

High Country News

Vol. 2, No. 13

Friday, March 27, 1970

Habitat Important...

Big Game Herds Need Critical Winter Range

Wyoming's big game herds have flourished in spite of trouble spots here and there. There have been, and there still are areas of conflict with domestic livestock. There may be areas of competition between game and livestock as voiced by some Wyoming ranchers recently. But the areas of conflict and competition are really few and far between.

Wyoming's big game herds are generally managed in a competent and professional manner. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, which always has its share and more of livestock representatives, deals very fairly with landowners.

Wyoming law provides for reimbursement to landowners for antelope taken on their land. The reimbursement is through a redeemable coupon attached to each license. The landowner can collect \$3 for every resident coupon and \$5 for every non-resident coupon.

Wyoming law also provides for payment of actual damage claims caused by big game getting into hay or even standing crops. However, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department spends much more for damage control than it does for damage payments.

All costs amounted to \$100,165 in 1968.

Wyoming's forward looking Game and Fish Department has acquired thousands of acres of prime winter range for game animals. This includes foothill ranges for elk and deer and desert range for antelope. Some of the lands were purchased and the Department continues to pay taxes on these lands.

In spite of all these measures, there are still areas of periodic conflict. Some of this conflict has arisen in areas where public lands are transferred into private ownership.

This has come about through the continuing demand for more land in private ownership and on the tax rolls. Public lands may still be acquired through the antiquated desert land entry law. Some of these lands may be critical big game winter range.

A good case in point involves an area along the Green River in Sublette County. The area, known as the Soapholes, is desired by area ranchers for additions to their ranches, and to make feasible a boondoggle irrigation project. The lands by their name connote the soapy, alkaline character of

the soils.

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service did a thorough survey (Please turn to page 3)

Park Service Is Willing to Open Winter Highway

George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director of the National Park Service, said last week that his agency was willing to open a road to the south entrance of Yellowstone Park. The road would be opened from Colter Bay on Jackson Lake to Flagg Ranch, about one and a half miles from the Park boundary.

Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming conducted hearings in 1967 on the possibilities of opening Yellowstone to winter travel. Since then Wyoming's Congressional delegation has pressed for better winter travel to or through Yellowstone's south entrance.

Opening the road to Flagg Ranch will facilitate winter travel by snowmobile into Yellowstone Park from the south. Figures now indicate as many as 650 snow machines have entered the Park here on particular days.



It's Springtime and a boy's curiosity knows no bounds.

New Fish Hatchery Ready for Production

The first fish eggs have arrived at the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's new Clarks Fork Fish Hatchery 35 miles north of Cody.

The recently-completed hatchery--boasting a potential production greater than any other hatchery in Wyoming--received 1,200,000 rainbow and 600,000 cutthroat eggs this week. When full operation is reached, it's expected annual production will peak with 6 million fish or 150,000 pounds yearly. Fish reared at the Clarks Fork Hatchery will be distributed to waterways throughout Wyoming.

Water for the new station is supplied by a series of springs along the Clarks Fork River. Together these springs provide a combined flow of nearly 7,000 gallons of water a minute. This water volume at a constant temperature of 52-degrees will help make the

new hatchery one of the most efficient in the state.

Five homes have been built in the immediate area for personnel assigned to the facility. Fred Adams, former superintendent of the Cody Hatchery has moved to take over as the superintendent of the Clarks Fork Hatchery. Fish Culturalists Larry Burgess from the Como Bluffs Hatchery and Robert Pistono from the Story Hatchery have also transferred to the new hatchery. Later this spring, Fish Culturalist Paul Worst will move from the Cody Hatchery to Clarks Fork. After the school year, Miles Benet, Fish Culturalist now stationed at the Dan Speas Rearing Station west of Casper, will transfer to the new facility to complete the personnel changes required to man the Clarks Fork Hatchery.



The Lander Snowdrifters were again awarded the Trophy for the outstanding club in the state, presented by the Moran Valley Mountaineers. It is to be kept by this club and will be retired among the many racing trophies which have been won by the Snowdrifters. Here, President Bob Jacobs takes possession of the trophy.

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

The National Forest Timber Conservation and Management Act of 1970 (HR 12025), formerly known as the National Timber Supply Act, has gone into oblivion. It couldn't have suffered a more deserving fate.

Its sponsors and promoters would have had us believe it was the only answer to better management of our forests, and cheaper housing for the ghetto dwellers who live in poverty. In fact, it was nothing but an undisguised raid on the public forests by a well organized timber industry. What the industry sought was Congressional approval of a single-minded purpose.

Essentially, the bill called for increased timbering of all "commercial" timber on the national forests. From this yield, a separate fund was to be established to promote even more and "better" timber supplies.

Conservationists objected to the bill because of the emphasis placed on timbering to the exclusion of all other multiple uses. You have only to look at some of the timbered areas in our mountains to see the monstrous implications.

The bill did provide for badly needed reforestation measures on lands cut over down through the years. But these measures do not depend upon a special bill. They are dependent only on the will of Congress to appropriate needed funds.

It is sometimes good to look back in history to gain a little better perspective of current situations. When the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act was being considered ten years ago, back in 1960, five senators wrote a supplemental view of the enabling bill. It is interesting to see how prophetic they were.

The senators were Hubert Humpnrey, Stuart Symington, William Proxmire, Stephen M. Young, and Philip Hart.

They said, in part, "We wholeheartedly endorse and support the concept of multiple use of our national forests set forth in S. 3044 . . . It would contribute significantly to the achievement of national forest program objectives, would help to assure the balanced development and use of national forest resources, and would prevent their possible future overutilization as a result of economic and single interest pressures.

"We wish to point out that this legislation will "contribute significantly. . ." only if it is implemented with the needed funds for balanced investment. . . The sale of national-forest timber has shown a marked increase since 1945, but the cut has still not reached current sustained yield levels. . . The lag in reforestation. . . is of critical dimensions. . . Reforestation lacks the dynamic appeal of some other programs but this activity is most important to soil conservation and our future wood supply. . .

"The multiple-use concept is meaningless unless the opportunity for its practice is adequately financed."

What these senators seemed to have been saying was that there was great need for appropriations to the Forest Service, even then. If the management agency was to do the proper job of inventorying, classifying, planting, culling, thinning, and all other aspects of proper timber management, it had to have money. It is money which it has never gotten.

The multiple use act is a simple but profound and sophisticated document. There is no need for timber supply acts if it is only given the means to operate correctly.

Let the timber industry and conservationists alike now press for the funds to get on with the job.

