

High Country

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

News

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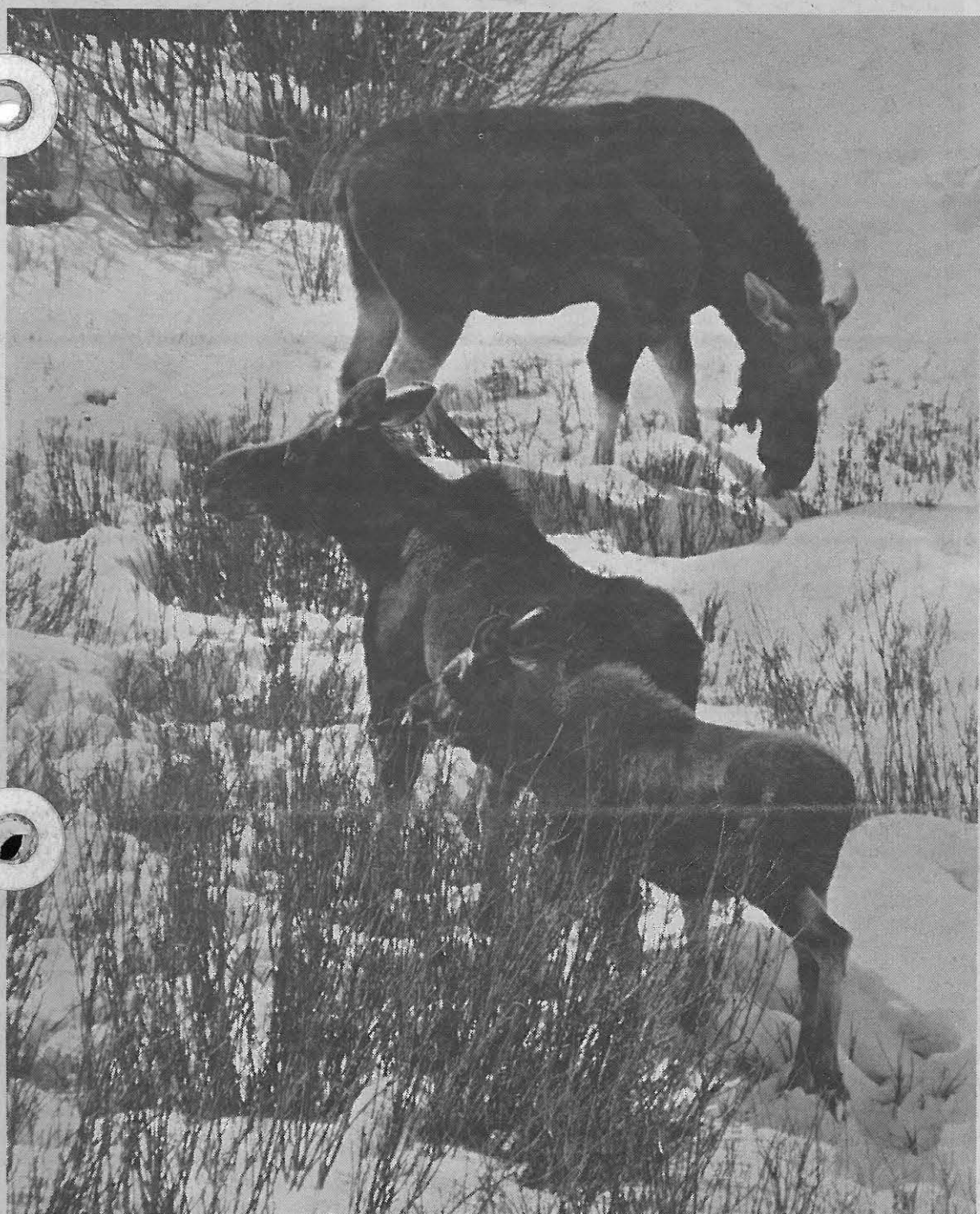


Photo by Charles W. Smith

A family of Wyoming moose in typical winter habitat. Here, a bull displays the bumps on his forehead which will be trophy antlers by next fall. Willows which grow along river bottoms are the main source of food when winter snows lie deep in the mountains. When this ecosystem is disturbed or destroyed by damming or other means, the moose are effectively eliminated. Such would be the case if large dams were built on the Upper Green River.

Wyoming has bad ones...

Moose Rustlers Are Caught

A case of moose 'rustling' near Pinedale, Wyoming, has opened up further investigation of an Idaho game farm. Six calf moose were found in a broken down truck about 12 miles northwest of Pinedale, near Daniel.

Arrested in the case was Dick (Corky) Lozier whose ranch is near Daniel and three Idaho men. One of the latter, W. E. "Woody" Arrington, is the owner of a game farm near Idaho Falls.

The moose rustling was uncovered when a rancher investigated a sealed van truck parked on the turnoff to his ranch. The investigating game warden, Ernie Wampler of Jackson, said the rancher saw the legs and noses of the moose. He

reported what he saw, and according to Wampler, "He got a little excited. There's not too many places you can buy a load of moose."

The rustlers told Wampler they ran the young moose down with snowmobiles and then hauled them to the truck on sleds. The moose were all reported in good condition when released.

Milton A. Garriott and Raymond Wattenbarger, both of Idaho Falls, were charged with six counts of possession and illegal transportation of game animals. They were fined \$300 each and given 60-day suspended jail sentences.

Lozier was fined \$350 and handed a 60-day suspended jail sentence. He plead guilty to six counts of pursuing,

possession, and transportation of game animals, and one count of selling and bartering six calf moose.

Arrington received the lightest sentence, a \$100 fine and a suspended 60-day jail sentence. However, his game farm is now being investigated by the Idaho Fish and Game Department and he has already lost his game farm permit.

Additional, more serious charges are now pending against all four men. A spokesman for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department said further investigations are still being made by authorities from both states and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Montana is unique...

Environment Has Real Champion

by Tom Bell

It has been the environment versus politics throughout the Rocky Mountain region in this key political year. Most state legislatures have met for the first time in what has been billed as the 'Decade of the Environment'. And in most of the states, the environment has still come off second best.

Nowhere in the West has the power struggle between the environment and the politicians been keener than in Montana. The issues have been the traditional ones - industry wanting to continue to develop, to exploit, to use existing laws and regulations as their own special guidelines to "profit and progress".

