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#1 FROM MacNeil

Local man is a "city rancher"

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CHEYENNE – Karl Zunker's battered pickup truck creeps along the jagged two-track along a valley at the Belvoir Ranch.

The morning has taken a detour for the city's ranch manager. He must gather up all the weed killer he can find so

the sprayer aircraft can continue its work spraying the western pastures for a plant that's deadly to cattle.

The pickup is dwarfed by the hills that heave high above, hills nearly as green as a golf course, very unusual for midsummer. Below, an occasional cottonwood clings to the bank of Lone-tree Creek, which is still fat with water – it would normally be shrunken to a trickle by now.

Away from the interstate, it's easy to imagine this is how Cheyenne looked 200 years ago, before the railroad tracks, the depot, the houses, the capital, the viaducts, the Greenway. But on this acreage are rem-



Karl Zunker, ranch manager of the city-owned Belvoir Ranch, drives his truck as he checks on cattle last month. Aaron Ontiveroz/staff

nants of American Indian teepees, General Pershing's ranch and homesteads.

The city bought the ranch in 2003 from the owner of Major League Baseball's Colorado Rockies as a possible landfill site and to build new wells for the city's water supply. These purposes do not oppose each other as

much as one might think – the ranch is 13 miles long and more than 18,000 acres, larger than the city itself.

The city still must build water lines and settle the landfill question. A cleanup of trichloroethylene found near the former Atlas Missile site – also on the ranch-land – is under way.

Meanwhile, the general public cannot set foot on its lands but the city leases it for grazing. It's Zunker's job to maintain the fences and make sure the yearlings are getting water, among other things.

In the winter, he works for the city's public works de

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will provide information about the scope and design. EPA will solicit comments on the draft study plan. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Denver Marriott, 1900 S. Syracuse St., Denver. The public are asked to pre-register before the meeting at www.cadmusweb.com or by calling 1-800-441-1000. Toll-free.

Manufacturing is a well-stimulated industry. To maximize the extraction of underground resources – oil, natural gas and geothermal – pumping fracturing fluids (water with additives) and sand or other similar rock formations, fractures are created. Natural gas or oil flows from these fractures to a production well for

It plays a key role in our nation's energy future and hydraulic fracturing is essential to accessing this vital resource. However, concerns have been raised about the potential of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water health and the environment. To address these concerns, EPA announced in 2011 a study of the potential adverse impacts hydraulic fracturing may have on drink-

COLO Tree removal along Colorado trail

Workers are beginning to cut down dead and dying trees along the Colorado Trail. The U.S. Forest Service says the tree removal project will continue into next week. The project is happening in the area of Tennessee Pass. Forest Service crews are available due to a lull in the work. Crews from Pueblo will be working on the trees with chainsaws.

Dead trees pose a danger because they can fall. The Colorado Trail is a popular hiking route. The epidemic has spread to more than 100 miles in the state since 1996.

He City took over leases

McMorris did not own the ranch he rented the grazing rights only.