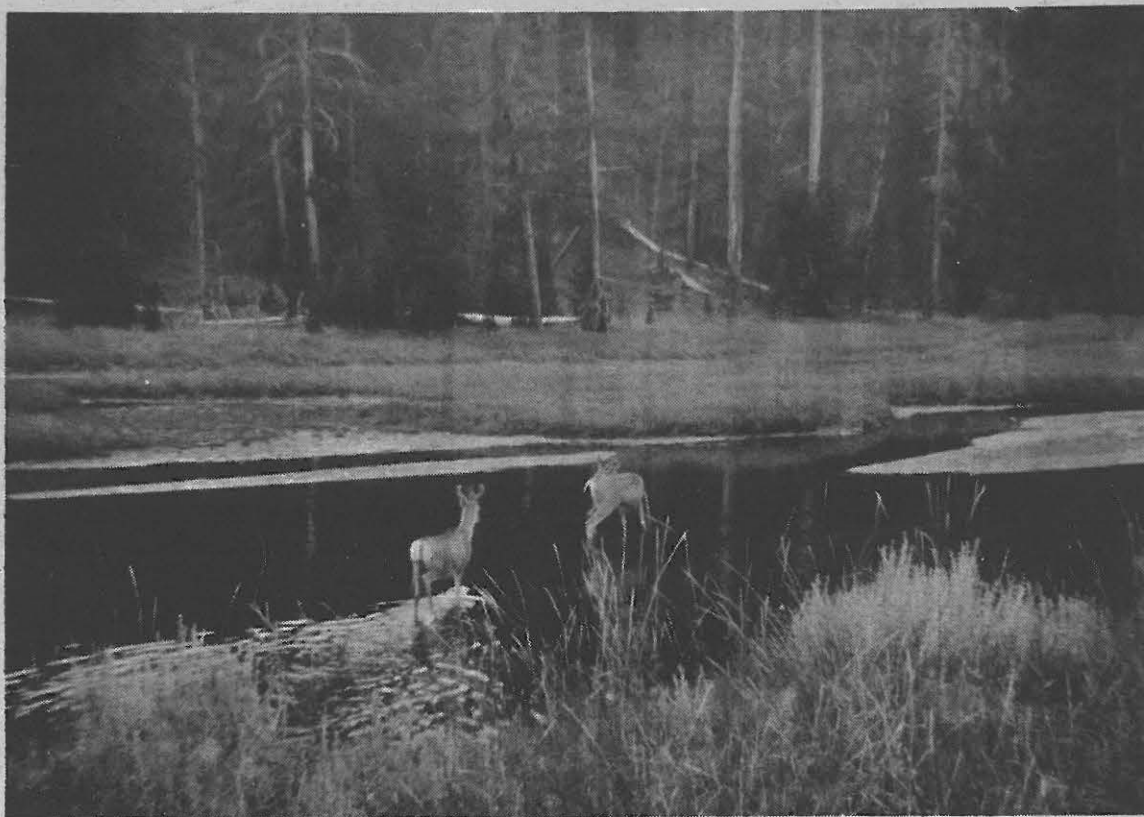


Photo by Francis J. Walcott

This is the forest primeval . . .

Mine Site Restoration Needed

Can lands mined for phosphate be restored to grass and timber areas? This urgent environmental question is being considered by mining companies and Forest Service personnel in joint studies underway in Idaho.

The mutual concern for revegetating mining sites is indicated by financial support the mining interests have contributed to cooperatively determine what vegetation most readily prevents erosion and improves esthetic values.

In 1966 the Monsanto Company, J. R. Simplot Company, El Paso Products Service Company, and FMC Corporation working with the Caribou National Forest, initiated an administrative study in southeastern Idaho.

"Goals of the study," said Regional Forester Floyd Iverson, "are to find ways to protect quality of water coming from mined watersheds, to provide for soil stabilization, to return mined areas to production, and to find ways of making mined areas esthetically acceptable.

A report on the administrative study at the end of 1969 shows that a total of 716 plots have been established on three mine sites since 1966. In these plots, 11,213 trees and shrubs have been hand planted. During

1969, 85 of the plots were established using the most promising plant species from previous years.

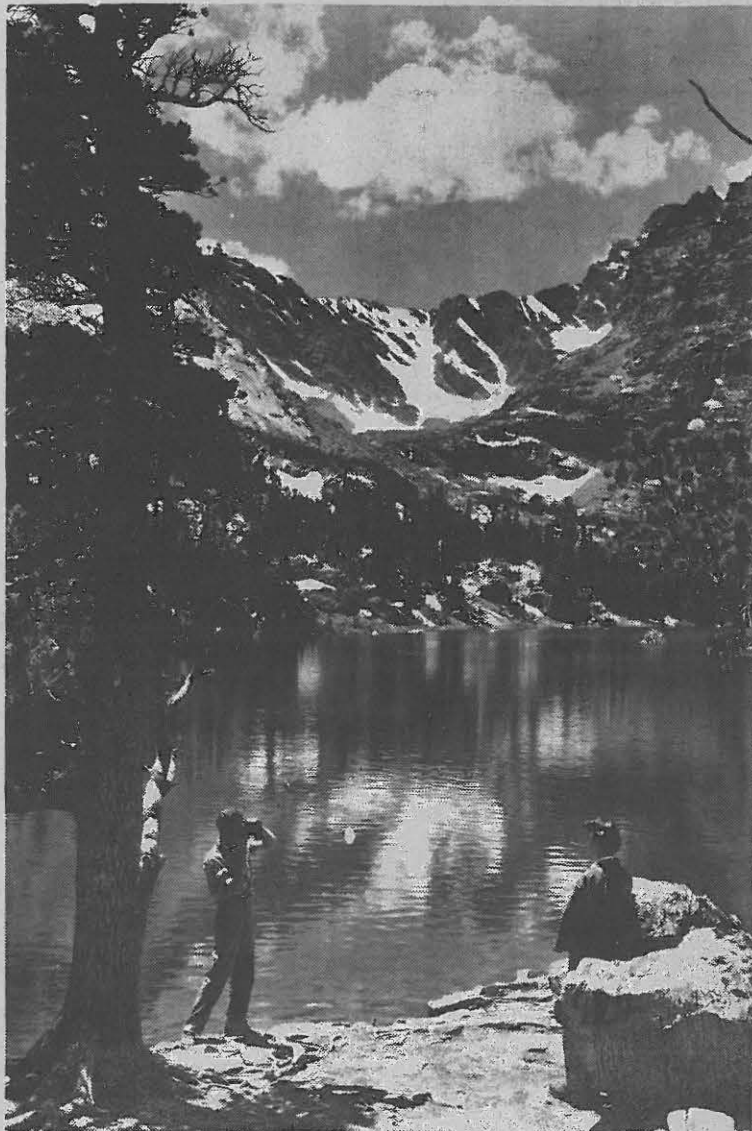
Additional planting will be discontinued for the remainder of the study. Evaluation of established plots, plus observations and appraisals of soil scientists, hydrologists, engineers, and wildlife biologists will provide additional information in directing rehabilitation efforts.

General trends observed to date in the study are helping provide answers to many problems found in rehabilitating mined areas.

When definite answers are found, they may be of help to similar areas throughout the nation.

The study has identified 21 of 40 test species of trees that do best—although species vary in performance from site to site. Of the 12 grass species tried, 6 appear best, based on germination, density, and vigor. Three of the best forbs tried are ranger alfalfa, yellow sweet clover, and crown vetch.

A complete report on the cooperative administrative study will be available in 1971, reported Regional Forester Iverson.



Taylor Peak, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado with Taylor Glacier nestled in its sheltered gorges, makes a natural backdrop for the amateur photographer.

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MRS. NIM ROD'S COOK BOOK

by Jessie French

Left-over Roast Elk Sandwiches.

2# cooked rum roast of elk
1/4 c. chopped onion

1 1/2 c. chopped celery
1 can beef broth, or pan juices from the elk roast.

Mix all ingredients together except the meat. Cook slowly for 30 minutes. Slice elk rump into bubbling sauce and simmer until heated through - about 5 minutes.

Yield: 10 Hot Sandwiches.

THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

A portion of slick-rock country in southern Utah has been proposed as the Escalante Wilderness by the Conservation Committee of the Wasatch Mountain Club (P.O. Box 8032, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108). A Utah Highway Department proposal for a road to serve the people of the town of Escalante (smaller than Jackson) would violate the proposed wilderness.

Lines are already drawn in the state of Utah: the State Highway Department knows what's good for the people, and even though the proposed road across the Escalante Wilderness would cross land that belongs to every American, the voice of the people has not been listened to. At public hearings several months ago the public spoke loud and clear in opposition to the road across the wilderness but the State Highway Department has its mind made up—they will build the road.

The Wasatch Mountain Club has nothing against highways. In fact they have proposed a route of their own that would cost about five million dollars and would not only serve every major community in southern Utah but link all national parks and monuments and forests. The Wasatch Mountain Club's proposal would involve improving existing roads, would service more local people and would better serve the traveling public.

The Utah Highway Department's proposal would cost more than twenty million dollars (at least four times what the improvements of existing roads would cost) and would serve almost no one. It would be Colorado to Arizona throughway hitting only two towns in its entire course from the Colorado State Line to the Arizona State Line. It would, in effect, funnel traffic through the southeastern corner of the state without giving the traveling public access to the scenic wonders of Canyonlands (though it would skirt that park for many miles—on the wrong side of the Colorado River), or the major national monuments in the area (Capitol Reef, Natural Bridges, Cedar Breaks) or the other national parks in the area (Zion, Bryce Canyon).

Conservationists who met with Gov. Calvin Rampton a few weeks ago, hope to convince the Governor that their proposal would be the better plan because it 1) would serve more people, both in Utah and among the traveling public; 2) would preserve the Escalante Wilderness; and 3) because it would be cheaper by about 75 per cent.