But unlike most states, the Montana environment has had a real champion. There, Frank Dunkle has taken on the Democratic Governor Forrest H. Anderson and fought him to a virtual standstill. There would be nothing unusual in a private citizen prevailing victoriously in such a battle. But in this case Frank Dunkle is head of Montana's Fish and Game Department.

It all started when Dunkle began speaking out against various schemes to plunder Montana's rich and varied wildlife habitat. These schemes would have polluted prized trout waters and destroyed the range of big game animals.

Dunkle takes his job and his department seriously. He is charged with the responsibility of maintaining an environment which will

continue to produce fish and game. He does not believe he is paid to help promote mining industries, or any others, which will destroy his primary management responsibility. Nor does he believe his or his department's philosophies on how to maintain good fish and game habitat should be prostituted on the sacred altar of progress.

Consequently, he has dared to criticize industrial developments which are promoted by the governor. As Tom Brown, a Billings Gazette staff writer has put it, "Anderson, however, has not approved of all this criticism. He had a golden image of an industrially developed Montana still rich in game and fish along with pure water and blue sky. Dunkle's warnings tend to blur this golden image."

"Here is a man saying that industry will pollute, and proving it. Here is a man saying that mining, unless it is controlled, will kill fish and offering examples. And, here is a man trying to stop this environmental degradation."

"But the warnings from Dunkle reflect badly on the governor and, so, he has vowed to silence them."

Governor Anderson pressured the Montana Fish and Game Commission to control and muzzle Dunkle. But it is difficult to find much fault with a man who is doing his utmost to fulfill his job responsibility. And at this point, many Montana citizens began to rally to Dunkle's side. Many of them were also appearing at the same

(Please turn to page 16)



Frank H. Dunkle

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

The time has come when my wife and I must commence the move from our little ranch back to town. We look forward to a new and somewhat different type of living style in town but there is much we are going to miss.

It isn't much as ranches go. It isn't big. It doesn't have good soils. The rocks crop out in several places. And I used to jokingly say (sometimes quite seriously), 'it is nothing but a big sweatshop'. But when you have put much of your own sweat and substance into a place, you consider it rather meaningfully.

I have nonchalantly declared, "A home is a house." But it is really more than that. A home is where you put your heart. A home is where two people work side by side in creating something just a little finer for each other and for those they love.

This was where our big sons grew from boys to men. They learned the satisfaction of work, and to experience the fun of creating something when they helped me build the house and the well-house and the bridge across the creek. It was here they got to roam the fields and hills and learned to swim in the river.

Our little boy came here to find a place in our hearts. He has had to learn to play by himself and to be creative in his own right. He had learned independence by going off with only his big dog Lisa, to explore the hills and look for prairie dogs. Now, he looks forward to playmates in our new neighborhood.

My wife wants to move before Spring really hits because she says she couldn't stand it. I have only nodded in silent agreement but it is in complete sympathy. There is something about the awakening of land in the early Spring which fascinates you and binds you close.

Only this morning, with nearly a foot of snow on the ground, a small flock of male, red-wing blackbirds settled into the willows in the backyard. They are the harbingers of Spring. Their cheery 'onk-a-ree, onk-a-ree' filled the air. And that along with the twittering of the chipping sparrows and the melody of the song sparrow is what can only be called soul music.

Birds are a part of our lives, but how much a part you do not realize until you take pause to reflect. I have kept records of the comings and goings of the little feathered friends. Now, I know when to expect them.

The blackbirds and robins are on time. Soon we should be hearing the morning overture of the meadowlarks. In about two weeks, the mourning doves should appear on the gravel driveway and coo from the trees above the well-house. And at later intervals, the warblers will flit about the trees and bobolinks will go singing above the meadows.

Birds are there all through the year. Vic and I will miss seeing the 'greenheads', sitting amongst the water cress on the spring above the house. And he mentioned only yesterday about he and his Mom seeing a short-eared owl up along the pasture fence.

Together we have come to know the thrill of the curlew's cry and the flute-like call of the sandhill crane. We have heard the great horned owl hooting from our trees and a cock pheasant crowing from the backyard fence.

This is what we will miss the most - the sights and sounds and smells of the Good Earth.

But those who own land have a responsibility toward it. We are but short-term stewards of what is one of God's greatest gift to us - the land and the water and the air. All life springs from these and if our stewardship of them cannot be of the highest standards, then we should relinquish our hold to those who might do better.

The time has come when I cannot devote enough energy to the care and husbandry of our land. There is much to be done to protect and build the soil, to conserve the water, and to give it proper care and management.

The old man and his wife who preceded us worked it and loved it for as long as they were able. Then they gave it up to us. And we in our turn are passing it on to good people who will put their energies and care into it and will come to love it as we have done.

Our lives have been richer for having owned and loved a piece of land. And so we move on with many pleasant memories and without regret.

