

High Country News

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

Vol. 3, No. 2

Friday, January 22, 1971



Wyoming ranches are often remote. This one lies near the high divide, coming off the south end of the Wind River Mountains.

Game Range Set

One of the largest herds of bighorn sheep in the United States now seems assured of an ideally situated winter range. The Whiskey Peak-Torrey Rim area south of Dubois, Wyoming, has been designated primarily for the use of some 800-1,000 head of the big game animals. (See photo on back page.)

In a cooperative agreement worked out between the U. S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and neighboring ranchers, the area will be managed for the benefit of the bighorn herds. The area also has herds of elk and mule deer with some moose.

Although relatively small in size, involving about 22,000 acres, the area has mild, open winters and excellent habitat for all big game.

The managing agencies have worked out a management plan which will:

- Produce optimum forage for wildlife, primarily wintering populations of bighorn sheep.

- Provide an area for study of the ecological needs of the

bighorns.

- Minimize competition between livestock and other wildlife species with the bighorns.

- Obtain a better distribution of wintering bighorn sheep.

Game management will be used to favor the bighorns over other big game, and to keep the bighorns within optimum levels for the carrying capacity of the range.

Some fences will be removed from the range, there will be no commercial timbering in the area, and all vehicles will be restricted to existing roads.

Since the area offers unusual opportunity for wildlife photography, any commercial photographic operations must be cleared in advance with the land managing agencies.

Anyone interested in the area can write for additional information to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department or the Bureau of Land Management at Lander, Wyoming.

Environment rates...

Governors Outline Many State Problems

Two Rocky Mountain area governors have put environmental matters high on their list of priorities.

Governor John Love of Colorado devoted the first part of his recent state of the state address to a personal appeal for preserving his state's environment.

He strongly endorsed legislation proposed by the Colorado Land Use Commission to provide for review of major proposals for land development. He said, "I shall personally support in all ways programs to bring to Colorado an effective system of land use planning."

Love also referred to increased efforts to "complete the job of providing high quality pure water," and the control of air pollution from stationary sources.

Newly elected Democratic Governor Cecil Andrus of Idaho, in his state of the state message, stressed the necessity to protect the quality of natural resources and the environment.

He said, "In Idaho, we have been richly endowed with natural resources and a clean environment. We have been free of the great pressures of population and industry that have degraded the environment of many of our

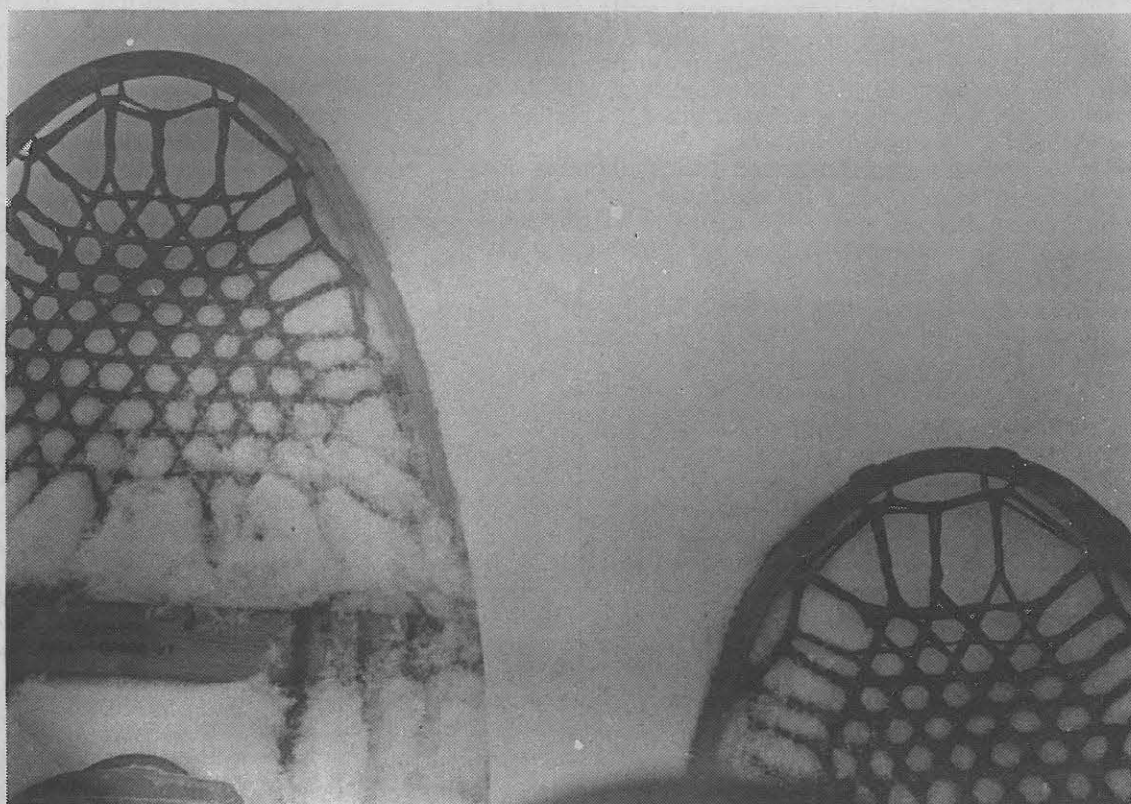
sister states. But these pressures are now crowding in upon us with the growth of industry and population. We must face up to the growing threat to the quality of our air and water, our soil and landscape."

Andrus did not recommend the creation of a single environmental agency to deal with state problems as he was expected to do. Observers felt that he did not recommend such a change because of Idaho's tight financial situation.

He recommended to the legislature enactment of a stream protection law, authorization of minimum stream flows for the protection of aquatic life and scenic and recreational values of Idaho streams and to maintain the quality of waters. He said he favors the establishment of more wild and scenic rivers. He said he would give unqualified support to Idaho's two U. S. senators in their proposal for an eight-year moratorium of dam building on the Middle Snake River (Hells Canyon).

He said he would pledge the resources of his office to the defence of the White Clouds Mountains. This is the area in which large scale strip

Photos by Tom Bell



Trekking to the ranch, or to the cabin, or along the trapline, or just in pleasure. In any case, snowshoes will take you safely home - or into quiet solitude.

Save the Green River

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Reprinted from January 9, 1970

The past is prologue; the decade of the 1970's is upon us. Looking back down the trail and then peering ahead, we can't help but see more of the same. It's going to be change - tremendous change.

I am optimistic. The changes which have been set in motion in the decade of the 60's will continue. True, not all of them are to our liking. But the conservative human animal is flexible.

There are changes that bode well. I can think of none which gives me more satisfaction than the development of an ecological conscience in a growing percentage of the decision makers. When I graduated from college some twenty years ago, one of my major fields of study was ecology. It made great sense to me then. It does even more so today. It seemed to me in these intervening years that public knowledge and acceptance of such a vital, exciting field was excruciatingly slow. Now, it has arrived.

Hand in hand with an ecological conscience goes the fearful knowledge of population pressures. It is one of the most frightening aspects of the decade ahead. Either we learn to control our own human populations in the next years, or we face ecological disaster. The biological functions of human beings are no different than those of mule deer - or passenger pigeons.

The sociologists and the psychologists, and even the medical profession, can learn much from the wildlife biologists. Wildlife management is an art which in its highest state keeps wildlife populations at a fairly stable level and in optimum balance with the environment. Such a state maintains the healthiest, most thrifty populations.

Biologists also know that when animal populations grow beyond the bounds of environmental balance, strange and abnormal behavior takes place, often leading to death. Thus rabbits go into a state of shock, experience convulsions, and then die. Lemmings blindly run until they meet the sea. There they drown, literally by the millions.

There is still time for the human animal to heed this knowledge and act accordingly. There is hope. President Richard Nixon has broken the tradition of American presidents and has spoken out strongly and responsibly for family planning measures. Many congressmen are now aware of the problems and are taking steps to alert the public and provide the means of implementing national policy. Many young people, whose lives will come to fruition in this decade, have come to the realization that their families must be limited. I think one of the great changes in the next few years will be the emphasis on stable population.

Technology, which proliferated so greatly in the last ten years, will make even greater advances. But some of the advancements will be to correct environmental evils which it has unwittingly brewed. Other changes will continue to uplift the human animal and improve his lot. It will provide much more leisure time than we now know. This could make for more problems.

There will be much more planning for land uses. And we will lose some of our freedoms thereby. The changes will be necessary in the public interest because of population pressure.

We look into an exciting era. It is not without apprehensions and fears, but neither is it without hope.



Idaho Attorney General Proposes Ecology Law

Idaho's newly elected attorney general, Tony Park, has submitted a measure to the legislature to establish a separate department of ecology. The 32-page bill is patterned after the Washington State law creating a separate department for environmental and pollution controls.

The bill would authorize an ecological commission appointed by the governor. The proposed department would

control and regulate water, air, solid waste, noise, and radioactive pollution. Several separate agencies now administer these controls.

Park said it made sense to him to gather various pollution control agencies under one roof. He said he thought one department would not only result in more effective enforcement but also be a more efficient user of the taxpayer's dollar.



Photo by Tom Bell

Winter trails lead to high adventure. Cross-country skiers go into the back country of Wyoming for a day's outing.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Please consider this an open letter to your reading public.

Another Dam! Damn the Dams. Somebody spots a river and visions of Dams appear, not to mention the millions of dollars that go flooding into the hands of those who hold the contracts for the man-made obstruction. A select few will benefit economically while millions will suffer the price environmentally. Someday those Dam building people will be sorry. As they (those who are pro The Green River Development Plan, or any like plan) design to build industries they rape and destroy the very land that was once called "America the Beautiful" and convert it into "America the Dammed".

What even gripes me more is that I recently purchased some land in Sublette County about ten miles southeast of Pinedale because it is isolated somewhat from industry and is excellent hunting and fishing country. Consequently, I feel that I have an interest in Wyoming's environment.

The land, as is, is worth more than all the industrial and political dollars put together; my statement though may not be proved for another century or more. I feel, as I believe others also feel, that some lands cannot be measured in dollar signs, but should be conservationally measured against the remains of our natural environment that is diminishing at an alarming rate. Man living in nature is awkwardly seducing himself into a condition of poverty of nature -- the very thing he is part of.

Of course there are those who will argue that a Dam, or the power derived there from would bring industry and increase the states income and population. This of course is a false notion. Wyoming's population over the past ten years has decreased by .4% while Nevada's has increased by 68%, a state with hardly an industry worth mentioning and no Dams. Arizona, on the other hand has the Great Boulder (Hoover) Dam of which over 70% of the water is diverted to California, a state that borders an ocean. Arizona is no tropical scene nor is highly populated industrially, yet California receives the majority of the benefits.

To make a tremendously long story short, forget it -- the Dam project that is: The Green River Development Plan.

Oh, if only Bill Sublette and Jim Bridger were alive today they would soon arrest the plan, you could bet your boots on that.

Listen! Listen everyone -- remember this is your country your land and your environment, or rather that which is remaining.

Sincerely,
Thom Blake
8110W. 45th Pl
Lyons, Ill.

Editor's note:

We appreciate the time you have taken to write us concerning your feelings on

dams . . . and especially the Green River Development Plan. Unfortunately, Wyoming Governor Stan Hathaway is in favor of dams on the river and it seems now we are losing the battle. The majority of persons in Wyoming expressed their feelings at public meetings throughout the state, against the dams. Governor Hathaway seems to be ignoring the very same persons that elected him to office. No doubt he favors the chance for industrial and economic development over the wishes of Wyoming people and their environment. The state legislature is now meeting in Cheyenne and one of the main topics for discussion is the Green River Development Plan.

High Country news editors and concerned citizens in Wyoming are not giving up and we hope you won't either. A treasure so precious as the Upper Green River deserves fighting for, even until the last minute. The fate of the Upper Green lies in Governor Hathaway's hands. Letters, telegrams, phone calls or personal visits from interested persons may help. Letters to the National Wildlife Federation, National Geographic Society and the Audubon Society may produce some outside help.

Charles J. Farmer, editor

Editor:

As a newcomer to Wyoming, I have been intrigued by the fact that this state currently is confronted with several conservation struggles. Particularly I am interested in the controversy surrounding the future development or non-development of the water resources of the Upper Green River. I recently moved to Wyoming from the State of Maine in the early 1960's when that state was trying to decide the future of the Allagash River, which is one of the last free-flowing wilderness rivers east of the (Continued from page 4)

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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BY TOM BELL

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The people of Wyoming are being duped by the mining industry and the State's highest political leaders.

While we are being assured that millions of acres of our land surface are adequately protected, disaster may be waiting in the wings. Ten years hence, the people of Wyoming may be looking back with regret at what might have been.

We cannot say we have not been warned. The mining industry is notable for its rapacious and exploitive use of the land. Wyoming people need look no further than Montana to see strip mining at its worst, if only on small scale yet. In fact, any concerned citizen ought to visit the strip mining operation near Hanna, the Gas Hills uranium mining district, and some of the other coal and uranium stripping operations elsewhere in the state.

Appalachia is known far and wide for devastation on a gigantic scale. The states of that region finally took the only recourse possible. They passed the strictest strip mining laws in the country. For thousands of acres of their land, the action came too late.

The administrators of Kentucky's law said they had learned one hard fact of life in dealing with the strip miners - most of them will not do one thing they are not forced to do by law.

A recent article which appeared in both THE DENVER POST and THE BILLINGS GAZETTE documented what is happening in Ohio. The article said, "To uncover the coal, farms, barns, silos, houses, churches and roads - the evidence of entire townships - are being dynamited, scooped up by mammoth power shovels that tower 12 stories high, and piled in giant windrows of strip-mine spoil banks.

"On the graded rubble, land too rocky to ever again feel a plow, Ralph Hatch, the Hanna Coal president, promises to start for those who remain here a new and profitable beef cattle industry. But there are official doubts here that the former pastures, cornfields and hardwood groves transformed into nearly treeless, gloomy moors of legally 'reclaimed' land can support animals larger than rabbits.

"And Hatch himself speaks of reclamation plans

requiring '30 or 40 years' to return the land to normal . . .

"Coal industry spokesmen contend that the urban, industrial society of a nation that once drew its strength, its character and its people from rural regions such as this can take pride - and profit - from the fact that the country now needs the spent farms again for what lies beneath them - billions of tons of cheap, profitable strip-mine fuel for the production of more and more electrical energy."

Does anyone in Wyoming seriously think it isn't going to happen here? Just a month ago, two oil companies paid \$5 million for the leases on 10,560 acres of public land near Gillette.

No one can question the fact that most of Campbell County, and a good part of Sheridan, Johnson and Converse Counties are underlain with vast deposits of strippable coal.

Does anyone in any of those counties really believe there is going to be much left of the natural surface of their beloved land when the coal companies have finished?

Most of Sweetwater County, the largest county in the State, is the repository of gigantic stores of coal and oil shale. The neighboring counties of Lincoln, Uinta and Carbon are similarly "blessed" with strippable deposits of valuable minerals. Much of the land involved is owned either by the Union Pacific Railroad or the Federal Government - we the people.

There are those who would argue that Wyoming's land really isn't worth much anyway - so why bother? If they have contempt for the land in Ohio, why should they be concerned for Wyoming?