If you want to help preserve another unique wilderness area from exploitation and development, you might write to the Governor of Utah, the Honorable Calvin Rampton, State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah. You might also like to question Henry Heeland, Director of the State Highway, Department, State

Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah, as to why he wants the cross-Escalante road.

Perhaps you feel "This is Utah's business. Why should we here in Wyoming concern ourselves with their problems?" Because the land under question, the Escalante Wilderness, belongs to you as much as it does to the people of Escalante. It is Federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (you might even like to write to Robert Neilson, State Director, BLM, Federal Building, Salt Lake City, Utah, to ask his opinion of the controversy).

If you are interested in finding out more about the controversy, I have a number of brochures entitled "Escalante Canyon Country—Protect, or Just Remember," published by the Wasatch Mountain Club's Escalante Wilderness committee.

We dammed Glen Canyon and filled its secret alcoves with water in Lake Powell, destroying forever some of the most spectacular scenery in America, the kind of scenery that is the Escalante. Must we destroy that now with a road?

Big Game . . .

(Continued from page 1)

of the soils. Most of the land was unfit for cultivation or irrigation. But it does grow shrubby, desert brush which constitutes the only winter feed for several thousand mule deer. It is considered a critical winter range by both BLM biologists and Wyoming Game and Fish Department field men and biologists.

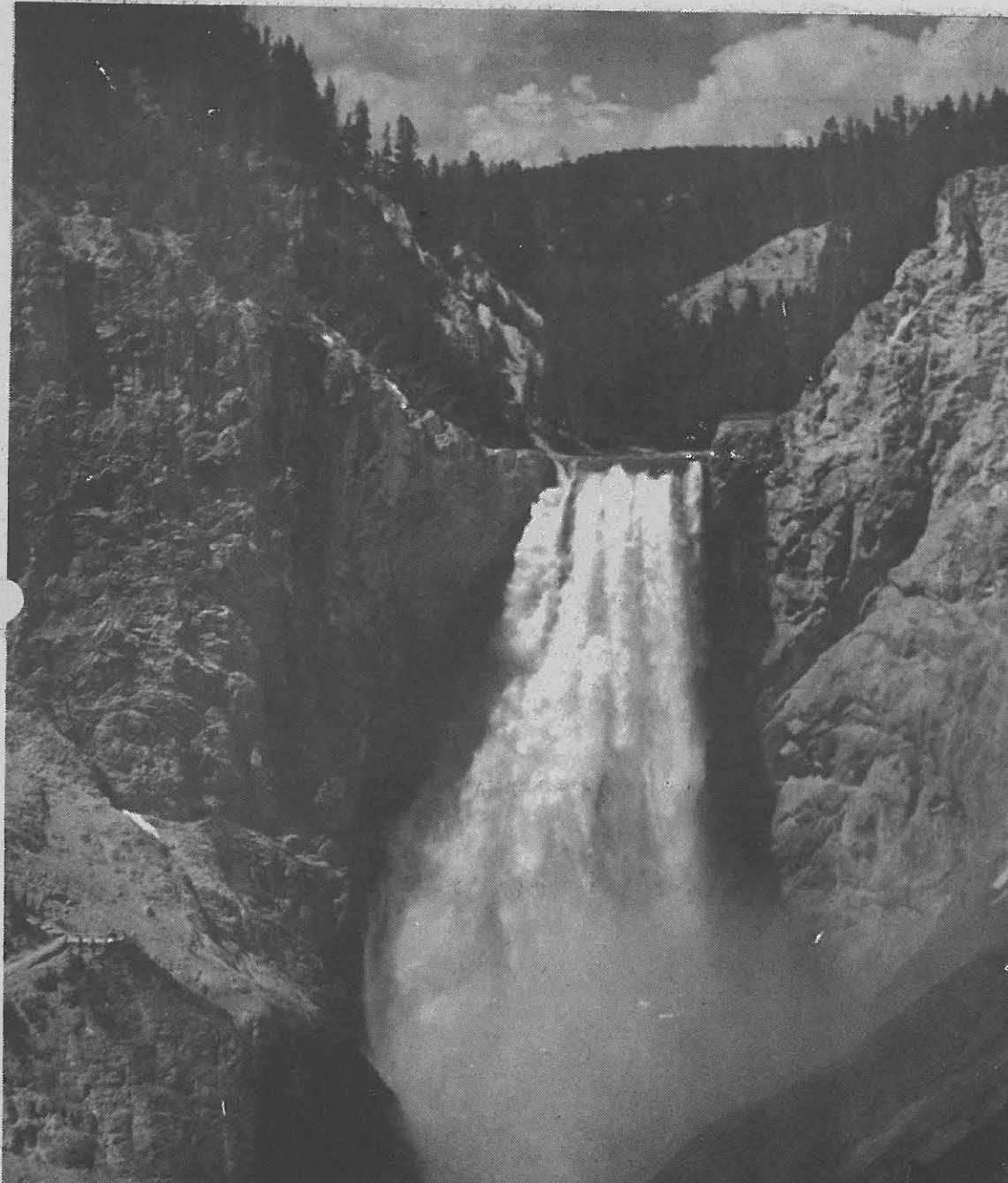
The Bureau of Land Management denied the desert land entries. The ranchers protested and personally appealed their case to Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel. Secretary Hickel reversed the findings of his own Bureau people and allowed the entries.

Conservation groups formally protested and then submitted the information to Congressman Henry Reuss' Subcommittee on Governmental Operations. Mr. Reuss requested no further action on the land claims until his committee could study the matter.

Other areas in the West are subject to the same homesteading laws. It is a situation which should be corrected through the work of the Public Land Law Review Commission.

It is the constant nibbling away at prime big game habitat that eventually reduces the numbers. Game management at its very best cannot maintain game herds and good hunting in the face of encroaching developments by man.

Wyoming's game herds are important, not only in terms of valuable outdoor experiences and recreation but also in dollars. Next week, a look at the economics.



The Upper Falls in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming will be one of the big attractions again this summer. Thousands of people travel through the park each year to see nature's own marvels.



Photo By Ray Savage

Chimney Rock looms over Highway 20 in Wind River Canyon between Thermopolis and Shoshoni, Wyoming. The canyon is known for its geologic formations and scenic beauty.

Visitors Up at Parks & Monuments

Grand Teton National Park, Wyo., - Acting Superintendent Foy Young announced that visits to national parks and monuments in the Midwest topped 19 million during 1969.

Statisticians in the Department of the Interior'sters these areas, say the count represents a 212,000 increase over the 18,832,492 visits to the parks and monuments in 1968. The Midwest Region of the Service, where the areas are located, includes Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and parts of Colorado.

Eight of these areas--Badlands and Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, Glacier in Montana, Grand Teton in Wyoming, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Mo., Rocky Mountain and Shadow Mountain in Colorado, and Yellowstone in Idaho--Wyoming-Montana--have firmly established themselves with the vacationer and sightseer. They all passed the 1 million mark.

The most visited park remains Grand Teton which last year counted 3,134,354 visits.

Ten years ago, Grand Teton reported slightly over 1 million visits. Ten years from now, say forecaster, total annual visitation could well shoot above 5 million.

Grand Teton first passed Yellowstone as a top visitor attraction in 1963. Yellowstone's visitor traffic has also risen from slightly over 1 million 10 years ago to 2,193,894, last year. Projected visitation 10 years from now is 3,281,000.

Already Park Service officials have begun planning for the centennial of Yellowstone-- and of the national park idea--in 1972.

A national monument and a recreation area in western Colorado led the areas in those categories showing the biggest gain.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument, which preserves a spectacular, ever-deepening gorge cut by the Gunnison River, had 302,639 visitors last year as compared with 215,871 in 1968.

Visitors to Curecanti National Recreation Area increased from 302,628 in 1968 to 434,775 last year. At Curecanti-- one of four principal authorized elements of the Colorado River Storage Project--the reservoirs formed provide for increasingly popular water-oriented recreation.

The Park Service looks for visits to both of these areas to exceed 1 million in 10 years.

