



The Blue Marble is the first fully illuminated photograph of Earth taken from outer space in 1972 by the Apollo 17 crew as they returned to Earth.
NASA/Courtesy photo

“The Blue Marble” is the first fully illuminated photograph of Earth taken from outer space in 1972 by the Apollo 17 crew as they returned to Earth.

passed and some old ones resurrected and refurbished. “The Blue Marble” is still, 54 years later, the

The crew of Apollo 17 — Gene Cernan, Harrison Schmitt, and Ronald Evans — did not set out to create “The Blue Marble” remains a world-changing image of beauty, reflecting scientific fact and human capabilities. When first seen, people experience shock, disorientation, and new perspectives on our home, our planet. We wobble, tilt, and speed around the sun on a fragile and astonishingly beautiful sphere, through approximately half a century, the Earth’s delicate fragility has become painfully evident. Not only environmental but the stability of all systems on the planet.

It is impossible to look at “The Blue Marble” and separate it from the urgency of today’s climate crisis. Our life-support system is finite, and the photo shows a beautiful world in peril. Over 50 years after this image, we can revisit it and hope that regenerative food production can feed the nearly 10 billion people on earth, reverse biodiversity loss, so we can live in peace for the future — on an earth full of variety and abundance.

“Get Wild” publishes on Fridays in the Summit Daily News. Joyce Mosher is a long-time Breckenridge resident and a member of the Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance, an all-volunteer nonprofit that helps the U.S. Forest Service manage public lands in Eagle and Summit counties. For more information, visit EagleSummitWilderness.org.



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