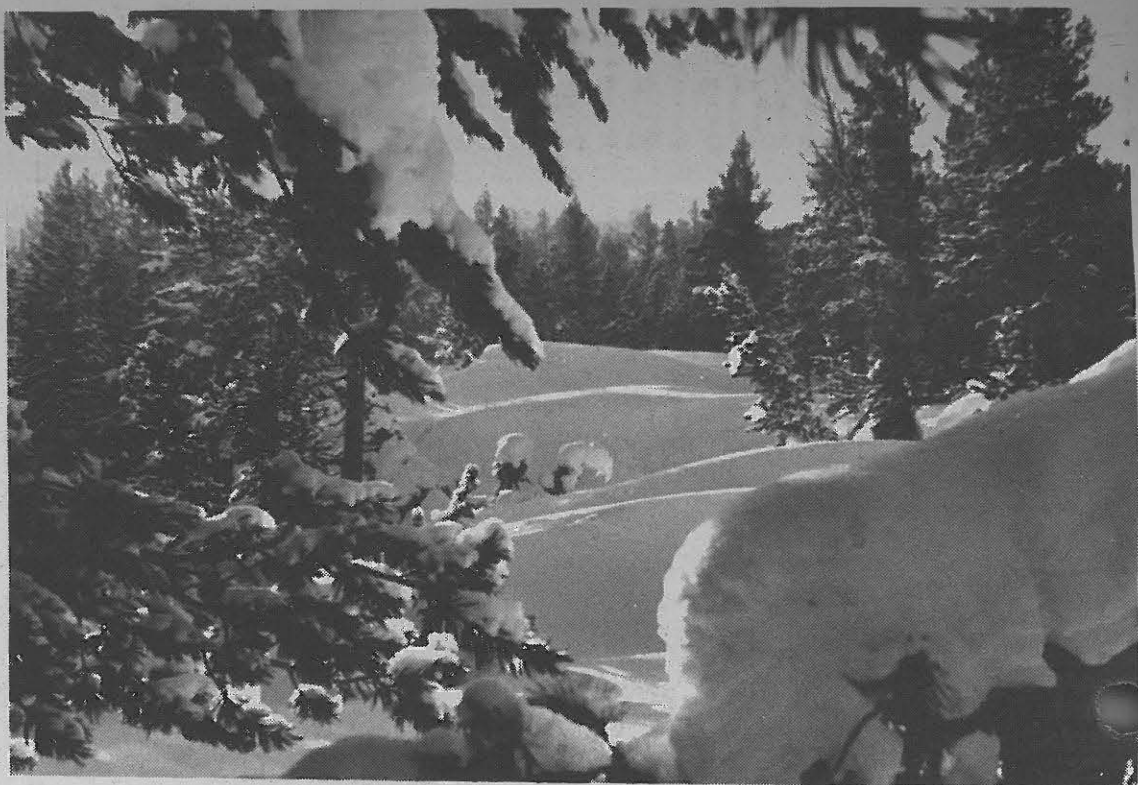


Photo by Kim Wilbert

The forests lie wrapped in ermine white as snows pile deeper in the mountains of the West. Here, quiet and solitude is broken only by the 'chunk' of falling snow masses and the chatter of the pine squirrel.

Letters To The Editor



Thank you

Editor's Note: We have received literally dozens of letters from our readers in response to our request for help to continue. Since we could not possibly reprint them all, we will not try. But we would like to acknowledge how we have appreciated your thoughts and your concern. With these expressions of feeling, we can confidently continue.

Editor:

Keep up your reports on developments of the Green River Basin. We are lucky to have people like you seeking to advise citizens of straight forward truth.

I recently wrote a letter to Governor Hathaway asking a few questions about this project. I got a reply, but not a satisfactory answer. He did not say what would happen with the game, big and small, that use this land in one way

or another for survival, or where one will find another trout stream. He gave no reason for having his state dammed, polluted, industrialized; ruining natural beauty like some of our eastern states.

The Governor states that the Green River Basin is rich in natural resources - resources that need water to be developed. In my opinion, natural resources after development are not natural anymore.

Mr. Hathaway does not say who is going to use the stored water or who is going to pay the bill for damming the Green.

I have visited Wyoming for its scenic beauty and for big game hunting. I do hope it stays that way.

Thanks for fighting and reasoning for the good of all people. May many more join hands in this fight.

Sincerely yours,
Daniel E. Miller
Middlefield, Ohio 44062

Editor:

On the public land, in the Colorado Bookcliff Mountains are less than fifty wild horses. As no wildlife is covered by the Colorado humane code, the Bookcliff wild ones are very cruelly treated by ranchers, guides and outfitters, and by Sunday afternoon cowboys.

The horses are shot at and some are killed on the spot to feed caged bear and mountain lions, which are to be used in Colorado canned hunts. Others are left out on the range to rot. A mustanger caught one of the wild ones in a snare, then this punk spooked the horse, letting the animal break its neck. Over the years many of the Bookcliff horses have found their way on the long and very cruel journey eastward, to the dog food factory.

In an effort to bring humane conservation to the Bookcliff herds, the Colorado

Branch of the International Defenders of Animals, Inc. has petitioned the United States Department of the Interior to set aside on the public lands, in the mountains of Western Colorado, a wild horse refuge. The numbers are to remain below fifty-five wild horses, in keeping with sound range management by the use of very strict humane controls.

Please help us in our efforts to bring compassion and conservation to the Bookcliff herds by writing to:

The Hon. Rogers B. Morton, Secretary, United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.; and

Mr. R. Keith Miller, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Box 1509, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501.

The Bookcliff lands are your lands, the Bookcliff wild mustangs are your wild horses, and they are your responsibility. Act today and help save this part of your fast vanishing Old West.

Howard H. Caudle, Vice President, International Defenders of Animals, Inc.

P.S. I am also the Vice President of the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros.



Court Orders DDT Review

The U. S. Court of Appeals has ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider the Secretary of Agriculture's decision not to ban the use of DDT and potent herbicide 2,4,5-T. the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Chief Judge David L. Bazelon, warned that in the future, federal courts will no longer "bow to the mysteries of administrative expertise" in rendering decisions of this kind.

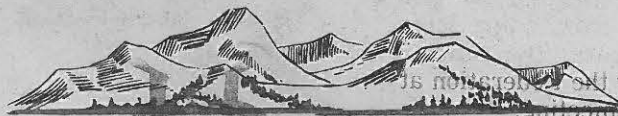


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Guest Editorial



Wildlife - Who Needs It?

By Robert J. Legoski

"Wildlife-- Who Needs It?"

There has probably never been a more important time in man's history to ask and answer this question. National Wildlife Week, 1971 is using this question to provoke answers to help clean up the country and make it worth living in. In our technological society where progress is measured in terms of war capabilities, scientific discoveries, new gadgets, and Gross National Product, a growing undercurrent of feeling is taking place -- a feeling that the quality of our lives has been deteriorating because we have been measuring the wrong things as marks of progress.

We are beginning to learn that in the process of becoming the richest country in the world, we have been leading the world toward environmental disaster -- smothered in poisoned air, bathed in putrid water, and blanketed with concrete and plastic.

Measuring and improving our environmental quality is becoming a goal of more and more people as they realize where our present measurement values are leading us.

In terms of what we are used to measuring, wildlife would seem to be completely out of place. Where could wildlife fit into the standard pictures of progress--represented by concrete, cars, jetports, shopping centers, freeways, housing developments, pipelines, electrical power systems, and industrial developments? The fact is they don't fit in the way we have been doing things.

How can wildlife survive in the by-products of such "progress" -- filthy air and water, persistent chemicals in almost everything, and fewer trees and other plants where they count the most? The answer is, they don't survive.