Mother black bears are good parents. They readily play with their offspring but will also discipline them with sharp cuffs when necessary. Both cubs and adult black bears readily climb trees for food or protection.



Elk in the distance and waterfowl on the warm springs are all a part of the scene on the Jackson Hole National Elk Refuge in Wyoming.



Cowboys Also Ride Bucking Snowmobile

The official patch for the Wyoming State Snowmobile Association is in the tradition of the Cowboy State.

The brown and gold snowmachine is bucking through the sparkling blue and white of Wyoming's high country.

The cowboy's suit and western hat are black and yellow. The lettering is yellow on a blue background.

The patch was designed and drawn by Miss Paula Rondeau of Jackson, Wyoming. Miss Rondeau studied two years at the Cleveland Institute of Art and worked for four years as an illustrator of children's books at the Educational Research Council of America in Cleveland.

She wanted to see the West and so she now calls anywhere between Jackson and Lander, Wyoming, her home. She does ads for various places, including the Togwotee Lodge where she was working when she sketched the design for the patch.

She has been drawing since she was five years old. She prefers free lancing for small organizations and private enterprises. This Spring, she plans to do professional painting and has already been offered a place to exhibit in Jackson.

Miss Rondeau is a member of the Mandala Society of Cleveland which works for the improvement of public taste in advertising art.

Environmental Eavesdropper

Ecology is the beginning of wisdom in a great many spheres. . . . Alfred Kuhn.

If you're in a fighting mood about a conservation or environmental issue and want to get in your licks where it might do some good, send a Western Union Personal Opinion Message. They'll send a 15 word message directly to the President, your Governor, Congressman, Senator, or State Legislator for only 90c. And they will throw in your signature and address to facilitate replies. Western Union offices also maintain a directory of elected officials.

The Hells Canyon Preservation Council has asked for field hearings on the Hells Canyon-Snake National River bills. The proposed area of 714, 000 acres would include Hells Canyon, the lower 100 miles of the Salmon River in Idaho, and the lower ends of the Grande Ronde and Imnaha Rivers in Oregon and Washington.

The Idaho Water Resource Board has Thrown in with a public-private power consortium to dam and develop the Middle Snake River through Hells Canyon. Under terms of an agreement, the Idaho Board could receive a share of power revenue profits amounting to between \$1.5 million and \$3 million a year.

Pacific Northwest Power Company and the Washington Public Power Supply System, joint applicants to develop Hells Canyon, have a comprehensive recreational development in mind if they are given the go-ahead to build power dams in the deep canyon. The recreational program was developed by a firm which includes former Director of the National Park Service, Conrad Wirth. The plan calls the area "Great Mountain Country of the West."

Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wisc., has introduced a bill provide for federal regulation of all strip mining activities and provide for reclamation of past mining projects on public lands. The bill would also provide technical assistance and federal subsidies for mining on state and private lands.

The Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council has decided to push for a proposed 1.3 million acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area Complex in south central Idaho. Senate Bill 853 proposes a national recreation area now but it is considered too weak to provide adequate protection from possible mining developments.

The Bureau of Reclamation has requested funds to explore the feasibility of piping water from Boysen Reservoir near Shoshoni, Wyoming, to the Powder River Basin and Gillette, Wyoming. Also included in the study is a pipeline from Big Horn Reservoir in Montana to the Gillette area. Pipe for the latter is envisioned as being about 12 feet in diameter at the reservoir and tapering to about five feet near Gillette. The pipe would be buried about 8 feet deep. The pipeline would be about 200 miles long and carry up to 700,00 acre feet of water a year.

Salty irrigation water from the Colorado River and alkaline soils have combined to ruin thousands of acres in the lush Imperial Valley of California. Experts fear the \$20 million a year "open air greenhouse" will cease to exist by the year 2000. A salinity expert has said the increasing irrigation of alkaline lands in the upper part of the Colorado River--Wyoming, Colorado, Utah--has increased the saltiness from less than a ton per acre foot to 1.3 tons in the past 20 years.

The Billings (Montana) Gazette has editorially called for a state environmental review board to review proposed industrial sites. The newspaper says such a board could have helped to maintain the environmental quality of the state. It pointed to the Waldorf Hoerner pulp mill at Missoula and the Montana Power Company steam generating plant in Billings as examples.

The New York State Senate voted last week to give that state the most liberal abortion law in the country. Backers said the bill might have tough sledding in the Assembly. Governor Nelson Rockefeller said he would sign the bill if passed.

Grizzly Bear Hunters Will Save Skulls

Montana Fish and Game Commissioners, during their March meeting, adopted regulations that will require hunters to save and tag the skulls as well as hides of their trophies. Previously, grizzly hunters were required only to save and tag the hides, according to Wynn Freeman, Chief of Game Management for the Montana Fish and Game Department.

The measure was taken as another step toward managing the big monarchs of Montana game animals which are now listed as rare among North American mammals. Skulls will be mailed to the Fish and Game Department's laboratory in Bozeman where biologists will study them to determine ages, sexes and other information important to management. Eventually the skulls will be returned to owners.

No one knows exactly how many grizzlies remain in the United States, but Montana has most of them, excluding ones in Alaska. Sales of grizzly hunting licenses for 1969 totaled 1,880 through January. A total of 33 grizzlies were taken by licensed hunters.

Freeman said that skulls will also provide a positive check as to whether the bear was indeed a grizzly. Identification by hides alone is sometimes difficult as there is a great range in color and conformation of both grizzly and black bears.

The Montana Fish and Game Department recently published an article on how to distinguish between black and grizzly bears from the feet and skulls. It is planned that each grizzly license buyer this year will be provided with literature on identification.



Engineer's Notch in Wind River Peak on the south end of the Wind River Mountains.

Forest Vandalism Costly to Country

Your National Forest recreation sites were wrecked to the tune of \$220,445 in the Intermountain Region during fiscal year 1969.

If this bit of information shocks you, consider that throughout the country, during fiscal year 1969, more than 2 million dollars worth of vandalism damage was inflicted on National Forest recreation sites.

Regional Forester Floyd Iverson reported that the \$220,445 represents nearly 8 percent of the total money allocated to maintain recreation developments during that time.

"Several new public facilities could be developed each year with the money wasted by needless destruction of property," said Regional Forester Iverson.

The Intermountain Region includes 18 National Forests in southern Idaho, western Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and part of California. Many recreation sites are near heavily populated areas, while others are in remote forest locations.

Camping and picnicking facilities were hardest hit. Directional and interpretive signs were also extensively damaged. Vandalism costs do not include those for cleaning up litter and garbage.

The Uinta National Forest, headquartered at Provo, Utah, was hardest hit by vandals, sustaining \$32,040 worth of damage.

Forest Service officials urge all National Forest users to help curb vandalism and reduce litter and pollution during the year ahead.

Backpacking

By TOM BELL



A new and unique service is now being offered to wilderness seekers in Utah and Wyoming. Billed as Peace and Quiet Trips, those interested in backpacking can be equipped and guided for one week trips for \$140 per person.

Three young men with a yen for the back country have set up the new service. They are Malin Foster, Bob McDougall and Joe May. Their headquarters is at 236 D Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103. Their specialty is wilderness backpacking trips.

They tell you in their brochure, "Hiring a guide to outfit and lead people into the wilderness is not a new idea. We're just a new breed of guide."

They will take you into the desert canyonlands of the Colorado Plateau or into the High Uinta Mountains of Utah or the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming.

Their descriptive brochure tells you why they turned to wilderness backpack guiding and why it could appeal to anyone. They tell you about getting away from it all, and where they take you to do just that. Their schedule for 1970 shows a total of 15 trips beginning March 29 to Zion National Park and ending November 14 at Escalante Canyon.

They give a suggested clothing list, both for desert trips and mountain trips. They tell you about physical condition, and the possibility of a medical check-up if you want to go on a high-altitude mountain trip.

They provide all packs, sleeping bags, mattresses, tents, more backpacking cooking and eating utensils and food.

They say, "We do the

cooking, set up camp and lead the group during camp changes. The equipment is new and the most modern available. All food is nutritious dehydrated and freeze dried. We are experienced in providing tasty, well-balanced meals. Fresh fish is used to augment the diet when it is available on mountain trips. The outfitter is responsible for keeping a clean, well-ordered camp area. Toilet facilities will be established upon arrival at campsites. Any guests who wish to learn how to set up tents and otherwise work with equipment are certainly welcome to do so."