There are those who decry the wholesale destruction of habitat in Africa, where wild animals are even now becoming endangered. But what about Wyoming where the world's largest herds of pronghorn antelope range on the very areas where the greatest deposits of coal now lie? Is there no one who cares?

From known geological surveys, Wyoming has over four million acres of potentially strippable minerals, or approximately 6.5 per cent of the total land surface. The minerals range from copper and molybdenum in beautiful mountain settings to vast deposits of coal in our deserts and grasslands.

But the people of Wyoming

are being duped in the name of "progress and development."

A recent news release out of Cheyenne said that apparently both state government officials and representatives of industry were content with the 1969 Open Cut Land Reclamation Act. That statement alone ought to be warning enough to any concerned citizen. When the industry is content, you may be sure the members dictated the law - which they did! It is no wonder they are satisfied with the act.

Yet, not one of our highest elected or appointed State officials has indicated any real concern. Not even the sole, politically appointed administrator of the act sees anything amiss. (Should you wonder?)

The Act

Wyoming's citizens should be better informed. To that end, HIGH COUNTRY NEWS herewith presents a summary comparison between Wyoming's strip mining act and a model act. The model act referred to is a compilation of the best features of existing state laws. Most of the laws used are those of Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Indiana, Virginia, and West Virginia. These are states where mining has already caused great devastation. People there have learned that the only way to deal with the mining industry and protect their lands is through tough laws, strictly enforced.

Policy

The model act: "The Legislature declares that all surface mining activities conducted in this state shall be managed so as to assure minimum impairment of the environmental, aesthetic, social, and cultural values of the State."

"This subheading shall be deemed to be an exercise of the police powers of the State for the general welfare of the people of the State, by providing for the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the State and the restoration of areas of land affected by surface mining; to aid thereby in the protection of wildlife; to decrease soil erosion; to aid in the prevention of the pollution of State waters; to provide for reclamation of the mined areas; to preserve environmental and aesthetic values critical to the people;

and generally to improve the use and enjoyment of these lands."

The Wyoming act: It is hereby declared to be the policy of this State to provide for the reclamation and conservation of land subjected to surface disturbance by open cut mining and thereby to preserve natural resources, to aid in the protection of wildlife and aquatic resources, to establish agricultural, recreational, home and industrial sites, to protect and perpetuate the taxable value of property, and to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this State.

Administration

The model act: Administered by an Operations Review Board (or Strip Mining and Reclamation Commission) composed of the Directors of the Bureau of Mines (or State Geologist in Wyoming), the Director of Forests and Parks, the Director of Game and Fish, the Director of the Geological Survey, the Director of Water Resources, the Chairmn of the State Soil Conservation Committee, and a citizen of the State to serve as Chairman of the Board at the pleasure of the Governor. The Board has authority to employ a director, reclamation inspectors, and such other personnel as necessary. No employee of the Board shall be an operator, nor shall the Board employ any person who has an operator as direct kin, including by marriage.

The Wyoming act: Administered under the sole jurisdiction of one man, the Commissioner of Public Lands, a political appointee by the Governor. The law says, "This act shall be administered by the commissioner of public lands of the State of Wyoming who shall have power to appoint such subordinates as he may deem necessary . . ." He answers to no one but the Governor.

It may be noted in the public interest that the present commissioner was a landsman for a major oil company for many years before being appointed. The one inspector so far employed by the land commissioner to enforce Wyoming's law is a former mining engineer for mining companies.

No provision is made in the act to provide for adequate funding for implementing and enforcing the requirements of the act.

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Bonding

Bonding is one of the surest guarantees for performance on the part of a mining company. Every state with sad experience in strip mining has a minimum bond requirement. The lowest minimum is levied by the State of Illinois with \$1,000; Pennsylvania requires \$5,000; Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio require \$2,000; and Virginia and West Virginia, \$2,500. Every other state also requires an additional bond for every acre used or disturbed in the mining operation. The lowest of these additional bonds which any state requires is Virginia, set at \$75 an acre; Kentucky's and West Virginia's ranges from \$100 to \$500 per acre depending upon conditions; Maryland levies \$200 acre; Ohio, \$300 an acre, and Pennsylvania, \$500 an acre.

The model act states, "The amount of the bond required for each operation shall be dependent upon the overburden and the contour and shall be determined by the director, but such bond shall not be less than \$500 per acre or fraction thereof of land to be disturbed by the operation during the twelve months specified by the permit or permit renewal; provided that no bond shall be filed for less than \$5,000."

The bond is required to be issued by a corporate surety or the operator can deposit cash or U. S. Government negotiable bonds. Nothing is said about allowing the operator to put up lands as surety.

Most states allow bonds applying to grading and backfilling to be released when those measures have been completed. But the full value of the bond cannot be released until planting and revegetation fulfills the law and is approved by the director.

The Wyoming act: Wyoming's law is shot full of ambiguities and loopholes. It says, "Any bond herein provided to be filed with the commissioner by the operator shall be in such form as the commissioner prescribes, payable to the State of Wyoming, conditioned that the operator shall faithfully perform all requirements of this act and comply with all rules of the commissioner made in accordance with the provisions of this act. Such bond shall be (Please turn to page 15.)"



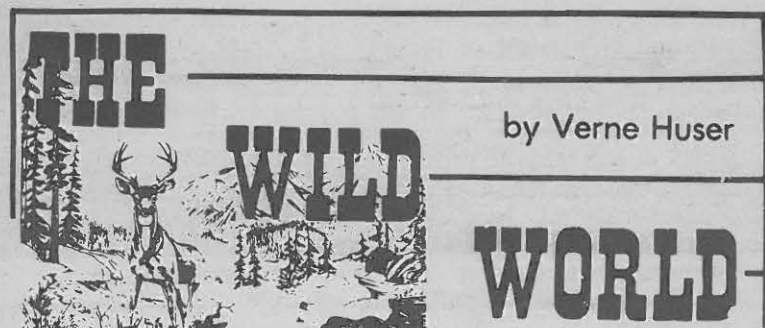
Ridges of overburden still stand, unreclaimed and exposed to erosion, near Colstrip, Montana. Wyoming's strip mining regulations say such ridges "shall be graded to a minimum width of ten (10) feet at the top." The regulation is not adequate to restore the land to a topography suitable for protection from erosion and the establishment of plant cover.

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Edward P. Cliff, Chief of the U. S. Forest Service, has been a "bad guy" in the eyes of many conservationists for much of his career in Washington. It is he—so it seems—that direct the Forest Service policy that says CUT TIMBER and let the other multiple uses of the national forests follow in whatever order they may.

During the past year, however, the Chief has been under tremendous pressure from the American public he theoretically serves. Especially since the defeat of the Timber Supply Act and President Nixon's executive order to cut more timber on the national forest, Ed Cliff has been taking a beating.

In a recent article in AMERICAN FORESTS magazine (January 1971) Ed Cliff says "Our programs are out of balance to meet the public needs for the environmental 1970's and we are receiving mounting criticism from all sides. Our direction must be and is being changed."

Yet, Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin told members of the National Forests Products Association, the prime instigators of the Timber Supply Act, that a major program reorientation is not intended and that the goal of the Department is to meet objectives set by Congress and the Executive Branch. The President of the United States has already indicated his deafness to the public by issuing his executive order to increase the yield from the national forests. Is Congress deaf too?

Let us hope not, and to that end, let us sound once more the clarion call to our own Congressional delegation and let them know how we here in Wyoming feel about the way our national forests are being managed and clear cut. (These forests are ours on two counts: they belong to all the people of the nation, and as citizens of the nation, the national forests belong to us; we live here and perhaps know the national forests of Wyoming better than those in Washington who administer them).

For more than two years Senator Gale McGee has been trying to get a non-biased study of the timber practices and the management policies of the national forests in Wyoming where vast stands of marginal timber have been cut in areas too high and too dry for good timber production. We are turning our upper watersheds into tree farms for lodgepole pine on a 120-year rotation basis (low-elevation heavy-rainfall areas in the Southern States produce comparable timber in 30 years).

Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana has had the same kind of problem: getting an objective review of Forest Service practices and policies in his state, but he asked the University of Montana to study the situation. The report of that study came out a few months ago and says in effect that on the Bitterroot National Forest—and Senator Metcalf suggests that "the results of such a study might well be extended to recommendations national in scope"—timber is in fact mined and the multiple-use concept is missing, that considerations of recreation and watershed, of wildlife and grazing appear as afterthoughts, that quality timber management and harvest practices are missing, and that the management sequence of clear-cutting-terracing-planting cannot be justified as an investment.

If Senator McGee—with the help of his Republican colleague in the Senate and Representative Teno Roncalio—ever gets his Blue Ribbon Committee to study the Wyoming national Forests, will the results be similar? A team of experts appointed by the Forest Service has for the past several months been making an in-house study of the Wyoming national forests, but their report has not yet been published (one rumor suggests that it is being revised since the University of Montana report came out).

But is there any reason to believe that Senator McGee will get any help? Senator Hansen has said -- at the First Wyoming Environmental Congress in Casper last May—"I will not question the wisdom of the Forest Service, and he admitted to me last week that he had not yet read the copy of the University of Montana report that I personally gave him in early December. Congressman Roncalio, to my knowledge, has not yet taken a stand on the subject.

Shedding some light on clear-cutting in national forests is an article entitled "Desert Under the Trees" by Malcolm Margolin, which appeared in the December issue of National Parks & Conservation Magazine. Margolin, who has worked in reforestation projects throughout the western states and is now doing research into the economics and techniques of timber-saving devices, suggests that clear-cutting that leads to tree farming implies "a place where trees are raised as an agricultural crop." Such places, he further suggests, can become wildlife deserts (ever been in a lodgepole pine forest?). "They lack deadwood, thickets, and shrub-filled clearings that are habitats of many creatures, he says; "Those who love wild and natural land find tree farms a sorry affair."

He offers the concept that we don't need to increase the yield of our national forests as the Timber Supply Act suggests (if the Act had passed, he says, we would "have gone along way toward making tree farms of the national forests.") but rather, that we have to discourage exports of our raw timber, develop alternate building materials, and

stop wasting so much wood.

Margolin tells us that 10% of the timber cut in this country is exported, that 10 to 20% of the timber cut is left in the forest as slash, and that only 65% of a tree is now converted into useful products.

So where do we go from here? If we are concerned about the abuse of our national forests, we let our elected representatives in Washington know about it. We also tell President Nixon what we think of his executive order; we write to Secretary of Agriculture Cliff Hardin and to U. S. Forest Service Chief Ed Cliff (this could be a real Cliff hanger) and let them know how we feel.

We need the balance suggested by Ed Cliff, but we also need the co-operation of Congress, of the Secretary of Agriculture, and of President Nixon. Can we get it in time to save our forests? Only YOU can answer that question.

Letters to the Editor...

Mississippi, if indeed not in the entire nation. The competing demand in that case came from a desire on the part of the Department of the Interior and some Maine people to establish a huge hydro-electric power plant on the Allagash. Various conservation groups banded together to create pressure for the preservation of the wilderness qualities of that river, and in 1966 the Maine Legislature created the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

To get to the point, I understand from members of the University of Wyoming's Environmental Action Committee that you publish two conservation-orientated newspapers one being the "High Country News," and the other name escapes me at the moment. Would it be possible for you to send me copies of recent issues which in any way deal with the current Upper Green River question?

Also, would it be possible for me to be placed on your mailing list for these publications? We receive conservation publications from more than 30 private and public groups or agencies, which are preserved for the future use of scholars. We would like to add your publications to this growing collection.

Sincerely yours,
Charles G. Roundy
Research Historian
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

Editor's Note:

Thanks for your comments on the Allagash. The correlation between the Green and the Allagash is well taken. We can only hope that Wyoming people love their free-flowing rivers enough to protect them and keep them from unnecessary development while there is still time.

We publish High Country News and within it is Wyoming Outdoors, the newsletter of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council. I wear two hats, one as editor of the paper and the other as executive director of the Council. You have been placed on our mailing list, compliments of the Outdoor Council. Hope our newspaper can be of use both to you and to our posterity.

Tom Bell, co-editor

* * *

Editor:

Thank you and your staff for the grand job done on your publication. We can appreciate your work as we consider Wyoming as our second home. Our experience in your state—and with the fine people of the state dates back to the early thirties. In other words, we are annual visitors.

We really appreciated the article about Joe and Mary Back which was published a few months ago—also the thoughts of Joe's regarding Clear Cutting of our forests.

Dave & Ruby Kazmerchak
Sussex, Wis.

* * *

Editor:

Please renew my subscription to High Country News. I have looked forward to each issue with earnestness and a desire to learn more about our wonderful state.

Respectfully,
Anna E. Mills
Evanston, Wyoming

* * *

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Riding Is It!

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Friday, January 22, 1971

"There are few sensations that I prefer to that of galloping over these rolling limitless prairies . . . or winding my way among the barren fantastic and grimly picturesque deserts of the so-called Badlands."

Theodore Roosevelt penned those words in 1884. But some 87 years later visitors to the North Dakota Badlands and particularly the section set aside to memorialize the famous Rough Rider can still sense excitement over riding through the area's richly diverse terrain.

Horseback riders may meander along the picturesque Little Missouri River that flows north in the two units of the Park, or take the Paddock Creek trail with its minute curves. Then there's Squaw Creek in the Upper Unit which forks with the Little Missouri as Squaw Creek Campground and the Jules and Jones Creeks trickling next to the prairie dog towns in the South Unit.

Enthusiasts in quest of varieties of plants, animals and birds will find horseback riding a way of finding the unexpected.

With sagebrush and rabbitbrush adding spice to the trail, the rider will come across other shrubs and trees including the American plum, buffaloberry, chokecherry, currant, dogwood, wolfberry and numerous varieties of cactus and grasses.

The cool, more moist northern hillsides support a diversity of vegetation while the sunny slopes display smaller semi-arid plants.

Flowers can be found blooming the entire expanse of the Park and particularly in areas accessible by horseback. The wild-prairie rose



Photo by Gary Leppart

A buffalo peers down on a rider going through North Dakota's Badlands. Here, Teddy Roosevelt rode, and remarked on the wildlife.

with its delicate, unpeered scent grows in crevices and among the rocks. What plant enthusiast wouldn't be amazed at seeing the blazing star, the gumbo lily or the pasque flower. Phlox, red-mallow, sunflower, bluebell, coneflower and the goldenrod aster blaze in a garden of color. Every canyon, every hillside is a picture potential.

Wildlife senses the diversity of trees, shrubs and flowers as a playground. The frolicking prairie dog -- perhaps the state's cutest and most unusual animal -- is found in villages (each family has its own section). Several hundred bison graze at will through the Park. Spring and early summer is the time for the arrival of the chubby, light-brown buffalo calves (they like to lie in the sun in early morning and at dusk, moving into the shade during the day).

The pronghorn -- always wary -- is an inquisitive fellow. At first sight of a person, the pronghorn heads for the highest bluff but not out of sight. Here he turns around the watches. If the horseback rider stands motionless or perhaps waves a handkerchief to attract him, the pronghorn will no doubt return -- quite close -- to satisfy his curiosity.

Birds, from the stately eagle to the timorous wren find the Park a natural home. They nest in the unusual places, sometimes accessible only by horsebacking.

Comfort should dictate the fashion of the horseback rider. And don't forget a canteen of water or a camera.