But so what? Why worry about wildlife when what we need is progress? When there's a choice to make, what's more important -- wildlife or people? Who really needs wildlife? Listen carefully when people try to justify more pollution or more land wrecking. You'll hear these questions. You've probably heard them plenty of times before.

Lost in all the rationalizations concerning wildlife is the plain and simple fact that people have the same basic needs as wildlife. As we have ignored wildlife needs, we have also failed to provide for our own. As wildlife suffers, so does man. It just happens faster to other creatures.

We must wake up to this foolishness. We must recognize that by keeping air and water clean and by planning land developments to provide space and natural foods for wildlife, we are providing the ingredients for our own health and survival.

Wildlife is such a simple early warning system of deteriorating environment that we cannot afford to ignore it. We all need wildlife if only for its sensitivity to pollution, poisons, and false progress.

The claim that the only alternative is wildlife or people has been exposed as an apology for more pollution and environmental destruction. We can, we must have fellow creatures, as well as fellow humans.

Wildlife -- who needs it? WE ALL DO.



Carroll R. Noble

Carroll R. Noble of Cora, Wyoming, here shown while on a pack trip into the Bridger Wilderness Area. Noble was instrumental in rallying conservation forces to get wilderness classification for the world renowned Bridger. Later, he became a national director of the National Wildlife Federation.

He and his wife, Tina, are life-long residents and ranchers on the Upper Green River. Together, they have teamed as two of Wyoming's foremost conservation leaders.

Friends of the Nobles will be happy to learn both are doing well after a winter spent at Tecopa, California. They will be back at the ranch at Cora around May 1.

Yellowstone Roads Now Being Opened

The annual spring road opening in Yellowstone National Park has begun, officials of the park have announced. The snowplows started from Park Headquarters at Mammoth and are progressing on schedule toward Lake.

Officials said as a safety precaution, snowmobiles are prohibited on that section of road on which the snowplows are operating. The following is the road closure schedule. The road from Mammoth to Norris Junction and Canyon is presently closed. The road between Norris Junction and Madison Junction will close,

March 12; the road between Madison Junction and Old Faithful will close, March 18; from West Entrance to Madison Junction will close, April 12; and the South Entrance road from South Entrance to West Thumb will close, April 2, as well as the road from Fishing Bridge to the East Entrance.

A spokesman for the park emphasized to the snowmobilers that all plowed roads are closed to snowmobiling. He warned that any violator is not only subject to a stiff penalty, but endangers his life by running the risk of colliding with a snowplow or other equipment.

The spokesman further stated that barring any severe spring storms or unforeseen problems with equipment, the snow removal crew should have no difficulty meeting the May 1, target date for having all the roads within the park open.

Weather permitting, certain sections of the park roads will be opened to public travel by conventional vehicles, just as soon as they have been cleared sufficiently to make them safe for travel. However, anyone planning a visit to the park should contact the nearest Ranger Station for the latest road conditions or call 307-344-7381.

Outdoor Club Gets Honor

PORTLAND, ORE.--The Sheridan County Wyoming Sportsmen's Association was honored today for its outstanding contribution to conservation at the local level during 1970 by the 2-1/2 million member National Wildlife Federation.

Federation President James H. Shaeffer announced the award during the opening session of the Federation's 35th annual meeting at the Portland Hilton. The local group was nominated for the award by The Wyoming Wildlife Federation, state affiliate of the NWF.

"Your collective efforts have served to emphasize the importance of an alert, active and aggressive local conservation club," Dr. Shaeffer said in making the award.

The Sheridan County Sportsmen's Association was one of 18 outstanding local clubs across the nation honored by the Federation at its annual meeting.



Big Horn Endurance Ride Set

The first annual, Big Horn, 100-mile, one-day ride has been set for July 17-July 18 according to its sponsors. The endurance ride, first of its kind for Wyoming, will start at Greybull, skirt the west flanks of the Big Horn Mountains, and finish at the Bluejacket Guest Ranch near Shell.

The Canyon Cavaliers Saddle Club of Greybull and Basin says it expects entries for the endurance ride from several states besides Wyoming.

The ride will be a controlled one, with veterinary stops in several places. Vets will have authority to disqualify a horse they feel is not in

condition to continue.

The riders will have 24 hours (from 4:30 A.M. July 17 to 4:30 A.M. July 18) to qualify and complete the ride, including rest and vet stops.

All qualifying riders will receive a silver belt buckle exclusively designed for the Big Horn, 100. The grand trophy, the Constance McKinney Cup will be donated by Thomas M. McKinney of Basin in memory of his late wife. Trophies for the first five places in each division have been donated by local businessmen, together with breed trophies donated by different breed associations.

There will be three

divisions in the ride. The junior division will be composed of youngsters aged 12 through 16. The medium weight division will be in the range of 150 to 185 pounds, and the heavyweight division will be for 185 pounds and up. All weights include tack. Minimum weight for the ride is 150 pounds, including tack. All horses must be at least five years old.

The entry fee is \$50.00. Any interested riders are welcome to enter. Anyone who would like to obtain an entry blank, or further information on the ride, is asked to contact Mrs. Terry Perkins, BO X 223, Basin, Wyoming, 82410.

Wyoming Has Two New Parks

Wyoming's state legislature has created two new state parks. One is near Lander in Sinks Canyon and the other is between Cheyenne and Laramie on lands surrounding Crystal and Granite Reservoirs.

Sinks Canyon State Park will center around lands bought by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for deer winter range and fishing access to the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River. The park will incorporate other state lands and will be managed in conjunction with

adjacent national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands.

Its central feature is the Sinks of the Popo Agie (Poposia) River. The stream flows into a limestone cavern on the south wall of the canyon and reappears at the "Rise of the Sinks" some one-half mile below and on the opposite side of the canyon. Many large trout inhabit the deep pool where the river rises. (No fishing is allowed!)

The area is easily accessible by paved highway, only a few miles southwest of

Lander.

Granite State Park lies about five miles due north of Interstate 80, and is about 25 miles west of Cheyenne. Park development will center around the two reservoirs.

The area is located in rugged, granite-type, mountainous terrain. It is ideally situated to provide a variety of outdoor recreational pursuits, such as camping, hiking, picnicking, boating, fishing, group outings, rock climbing, and like activities.

THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

Representatives from a dozen states participated in the Intermountain Raptor Symposium at Brigham Young University last week. The two-day meeting in Provo, Utah, featured sixteen presentations of scientific studies on hawks, falcons, ospreys, owls and eagles. Participants came from as far away as Florida and Alaska, from New York and Maryland, from Michigan and Wisconsin.