If you are interested in what these young men are offering, you may write to Mr. Foster at the address given above, or you may call at the following telephone numbers: 355-4728 or 487-2109 (Area code 801).

Swans Are On Annual Jaunts

Big, white swans on their northern migrations have been winging into Montana by the thousands and many are making a stopover at the Fish and Game Department's Freezout Lake Management Area. Dale Witt, management area biologist at Freezout, said that pintails have also flocked into the area, and some snow geese are beginning to show up. Canada Honkers are there too.

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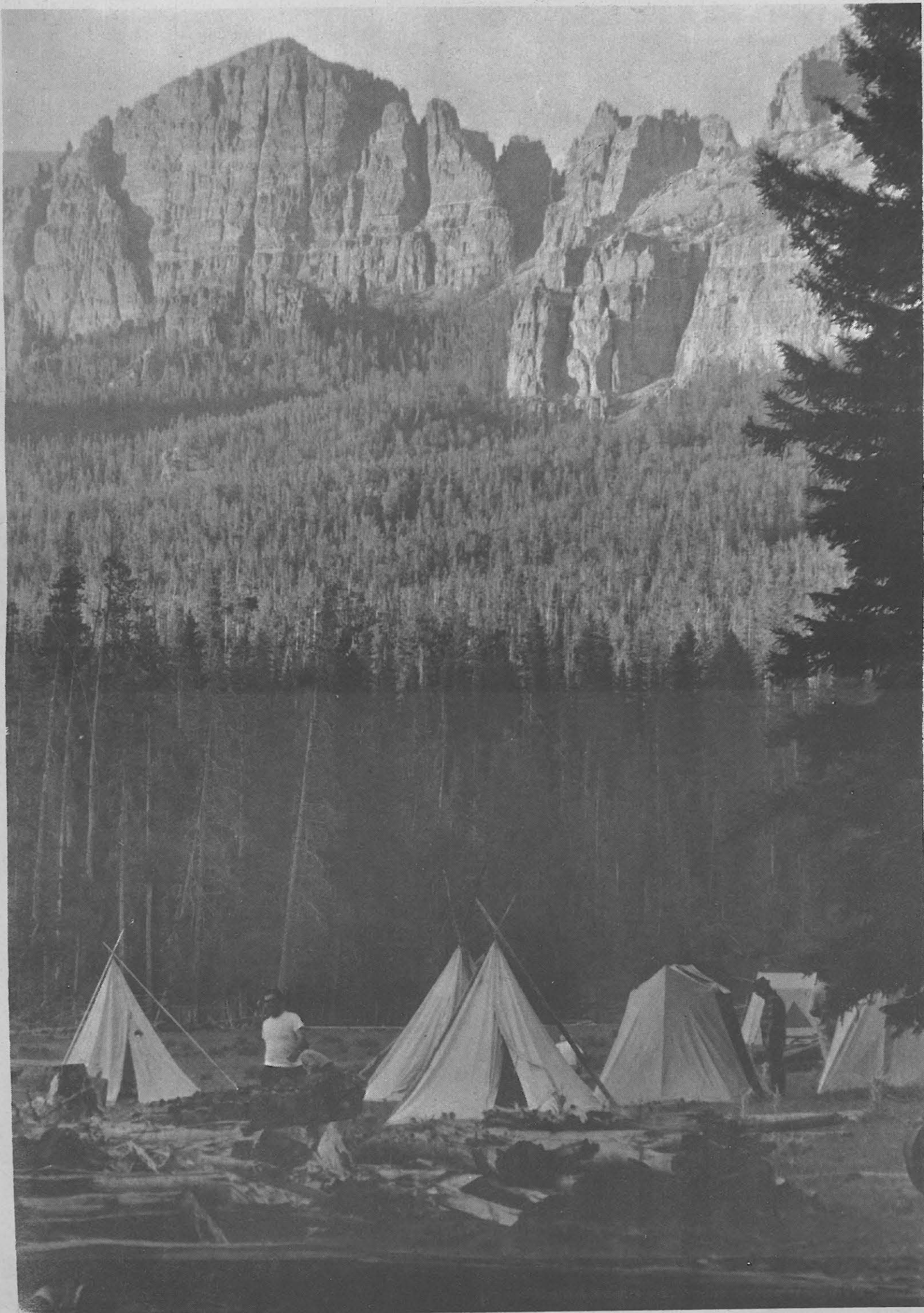
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Bill Me

The Washakie Wilderness Revisited

Last summer, Pat Hall, then editor, accompanied the "Way to the Wilderness" trip sponsored by The Wilderness Society. His center spread, done at that time, fits Mr. Van Shipp's reminiscences of the trip (page 10) so well that we repeat it here.

Mr. Shipp was so impressed by his experience last summer in the proposed Washakie Wilderness north of Dubois, Wyoming, that he plans another wilderness trip, this time into the adjacent Teton Wilderness.



The first night's camp at Stock Cabin under the towering Absarokas.



DuNoir 61



John Ham



PHOTOGRAPHY



acier gleams in the distance across East DuNoir Basin.



ilton, Parkville, Mo., is helped across Frozen Lake Creek.



Elly Heeroma, a Dutch citizen, lunches at the foot of a waterfall.



Around the fire each night, wrangler Virginia Robertson sang western songs.

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Snowmobiles - Factory direct prices. Save 20%. Free Inspection. Money back guarantee. Easy terms. Free Catalog. Luger, Dept. SH-69, 1300 East Cliff Rd. Burnsville, Minnesota 55378

Lightweight equipment for backpacking, mountaineering, camping, canoeing. Free catalog. Moor & Mountain, Dept. 4, 14 Main St., Concord, Massachusetts 01742

REAL ESTATE

SPACIOUS RURAL LIVING.

Four bedroom, modern house, large living room with native stone fireplace, on 10 acres, 3 1/2 miles from Lander on oiled highway. Outbuildings, fenced, with excellent water rights. Phone 1-307-332-2489, or write Box 24, Ft. Washakie Rt., Lander, Wyoming 82528 h322-28-414.

HOMESTEAD LANDS now available. 160 - 640 acres. Write: Land Information, P. O. Box 148, Postal Station A, Vancouver, British Columbia. Enclose \$1.00 for bulletin & map index.

Reprints of any photos carrying the HIGH COUNTRY NEWS credit line are available from the HIGH COUNTRY NEWS office, 160 So. 4th St., Lander, Wyoming, 82520. The charge is \$2.00 for an 8x10 glossy print.

CAMPER'S MARKET
High Country News
Classified Ads

WANTED - HIGH COUNTRY NEWS wants articles and photos of camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, or other outdoor experiences in the Rocky Mountain area. Also features on historic sites, scenic areas, geologic areas, or other sites of general interest. Should appeal to vacation travelers or outdoor recreationists. Short articles with good photos preferred. If you are interested or desire more information, write Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.

Montana Requires Game Licenses Before Seasons

Hunters intent on a grizzly bear rug this fall or those who want to try for mountain goats or bighorn sheep in unlimited districts must have licenses for these species before the seasons open. Chief of Information for the Fish and Game Department, Dick Munro, said that a recent commission ruling will prohibit sale of these licenses once respective seasons are underway.

Since grizzly seasons open concurrently with deer or elk seasons, the earliest grizzly bear hunting will be September 15. Sale of grizzly licenses will end on September 14 in compliance with the new commission regulation.

There will be one unlimited goat district opened during the 1970 season. An unlimited district is one in which there is no quota on the number of

licenses to be sold, Munro explained. The goat district, 15, located in the upper south and middle forks of the Flathead Drainage, will open to hunting September 15. Cutoff for sale of district 15 goat licenses will be September 14.

Two unlimited bighorn sheep districts, 301 and 501, are scheduled for the coming season. These two large districts adjoin each other and take in large portions of the Madison, Gallatin, and upper Yellowstone Drainages. Cutoff date for sale of sheep licenses in these districts is September 7. Licenses in all other districts are issued through drawings.