Riding enthusiasts will find the National Park Service rangers helpful in planning a trip. Rangers have criss-crossed the Park numerous times and know the most picturesque trails to pursue in this rugged country.

Engineers Spawning A New Breed?

by JOHN MADSON

For years the Engineer has been cast as a villain in nature, and for good reason. He has dammed rivers, straightened channels, paved wilderness, and done all sorts of mischief.

He may protest that it isn't really his fault -- that the real baddie is the politician, or investor who controls him. Or, as Flip Wilson says: "The Devil made me do it!"

Innocent or not, the engineer is the cutting edge of a technology that is slashing ruthlessly into the best parts of our world, and he must change his perspective. The Engineer's role was once to protect man from environment, but his new role must be protection of environment from man. And there's a new breed of Engineer who is doing just that.

The Association of Conservation Engineers is a corps of professionals who work in state game, fish and park agencies, literally building bridges between the public and good resource management. They have two basic jobs: to enhance environment with engineering, and to alleviate environmental damage. They

must work with one eye on engineering feasibility and the other on sound biology -- and that can make designing an SST seem like playtime with Tinker Toys.

Important people. For one thing, they are developing technical savvy about environmental engineering. At the same time, they are trying to convince other engineers that from now on, no engineering can be feasible if it doesn't include built-in environmental safeguards.

But more than anything else, the Association of Conservation Engineers proves that conservationist and engineer can work together -- and may even be the same man.

Travel Is Up

PIERRE--December travel at Wind Cave National Park was up 24 percent in December and 11.2 percent for the year according to Supt. Alvin Peterson.

Total visitors to the cave was 997,130 compared to 896,603 last year. Visitations in December of this year were up nearly 7,000 persons. Total December visitors numbered 33,134.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Said the Moose, "If they dam up the Green,
Do you realize what it will mean?
I'll have no place to roam
When they flood out my home,
And will just disappear from the scene!"

* * *

California reports only 26 mountain lions have been killed legally since the big cats were classified game animals last July 1. Up until that time, the lions were classed as predators. As late as 1963, the state was paying a bounty of \$50 for males and \$60 for females.

* * *

The warring frogs of Malaysia have been at it again. A bitter clash between two species of frogs on Jan. 17 left 50 dead on the battlefield. The battle took place about 150 miles north of the nation's capitol of Kuala Lumpur. It was near where hundreds of frogs died in fighting in November. Zoologists say the frogs fight fiercely when water levels cover breeding grounds, and there is extreme competition for territory.

* * *

The U. S. Forest Service said a new study of prospective timber supplies will be made this year. The last such study was made in 1962. The report will be available by July 1. A report by the Department of Agriculture last year warned that demands for softwood sawtimber would exceed the supply in the early 1970's, and there would be growing shortages thereafter.

* * *

Scientists at the University of Utah think they may have found a glue for repair of teeth. Barnacle glue solidifies instantly on contact with water or a wet surface. The glue from the small, marine crustacean adheres permanently to almost anything.

* * *

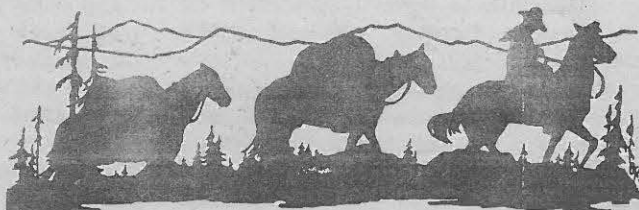
A U. N. report on "Environmental Problems of Energy Production" says man may have to rely on the natural forces of tides, dammed rivers, and underground heat to avoid disastrous environmental problems. The report says these sources may make the cost of energy higher but that environmental considerations may override the economics.

* * *

A Republican representative from Boise has introduced a measure in the Idaho legislature to tax soda pop and other soft drinks. The proposal would earmark funds derived for pollution control. The bill would levy a one cent tax on each 10 ounces, or 80 cents a gallon. Kool Aid and other powdered mixes would also be taxed. An Idaho newspaper, The Lewiston Tribune, has commented editorially, "... the consumer of a non-polluting material would be taxed to assist the industries which are profiting today by not meeting their anti-pollution obligations to the public."

* * *

The Idaho Fish and Game Department estimates salmon fishermen spent \$728,000 catching 13,000 fish in that state in 1969. The figures were taken from an economic study made by the University of Idaho. The study revealed a real cost to fishermen of \$56 for each fish caught. That cost does not include such other costs as campers, boats, or even original fishing tackle.



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WYOMING OUTDOORS

Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Inc.

Statement on Green River Development Plan

Casper, Wyoming

December 10, 1970

I am Tom Bell of Lander, executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council. I speak not only for various groups of people concerned with our state's environment but also for many individuals. Those individuals are fellow citizens in these United States, as well as within Wyoming. I feel also that I can speak for my sons, and for my grandchildren yet unborn.

I wish to presume to do this because the Wyoming Water Planning Program, Report No. 3, Water & Related Land Resources of the Green River Basin, Wyoming, sets forth alternatives for vast changes in our environment. They are changes which my sons and my grandchildren will have to live with—for better or for worse.

We are in a time of great social revolution. What is relevant to my generation is irrelevant to my sons' generations. We must not lose sight of the fact that our world today will be their world tomorrow. We must ask, what is their reaction to dams on the Green River, huge pipelines across our unsullied landscapes, fluctuating reservoirs and despoiled natural lakes.

It is time for us—and for our state government—to thoughtfully decide what is in the realm of the possible, and what is probable. We should be realistic in our appraisal, and truthful in our assessment.

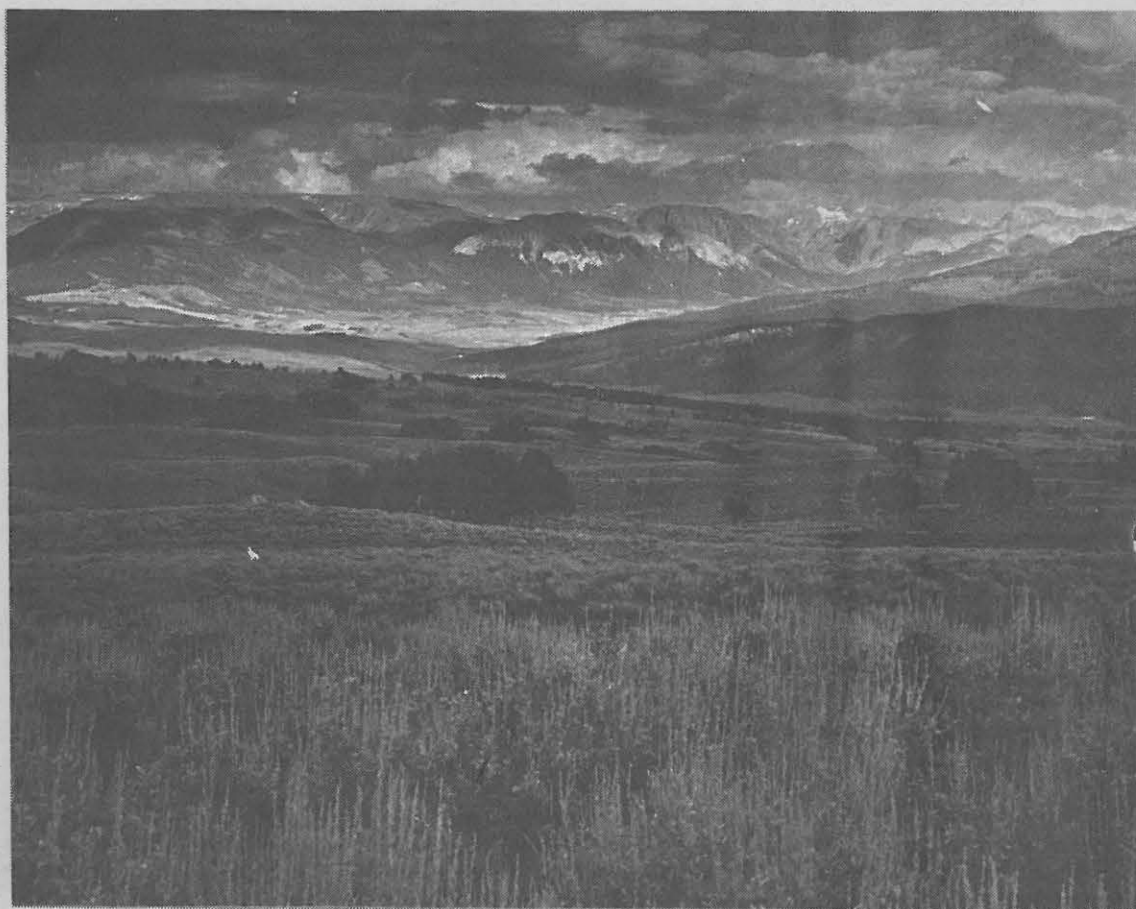
When we make decisions on the use of water out of the Green River, and what that use will entail in the destruction of environment,

we should very humbly and wisely approach the facts. And the facts, so far as we are selfishly concerned with our own State interests, may not be to our liking.

For instance, we should have to truthfully admit that water put on land in Arizona and California will produce far more than it can on the high, dry, alkaline soils of the Green River Basin. Let us not delude ourselves into thinking we are contributing much to the gross national product, or the food stores of the world, with one crop of hay from the very best land in the Eden-Farson project or what is proposed for Seedskaadee.

To continue to press for marginal, uneconomic irrigation projects at this time in history borders on the ridiculous. Two gentlemen who should know have intimated as much. James G. Watt, a deputy assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, told the Wyoming Water Development Association in October that "all of the easy irrigation projects have been built," and that the "use it or lose it" philosophy could not be followed. He then said, "Holding water within the state for some marginal or unbeneficial project, rather than letting it go downstream to a better use, is not advocated."

Earlier this month, the Upper Missouri Water Users Association met in Billings. One of the speakers was John W. Neuberger, the Director of Project Review and Coordination in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Interior. He told the group, "This nation is at a



The Upper Green River Valley is one of the beauty spots of the West. The area is rich in history, as well as wildlife and aesthetics. Many people believe the river should be designated one of America's scenic rivers.

significant crossroad in the management of its natural resource base. Development per se is no longer an acceptable single objective.

"We have reached a point of maturity when we must carefully pick and choose whether to build or to protect, whether to afford opportunities for a few, or many."

But if we are going to be realistic and truthful with ourselves, then we must accede that some development is going to take place. The report adequately describes those areas in which water use is certain to occur. It details the growth of the coal industry as a source of energy, and the potential of oil shale.

Wyoming has the coal and it has the water to fully

develop and utilize the resource. There can be no equivocating on the long-range demands for energy. Strong exception can be taken to the power industry's projection of a doubling and re-doubling of power needs. Last month, two Wyoming newspapers unquestioningly carried an industry editorial. That editorial said, "The problem faced by the utility industry is that, while there is increasing concern with environment, it has been unaccompanied by any reduced desire for electricity."

I submit the power companies are flagrantly hypocritical in espousing such

propaganda. More kilowatts sold make for more profits. Expensive advertising, running into the millions of dollars, is spent every day by the gentlemen from Madison Avenue in behalf of the power industry. You don't hear them exhorting their customers to buy no more electric tooth brushes, electric fingernail buffers, air conditioning units or any other energy eater. To do so would be to destroy the profit incentive.

Which brings us back to the Green River and the report at hand. I think we must ask ourselves if we are ready to destroy irreplaceable natural

(Continued on page 7)

The following editorial is reprinted from The
Denver Post, January 10, 1971.

WELCOME, THATAWAY

Move Federal Agencies West?

WYOMING'S TENO RONCALIO, who was a congressman until 1966 and was re-elected last November, says he is appalled by the congestion he finds in Washington now after a four-year absence. He wants to start shipping government agencies out of smoggy, auto-jammed Washington to the wide open West.

When he speaks of the wide open West, of course, Roncalio means primarily Wyoming. But he generously includes such neighboring states as Colorado.

Basically, of course, Roncalio has a fine idea. We can think of nothing more likely to improve the functioning of, say, the Interior Department, than to move it somewhere out here, into the territory where it mostly operates.

It would undoubtedly improve the health and welfare—and perhaps the education—of most HEW employees and their families if even such a non-Western-related agency were moved West.

And it could be a real boon to all sorts of people if one of the smaller federal agencies such as the Atomic Energy Commission (7,300 employees) were moved to, say, Rifle, Colo. Might give them an interesting perspective on the problems involved in using atomic blasts to free gas from the rocks underneath them.

However, when it comes to larger agencies such as Interior (73,361 employees, of whom

perhaps 20,000 or more work in or near Washington), Roncalio would need to have a care.

When you speak of 20,000 employees, plus their families and people to service their many needs, you are talking of a new city of probably 100,000.

Time was when we in Denver would have said, "Welcome, folks. There's plenty of land to build more buildings out at Federal Center. Just settle in."

Nowadays, if 20,000 more people were to settle suddenly near Federal Center, Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Del Walker probably would hop the first plane to Alaska. He can't build schools as fast as people build kids out there, even now.

And as the smog curtaining the Front Range grows more persistent, and more dangerous, Coloradans from Governor Love on down are beginning to wonder about settling many more people along the Front Range than we have now.

SURE, THERE ARE still plenty of people in plenty of towns in Colorado and Wyoming who would still say "Welcome" to any refugee agencies from Washington. But after they had said that, their next thought would have to be, "Where will we get water for newcomers?" And the answer might not be easy.

So although Roncalio's idea is great and mighty logical, for reasons ecological and hydrological, the West isn't really as wide open as it used to be.

HELP!

The Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council needs help. The Council is fighting the battle of conservation and the environment on a broad front in Wyoming. We are being hit from all sides by the demands for development and industrial growth. Those who seek such development and growth give little heed to ecological and environmental considerations.

Wyoming has many wonderful natural assets. We could easily lose them if we do not plan carefully. The Outdoor Council has been effective in calling public attention to possible consequences of development. This takes time and money. But we are undermanned and underfinanced. We greatly need more citizen support.

Can you help us by contributing to a worthy cause? We are a legal Wyoming corporation but we engage in lobbying activities and therefore your contributions are not tax deductible.

* * *

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* Membership includes subscription to
High Country News.

Statement on Green River Development Plan

High Country News—7
Friday, January 22, 1971

(Continued from page 6.)
resources for the sake of the profit motive for a few big industries. Yes, they supply us with energy, with jobs, with tax bases, and also with their share of pollution. Granted that these are necessary and probably inevitable. Is there another way? Do we have to continue to dam, degrade and destroy?

I don't think so. I think there are answers without the expenditures and the environmental losses posed as alternatives in this report. We are told, (p. 127) "Stored water will be required to meet the projected water needs, and three potential dam sites are proposed to provide reservoir storage on the Green River." Following that, the report says, "Considerations were given in the planning process to using Flaming Gorge Reservoir or an enlargement of Fontenelle Reservoir to develop water supplies. A cost analysis revealed that pumping from Flaming Gorge Reservoir resulted in higher water costs than using any of the other potential reservoirs."

I challenge the last statement. Cost figures for the report were taken from the J. T. Banner and Associates' Report. That shows the cost of land acquisition for the proposed Kendall Reservoir, as an example, as somewhere between \$750,000 and \$800,000. The land was given a base value of approximately \$48 per acre. Land values in the area today would realistically be more like \$1,000 an acre. The same can be said for the New Fork site. Land acquisition alone could more than double the true cost of the proposed reservoirs. There is the added consideration that in the history of reservoir developments, the final costs almost invariably turn out to be two to three times the projected cost.

