



FAR AWAY WATERS

— ELLEN WELCKER

It's a ways to travel
for gravel but no one
can deny this parking lot
has our undivided attention

our children are wisps
backlit and tenderly
putting Band-Aids
on rocks

a newly-minted junior ranger
drops knowledge on a
baby / unearned
it is power

later (but not now—?)
I will do my best
to explain
colonial narratives



“Siuslaw” means “far away waters” in Yakonan, a language of the Siuslaw and Kuitsh peoples.

Ellen Welcker’s books are *Ram Hands* (Scablands Books, 2016) & *The Botanical Garden* (Astrophil Poetry Prize, 2009; Astrophil Books, 2010), and multiple chapbooks. She lives in Spokane, WA.