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The Montello residency is precisely located at the geographical center of the portfolio I am developing, “Chinook;The Ice Eater.” Chinook is focused on the tensions around the melancholy mythologies, dreams, and often clumsy efforts by men to tame and prosper within this landscape. My time at Montello allowed me to wander the highways and backroads looking for relics and vistas that might aid in reveal-

*Homestead and Mirror, Loray, NV, 2018*



*Abandoned Homes and Pilot Peak, Montello, NV, 2018*

ing this story. This residency also put me in proximity to locals who were a wealth of information, oral history, and tips on pursuing my creative research.

Chinook winds are dry, warm, down-slope, foehn winds that occur on the lee side of mountain ranges in the interior West of North America. Chinook is claimed (incorrectly) by popular folk-etymology to mean “ice-eater.” Climate change issues in the post-rural West are also encoded in this title. The photographs here are from an emerging project that includes landscapes, portraits, and architectural images of the rural American West, that contemplate drosscape between industry and wildlands, progress and stasis.

Post-rural describes themes emerging out of, and tangential to, a pastiche of Postmodern concepts. The themes, narratives, objects, and aesthetic sensibilities present in these images consider the boundaries between urban, suburban, rural and wilderness areas of the American West. Generally, post-rural themes consider the commodification, narratives and shifting mythologies of rural areas since the 19th century and earlier as urban areas encroach on rural lands or mechanized agriculture draws workers away from the rural landscape.