The report indicates that water may be pumped from near Green River City to the coal fields in the vicinity of Creston Junction, west of Rawlins. That would indicate a total lift of approximately 1,000 ft. in elevation. The elevation of Green River City is approximately 160-200 feet above the level of Flaming Gorge Reservoir. It does not seem possible that the cost for the percentage of lift required for an additional 200 feet over and above the required 1000 feet would be greater than the cost of an entire reservoir.

Figures available to me indicate a possible storage volume in excess of 600,000 acre feet in Flaming Gorge Reservoir. It is storage capacity standing idle because the reservoir has never been filled to anywhere near its rated capacity. Nor is it likely to be filled with water dedicated to downstream uses. The Bureau of Reclamation is already involved in robbing Peter to pay Paul all up and down the line. To fill one reservoir, they have to rob another.

Wyoming would have the advantage of a reservoir already in existence. Wyoming's share of the evaporation from the reservoir is already being deducted from its total

allocation. Adrian Reynolds of Green River has pointed out the recreational values would be greatly enhanced for Wyoming if water levels could be held higher.

As to additional costs, the report points out that the benefit to cost ratio of the Seedskaadee project is so bad that electric power sales must subsidize the irrigation feature. If Wyoming would forget about the marginal, uneconomic Seedskaadee irrigation project and ask for the power revenues to go to pumping costs, it would be far more realistic.

Furthermore, Fontenelle Reservoir has a projected depletion of 125,000 a/ft. for 43,420 acres of cropland. Additional water would be available for some 16,200 acres of land suitable only for pasture. Total costs for development of land in this area will run to almost \$1,000 an acre. If the water allocated to this Reclamation "white elephant" were released for municipal and industrial uses, it would cover the demands for these uses beyond the year 2,000.

What do you do with an additional several hundred thousand acre feet of water allocated to Wyoming? I am not sure I have the answer but as a fourth generation Wyoming citizen, I would like to put forth a few suggestions.

First, I can only assume that industry here along the Platte will be willing to pay approximately \$75-\$100 per acre foot of water delivered here from the Green River, or allow Arizona and California to continue to use the water as they are doing now.

The report shows cost per acre foot of transbasin diversion ranging from \$45 to \$85. I have already challenged the cost of reservoir construction and the cost of pumping from Flaming Gorge and I challenge these figures. They could realistically be twice the cost shown.

I will be realistic about transbasin diversion of water when I see industry line up to option industrial water for \$45 an acre foot delivered to the Platte River. Only this week, John McComb, Southwest representative of the Sierra Club, has written some enlightening comments. In the Sierra Club national news report, he said, "The Central Arizona Project (CAP), which was authorized by Congress in 1968 minus the controversial Grand Canyon dams, may be in trouble even without the dams. The biggest problem appears to be a reluctance by municipal and industrial users to pay enough for the water to insure repayment of the project. Many such users feel they are being asked to subsidize the agricultural user."

So thousands of acre feet are going down the river. I would suggest that Wyoming put the finger on exactly what will be needed in the Green River Basin for coal, oil shale and other industrial development and work out a sales agreement for the rest. Wyoming could put a basic price per acre foot on the water delivered at the state line. It would then work out an agreement to profit from the capitalization of development of whatever kind when the water was put

to use for such development in another state.

Groundwater from the underground aquifers along the Sweetwater River could be developed for needs along the Platte. I suggest that in the long run, development costs and environmental impact would be far less than reservoirs on the Green River and the accompanying transbasin diversion.

If I may sum up then, I speak for a great many people in this state when we seriously question the desirability or the need for any new reservoirs on the main stem rivers of the Green River Basin. We think the State of Wyoming should forget about the development of any new irrigation projects in the Green River Basin. Social and economic pressures from downstream uses will sooner or later force a reordering of uses which will preempt the water from marginal, uneconomic irrigation projects.

In addition, upstream diversions of water tend to concentrate salts as the report points out. However, the report is not looking at the facts in relation to salt problems. Water quality records for the Big Sandy

River show an average of 100 ppm dissolved solids north of Farson. But at the mouth of Big Sandy where it empties into the Green, the ppm have jumped astronomically to 2391.

Similarly, the Green River at Daniel carries a weighted average of 172 ppm dissolved solids or 257 tons per day. Measurements of the amounts at Green River City show an increase to 288 ppm and 1290 tons, a five-fold increase. The tremendous increase can only be attributed to irrigation of highly alkaline soils. To lightly brush off additional huge increases in salinity is not being realistic.

We believe the people of Wyoming are not prepared to go into bonded indebtedness for the same type of pork-barrel reclamation projects as we have seen undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation. It is just no longer in the cards to use up finite natural resources in such a wasteful manner. The question of state financing and state administration is not a pressing problem at this time. Existing state agencies should be given enough money to continue planning, but along more realistic lines

of what is possible and what is probable. We think further development in the Green River Basin should await a total state water plan.

We believe the State of Wyoming is unrealistically appraising the true value to Wyoming of the natural beauty and splendor of the large rivers and lakes in the Upper Green River Basin. Free flowing rivers are becoming more valuable each day, and the Green River ranks among the best.

How do you mitigate the loss of 700 moose? True, they are not an endangered species but given a few Kendall projects and they soon would be.

The state already handsomely profits from a god-given natural setting in the Upper Green River. We need no development to enhance it for our use and enjoyment. Planning, yes; but development, no.

I wish to thank the water planners for their work in the report, unrealistic though it may be. Planning is necessary if we are not to be caught short at some future time. And I do not wish to imply that this report is all bad. It is very good in many respects.

Beneficial Use?

Bob Fagerberg, project manager of the Shoshone-Heart Mountain Irrigation District at Powell, Wyoming, recently addressed a water seminar at Northwest Community College. It is indicative of the times that an irrigation district manager told the seminar that water problems are just in their infancy, and that because agriculture now uses 50 per cent of the usable supply of all water, agricultural uses are targets for criticism.

He said that 40 to 50 per cent of all water diverted from Wyoming streams is lost before it reaches the fields it is supposed to irrigate. That loss plus the efficiency of the farmer comprises a loss of 70 per cent or more of the water taken from the streams.

He told the seminar that irrigable acreage in Wyoming could be doubled without diverting any more water. He said this could be done by achieving the efficiency which is easily attainable.

In agriculture, irrigation water is provided to farmers in parts of the western states far below its social cost, mainly through the Bureau of Reclamation. This means usually that farmers use water wastefully, and although subsidy might be justified on the grounds that otherwise the population would be too sparse to maintain an efficient society, there is no case for subsidy in this way...

We have only ourselves to blame for our water crisis. If we want water to be plentiful, we have to make it dear. Unfortunately water problems are dominated by the romantic considerations of the engineer rather than by the hard-headed calculations of the economist. The supply of water is also dominated by the inordinate delight which we have in building dams. From an economic point of view, it is almost certain that half the dams in the country should never have been built.

Dr. Kenneth E. Boulding
The Peculiar Economics of Water
September, 1966

Western water laws, hinging on the doctrine of Prior Appropriation, protect the rights of the irrigation community to water for use in producing agricultural products. This is right, and the way it should be. But, as a continuing thread in all western water law is the key concept of the right to water for BENEFICIAL use. Perhaps the states involved must take a far sharper view of beneficial use, as related to what amounts of water are actually used beneficially and what amounts are lost through inefficient irrigation practices and conveyance systems. Conservation of our limited water supplies and protection of the quality of the water in our streams for all other uses must be accomplished to support the growing population and increasingly complex and expanding economy in irrigation agricultural areas.

Hurlon C. Ray, Director, State and
Federal Assistance Programs, Federal
Water Quality Administration.

Wilderness Volunteers Needed

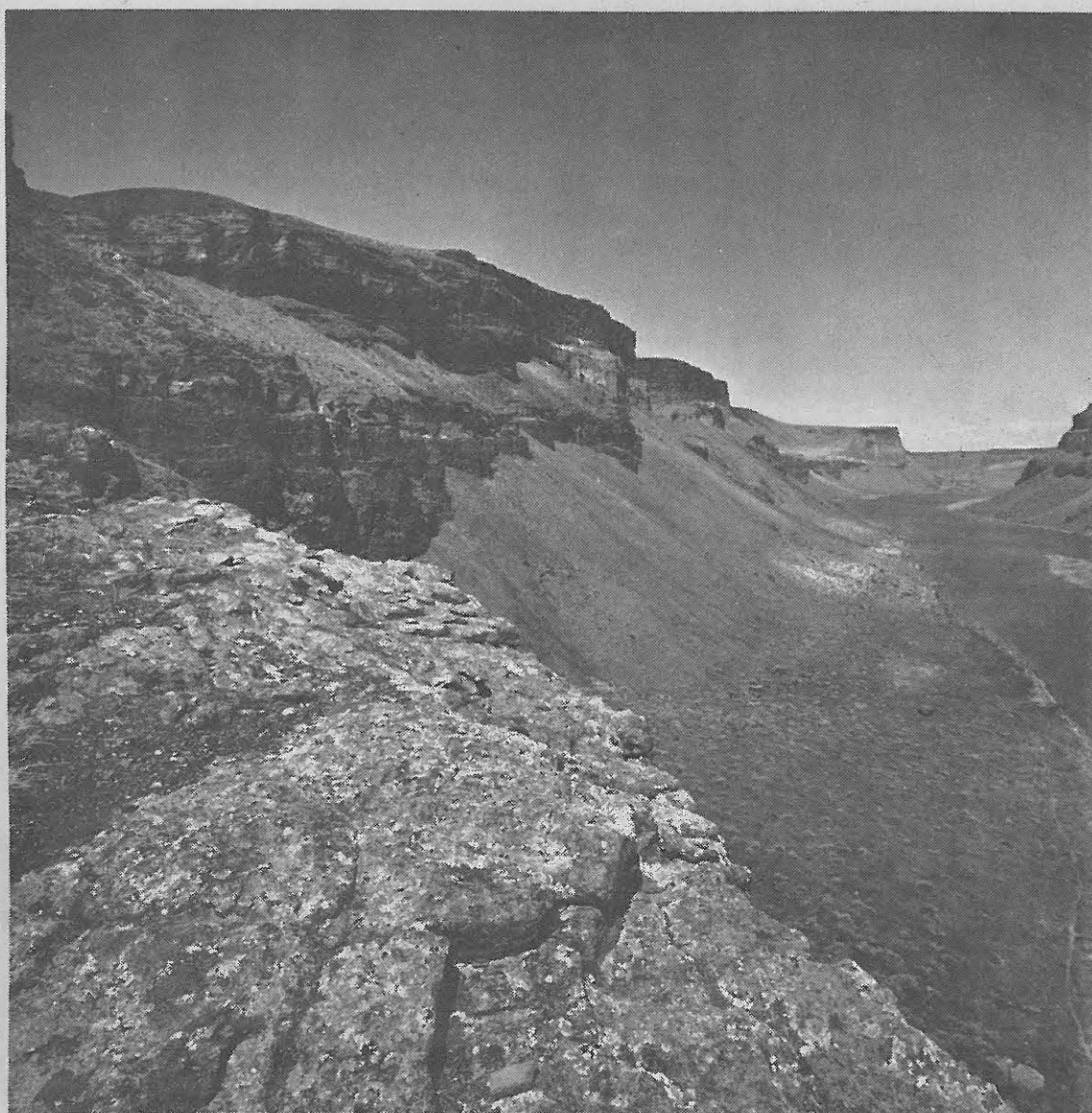
The importance of wilderness, including varied land types such as prairie, desert, mountain, coastal, river, cave, and others, in all parts of the country, is increasingly evident. Only part of the existing wilderness in the United States is presently included within the National Wilderness Preservation System. Additions to this system can provide additional land which will not be subject to exploitive and destructive use, thereby contributing directly towards maintaining a healthier biosphere. Continued work is needed to insure such land protection.

The work of the Wilderness Classification Study Committee has this objective, and includes field studies of all types of land still capable of being classified as wilderness, research into the characteristics of such land, in general and in each specific instance, the preparation of reports, and numerous other tasks. The field studies are begun when conditions are appropriate for the area in question, by whatever mode suits the region, from very strenuous back-packing to car camping with short day walks, and may include conferences with administering agency personnel. Research includes studies of published material on the geology, the botany, the wildlife, and other characteristics of the area, including reviews of any maps.

Volunteers are continuously needed to help. Anyone interested should write the Wilderness Classification Study Committee, care of Francis J. Walcott, 3500 Fulton Street, Apt. 14, San Francisco, Calif. 94118.



Two, six-week-old golden eaglets were captured on film, May 30, 1970. The remains of jackrabbits, furnished by thoughtful eagle parents can be seen in the nest.



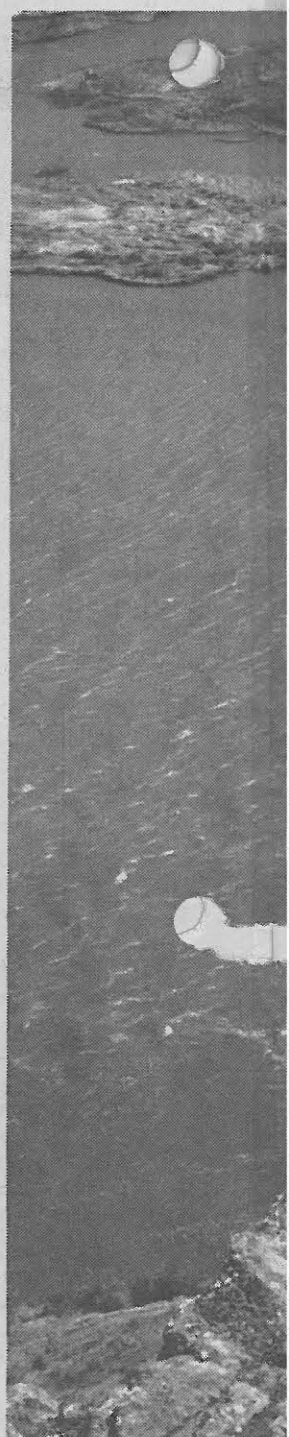
The Swan Falls Reach of the Snake River Canyon. The rare combination of mass and beauty makes the area a major geological attraction in Southwestern Idaho. The nearly vertical cliffs range in height from 30 to 800 feet.