Roland Clement, vice-president of the National Audubon Society, gave the keynote address entitled "Raptors and Men: A Conservation Challenge," which set the tone for the symposium. Clement's address called for a whole-istic outlook to broaden the awareness of the general public concerning birds of prey and their place in our world. Raptors are in trouble, he said, but their problem is a people problem because of our attitudes and activities (just like the bear situation in Yellowstone).

Clement suggested three reasons for the almost universal decline of raptor population: 1) competitive exclusion by man, whose encroachment upon the wild world putting more and more species of wildlife out of business; 2) persecution by the gun, the trap, the poisons—often by the same agencies that are supposed to protect wildlife and usually with little or no ecological evidence; and 3) the pesticides, the most pernicious of them all.

(The recent BLM proposal for the protective withdrawal of the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area along the Swan Falls stretch of the river south of Boise, Idaho, is an attempt to combat all three.)

Clement further suggested that until a common attitude of man is changed, there is little hope for either the raptors or for man. Man seems to think he lives outside of nature, an attitude which causes him to disregard all other life (including other races or nationalities of his own species). Speaking of the need to protect raptorial birds, Clement touched on the very essence of man's major environmental problems and found that the salvation of man and of nature are one.

These birds of prey are an index to the quality of our own lives. The human species is already overpopulated for a quality life, and we infringe upon more and more of the wild world, of the raptors' habitat, both physically and chemically as well as psychologically. The development-and-growth syndrome must end, Clement suggested; we need to agree to stabilize—we can't afford to grow. **GROWTH IS NO LONGER IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.**

What must we do to save the raptors and ourselves? We must zone the earth for physical and spiritual elbowroom. The price of a quality life is population limitation. We must eliminate poverty, overcome inertia; we must reconstruct our civilization, and by saving the birds of prey, we will save ourselves because we are inexorably tied together, both being top-of-the-food-chain creatures. Preserving predators helps to preserve man; persecuting predators helps to destroy man. For all of its ecological complexity, it is as simple as that.

People must be convinced of the seriousness of our eco-crisis, must be made to realize that Everyman is part of nature, not apart from nature, and to paraphrase John Donne, No creature is an island, entire of itself; every creature is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.

So much for trying to put Roland Clement's ideas into my words. His talk was the first of the symposium, but it obviously expressed the sentiment of most of the highly-trained participants. About 120 people heard the keynote address; somewhat more than half that number attended the remainder of the meetings, hearing presentations on pesticide studies related to peregrine falcons and bald eagles and golden eagles and ospreys; food studies, especially of golden eagles (some of these will be reported in the second article on Predator Control in Wyoming: Of fEagles and Old Wives Tales in this issue); golden eagle-livestock interactions; nesting characteristics and nesting ecology of a number of raptorial species.

The final session of the symposium featured a panel of experts discussing better legal protection and public education related to raptors. A banquet featured a slide presentation on African birds of prey presented by Dr. Walter R. Spofford, recognized world authority on the golden eagle. Raptors are in trouble all over the world.

The raptors had their day—two days, in fact. But too few people know the facts about our useful and rapidly-disappearing birds of prey that continue to be persecuted by careless gunners and misinformed or ignorant Everymen.



Cross-country skiing in winter or spring can take skiers into all kinds of terrain and through all sorts of weather.

Pollution Measures Introduced

Congressman Teno Roncalio reported today that he is sponsoring two measures designed to reduce water pollution.

He joins 40 members in introducing H. R. 3630 to ban all detergents containing phosphates and other agents that cause pollution.

The companion measure to the Senate bill sponsored by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin would also establish national environmental standards on all detergent ingredients.

Roncalio said the bill was designed to remove known pollutants from detergents and to establish safeguards which would prevent harmful products from reaching the marketplace.

He noted that for nearly 20 years detergent industries have been using polyphosphate ingredients comprising up to 50 per cent of every pound of laundry detergent and up to 90 percent of mechanical dishwashing compounds.

Roncalio said the ingredients were polluting waters at the rate of 5.5 billion pounds a year, on average, 27.5 pounds of destructive pollution for every man, woman, and child in the country.

He is also co-sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 147 to express the sentiment of Congress that coordinated international action is necessary to prevent the pollution of world waters.

Roncalio said he had a special enthusiasm from the bill because of his experience as chairman of the International Joint Commission on U. S. Canadian waterways.

Roncalio is also sponsoring measures to ban non-deposit non-returnable containers from interstate commerce; to designate an annual "Earth Week," and to restrict offshore oil drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Sanctuary Supported

Witnesses appearing in behalf of the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area in Idaho gave strong support to the proposal. The hearing was held by the Bureau of Land Management at Boise.

The natural area would affect a 33-mile stretch of rugged, cliff area along the Snake River. It is located upstream from Walters Ferry and is generally known as the "Swan Falls reach" of the Snake River.

The hearing was held for the BLM received about 100 letters for and against the area. The hearing record will be held open until March 29.

Robert Turner, Rocky Mountain regional representative of the National Audubon Society, said one of the five priority goals of that organization was to secure federal protection for birds of prey. He said the Society strongly endorsed the BLM proposal.

Other witnesses included Ernie Day, representing the Idaho Environmental Council; Verne Huser of Jackson, Wyoming, representing the Jackson Hole Environmental Action Society, and numerous other private citizens including ranchers in the area.

Pronghorns Harvested

It has been estimated more than 31,000 antelope were harvested in Wyoming during the 1970 big game hunting season.

A report compiled for the Game and Fish Department by the University of Wyoming shows a total of 31,482 antelope were taken by hunters, some 3,311 more than in 1969. The number of hunting permits was also up in 1970 by nearly 4,000 and contributed significantly to the increased antelope harvest figures.

The survey was based on information supplied by permit holders selected at random and sent a questionnaire. Hunters were asked to estimate the days they spent hunting and traveling in Wyoming and the age and sex of their kills. More than 10,300 usable questionnaires were returned and accounted for nearly 80 per cent of those sent out by the Game and Fish Department.

The antelope harvest

survey shows 86 per cent of the resident hunters were successful while nonresident hunters were 93 per cent successful in taking home their bag limits.

