖ Navajo: Yá'át'ééh! (pronounced "yah-ah-t-ay")
- ❖ Shoshone: Behne! (pronounced "buh-nuh")
- ❖ Ute: Maiku! (pronounced "my-kuh")



Show us what you got!

Send in your best 3 pictures, per quarter, for any category, so at least one may be included.

Pictures are due by the middle of each month listed:

➤ February ➤ May ➤ August ➤ November

Email: Dawn Olson, dgodawn@gmail.com