SANCTUARY

Birds

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Photos



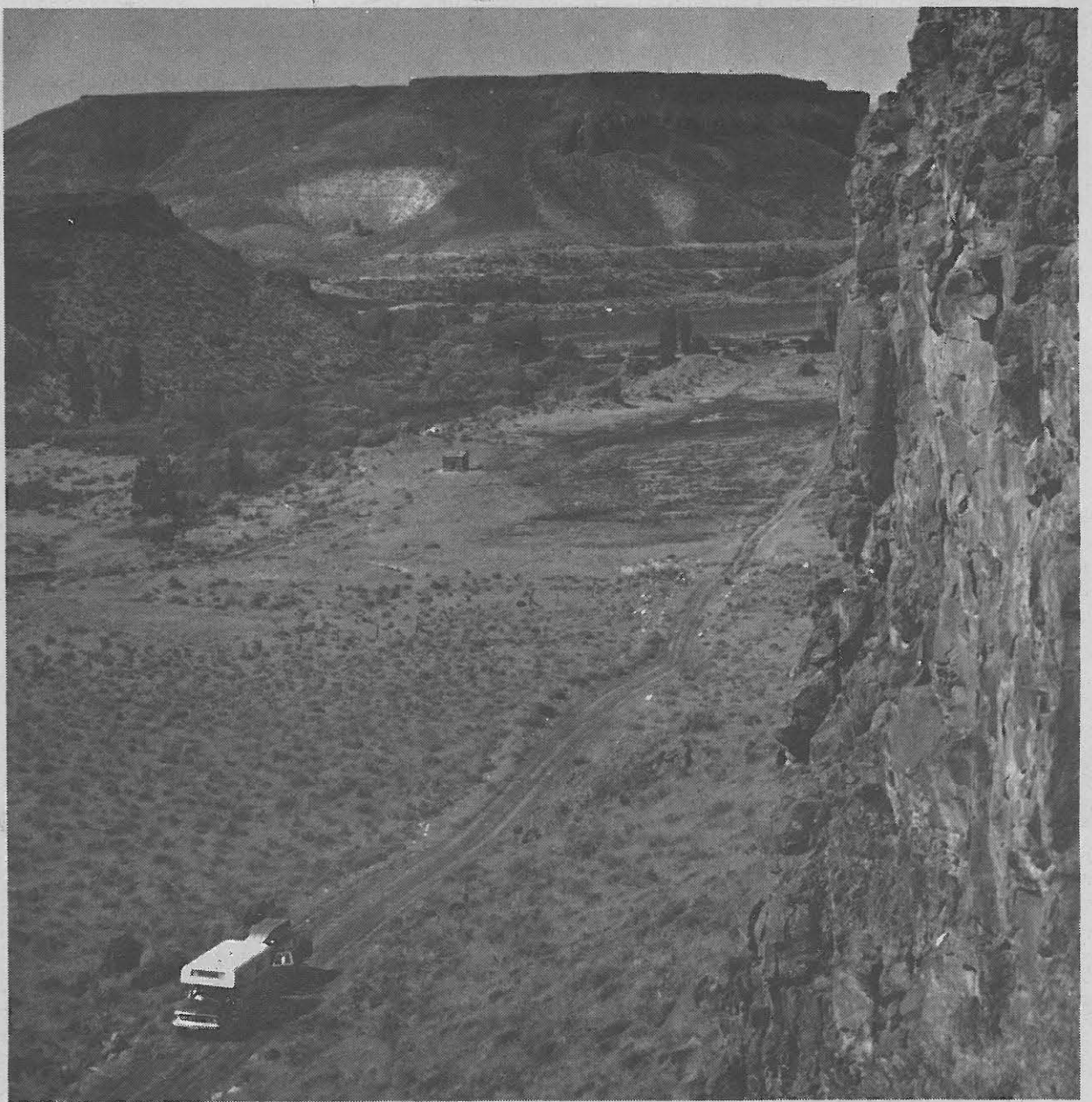
It's a long way where falcons prepare to descend.

TUARY

ds of Prey

Protected

by Bill Meiners



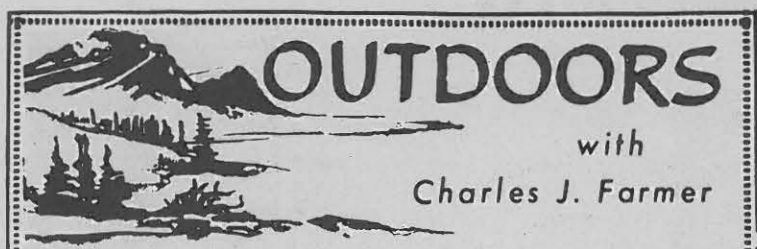
The Hermit's Cabin which figured so prominently in the Walt Disney film, "Ida, the Off Beat Eagle," is shown in this view of Sinker Creek Canyon, part of the area set aside for protection of birds of prey.



Way to the bottom of the Snake River Canyon, especially in the areas and eagles prefer to set up housekeeping. Morlan Nelson of Boise descend to an eyrie on the cliffside.

Along a stretch of Idaho's Snake River, south of Boise, there is a deep, rock-rimmed canyon. Located high in the walls are the aerie's of eagles and falcons. The area is of such importance for the nesting birds that the Bureau of Land Management has asked for the 26,000 acres of public lands to be set aside.

The beautiful canyon will also be used by the University of Idaho for continuing studies of the birds of prey.



SILENT CAMP

The only sound in the forest came from the puffs of snow as they slithered off the pine boughs and came to a cushioning rest in four feet of powder. Flakes of snow drifted lazily through the sun beams that pierced the maze of lodgepole pine. There was no wind at all—a welcome relief in Wyoming's Decembers.

The smoke from a small fire shimmered through clusters of snow frosted pine needles. The ghost of the pine flames curled its way almost to the tops of the stretching trunks before it disappeared into a thick, blue sky. Now and then the pine logs crackled in the orange waves, breaking the magic of the stillness. It was one of the finest camping trips I can remember.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like camping in the middle of the winter with several feet of snow on the ground?

Curiosity got the best of me last year when I finally took the plunge into the deep snow country of the Medicine Bow Mountains, west of Laramie. I had camped in snow and during the cold before, on hunting trips, but never for the sole purpose of enjoying winter's hidden and insulating world. The experiment was exhilarating!

When I ask friends if they have ever tried winter camping, their replies come with a variety of amusing facial expressions. They react quickly . . . "Are you crazy?" "Sure, Charlie, sure, I camp in the snow every chance I get!" "You're crazy man, you'll freeze to death." These are all logical answers to what appears to be, a ridiculous question. However, more and more outdoor enthusiasts are discovering winter camping. The snowmobile is probably the biggest reason why. People are discovering what they have been missing.

Proper Equipment is Key to Comfort

Today's modern camping equipment and clothing takes the sting out of a winter campout. You will be amazed at how comfortable you can be when outfitted to suit the season.

Start with your own clothing. Good thermal underwear and wool socks build a warm clothing foundation. To this add a layer of wool—trousers, shirt and sweater. The final touch is a suit of insulated, waterproof nylon. This can be a one or two-piece outfit.

Rubber insulated boots or nylon muc-luks keep the feet dry. Layer gloves or mittens with wool and outer shell of insulated nylon are good. Insulated nylon hat along with wool ski mask gives you a lot of protection in bad weather.

I am sold on goose down or Dacron 88 filled nylon garments as outer clothing because they break the wind and are waterproof, besides being warm. They efficiently combat some of winter's challenges.

A double-walled tent is good protection against snow and cold and retains heat from a wood, gas or propane heater. A nylon fly is a perfect outer wall and is optional equipment with better makes of tents.

The remainder of your camping gear is just about the same as you would take during the summer.

Oh, yes! Transportation into your own white world can be fun in itself. I prefer snow shoes and a back pack. If you have access to a snowmachine, you have it made.

I can't promise you windless days and blue sky on every winter camping trip, but I believe you will savor the delights of snow camping. There's not much competition for tenting space.

Agriculture Act Helps Wildlife

The President has signed the Agricultural Act of 1970 which includes key fish and wildlife provisions, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

The new Act establishes a set-aside program under which wheat farmers, to be eligible for federal payments, must divert, from the production of wheat and other crops on acreage determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The 1971 set-aside could be 13.3 million acres and the 1972-73 acreages could not exceed 15 million each year. Similar programs are also included for feed grain and cotton farmers. In each instance, provisions are made that

diverted lands may be devoted to wildlife food plots or wildlife habitat if the producer agrees to permit access by the general public, for hunting, trapping, fishing, and hiking.

The Act continues the Cropland Conversion and Greenspan long-term retirement programs at an authorized appropriation level of \$10 million annually for each. Producers would be allowed to devote acreage to approved wildlife practices and receive payments for permitting free access to the general public. The Secretary will invite states to participate in the wildlife programs.

Birds of Prey Protected

The Bureau of Land Management has applied for an extensive land withdrawal in Southwestern Idaho to protect feeding areas and nesting areas of birds of prey, it was announced Friday.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Harrison Loesch said approval had been granted to the BLM to file the withdrawal application, with final approval dependent on action taken after publication of the application in the Federal Register.

"Nothing is so indicative of environmental degradation as the plight of our birds of prey," Loesch said, "Many species are dangerously close to extinction, and prompt and vigorous action is needed to keep them from passing from the American scene as man continues to develop the wilder regions of our continent."

Designated as the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area, the protective withdrawal involves 26,255 acres of the Snake River Canyon stretching for almost 30 miles between Walters Ferry Bridge and Grand View.

The report submitted to the Department of the Interior for approval was prepared by William R. Meiners, chief of the resource management division of the Boise District, Bureau of Land Management. Approving the in-depth, illustrated document were District Manager Richard Thompson and State Director William Matthews.

Working closely with Meiners during the many months of investigation and study needed to prepare the report was Morlan W. Nelson, Boise, snow survey supervisor and research specialist for the Soil Conservation Service.

Primarily involved is the so-called "Swan Falls reach" of the Snake River in Southwestern Idaho which is recognized as a unique habitat for various species of birds of prey (raptors), including the prairie falcon, officially categorized as among "rare" birds and animals.

Much of the area to be withdrawn is already encumbered under other forms of withdrawal, such as reclamation and power sites, and the action does not preclude such development. It does, however, call for no further farming activity within the buffer area established to protect the bird habitat.

Meiners said only 3,600 acres of potentially irrigable land lie within the boundaries of the withdrawal area, in some places spreading out from a quarter to a half-mile from the river. Most of the ground is rocky and broken and contains very shallow soil thus negating its value for agricultural purposes, Meiners said.

Much of the Swan Falls Canyon of the Snake has been known for years to a few as providing outstanding scenery as well as geologic and ecological treasures but it is best known to many people as the backdrop for popular wildlife films.

Both "The Valley of the Eagles," produced by the TV Wild Kingdom program, and "Ida, the Off-Beat Eagle," a Walt Disney color production



Photo by Bill Meiners

Morlan Nelson with an eaglet captured along the Snake River Canyon in Idaho.

for theater showing, were photographed in the canyon.

Although normal seasonal shooting of upland game and migratory birds would be allowed in the withdrawal, there would be strict enforcement against indiscriminate "sport shooting," Meiners said.

"Specific stipulations are required to protect bird populations during the critical courtship, nesting and brooding periods," he said. "Essentially, this will require closure to use of guns and other activities adjacent to the cliffs from March through August."

The area is the scene of continuing research on birds of prey including programs of the wildlife, research unit of the University of Idaho, conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to being recognized as one of the largest known nesting concentrations of the golden eagle (24 pair) and prairie falcon (49 pair) in the United States - and perhaps world - the canyon also provides natural habitat for many species of wildlife, including other raptors, waterfowl, shore birds, songbirds, mammals, sturgeon and other fish.

Potential power projects such as a higher Swan Falls Dam or construction of the Guffy Dam impairs but does not destroy the habitat for the birds of prey, Meiners said. They do, however necessitate the buffer strip adjacent to the canyon walls in order to guarantee a hunting ground for the birds.

Meiners said agricultural or other activity adjacent to the rim degrades the ecology of the canyon. Explaining, he said:

"Such harassment of the raptors and modification of their environment through severe wind erosion and waste water disposal, indiscriminate shooting, sightseeing or other intrusion along the cliffs, incoordinated development of irrigation pump stations and penstocks along the main-stream river, as well as other human encroachments, make timely administrative action

necessary to secure the habitat."

In Meiners' presentation to the Secretary of the Interior, he listed among those responsible for recognizing the area as of special value the late Edward C. (Ed) Booker of Boise, longtime manager of the Boise District of the BLM.

"Edward C. Booker . . . as a friend, colleague and supervisor, exercised the foresight and forthrightness which accorded this unique area its early and recognition and who, through his counsel and leadership, broadened and enhanced my view of the environment, its intrinsic values and need for compatible use and management."

"Also recognized for their backing and assistance in the study of the region were: Franklin Jones, Idaho Wildlife Federation; Liven A. Peterson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; John E. Warwick, Boise State College; the Boise District BLM staff and Lloyd Ferguson, Bureau resource manager, BLM.

Coors Buys Bottles Back

The Adolph Coors Brewing Co. of Golden, Colorado, has announced that it will now buy back all of its beer bottles. The program is effective immediately in Colorado. It will go into effect through the company's 11-state marketing area within a few weeks.

This is the second major step the company has taken to combat litter and the problem of waste disposal. Coors has had a cash-for-cans program for a year. Under that program, the company has paid out \$570,000 for 5.7 million pounds of aluminum cans.

The company also has plans to replace tin cans with the aluminum cans, and replace some packaging with reusable cardboard containers.

The company will pay one cent each for 11-ounce, 12-ounce or quart bottles. In 1970, 618 million bottles were marketed.

Green River Development

What it's all about...

High Country News—11

Friday, January 22, 1971

has been less than successful. However, political pressures from within Wyoming, motivated by the desire to recover for Wyoming as much money as possible from the Reclamation Fund, keep pushing for action. Privately, the Bureau of Reclamation has said it would like to dump every reclamation project in western Wyoming.

Projects and Costs

The report gives only the barest facts bearing on each proposal and related costs.