Information gained by the antelope harvest report is used by game managers when establishing future antelope hunting seasons and in studying antelope hunting trends within the Cowboy State.





Outdoors Omnibus

by

Jim Tallon



When I moved to Phoenix, Arizona after eight years of guiding tourists along the rim of Grand Canyon, I spent late afternoons sprawled on the sun deck of the apartment building in which I lived. Temperatures were bumping the 100 degree mark at the time, and some of the regular desert dwellers thought me a little odd. But actually I was just trying to thaw out. At the "Great Gulch" the four seasons are: the chilly season (summer nights, anyway), the cold season, the frigid season, and God-its-so-cold-you've-got-to-be-kidding season.

Being of the thin-blooded genre (I couldn't even thicken it with flour), I never got used to the bite of below zero weather, or below 40 for that matter. But I did manage to live with the summer night temperatures, thanks to an ample supply of knit sweaters.

Now, while doing some research for this column, I found I could have adjusted myself to the Eskimo's apparent disregard for cold simply by eating more meat. Actual tests have proved that when the whiteman indulges in the same meat-founded diet as the Eskimo, he acquires a new defense against the Siberian shakes. My source of information neglected to say why, and maybe I can uncover this for a later column, but for the time being, don't knock it until you've tried it.

Since we're already well aware of winter in the high country, and being a fond purveyor of the beef-steak, I've already jumped into a program to gorge myself into cold resistancy. My reasons are deer and chukar, both of which like the cold country in which I plan to hunt. Your reasons may be elk, bear, coyotes or cottontails. But if your games' habitat stretches into artic-like atmosphere, you might do well to increase your intake of sow-belly, or whatever you like best in meat cuts. It just might pay off the first time you have to flop armpit-deep through snowdrifts. Even if it doesn't work, it'll sure be fun experimenting.

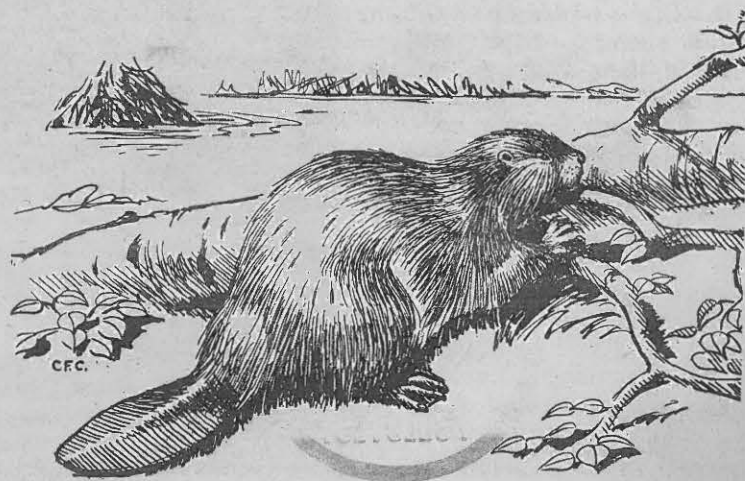
You might help the meat diet along by seriously considering cold country underwear. I mean underwear in regards to the "great sweat syndrome." With humble apologies to the cotton queen and the people who elected her, this fiber is not the best to test sub-zero temperatures. In fact, cotton has led to the demise of northland explorers. How? Well, cotton dries very slowly in subzero temperatures. Moisture—sweat—retained in the fiber robbed the garments of the insulating qualities, and the guys froze to death.

As most of you know, thermal undies depend upon dead air space to provide insulation. And you must have ventilation to get rid of sweat. I once had a two-foot thick cowboy-style bedroll that failed to permit proper ventilation and I nearly froze in 15 degree temperatures, while other members of our Forest Service fire-fighting group stayed comfortable in conventional down sleeping bags. In other words, the down bags "breathed"; but my hotroll didn't.

If you're in a situation where temperatures hold above zero, and/or you're not pushing yourself hard enough to work up a sweat, cotton is okay. But for colder times, wool and man-made fibers surpass it. And it's still wise to move along at a pace that doesn't load up your winter wonderwear with moisture.

If you've got to work up a sweat, do it before you leave home—finding two suitable companions for your cold weather campout or hunting trip. Why two? We know well that winter multiplies the odds against survival should an injury occur. If you're alone, you must survive on your own. With one companion you're not much better off. Should he have to go for help, you're still left to fend for yourself while he's gone. If this includes such arduous chores as chopping wood for a campfire, you still may be in serious trouble. The third man solves the problem; he, or the second man can go for help, while the other stays to feed you hot soup and tend to your needs.

So, for a better stint of cold country hunting and camping, live high on the hog (or cow, etc.), don't sweat it, and if you want to support the cotton industry, take along a cotton queen for publicity.



Jim Tallon mushing through the snows of the Grand Canyon and trying not to work up a sweat!

How To Stop Engineers?

The seemingly eternal momentum that characterizes the history of so many Corps of Engineers projects is evident in the Cross-Florida Barge Canal despite President Nixon's order to halt further construction, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. Actual construction reportedly has ceased, but a push to revive it has taken a new tack, paralleled by additional efforts to protect the uniquely beautiful Oklawaha River.

Canal supporters representing private interests and the Florida Canal Authority reportedly rushed to Washington strongly protesting the President's order. Two members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, Congressmen

Robert Sikes and Charles Bennett, allegedly attempted to unite the delegation in a move to countermand the President's order. Other members, including Congressmen Paul Rogers, Dante Fascell, and Bill Young, and Senator Lawton Chiles are expected to support the conservation move.

There is some concern at the state level that lands taken for the canal project cannot be retained in public ownership if the project is killed. Thus, after all the national publicity, piecemeal development could destroy the wild and scenic character which conservationists and the President specifically wished to protect. It is hoped, however, the Florida Legislature will amend the functions of the Canal Authority to include land acquisition for protecting natural values.

Congressman Bennett now says that the Corps has recommendations for an alternate route that would bypass the Oklawaha River (eternal momentum). He also proposes that a national park be established in the area. Conservationists, however, think the best hope for protection of the river lies in the U. S. Forest Service, whose leaders in Florida are increasingly conscious that timber production is not the only value the public places in its national forests lands. Interestingly, the boundaries of the Ocala National Forest

go to the center of the main channel of the Oklawaha River along that part of the barge canal route. Apparently, this Forest Service land was never signed over to the Corps or to the Florida Canal Authority. The area could be designated a wild river administered by USFS.

