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## Beds of Moss and Mosquitoes

James Doyle

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## Beds of Moss and Mosquitoes

Summer in the Arctic, so reindeer  
bulls are molting. Rhythm  
of a dark eye circled  
by snow. What other world

than this? Caribou antlers  
are shed in craters  
for squirrels and hares,  
so calcium can rise quickly as blood

to please the times. Northern Lights  
shed their doubts  
and strip down to flesh.  
Not only bulls thrust and parry,

but seasons, even mosquito ones  
when water quickens,  
expectation flares,  
and dull rocks flash glints of purple

at the midnight sun. Enter dirt  
by the tonnage, bears,  
and time that rotates  
to the play of cubs. Amen, Amen,

the prophet cries, but the tundra goes  
on nursing, and days in long  
obedient lines take  
entire worlds back to kindergarten.

*James Doyle*

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JAMES DOYLE's latest book is *The Long View Just Keeps Treading Water* (2012), available from Accents Publishing. He lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

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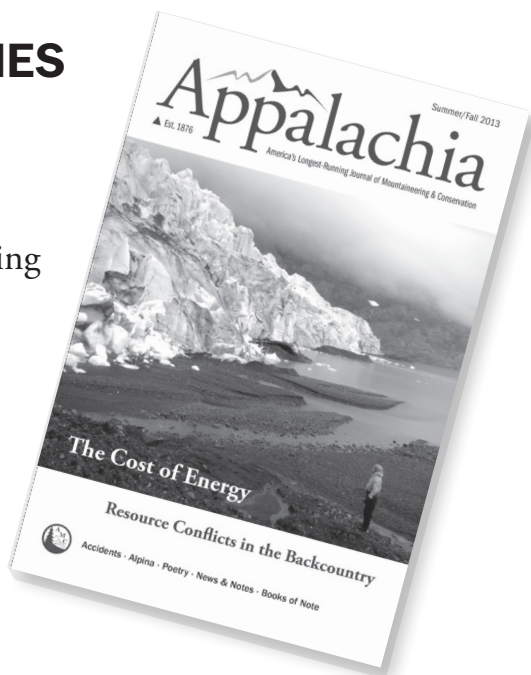
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