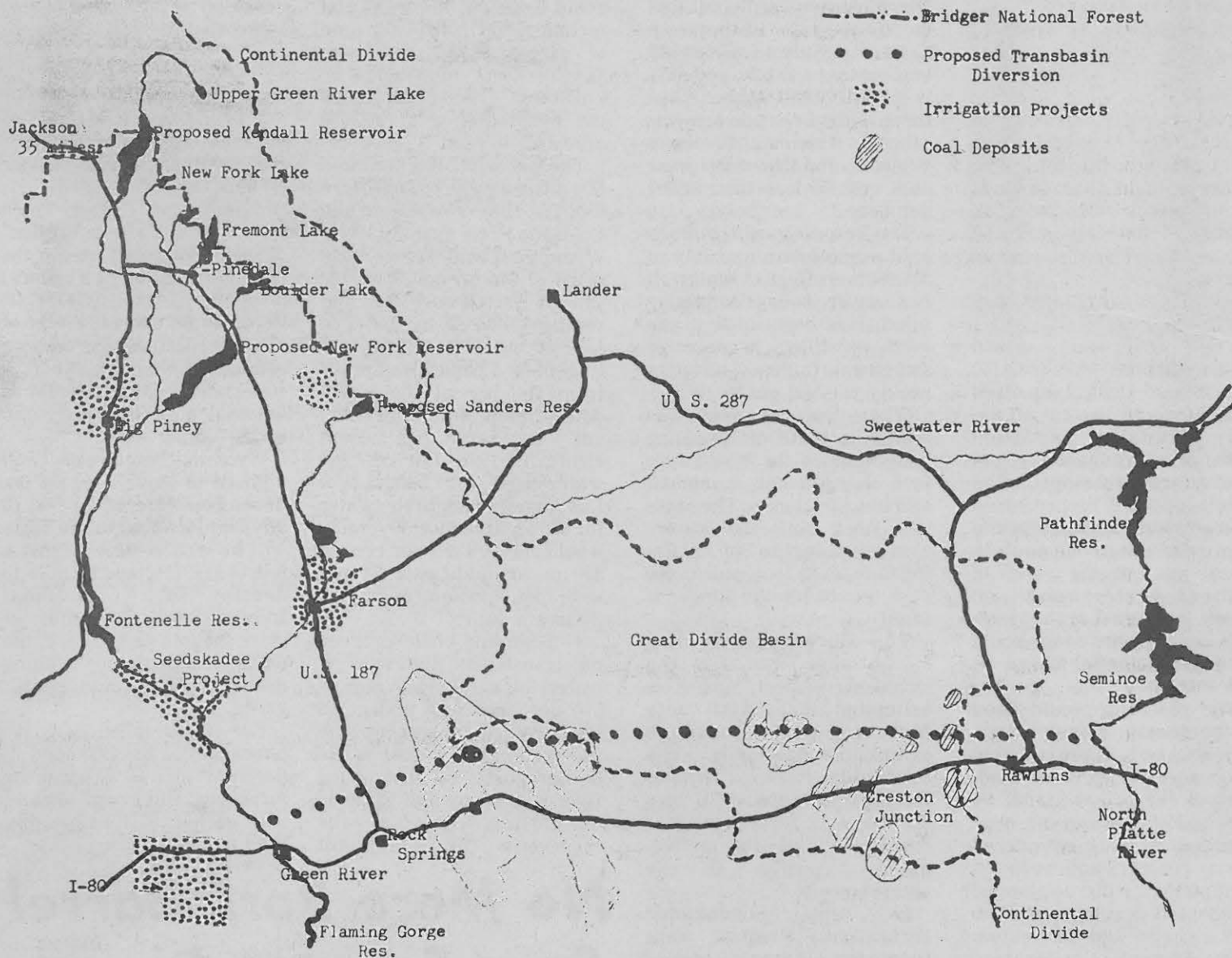
In the words of the report itself; "Cost figures for dams were taken from a 'Report on Preliminary Reconnaissance of Potential Reservoirs, Green River Basin, Wyoming,' prepared by J. T. Banner and Associates for the State of Wyoming. This report contains cost estimates for various heights of dams at the Kendall, New Fork Narrows, and Lower Green Damsites . . . Costs of canals and pipelines were estimated from preliminary map studies and cost curves. The cost estimates include construction costs, engineering, and contingencies. Right-of-way costs are included at agricultural and rangeland prices. It is recognized that there are certain other real costs such as required for replacement, protection, and enhancement of recreation and fish and wildlife, and there are costs that must be placed upon the environmental effects of each development. A dollar-cost has not been placed on these items because adequate data are not available . . ."

It can be noted here that the figure quoted in the report as having come from the J. T. Banner Report does not agree with what is given in the latter report. The Banner Report shows a cost of approximately \$7.5 million for a Kendall Reservoir of 340,000 acre feet capacity. The State Report shows only a \$6.6 million cost for a Kendall Dam (at the same site) for a reservoir of 390,000 acre feet. The contradiction is not explained in the report.

It can also be noted that, in the words of the report, "Right-of-way costs are included at agricultural and rangeland prices," is highly misleading and unrealistic. The values used for these costs were approximately \$48 per acre. The land in question, which would have to be condemned for reservoir right-of-way, has a current value far in excess of the \$448 per acre figure. Similar land has sold for as high as \$1,200 per acre. These costs alone could make the total costs of the Kendall site or the New Fork site far exceed those given in the report. These obviously would increase the costs per acre foot of water stored.

Kendall Reservoir

The Kendall Reservoir would be built on one of the West's historic rivers, the Green River. It is considered to be one of the outstanding scenic rivers in the lower 48 states. It was one of the original six rivers chosen for wild and scenic river designation. The river is (Please turn to page 12)



Copyright, 1971
by High Country News
by Tom Bell

The state of Wyoming claims its share of water in the Upper Colorado River system is 875,000 acre feet per year. (The Upper Colorado River Compact simply says 14 per cent of what is available.) Figures provided by the National Research Council (1968) indicates Wyoming's share may, in fact, be only 721,000 acre feet per year.

A report entitled Wyoming Water Planning Program, Report No. 3, Water & Related Land Resources of the Green River Basin, Wyoming, September, 1970, deals with proposals for Wyoming's use of this allocated water. The Green River is one of the headwaters streams of the Colorado River system.

The report says Wyoming is now using 296,000 acre feet of water per year. Of this amount, irrigation accounts for 267,000 acre feet, or 90.5 per cent of total use. The remaining 9.5 per cent is used by municipalities and industry. The difference between what Wyoming says is its allocation and what is being used is 579,000 acre feet.

The report projects a total increase in consumptive use of Green River Basin water (surface supply) of 475,000 acre feet by the year 2020. The projection is for an additional use of 147,000 acre feet for irrigation, and 192,000 acre feet for municipal and industrial use. Of the latter figure, it is estimated the coal industry will require 186,000 acre feet per year. The increase in consumptive use

plus that already being used would account for 771,000 acre feet of water.

Wyoming claims that with all projected depletions of water for all uses, by the year 2020, there will still be an excess of 104,000 acre feet which can be transported to another part of the state. The proposal is to take the water to the North Platte River.

Transbasin Diversion

There are two main proposals for getting the water to the North Platte. One route would be to skirt the west edge of the Wind River Mountains and dump the water into the headwaters of the Sweetwater River. The more likely, and apparently the more feasible, route would be from a point near Green River (City), past Rock Springs to the new \$300 million steam generating plant being constructed by Pacific Power and Light Co., over the Continental Divide and into the Great Divide Basin, back over the Divide and into the Platte River north of Rawlins. The new PP&L plant is going to take 15,000 acre feet of water and a pipeline must be constructed to that point. It would be easier to proceed eastward from this point, and also more practical because of the coal fields which lie near Creston Junction and Rawlins.

With the demands for Wyoming coal and increased pressures for electrical energy, it seems reasonable to assume that the coal beds in the Great Divide Basin will be developed. Such development may require the amounts of water projected by the report.

The report estimates that the cost of taking water to the

coal fields east of Rock Springs at \$27 an acre foot. To take the water on to the area of Creston Junction is estimated to cost \$50 an acre foot. (As will be shown later, these are absolute minimum costs.)

Irrigation Use

The report indicates a total of 267,000 acre feet of water being consumptively used for irrigation of farm and ranch crops in the Green River Basin. That irrigation is concentrated along the river and stream valleys and on Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects at or near Farson and Fort Bridger.

In the words of the report, "... irrigated land was defined as land watered for agricultural purposes by artificial means. These include subirrigated lands and seeped areas under ditches, as well as lands irrigated directly by ditches or sprinkler." The report also says, "The net return to irrigated land in the Basin amounts to about \$1,751,630, or about \$5.27 per acre . . . These figures do not include interest on land investment . . ."

The Green River Basin can be generally described as a high-elevation desert. The average elevation of the entire basin would exceed 7,000 feet. The average precipitation over the great majority of the area is ten inches or less. The average annual temperatures range from approximately 34 degrees F in the Upper Green River Basin to 43 degrees F at Rock Springs. The U. S. Soil Conservation Service says that at Big Piney, there is an average of 62 days of frost-free period in any given year,

and the possibility of killing frosts at any time during the growing season.

Because of elevation, short growing seasons, and thin, alkaline soils generally, most of the entire Green River Basin has soils rated Class IV or higher. Less than 10 per cent of all land in the Basin has soil classes of III or better, and most of these lands lie along the stream and river bottoms. They are already being irrigated.

This means that crops are generally restricted to hay and pasture, and yields of hay are limited to low tonnage.

It can be noted that Wyoming's law allows one acre foot of water for every 70 acres of irrigated land. However, a special exception was made for irrigation in the Upper Green River Valley where two acre feet are allowed, or double that existing elsewhere.

It is also interesting to note that the State of Wyoming loaned the Green River Development Company of Big Piney the sum of \$100,000 at four per cent interest for the development of private irrigation in that area. The development is projected for a total of 29,000 acres to benefit a few ranchers. Most of the land to be developed is public land to be acquired through the Desert Land Entry Act. The development was to include some 10,000 acres in the Soapholes area, all public lands. These are no longer available because of Federal Government action in withdrawing them in the public interest.

The Bureau of Reclamation has not been successful in proving the feasibility of the Seedskadee Irrigation Project, and candidly admits that the Eden-Farson Project

What Green River Development is About

gaining in reputation as second only to the Snake River in the Jackson Hole for scenic float trips in Wyoming. The area is less than a one hour drive from the Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park.

The proposed Kendall Reservoir would cost, according to the report, \$6.6 million. If true land values are applied and the true engineering figures applied, the reservoir could well cost \$13 million. Again, these figures would not include fish and wildlife, or environmental losses foregone.

The reported cost per acre foot of water impounded is approximately \$23.

The reservoir would inundate approximately 25 miles of blue-ribbon trout stream (five percent of the premium trout water in Wyoming). Eleven miles of the stream to be flooded run through public lands with unrestricted public access and having 15 public campgrounds. The value to the community and the state is about a third of a million dollars. Additional fisheries values may be impaired. When drawn down annually, the reservoir would have about 7,500 acres of mud flats exposed.

The reservoir would destroy or disrupt ten operating ranches, one dude ranch, two pack stations and several summer homes. Total acreage covered or condemned would be approximately 15,000 acres.

The reservoir would cover the winter range for approximately 700 head of Shiras moose. Since the moose habitat is filled to capacity at the present time, the elimination of the winter range simply means the elimination of those moose using the flooded range. In addition, the reservoir would eliminate critical range and/or migration routes of approximately 1,500 mule deer and 500 pronghorn antelope. An elk feedground accommodating 200 head would be inundated.

The loss of 650-700 head of moose from this area could be the most significant in terms of the environment. Moose range is extremely limited on the face of the earth today. There can be no replacement of such habitat, in spite of the serious suggestions of some State officials that willows could be planted elsewhere for the moose.

Equally significant is the loss of a free-flowing trout stream and superlative scenic river, and its replacement by a fluctuating reservoir. To equate such a trade-off of values with "enhancement" of the environment, as is suggested by State officials, is to show complete ignorance and lack of understanding of what really constitutes a quality environment.

The true value of all the environmental losses can not be adequately expressed in economic terms.

New Fork Narrows Reservoir

The New Fork Narrows Reservoir would be built on a main tributary to the Green River, the New Fork River. It would be near Big Piney.

would cover approximately 13,000 acres of which 11,000 acres would be exposed as mudflats when the water was drawn down each year.

Approximately 18 miles of excellent trout stream would be inundated. Ten miles of the river are adjacent to public lands with unrestricted access for fishing and floating. The access value of these lands is estimated to be worth in excess of \$100,000, and the value of fishing alone is estimated to be worth approximately \$127,000 annually.

The reservoir would destroy habitat for about 150 moose and several hundred deer. It would also cut off the only available migration route of approximately 6,000 pronghorn antelope. The antelope would be precluded from moving between prime summer range on public lands west of the river to critical winter range on public lands east of the river. The loss of either range could mean the potential loss of all the antelope.

The reservoir would flood or seriously affect seven ranches and approximately 8,000 acres of private land. Part of the private land, at the head of the reservoir near Boulder, is being considered as a recreational area in conjunction with a planned residential development. The T.B.C. Land and Recreation Development Corporation said in a letter to Governor Hathaway, "We plan the retention of, not subdivision of, the natural state of the 18 miles of New Fork River that is on this ranch. The damming of the New Fork will cause, we are sure, a great deterrent to the recreational use that can be made of this lower land on this ranch, as well as the total potential income we will be able to generate for Sublette County. We . . . urge you to address your legislators to reject the proposed dams on the Upper Green and New Fork Rivers."

Cost of the dam on the New Fork, depending on size, is reported to be either \$8 million or \$11.3 million. Again, right-of-way costs have not been realistically appraised. If they were, the dam could well cost an additional \$5 million. The reported cost per acre foot of water impounded is approximately \$35.

Fontenelle Reservoir is a Bureau of Reclamation project on the Green River about midway between Big Piney and Green River City. It was built primarily at the insistence of Wyoming politicians and State officials to provide water for a projected 57,000 acre irrigation development. Climate and soils problems have precluded the feasibility and success of the project.

At a meeting in Cheyenne on Jan. 22, 1968, then Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Floyd Dominy spoke on the Seedskadee Irrigation Project. He told Governor Hathaway and an assemblage of other State officials including State Engineer Floyd Bishop that "irrigation may not be the best use of the water supply for the investment involved."

Quoting further from the

"(Floyd) Bishop . . . said that he did not see much difference between the Seedskadee project and some of the Colorado projects that were being authorized. Commissioner Dominy replied that the cost per acre is probably no higher than three of the Colorado projects - the Las Animas and Dolores projects, and that these were at a cost of less than \$1,000 per acre."

The reservoir was built to hold a maximum capacity of 345,000 acre feet of water. It has never been completely filled. It is doubtful if it can ever be filled because of structural faults. The dam nearly washed out in 1965.

When the reservoir was built, the State of Wyoming bought space for 60,000 acre feet of water for municipal and industrial uses. The State has since sold the water: 25,000 acre feet to Sun Oil Co. for \$5 an acre foot, and 35,000 acre feet to Pacific Power & Light Co.

The Bureau earmarked 85,000 acre feet for the irrigation project, and it is estimated that 14,000 acre feet are lost through evaporation annually. The Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge is allocated 5,000 acre feet per year. All of these uses deplete all of the active, usable storage of the reservoir.

If the Seedskadee Irrigation Project were forgotten, Wyoming could buy the active storage for the 85,000 acre feet and use it for industry or municipal use.

Flaming Gorge Reservoir

Flaming Gorge Reservoir, which lies downstream on the Green River from Green River City, was built for a total capacity of 3,789,000 acre feet. It has never been filled. The most water it has ever held is slightly more than 2 million acre feet. The remaining space, on top of the water now being stored, could be used by Wyoming for storage of its excess water.

Bureau of Reclamation figures show a cost of approximately \$24 per acre foot to pump water from Flaming Gorge back upstream to Green River City. This figure is based on a 500 foot lift for 120,000 acre feet. If the amount of water is doubled, to 240,000 acre feet, the cost goes down to approximately \$18 an acre foot.

Alternatives

1) Develop one or more dams on the Upper Green River. Develop irrigation projects with water costing anywhere from \$25 to \$40 an acre foot on land which can return \$5.27 an acre (not counting interest on land investment). Have the taxpayers of Wyoming subsidize these developments. Forego the income from developed ranches in the reservoir right-of-way, the income from fisheries, wildlife, and recreation on the flooded rivers, and the environmental losses of irreplaceable wildlife, free-flowing rivers, and superlative aesthetics.

2) The projected need of 192,000 acre feet for municipal and industrial uses could be supplied by storage of water already held in Fontenelle Reservoir and by

Flaming Gorge at a cost less than the cost of construction on the Upper Green.

3) The State of Wyoming could work out the legal and technical difficulties for sale of excess water to downstream users in Arizona or California. This could be in the neighborhood of 250,000 acre feet a year.

The Bureau of Reclamation has a fixed price of \$7 an acre foot for sale of water in the Colorado River system (1968). Wyoming could set a base price of \$10 an acre foot for sale of 250,000 acre feet and realize \$2,500,000 a year. The sale of water could be contingent on a capitalized profit from the use of the water downstream. Wyoming could set a ten per cent capitalization fee on the water used. For instance, if Los Angeles bought the water for \$50 an acre foot, Wyoming would receive ten per cent of \$40 or an additional \$4 per acre foot, and another million dollars a year.