Earth Week Designated

Congressman Teno Roncalio is co-sponsoring legislation to ban non-deposit, non-returnable containers from interstate commerce, and to designate "Earth Week" to advance environmental preservation efforts.

Roncalio said H. R. 3361 would ban non-deposit, non-returnable containers and set a fine and imprisonment for violations, in order to reduce the blight on the countryside caused by non-returnables and to lower tax costs in removing litter.

He noted that Americans last year discarded an estimated 46.8 billion such containers and that the figure would rise to 100 billion by 1980 unless measures were enacted.

He is also co-sponsoring House Joint Resolution 282 to designate the third week in April of each year as "Earth Week."

Roncalio said that last year's Earth Day observance in April was joined in by 2,000 communities, 3,000 colleges and 10,000 primary and secondary schools.

He said the resolution designating "Earth Week" was to encourage a continuing interest in environmental preservation by all interests, including education, agriculture, labor, business, government and civic organizations.

Roncalio said he was considering the introduction of legislation to ban phosphates in detergents as another phase of the anti-pollution effort, and noted he is already sponsoring a bill to restrict off-shore oil drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Engineer's Guidelines

The Army Corps of Engineers has made public its environmental guidelines for civil works programs, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The new guidelines, developed by the Corps' Institute for Water Resources with the assistance of its Environmental Advisory board, incorporate environmental considerations in investigating and developing water and related resources. The guidelines require the Corps in responding to the public interest, to obtain "the wide range of views" in considering future public works projects.

Lieutenant General F.J. Clarke, Chief of Engineers, said, "These often divergent views must be injected into every aspect of our work. They must be introduced during the earliest stage of our consideration of a project and reconsidered at every subsequent stage."

During the planning phase of Corps projects, the new guidelines require a systematic analysis of all associated environmental problems and possible solutions.

Ranch Gets Commended

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission issued a letter of commendation to the owners of the Eaton Ranch near Sheridan, praising their contributions to wildlife populations inhabiting that area of the state.

The Eaton Ranch has been located on Wolf Creek since 1904. Its owners were given special recognition for their concern for wildlife through the years. That concern led to the early elk plants in the Big Horn Mountains, one of the state's top hunting areas.

Predator Control In Wyoming

by Verne Huser

Part Two: "Of Eagles and Old Wives Tales"

In my discussion of predator control and poisons two weeks ago, I gave the eagle only passing mention, but I'd like to take a closer look at the eagle situation this week. Even though the bald eagle and the golden eagle are both protected by Federal law, many ranchers insist upon killing these majestic birds. And well they might in Wyoming where State Game and Fish laws list the golden eagle as a predacious bird to be killed at will. Wyoming laws also list a so-called "brown eagle" on the predacious bird list. What that might be is anyone's guess: perhaps the immature bald eagle, which doesn't get its white head and tail plumage until its fourth or fifth year.

A pair of bald eagles that nests near the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park has used the same nest for at least fifteen consecutive years, raising a total of 28 eaglets during that time. Yet the bald eagle population of Jackson Hole has actually declined in that period. Why? The eaglets are driven away from the nest site when the parent birds begin nesting activities for the new years. The eaglets—now ten or eleven months old and able to take care of themselves—migrate to lower elevations, often in areas where sheep graze such as the northwest corner of Colorado along the Green River between Flaming Gorge and the Gates of Lodore. Many of these young eaglets, lacking the conspicuous white head and tail of the adult, fall prey to careless hunters and careful sheep ranchers, who still insist upon killing many protected birds.

Kenard Baer, assistant regional supervisor for management and enforcement with the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife stationed in Albuquerque, New Mexico, told me a few years ago that up to 70% of the eagles killed in the so-called predator control programs are actually immature bald eagles. Bald eagle populations in the 48 contiguous states declined by a thousand birds (3700 to 2700) between 1963 and 1968, a five-year period. The primary cause was DDT, but other attrition factors come into play when reproduction of young is slowed down. Wyoming's breeding bald eagles seem to have little DDT in their systems; out here indiscriminate shooting—and I'm afraid some very discriminate shooting—replaces DDT as the major killer (the new high-neutral system of power lines also kills many eagles in southwestern Wyoming). Our bald eagle population, especially in the West, will continue to decrease as long as golden eagles are persecuted since few eagle killers differentiate between goldens and immature balds.

Bald eagles, by the way, were not always protected. In 1940 the Bald Eagle Protection Act was passed by Congress, but until 1953 there was a bounty on bald eagles in Alaska Territory. Residents of that northernmost state blamed the bald eagle for killing salmon—they didn't like the competition. It took a major food study of the bald eagle to prove that while eagles do feed upon salmon extensively, they feed almost exclusively upon the spawned-out salmon that are dying. Yet during the bounty days, 120,000 bald eagles are reported to have been killed. And during all that time, the bald eagle was our national bird.

When the Golden Eagle Protection Act was passed in 1962, the bill had to go through the office of Wayne Aspinall, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Mr. Aspinall represents northwestern Colorado, sheep country and mining interests. To please his wool-growing constituents, he insisted upon a loophole clause in the bill that said the Secretary of the Interior may open the season for the taking of golden eagles if the Governor of the state requests such action. Governors are subject to constituent pressure so whenever lambing season came around, the wool growers called the Governor, who contacted the Secretary of the Interior, who automatically opened the season on golden eagles. Hundreds of the great birds died at the whim of the sheep ranchers—and along with the golden eagles died dozens of immature bald eagles.

Things changed in 1969,

however, when Walter Hickel became Secretary of the Interior. He brought in Leslie Glasgow as Under Secretary in charge of wildlife, and Glasgow, who had been head of the Louisiana Fish and Game Department, insisted upon ecological evidence instead of old wives tales. Golden eagles feed heavily upon carrion, and most of the lambs that they are found feeding on have usually died of other causes earlier (I will produce evidence to support this statement later in this discussion). On this circumstantial evidence the Wyoming wool growers base their statistics that suggest they lost more than eight thousand sheep, and lambs to eagle predation in 1969.