Munro said the commission action was taken to discourage hunters from shooting one of these animals and buying a license afterwards.

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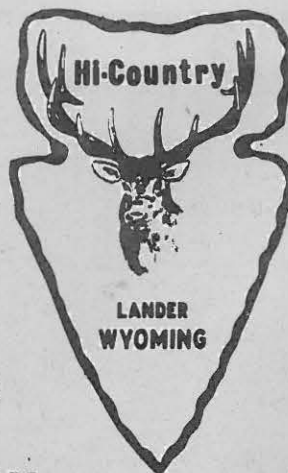


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Campers' Tips

By Ron Johnston

Summer is just around the corner and this week's issue brings the first in a continuing series on camper and trailer care. The how-to's and what-for's, to add a little more comfort and security to the camping summer.

The urge to climb into a camper or hook-up a trailer and head for the High County is almost overwhelming. Instead of frustration, that nervous energy can be put to very good use.

Most likely the camper has been exposed to the elements for the past several months. A thorough scrub down and high pressure rinse can accomplish a very important purpose. Besides having a clean rig ready for the road, all leaks incurred since its last use can be found. Self-adhesive weatherstripping from a local hardware store will cure most ills. Usually the rubber sealing around doors and windows deteriorates first.

With the basic shell ready to roll, a handy check list will prove more than useful. It can mean the difference between a folly and a successful summer.

A survey of camper's needs and most forgotten items provided the following check

list:

1. Butane/ Propane bottles-check for capacity and leaks. (Do not use a match)
2. Water tank- full and test water pump. Insure cap is secured tightly.
3. Sanitary tank - clean and service.
4. Interior light system - check and replace necessary bulbs.
5. Exterior lights - check and replace as needed.
6. Windows - should be closed while traveling, unless occupied. Rear windows should be closed unless parked.
7. Entry step - store in secure area provided.
8. Towing - ensure coupler is locked onto the trailer hitch ball. Hookup electrical coupler and a safety chain.
9. Accessories - 30 feet of water hose, a heavy duty electrical extension and heavy duty jacks.
10. Exterior - check tire pressure, water level, oil level, turn signals, etc.
11. Insurance - up to date and adequate. Check with an agent.

Items can be added to serve individual needs. The most important point is to have and maintain a check list.



Recently acquired items at the Wyoming State Museum pertaining to the early Indian Trade Period include these three Northwest Guns, two of which bear dates of 1812 and 1825 respectively, a "Green River" knife of the 1840's, a Plains Indian arrow, and a map of the United States and British and French possessions, dated 1820.

Wyoming State Museum Is A Depository for Rare Rifles

The Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne is concerned with the collection and preservation for public benefit of materials related to the history of the Rocky Mountain Region, and especially of Wyoming. Recent additions to the collection include items of particular interest from the early 19th century.

In the Indian Trade, guns were much in demand, particularly a variety standardized about the time of the American Revolution, termed the "Northwest Gun." This was a light smoothbore musket of about .60 caliber, usually flintlock, with a large trigger guard, a brass "dragon" plate on the left side, and other standard features. Most of these were made in England or Belgium, a few in the United States. Their popularity with the natives stemmed from the lightness of the weapon and the versatility made possible by the unrifled bore. Either shot or round ball could be used in the gun, as occasion demanded. With a flintlock, the Indian was not dependant

upon a supply of percussion caps.

The uppermost of the three Northwest Guns shown above demonstrates the common Indian practice of shortening the barrel to make a handier "buffalo runner" and fighting weapon. This is an unmarked English gun which has been altered to the percussion system of firing. The two lower pieces were made by Barnett, of London, the lower one in 1812, the center specimen in 1825.

A common fairy tale alleges that the price demanded from the poor Indian for a Northwest Gun amounted to a stack of beaver

skins as high as the overall length of the gun. The true price asked by a trader from the Revolution until Reservation days was nearly always twenty beaver skins. This was a very high price, but probably reasonable in view of the high risk and cost faced by the trader in transporting his goods.

The map of the United States and British and Spanish Possessions was printed in Philadelphia by John Melish and is dated 1820. Lying on the map is a typical Plains arrow of uncertain tribal origin. The knife is a Russell "Green River" dating from the 1840's.



Falcon Rules Changed by Game Commission

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission approved several changes in the falcon rules and regulations during a recent commission meeting.

Under the new rules and regulations, the 15-day capture period was eliminated, the "closed to capture" period was extended from March 15 through June 15 and a requirement was added making it necessary to obtain a shipping permit for shipping or transporting falcons out of Wyoming. These

shipping permits will be available at the Cheyenne office and at the seven district offices of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

Persons wishing to capture or receive falcons or hawks from within Wyoming must have a valid falcon permit in their possession. These permits must be secured before capturing or taking possession of falcons and are available upon request from the Cheyenne office of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

Moose Harvest Reports Completed by Hunters

The 1969 moose harvest report, recently completed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, show hunters bagged 938 moose last hunting season.

From the trends established by those questionnaires returned to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission game managers carry the harvest report one step further by predicting a total harvest to include the 268 permittees who did not reply. It is believed 263 probably hunted and with the same success ratio, the total harvest might be increased by 242 moose. With this prediction the harvest for 1969 would have been 1,180 moose.

To prepare the annual harvest report, each of the 1,325 moose permit holders was sent a questionnaire and eighty percent returned their

completed forms to the commission. They were asked if they hunted, if they made a kill, the sex of the animal and how many moose were observed during the season.

From the questions asked the hunters, game managers learned that 620 bulls, 265 cows and 53 calves were harvested by hunters returning questionnaires, giving a hunter success ration of about 92 percent. Twenty-two permittees noted they were unable to participate in the hunting season.

Mountain sheep are extraordinarily sharp-eyed and sure-footed, and unless they are out in the open in the upland meadows they are almost impossible to catch.

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The volcanic, breccia cliffs of the Absaroka Mountains tower over Dundee Meadows at the head of West DuNoir Creek in the proposed Washakie Wilderness.

A Trip into the Washakie Wilderness

BY VAN SHIPP

MIDWAY, KENTUCKY

The proposed Washakie Wilderness in Wyoming is located about 40 miles southeast of Yellowstone National Park in the Shoshone National Forest. It includes the South Absaroka Wilderness and most of the Stratified Primitive Area. The Shoshone National Forest is our oldest, set aside in 1891 as the Yellowstone Park Timberland Reserve.

The Absaroka Mountain Range is volcanic in origin. It extends into Yellowstone but it reaches its peak outside the Park in the Shoshone National Forest. On the south end are the headwaters of the Wind River and to the east and north are the headwaters of the Shoshone and the Clarks Fork.

The proposed wilderness is to have the name of the great Shoshone Indian Chief, Washakie.

Our trip began on the morning of Friday, July 18th at the Togwotee Mountain Lodge near Moran, Wyoming. This was to be a walking trip with packstock to carry most of our supplies and equipment. It was sponsored by the Wilderness Society. Frome and Hyde of Afton, Wyoming, were our outfitters. There were twenty "dudes" in our party including five retired married couples.

After a brief breakfast we loaded our gear into the truck

which was to take us to the Pickett Ranch where we would unload it for transfer to the horses and mules. Our party climbed aboard smaller trucks which were to carry us through the foothills to the vicinity of East DuNoir Creek. After a quick check of the roster to see that all were present and accounted for, we proceeded across a small meadow, over a rail fence and into a stand of logged-over lodgepole pine. We picked up an old logging road and proceeded along it, climbing higher and higher.

We noted considerable numbers of mountain lupine along the trail. The tall pine and slash became a familiar scene as our hike progressed further into the wilderness. There were the usual blueberries and other understory plants indigenous to lodgepole environments. A ruffed grouse furnished some of us with our first wildlife pictures as it reluctantly moved out of the way to allow us passage.

There was some question within our group as to whether we were on the right trail as we were getting into higher country and we had not located East DuNoir Creek. It became evident that we were indeed off the mark when we approached the edge of the escarpment which we had gradually climbed and could see DuNoir

Glacier off in the distance and East DuNoir Creek 1800 feet below us. The view was beautiful!