4) Wyoming could proceed on transbasin diversion of water, at a reported cost of \$74 per acre foot under the least cost plan proposed by the State. Such a cost would be unrealistic because of the figures used by the State in estimating costs of the reservoirs. The actual cost

could be well over \$100 per acre foot delivered to the Platte.

So far, no buyer has been revealed by the State as being interested in such water.

Summary

The Green River is of national significance. For that matter, so is the Upper Green River Basin. Its proximity to Grand Teton National Park, where millions of visitors already strain the resources, makes it a natural area to relieve pressure on the park. Its own resources of beauty, wildlife, and outdoor recreation would make it a superlative candidate for a national park if it were 500 miles further east.

Wyoming would be well advised to leave it in its undeveloped state, at no cost to anyone. Its value to the State will be incalculable in just a few years. It would be folly to destroy such a national treasure in the name of state's rights. In this case, the rights amount to nothing more nor less than selfish greed.

The "Use it or lose it" philosophy is as outmoded in the year 1971 as "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" with nuclear ICBM's hanging over our heads.

No More Pork Barrel Says Senator Church

Senator Frank Church has announced that he will introduce legislation early in the next session of Congress to require that public works projects built by the Corps of Engineers be authorized on an individual, project-by-project basis.

At present, Church told the Senate, Corps projects are usually authorized in a package "omnibus" rivers and harbors bill, in which many projects affecting different areas of the country are considered at one time.

The latest of such omnibus bills was passed by the Senate Wednesday (December 9) by voice vote. Church said he wanted to go on record in the Senate as announcing that he will sponsor legislation in the next session to do away with the practice.

There once was a time, the Idaho Senator said, "when all were agreed on the need to construct -- as fast as possible -- flood control projects to save life and property, or hydroelectric projects to light our farms. Then there was a good argument to be made for the omnibus approach. The

omnibus bills expedited consideration by Congress.

"But those days are largely past," Church continued. "All too often today, projects by the Corps of Engineers are much more marginal in terms of cost-to-benefit ratio, and increasingly controversial.

"A list of controversial public works projects could go on for pages, as every Senator knows," Church said. "Not all of them are Corps projects, but many of them are. That is why, as we move into the last three decades of this century, it is important that we reflect carefully on each new project we build. What will be its impact on the environment? What will it destroy? What will it add? Are economic benefits outweighed by other factors?"

"To answer these questions wisely," Church concluded, "major projects, at least, should be considered individually, as reclamation projects are, so that Senators might vote on them one at a time, after all of the pertinent information is disclosed."

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Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

"If I Would Of Been God . . ."

Sometimes a child makes a remark which is destined to become a family by-word, used over and over through the years whenever it seems to just fit the circumstances. Around our house, when something undesirable, but unavoidable, finally comes to pass (like tax-payments due, or rained-out picnics, or snow-blocked roads), we are apt to concede to the inevitable with a shrug of the shoulders and a quote: "Well—if I would of been God . . .!"

The phrase was born many years ago, high in the Colorado Rockies. Denny was a charming six-year-old who had come to spend a couple of months at our summer headquarters. He was to start school in September -- a fact which he greeted with utmost UNenthusiasm. I had the feeling that he really believed that if he ignored school, it would never materialize!

Denny spent the bright summer days happily collecting polliwogs from the creek, climbing trees, and best of all, riding his horse. "Prince" (a misnomer if there ever was one!) was an ancient pack-horse, phlegmatic of body and spirit--and perfectly safe for a small boy to ride. Denny would climb up (via the corral fence rails) to Prince's bare back, and they would plod happily around the pasture or up and down the dusty road.

And then, on the last day of August, Denny's mother drove up the mountain to get him. She stopped her car by the corral gate just as Denny slid down from Prince's back to the ground. His greeting to her (after a two-month absence!) was: "I'm not ready to go home yet!"

Patiently, she explained that, ready or not, he would start school in three days. Denny stood there, his sturdy little legs widespread and his tousled head thrown back defiantly. Then suddenly the horrible realization came to him that he had not, after all, been able to wish school away! Tears of anger and frustration filled his eyes and slowly spilled over, making two clean little paths down his dusty cheeks.

"Well," he finally broke the sympathetic silence, "If I would of been God, an' guessin' things up, I sure would of guessed 'em up diff'rent! I would of had kids already born knowin' how to read and write and all that other junk, an' then they'd never have to go to school!"

At the moment, it almost seemed a shame that God hadn't "guessed things up" Denny's way; but after a little thought, I had to admit that, as usual, God's way is better. In His wisdom, He has given us the ability to keep right on learning "all that junk" as long as we live, rather than have our knowledge hopelessly outdated by the time we are in our teens!

I thought about all this the other day as I was watching a TV program. Entitled "The World Tomorrow," it was concerned with the balance of nature. It pictured many species of birds, animals, and fish, and showed how many of them are endowed with special instincts and abilities which enable them to survive. I watched a doe hide her fawn in a shadowy patch of brush, so that even the camera lens was unable to detect it. I watched a "spitting" fish capture its prey from far below the surface of the water. I watched a badger actually run a bear away from what the badger considered her own territory. Each creature seems somehow especially fitted to capture the prey which it needs for its survival; yet each is adapted to protect itself from enemies. Truly, a balance of nature.

But the program ended on an alarming note. The camera zoomed in on a close-up of various types of bees and wasps, as the narrator explained how the stingers are used to paralyze their prey, or to warn away an enemy with a painful sting. But now, many insects have been subjected to widely used DDT, and scientists have found that large concentrations have been stored in the stingers of many species of bees and wasps. So much so, in fact, that what should be only a painful sting to man or beast is now in danger of becoming a lethal dose!

It's scary! And it's only one small way in which man is upsetting the balance of nature. I wish we'd leave it the way God "guessed it up!"

ATTENTION AD MEN!

Tired of being overworked and underpaid in your present job? Wouldn't you rather be overworked and underpaid in the beautiful state of WYOMING? Lander is situated at the edge of the Wind River mountain range, right in the heart of good fishing and hunting country. The air is clean, the people are friendly, the schools are good, and there is a Junior college just 25 miles away. HIGH COUNTRY NEWS is an outdoor and environmental newspaper, published every other week at Lander, Wyoming, and read by people in all 50 states and several foreign countries. We are young; we are growing; we are often controversial on environmental matters; we are manned by a small but dedicated staff. Now the time has come for us to increase our staff by one--we need a good, ambitious Advertising Manager. If you are interested write: Tom Bell, Editor, High Country News, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Or call 307-332-4877.

Want to Own a Bit of the West?

A unique, rural land development project has been initiated near Pinedale, Wyoming. For those who want to own a bit of the West, and fully enjoy the rugged beauty and open space of Wyoming at its best, High Meadow Ranch offers excellent opportunity.

Towering, snow-capped peaks at the back door; a superlative Wyoming fishing stream at the front door, and an uncluttered, unpolluted countryside all around--these are the attributes of the new development. The ranch is located at Boulder, Wyoming, 12 miles southeast of Pinedale. It is situated in the historic Upper Green River Valley where the legendary mountain men once held their rendezvous. The countryside abounds in game, and many large, natural lakes and streams offer an endless variety of fishing. Boulder is one of the entrance ways to the famed Bridger Wilderness area.

Great planning and foresight went into the establishment of High Meadow Ranch. An operating cattle ranch has been so zoned and sub-divided as to remain an operating ranch. One-acre lots are offered for sale in a residential area on a high plateau.

The residential area is so located as to give unrestricted views of the nearby Wind River Mountains to the east, and the surrounding, open-range ranch country.

A basic land use plan effects the very best in zoning. Under the plan, there will be no development along the ten miles of the New Fork River which runs through the property. Those who own an acreage on the ranch will have free and unrestricted fishing in the river.

Free camping in designated areas along the river will be available for members. The areas have been carefully chosen in such a way as to cause no interference with wintering moose areas in the willow bottoms.

Every precaution has been taken to avoid potential pollution problems.



Air view of the New Fork River near Boulder, Wyoming. This is an excellent fishing stream.

Protective covenants are very restrictive so that a development of rural slums cannot occur. The project has been inspected and examined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development so that purchasers are fully protected. In addition, Sublette County, in which the project is located, has county-wide zoning.

Later on, the project plans to have a golf course, a lodge and motel, single family ranch estates, and mobile home location for members who own an acreage but who do not wish to build on the property.

The development is planned and managed by the TBC Land and Recreation Development Corporation, Box 400, Homewood, Illinois 60430.

Editor's Note: Members of the corporation have talked to the staff of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS and discussed the project. The newspaper is fully satisfied that all environmental conditions for such a development have been adequately met. We, therefore, endorse the project and take this means of calling such a worthy development to the attention of our readers.

State problems . . .

(Continued from page 1.)

mining operations threaten one of the state's great scenic areas. He said Idaho's congressional delegation would have his full support in "efforts to gain establishment of a White Clouds National Park and Recreation Area."

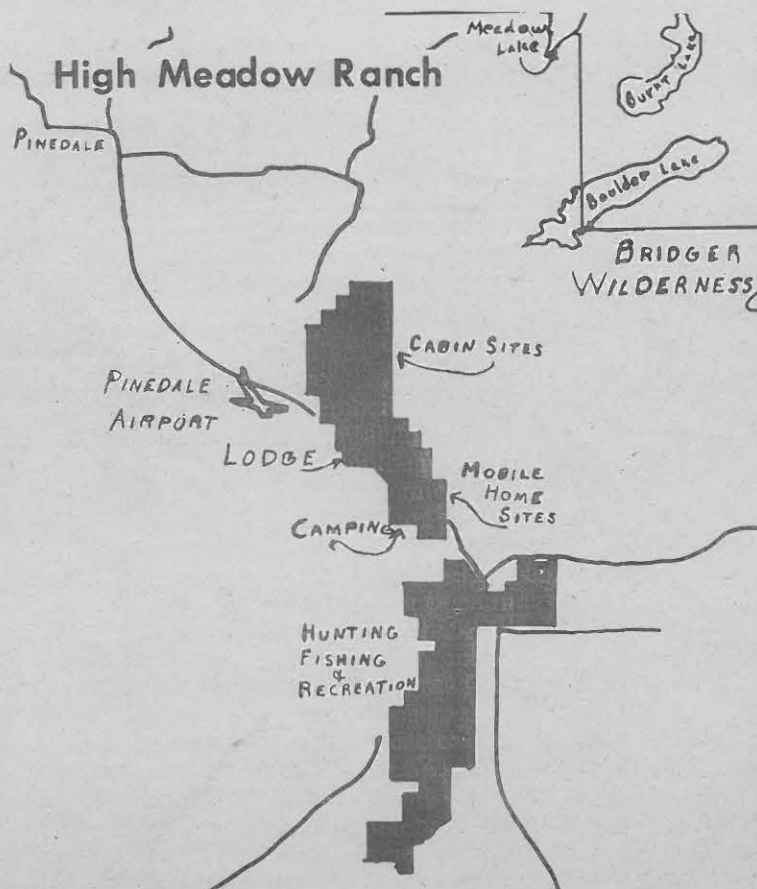
He spoke strongly on the need to regulate surface mining. He said, "... I urge consideration and enactment of legislation that will provide state supervision of surface mining operations designed to ensure the greatest possible environmental protection. To accomplish this purpose, I strongly urge that such legislation include the right of the state to deny a

permit to mine where such mining would destroy a higher and better public use of the land resource."

Andrus told the legislators, "We are not meeting our full responsibilities in management of our state lands and our fish and game resources." He said the state needed "well defined, coordinated management policies" to assure protection of natural resources and the environment.

He asked the legislature to submit a constitutional amendment to the people which would abolish the present state Land Board of elective officials. In their place, he suggests the creation of a board of "qualified persons."

Andrus also touched on another problem plaguing western states. He said, "I am sure we all recognize that we are encountering growing pressures on our big game resources - pressures from increasing numbers of hunters and pressure from declining habitat. As one step toward meeting this problem, I suggest that you consider legislation to limit the number of out-of-state big game hunters. We must substantially reduce the number of out-of-state hunters without destroying the outfitter and guide industry."



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Lobos Scrapbook



Eight miles south of Lobos, Sonora, on the Sea of Cortez, Swede Larsen and I cast hardware for surf-fish.

Surf-fishermen, don't give up on finding your Shangri-La. There's quite a few left on the Baja Peninsula and a dwindling handful on the Mexican mainland side of the Sea of Cortez. Considering accessibility, my mainland favorite is Puerto de Lobos, Sonora, about 300 miles south of Phoenix, Arizona. Unlike the Baja Peninsula, which is usually reached by air or hundreds of miles of grueling driving of desert backroads, Lobos lays within nine hours driving time. With the exception of 45 miles of rather rugged desert roads, it's first class highways.

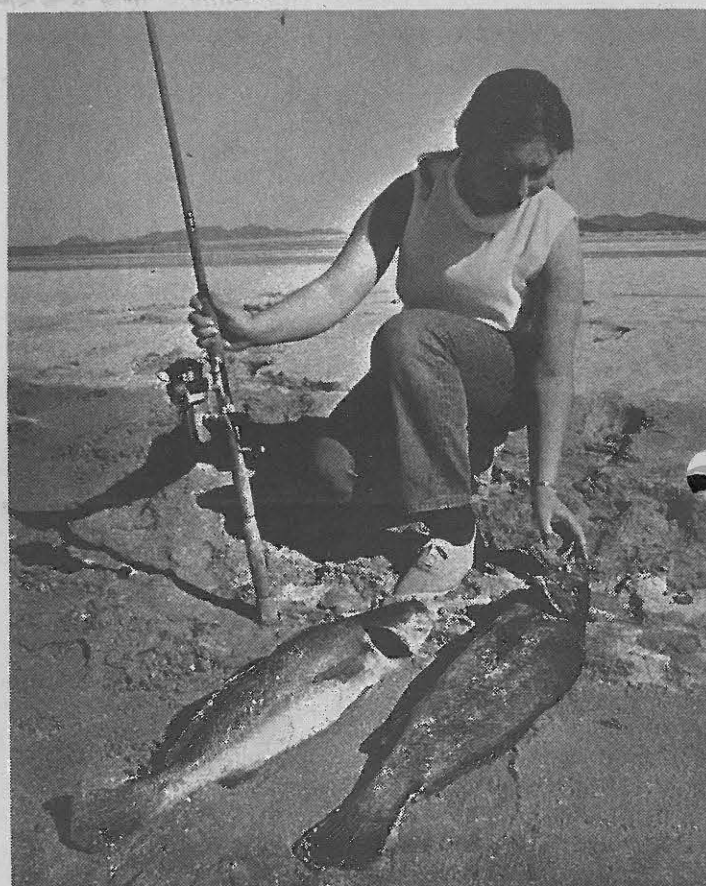
The tiny fishing village of Lobos has no electricity, no stores, no nothin'. Water must be hauled from Caborca, 60 miles inland and Loboan's have none to spare. Adventuring fishermen must carry their own supply of water as well as food and other necessities.

