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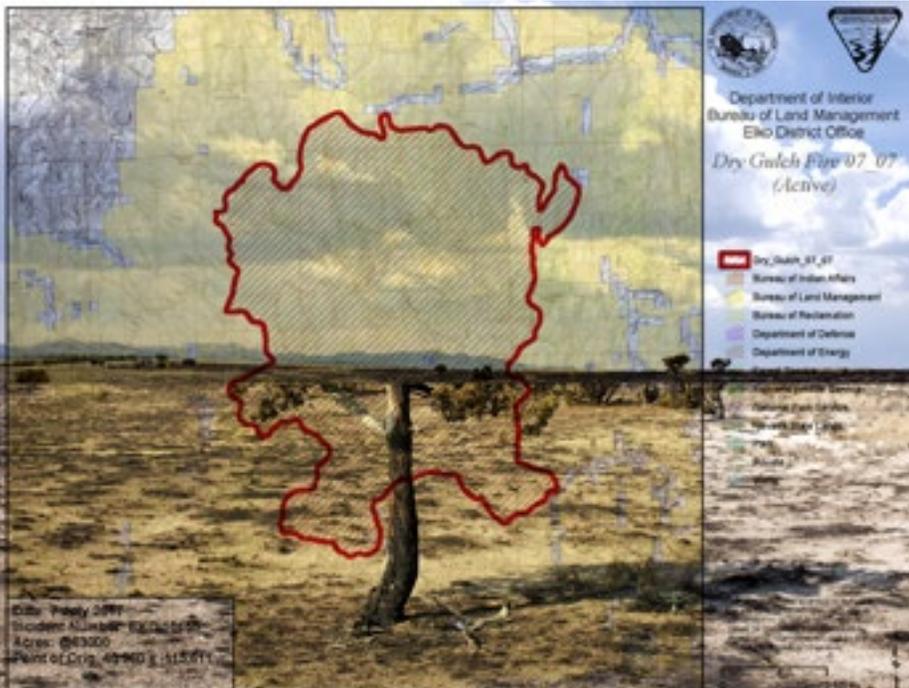


The Montello Foundation Residency was awesomely productive time. For two weeks our work expanded into the freedom and openness of the desert, and the freedom and openness of a day unwired, unplugged, unscheduled, and with no distractions (save for an occasional critter). At the same time, being out in the desert for two weeks in July is a challenging, humbling experience for two people used to living by the rhythms of a city, a clock, a social network. You fold your waking-working-sleeping patterns into a rhythm crafted by the day: arise with the pack rat on the porch around 3:30 in the morning, just before sunrise, and get to work. Usually reading one of the impeccably matched books - Basin and Range, Sagebrush



Doxology (2), 2017

fire-lines, 2017



Desert: landscapes within and without - in the cabin's small library as a start to the day. By 2 pm it is 115° inside the house and the brain insists the work must stop. You lie on the studio floor, melting into the plywood, melting into a nap. Arising for a cooling shower and the setting sun, a walk through the coyote landscape, a glimpse of a jackrabbit, elk, antelope pack, brings you into the cool of the evening. The birds are working. You return to the studio to shake a few more thoughts into the world. It rains for ten minutes and it's enough to raise the rain gauge measuring the underground cistern a percentage point. The rain monitor is a clock that moves in both directions.

Le Corbusier designed "machines for living." The house in Montello is a machine for creating, designing, making, thinking. With its solar and rain catchment, it breathes a life support that enables a daily observation of the environment. From the porch you can see 360° and at least 20 miles in every direction. In all that space there is no sign of another human dwelling though we learn that the strip of cleared sand just a few miles from us is the underneath trail of a gas pipeline: the desert remade into a machine for delivering energy.

Midway through our stay, a lightning storm ignites a couple hundred acres of the desert to the west, and to the northeast we could see the flames of a 64,000 acre blaze. And there we are making work about climate change while in the distance the desert, drier than usual perhaps after a record heat and drought, was on fire.