Presently we located a Forest Service Trail which led in the right direction toward our campsite at Stock Cabin for the next two nights. Two members of our party scouted this trail to the base of the escarpment and identified Frozen Lake Creek on our map which emptied into East DuNoir Creek slightly downstream. We decided to ford this stream with our two emergency horses which accompanied us rather than backtracking to our starting point and losing a lay-over day. By this time our frantic outfitter who was scouting the area for us had located our party. Meanwhile, our supplies were progressing up East DuNoir Creek to Stock Cabin.

After we crossed Frozen Lake Creek it was but a very short distance to our campground under picturesque DuNoir Glacier. We were soon pitching our tents and the cook was feeding a starved and tired party of wilderness trekkers.

There was a large meadow at Stock Cabin with cattle grazing under a Forest Service permit which dated back many years. This would be the last sign we would see of civilization until the end of our trip. Ahead of us and to

the north, dominating the horizon, was the beginning of the Absaroka Range.

Sunday morning we launched out on what was to be our longest and most scenic hike over Shoshone Pass to Bliss Creek Meadows.

As we climbed higher and higher on the trail we could see DuNoir Glacier off to our left. This was the end of the part of the trip that lay in the areas which the Forest Service was proposing to be included in the Washakie Wilderness. Shoshone Pass was a narrow opening as we approached it from the south which fanned out into a large meadow as we walked through. We were now entering virgin country in the South Absaroka Wilderness where no trees had ever been logged and no grazing was permitted.

From Shoshone Pass flow the headwaters of the South Shoshone River plunging rapidly down a steep canyon endowed with some of the most magnificent and beautiful scenery on the continent. There were beautiful wildflowers such as forget-me-nots, wild strawberries and wild geraniums. The volcanic breccias extruding randomly had occasional displays of petrified wood. There were stupendously beautiful, multistage, plunging waterfalls on either side,

hidden caves in the steep cliffs accessible only to coyotes and cougars, and the roar of the South Shoshone River as it descended into the spectacularly beautiful canyon. Nature was indeed binding her spell here to those who were sensitive enough to fall under it.

This was truly magnificent country of national park calibre visited by only a few hikers and hunters during the brief summer months and short fall hunting season. Here, time seemed to stand still. Here, surely was something that civilization could never duplicate, and should preserve for posterity.

As our party descended down the trail and into the canyon, we encountered two young seasonal Forest Service employees who were the only inhabitants of Bliss Meadows during the brief summer months. Their job was to clear the trail of rocks and fallen trees. They seemed to be overjoyed at seeing us and were very gracious in answering questions and telling us what they knew about the area.

As we neared Bliss Meadows we passed through a very old stand of Engelmann Spruce. Occasionally in the trail we could see huge mounds of bark fallen from ancient trees under attack by bark beetles. These beetles are nature's way of getting rid of very old and diseased spruce which become more susceptible to their attacks when their normal life span is attained. Spruce require a very moist and cool climatic environment as opposed to pine and are usually heavily infested with mosquitoes. Somehow this was not a bad mosquito year and we escaped this menace most of our time. We were able to enjoy leisurely strolls through these unique groves.

After we emerged from the spruce, we skirted a boulder field which was between the trail and the meadow and could hear the soft, bird-like, shrill whistle of pika in the rocks. These friendly little animals sounded as if they were all around. However, they were rather shy about being spotted and as a consequence caused us some puzzlement until a few of us actually saw some of them.

Following such a long hike, we were all glad to reach our campsite at Bliss Creek Meadows. This was at the junction of the South Shoshone River and Bliss Creek. We gathered around the campfire that night and some of us listened to the news of the astronauts landing on the moon. They had set foot on a new world. We were seeing some of the old which still too few people experience.

Our campsite at Bliss Creek Meadows was used as a hunting camp in the fall so we had little trouble in finding poles for our tents. It is an unwritten law of the woods to put things that others can use back where you found them when you are through with them so that they will be available to the next fellow. It is strange that in the wilderness we find consideration and understanding for our fellowmen that is often lacking in more sophisticated civilization.

By this time, some of us were beginning to miss some

(Please turn to Page 11)

Washakie Wilderness

Friday, March 27, 1970
High Country News—11

of the conveniences of civilization such as a bath. Most of us took sponge baths in the cold mountain streams and a few brave souls took the plunge into the frigid waters, soaped ourselves and then quickly rinsed off in the cold liquid. This was indeed an exhilarating experience as anyone who has done it can attest.

Our drinking water came from the many brooks and creeks which we traversed and most of us simply carried a tin collapsible cup as a container. It was always cool and refreshing and although we shared it with the animals, no one was ever concerned about getting sick from it. It was pure, unpolluted and clear, much of it deriving from the melted snow.

Many of us fished the South Shoshone during our lay-over day at Bliss Creek Meadows. There was excellent brookie fishing here and an expert could catch his limit in a few minutes. That night everyone who wanted had all the trout he could eat.

Tuesday morning we bid adieu to Bliss Creek Meadows and headed up Clark Creek for Pierpont Pass. We crossed the meadows and could see off in the distance down the Shoshone River Valley an ancient extinct volcanic cone which millions of years ago had no doubt spewed up much of the parent material of this region. We immediately entered a heavily forested area and began our steep ascent toward Pierpont Pass to the east.

As we prepared to leave our campsites every other day, our outfitter would begin preparations to pack the supplies on the horses. They could travel much faster than we could on foot so that although they departed several hours after our party, they would usually pass us on the trail. They would arrive at the next camp well ahead of us and begin preparations of our evening meal after setting up camp. Theirs was not an easy job but they seemed to enjoy it and to go about the performance cheerfully.

The importance of a good, warm, down sleeping bag and high quality lined hiking boots cannot be overemphasized. These are musts if a hiker into the wilderness is to go his way in a successful manner. Skimping on these two items in particular will usually be regretted in wilderness country such as we were traversing. Sleeping in the open at night is often preferable to sleeping in tents, provided you have these items.

From Pierpont Pass, we caught our first view of Secret Basin, a rather large, concave depression surrounded on all sides by mountains. Some of our Indian lore hobbyists searched for Indian chippings washed up by the spring thaws. These would have been left here by the Sheepeater Indians who came to find and fashion their crude flints for hunting game. To our left was a large extensive elevated plateau known as Shoshone Plateau, frequently grazed by elk and bighorn sheep. Immediately to our right was a large, extensive, U-shaped canyon enclosed by a massif of which Raggedtop

Continued...

Peak formed the eastern side and which beckoned exploration.

At Secret Basin, we saw elk grazing the mountainside in the late afternoon and bighorn sheep the next morning. We met a party of "rockhounds" who were looking for specimens of petrified wood. Some of us hiked into the beautiful valley that was a part of the Raggedtop massif. This was a naturalists paradise. It contained hidden waterfalls, permanent snowfields, volcanic outcroppings, many alpine flowers, petrified wood specimens, Indian squaw hackings, small lakes, tumbling brooks, and an aura of isolation which was captivating. Others roamed to the top of Pierpont Pass and onto Shoshone Plateau. Still others scouted the base of Raggedtop immediately to the South of our camp for petrified wood where some of the best samples were found. The mules and horses were hobbled and grazed contentedly in the lush meadow.

Late in the afternoon, some of us spotted a golden eagle soaring the air currents of a canyon, preying for food for its next meal. These majestic birds seem to confine themselves each to their own particular canyon probably near their nesting grounds. They make rapid but graceful flights along the steep canyon walls.