Summer or winter, superb fishing at Lobos is worth the minor hardships imposed to get there. It is these hardships that keep the congestion often at zero on the beaches. When the baitfish are inshore, the surf teems with thousands of hungry mackerel, pompano, seatrout, yellowfin corvina and dozens of other species. A car-top boat is sufficient to get you to these reefs, which lay just offshore, providing the wind isn't up. Here's a sampling from my Lobos scrapbook.

by Jim Tallon



Near sunset, I work a lure in hopes of picking up a foraging heavyweight.



Wife, Vicki, poses with a pair of yellowfin corvina - 7 1/2 and 9-pound, respectively.



Returning from a surf-fishing hotspot, Swede staggers under a stringer of 7 1/2 to 11-pound yellowfin corvina and seatrout.



Mining Law Explained . . .

High Country News—15
Friday, January 22, 1971

signed by the operator as principal, and by a good and sufficient corporate surety, licenses to do business in the state, as surety. The penalty of such bond shall be in an amount equal to the cost of restoration required by this act as determined by the commissioner. In lieu of such bond, the operator may deposit cash and government securities or a bond with property sureties with the commissioner in an amount equal to that of the required bond on conditions as above prescribed. In the discretion of the commissioner, surety bond requirements may be fulfilled by the operator posting a bond with land and improvements and facilities thereon as security, in which event no surety shall be required. The penalty of the bond or amount of cash and securities shall be increased or reduced from time to time as provided in this act. Such bond or security shall remain in effect until the mined acreages have been reclaimed, as provided under the permit, and approved and released by the commissioner, and shall from time to time cover only actual mined acreages and may be increased or reduced to cover only such acreages as remained unrestored."

The law gives exceeding latitude to one man, a corruptible human being, subject to human error, in levying and overseeing one of the most important aspects of any mining law. No other state puts such awesome responsibility on one individual - and then expects their law to inure to the benefit of society.

There is no minimum bond required, and no additional bonding for each acre disturbed or used.

It appears that, "In the discretion of the commissioner . . .," he may accept bond in the form of "land and improvements and facilities thereon" as security. Nothing is said about the land being that which is being mined or used for mills, dumps, or other operations. From this, it appears possible that the state could get stuck with an abandoned mill and all the mined out claims as its "surety."

Liability

The model act: Provides for a public liability insurance policy, covering all surface mining operations, and affording personal injury and property damage protection in a total amount of not less than fifty thousand dollars.

Wyoming's act provides for no liability insurance.

Permit to mine

The model act: Every state requires a permit to mine. The model act stipulates that permit is good for only one year and then must be renewed.

Each permit must be accompanied by detailed maps, including locations indicated on U.S.G.S. topographic maps, and detailing land features, water courses, and any other features that may be affected by the operation.

Each application for a permit must be accompanied by detailed plans or proposals showing the method of operation, the manner, time, and distance for backfilling, grading work, and a reclamation plan for the disturbed land. All of this before mining can commence.

Every state has a basic permit fee. In no case is it less than \$50 plus an additional charge for each acre affected, and in most cases can range to several hundred dollars annually.

The model act provides for identification of adjacent landowners. It also provides that the state can forbid surface mining operations in the public interest, under certain conditions, where mining would "Generally create hazards dangerous to life and property so as to constitute an imminent and inordinate peril to the welfare of the State."

The Wyoming act: Permit is required by making written application on a form furnished by the commissioner. Wyoming's form is a simple two and one-half page application, listing ten items which must be filled out by the applicant. No map is required, no specification of the acreage involved, and no plan of operation.

The law seems to indicate that one initial permit fee in the amount of \$50 is sufficient for the entire duration of the mining operation. The fee is the same whether the operation covers one-half acre or 20,000 acres.

Wyoming's act says nothing about forbidding mining even if an operation constituted a hazard or threat to life, or was potentially destructive of property.

Backfilling and grading

The model act says simply, "All lands disturbed by surface mining shall be restored as nearly as possible to their original contour and surface character; provided, however that the Board may by general regulation or specific exception permit modification of original surface contour and character in those cases where the Board finds that such modification would promote a more desirable or beneficial use of the land."

"In any event:

1) the steepest contour of any high wall shall be no greater than forty-five degrees (45 degrees) from the horizontal.

2) All spoil peaks shall be eliminated.

3) There shall be no depressions to accumulate or hold water, except as provided in Section 661(c) hereof (which provides that a water impoundment can be created).

4) Lateral drainage ditches connecting to natural or constructed waterways, diversion ditches or terraces to control runoff on long, uninterrupted slopes, dikes, pumps, and other drainage facilities shall be provided as required by the director after consultation with the Director of Water Resources.

5) The restored area shall have a minimum depth of fill over the floor of any pit from which mineral has been

removed sufficient to cover all material determined by the director to be acid-producing, toxic, creating a fire hazard, or otherwise noxious, and to support vegetation, as may be prescribed by the director.

Wyoming's act says "(a) Grading shall be carried on to reduce peaks and ridges to a rolling topography." The "reasonable" regulations promulgated by the commissioner then go on to say, "(a) ridges shall be graded to a minimum width of ten (10) feet at the top. (b) peaks shall be graded to a minimum width of fifteen (15) feet at the top. The surfaces so produced shall be REASONABLY level. An operator who has complied with these requirements will be deemed to have conformed with the requirement of Section 6 (a) of the act that peaks and ridges be reduced to a rolling topography. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS REQUIREMENT MAY BE GRANTED FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN."

Wyoming's regulations were drawn after the commissioner held a series of meetings around the state with mining officials. Like the act, the regulations were devised by the industry, for the industry, and at the pleasure of the industry.

Revegetation

Most states have strict revegetation requirements in addition to backfilling and grading. Kentucky's law says, "The operator shall file with the director a yearly report indicating the soil conditions, and shall continue to file such report until a successful planting or seeding has been completed. If investigation indicates that planting so as to provide vegetative cover of an area of land disturbed by surface mining may not be successful, the director may authorize the operator to defer such planting until the soil has become suitable for such purposes . . ." It also says, "If the director determines that satisfactory vegetative cover has been established, he shall then release the remaining bond held on the area reclaimed."

Wyoming's act says only, "WHERE PRACTICABLE, REASONABLE EFFORT MUST BE MADE to encourage the revegetation of lands disturbed by mining operations. The commissioner shall recommend seeding practices adapted to the soil and climate conditions." The regulations then say, "Reseeding will be required WHENEVER PRACTICABLE. If an operator feels that a reseeding program required by the commissioner is impracticable, or that the effort required of him is unreasonable, he may request a hearing on the subject before the commissioner or an examiner. If at the hearing the operator shows that the program recommended by the commissioner is impracticable or is unreasonable, then such practicable and reasonable alternative program as the operator and the commissioner negotiate shall be substituted."

Further regulations contain further ambiguities and loopholes.

Who is to determine what is PRACTICABLE or REASONABLE? The State Land Commissioner who is a former oil company landman? His only appointed inspector who is a former mining engineer?

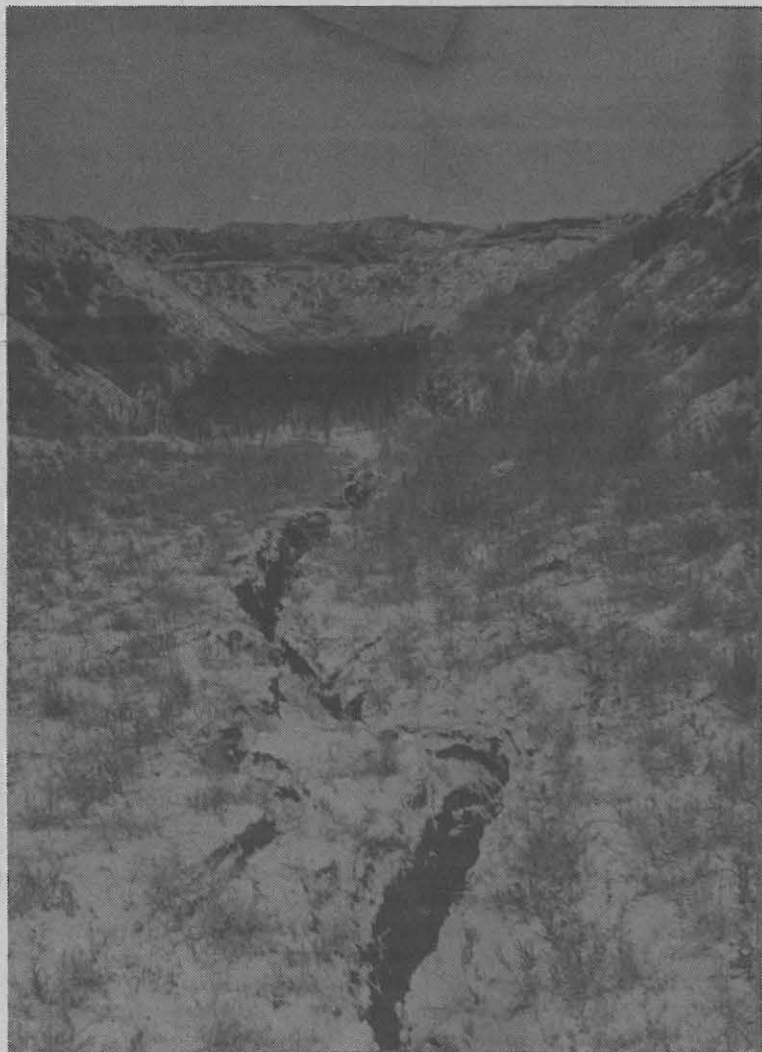
Who said Wyoming's act requires revegetation? They ought to read the act and the regulations a little more carefully the next time around. It obviously wouldn't require a very smart operator to figure a way out of that one!

Every rancher in the Powder River Basin - all the

way from the Big Horn Mountains to the Black Hills, and from the Montana line to Douglas - ought to carefully read Wyoming's mining act and the regulations. If he thinks his land is adequately protected, God help him!

Every antelope hunter, resident or non-resident, ought to look at what will remain of the natural range of these animals. Wipe out what remains of the ancestral range of pronghorns in Wyoming and Montana and you don't have much left.

We need a tough, strict mining law, and we need it before it is too late. Two years from now could be too late!



These are spoil piles from strip mining. They are near Colstrip, Montana - the result of operations nearly 30 years ago. Lack of vegetation and resultant erosion are only two of bad effects. These lands have been out of production and will remain so until something is done to rehabilitate them. Only strict mining laws and equally strict enforcement will prevent similar damage to millions of acres in Wyoming and Montana.

Photos by Billings Gazette





These bighorn sheep range the windswept slopes above Dubois, Wyoming. Here, government agencies have

cooperated in protecting one of the largest wintering herds of these magnificent game animals in the United States.

To Catch Steelhead, Know Your Stream

Part II by Milt Guymon

What is it that makes a successful steelhead fisherman -- one who will take steelhead consistently while other anglers go fishless time after time? The answer is learning to "read" a river -- the art of determining almost exactly where in a fast-moving stream Mr. Steelhead might be traveling or lying in wait.

If you are a novice at the game and fail to recognize steelhead water -- to "read" a river -- your chances of success will be mighty slim.

We previously pointed out the technique of "reading" a river -- to know at a glance steelhead travel lanes, holding slots, depths and flows, the kind of water steelhead prefer. Learn to recognize such slots and lanes at all water levels. Learn this lesson well for it holds the key to successful steelhead angling.

But your bait or lure must also be presented properly if you are to entice Mr. Steelhead to hit. So take heed to the following, for you will now learn how to "feel" a river, a point of steelheading equally as important.

First, though, let's consider proper steelhead fishing gear. Unfortunately, most novice anglers purchase tackle much too heavy and awkward for good steelhead fishing. Sturgeon rods are completely out of place as are rods and reels used for salmon mooching in the bays and ocean. Obtain lightweight rods and reels or medium weight, at best, if such gear makes you feel a bit more confident.

Nor is heavy monofilament

necessary. Lines of eight to twelve pound test will handle any steelhead encountered. Many anglers also use hooks that are more suitable for halibut than steelhead. A point in fact -- it is impossible to acquire the feel of a river with heavy gear.

My advice is to purchase one top-flight outfit and get the best. Such gear will give you years of trouble-free service, effortless and enjoyable angling, and actually be cheaper in the long run. Remember, when you buy the best you're obtaining precision-built instruments in contrast to pieces of showy junk auctioned by some street-corner huckster.

My own preference in rods is one of at least eight feet in length, preferably longer, with relatively small diameter butt section and even, gradual taper from butt to tip. Such a rod is called "classic" action. It will bend in a graceful graduating arc throughout its length, even into the handle, and the flex is smooth and gradual. Classic action rods, casting and fly, give the greatest feeling of rod control during the cast. Once the cast is made, the feel of bait or lure is also immediately apparent to the hand.

Spin fishermen prefer rods with slightly stiffer butt sections and faster tips. Such rods, usually called vari or power-flex, are best with spinning reels since the cast is accomplished mainly by the tip section. The vari or power-flex rod has more rapid taper to the tip section than does the classic and it has a pronounced "bounce" or snap when the rod is flexed.

However, the action of bait or lure is not transmitted into the butt section quite as rapidly since most of the action is in the tip section.

Your choice of reels depends entirely on your choice of rods or vice versa. The classic action rods favor casting reels while the vari or power-flex favor spinning reels. You will find it a bit awkward to cast and fish comfortably with a casting reel mounted to the fast tip action of a vari-flex rod, or with a spinning reel mounted to the full-flow action of the classic. So balance your rod and reel for the greatest casting ease and accuracy as well as angling enjoyment.

Select a few fish-getting lures and stick with them, at least until you become proficient. All of the various steelhead lures on the market will take fish on occasions but only a few will take them consistently. My preference is the time-tested wobbling spoon in brass or copper and

the bait is the old stand-by -- cluster eggs -- which in this fisherman's opinion will take steelhead two to one over any lure made.

Cluster eggs are messy to handle and difficult to keep on a hook. Although some anglers hold the cluster by a loop in the leader, we suggest you tie the bait to the hook with red thread or yarn for best results. Use large clusters, about thumb size, in murky or dark green water and go to smaller and smaller sizes as the water drops and clears. When streams are low and clear a couple of eggs and strip of skein will do the job.

It is also suggested that you break your terminal tackle down, using an 18 to 24-inch leader of less strength than your line. The purpose is to save line in case you become snagged on the bottom, and "hanging up" is bound to occur on occasions if you are fishing steelhead properly. Use just enough weight to cast well and to get your bait

or lure down to stream bottom quickly.

Next issue, the "feel" of a river bottom and how to work the bait to consistently take steelhead.

New Ski Area

LEAD-DEADWOOD --Still another step in the quest to make South Dakota winters more enjoyable was taken shortly after Christmas when the Deer Mountain Ski Area was opened at Lead-Deadwood.

South Dakota's newest ski area is located in the Heart of the Northern Black Hills Scenic Wonderland, three miles southwest of Lead.

Two hundred acres of scenic activity for beginning, intermediate and advanced skiers is available with eight ski runs, plus a smaller beginners area and a drop 700 feet from the top of Mountain to the base.

LANDER

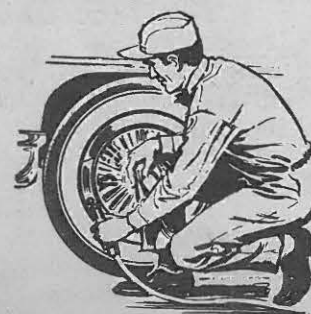
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