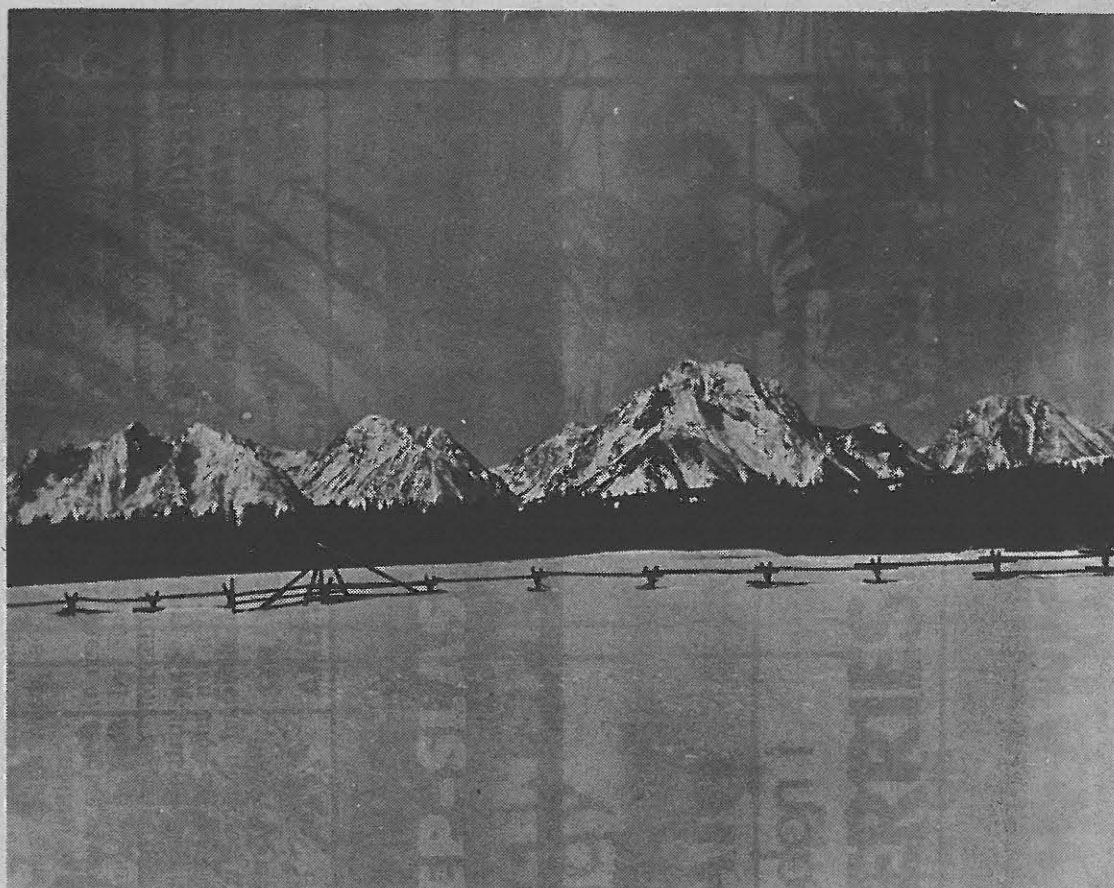
At night we sat around the campfire, talked, and listened to the pleasant guitar strumming of an entertainer provided by the outfitter. We discussed wilderness and the impact of civilization upon its future. Our outfitter's cook provided us with a delicious beef stew furnished by one of the steers from the herd at Stock Cabin. Rising over Raggedtop Mountain was a crystal clear moon. The astronauts were now somewhere between us and the moon making their return to earth.

Somewhat reluctantly on Thursday Morning, we packed our gear for our trip over Cougar Pass. This pass had been scouted by airplane just before our departure from Togwotee Lodge and we were told there was still a lot of snow but it was passable. It was 1908 before the first packtrain was to go over Cougar Pass, a double fold in the mountain which would be the highest point of our entire trip (11,240 feet). From here we could see the very tip of Grand Teton Peak, away off in the distance to the West.

We looked down the East Fork of the Shoshone River into country that did not have a trail into it. There was an excellent view of Raggedtop Mountain and Secret Basin from here. Ahead of us to the East was a huge lateral snowfield. This was along the eastern flank of Cougar Pass and it formed the headwaters of Cougar Creek. Some of us traversed this snowfield while others skirted around the edge as did our packstock.

Cougar Creek is a small creek of about three or four miles length which plunges wildly down a steep and spectacular canyon into Frontier Creek and the Stratified Primitive Area.

Our supply train passed



Mt. Moran broods silently above the snow-covered Jackson Hole in Wyoming's winter wonderland.

and made an impressive scene ahead as they wound the narrow trail descending into the trees. We could hear the shrill alarm of a marmot in a rockpile. It viewed us with curious alarm darting in and out of the rock. There were a number of slide areas in the canyon bare of vegetation because of repeated winter snowslides.

We were now in the protected Frontier Creek Petrified area where no specimens of petrified wood were to be removed. We crossed Frontier Creek and pitched camp in a narrow elevated meadow above the creek. We were met by a Forest Service Ranger who had backpacked in from Double Cabin. The cabin was to be the terminating point of our journey the following day.

The Ranger was very courteous. That night around the campfire, he treated us to a short talk and question and answer session concerning the history of Frontier Creek and the Stratified Primitive Area.

We could see some of the large petrified stumps (some of them 15 feet in diameter) high in the strata of the cliffs above us. When the volcanoes were active in this area many millions of years ago, it was mostly elevated, flat plain of about 3,000 feet elevation. At this time there was considerable more

rainfall than now and some of the species present then such as redwood are no longer found here. The volcanic activity arose and subsided over a period of several thousand years, each time causing most of the animals to flee but burying the plants in volcanic debris. A cycle of about 500 years was necessary for the vegetation to re-establish itself and mature into climax in the desolation lost by these tremendous volcanic eruptions. Each period, a new strata was deposited, eroded and the petrified process proceeded. Eventually all volcanic activity in the area ceased and the forces of erosion set in to form what is now the Absaroka Range and Stratified Primitive Area.

Some of us hiked up Frontier Creek about three miles the next day to see some of the huge petrified stumps in the canyon wall at close hand. Often times a waterfall has exposed these stumps to view through eons of erosion of the rock and mantle around it. An expert could identify the species of these which each individual petrified stump represented at one time by studying the grain of the mineral comprising it.

Saturday morning, July 27, our party hiked the remaining miles to Double Cabin past Coffman Butte on

our left and side canyons seldom ventured into on our right. By noon we sighted our truck across Frontier Creek, the first motorized vehicle we had seen in eight days. We forded Frontier Creek, placed our gear aboard the truck and headed for Togwotee Lodge thru Dubois, Wyoming at the end of an unforgettable wilderness experience.

Footnote:

There is a strong need to make the Washakie a statutory wilderness under the National Wilderness Preservation Act, so that those who care to can have the same kind of wilderness experience that the Wilderness Society Group of 1969 were privileged to enjoy. It is an area that is pristine and natural. It offers all the inspiration and advantage that such an area can provide. Urgently needed is additional legislation which would include the DuNoir Basin in this scenically priceless example of what our country was once like for generations as yet unborn. It would continue to be a valuable, pollution-free watershed, fishing and recreational area, as well as scientific study area. These benefits are its highest and best use and should not be denied to the American public both now and in the future.

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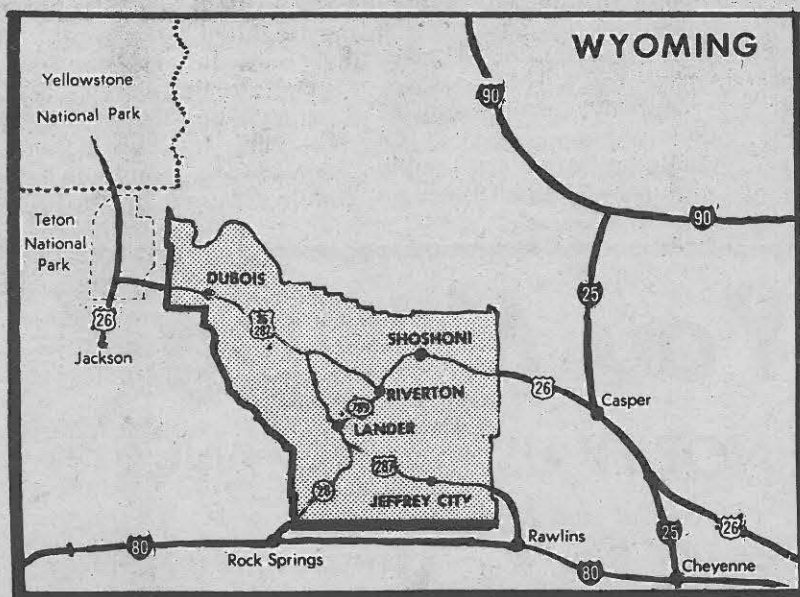


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