Glasgow sent trained biologists into the field to verify the lamb losses to eagles, and he found that the lamb losses were seldom caused by eagles. The dead lambs had unmarked hoofs indicating that they had never walked—they were, in fact, stillborn. I've talked with veterinarians about the problem of lamb losses, and I've been told that as much as 40% of the lamb loss attributed to eagles are actually disease kills. Whatever the case, in 1969 Secretary Hickel, on Leslie Glasgow's advice, did not open the season on golden eagles nor did he in 1970, despite Gov. Stan Hathaway's repeated attempt to pressure him into doing so. Any golden eagle killed in Wyoming during the past two years was killed in violation of Federal law.

The question must have arisen in your mind by now: how harmful are eagles to sheep and lambs? I don't deny that an eagle can kill a

lamb or even a full-grown sheep or a deer or an antelope, but I've found little real evidence that they do so as a regular pattern except in unusual cases. Fred Christensen, who you will remember—heads the Division of Wildlife Services (the Federal Government's multi-million dollar predator control program) in Wyoming, told me that during the years that he's been back in Wyoming as head of the DWS, he's seen only three lambs that might have been killed by eagles—out of the thousands of carcasses he's examined. He says that in his book the eagle is no predator, and he hates to see them killed. He says further that he knows for certain that eagles are being killed in Wyoming and in other states. Before his return to Wyoming, he spent some years in Texas; he reports that killing eagles from airplanes is still practiced in the Trans-Pecos country of West Texas despite Federal laws against such practices.

Yet, the sheep ranchers insist that they lose thousands of lambs and sheep to eagles every year. According to the Wyoming Cooperative Livestock Report, Wyoming wool growers lost 7700 sheep and lambs (mostly lambs) to eagles in 1965, 8800 in 1966, 6700 in 1968, and 8200 in 1969. In Montana a similar report suggests the loss of 16,400 sheep and lambs in 1967 and 17,100 in 1968.

How are these statistics arrived at? A questionnaire is sent to the ranchers asking them to estimate their losses. In Wyoming only about 38% of the ranchers return their questionnaires, but the statistics are prorated for

100%. A recent publication of the wool growers suggested that if 20% of the area of the State of Utah produced so many eagle-killed lambs, that five times that number must have been killed. Also, the statistics are based upon an estimate. Few sheep ranchers have even seen an eagle kill a lamb, but when the rancher sees the eagle feeding on a lamb, he knows for certain sure that the eagle is guilty of the kill.

Leo G. Heugly, the Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and Department of Zoology at Brigham Young University studied livestock-golden eagle interaction in West Texas a few years ago and found that only 5% of the lambs lost were eagle kills. A questionnaire study of the rancher estimates suggested a 13% loss to eagles. But when the same ranchers filled out the Cooperative Livestock Report questionnaire, they estimated a 43% loss to eagles. Heugly found that only between 1 and 2% of the lamb crop was lost to eagle predation.

Heugly's study was conducted in the area where the biggest eagle shoots were conducted, where one rancher is supposed to have killed 1200 eagles in a single year from an airplane and another brags of having killed over twelve thousand in a 20-year period. Heugly points out that the sheep population in Texas has increased 125-fold since just before World War II. Tremendous pressure from the sheep ranchers has decimated the eagle population.

Several golden eagle food studies have been conducted (Please turn to page 7)



Photo by Pat Hall

A golden eagle wheels gracefully along the face of a cliff in search of prey. Although maligned as sheep killers, research has shown the big raptors are predacious mainly upon rabbits and small mammals.

in recent years that provide sound ecological evidence concerning eagles' prey. John Beecham's study in south-western Idaho involved 483 prey items found in 61 golden eagle nests over a two-year period. This was in an area of 1700 square miles. He found no evidence of lambs or sheep (he did find that 70% of the eagles' diet consisted of mammals, mostly rabbits).

An old-time rancher in the area—an area that supports no less than a pair of nesting golden eagles per thousand acres—says that in fifty years of ranching in the area, he's never lost a lamb to an eagle.

Another study in the same area by Michael Kochert of the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Idaho, suggests similar findings: 84% mammals, mostly rabbits and rodents.

Erwin L. Boeker, wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, studied golden eagle populations in the Trans-Pecos country of West Texas and New Mexico and later in the Rocky Mountain West. He found that most of the wintering eagles in the Trans-Pecos left the area before lambing time; he also found that eagles depended upon rabbits for 75% of their diet. Concerning banding records, he found that 70% of the bands were recovered during the first year of the eagle's life and that 72.9% of the bands were recovered in the state where they had been placed on an eagle (ten of ten in Wyoming, ten of twelve in Colorado). Few bands were returned from Texas or New Mexico, where ranchers seem less cooperative than in other states.

W. Bruce Arnell, Department of Biology at Brigham Young University, conducted a food study in three areas of central Utah and found that rabbits comprised 97.7%, 92.8% and 81.2% of the eagles' diet in the respective areas. He found no evidence of either lamb or deer in the nest sites. Several nests were located immediately above lambing grounds.

Arnell's study included 521 prey items, 377 of which were rabbits. He calculated that the rabbits killed by the eagles would have eaten as much grass as 70 sheep. The eagles were thus providing more forage for the sheep without molesting any of the lambs or the sheep.

All of these food studies suggest that golden eagles are hell on rabbits and rodents. It makes me wonder if the recent rabbit drives in Idaho in which tens of thousands of rabbits are killed a la My Lai would have been necessary had the coyotes and eagles not been persecuted with poisons and traps and aerial shooting.

Statistics provided by Montana livestock loss reports suggest that the larger the flock of sheep, the greater the predation. For example, in Montana in 1967 lamb losses to eagles were estimated at 4.2% in flocks of less than a hundred, but in flocks of between 100 and 1000, the losses were up to 15.5%. In flocks of between 1000 and 2500, the losses were 16.7% and in flocks of more than 2500, the lamb losses

were 23.9%. In a similar report concerning sheep loss to all predators only 1.1% of the sheep were lost in flocks of less than 100, but predator loss of sheep was 7.4% in flocks of 100 to 1000, 8.2% in flocks of 1000 to 2500, and 16.4% in flocks of more than 2500. If the statistics are accurate—based on wool growers' estimates—then all the ranchers have to do is to run smaller flocks.

Another practice that makes me doubt the wool growers' statistics concerns the shepherds. Frequently the sheep herders feed their families on lambs and sheep from the rancher's flock and credit the loss to predators. Shepherds have been known to trade a nice fat lamb for a bottle of cheap booze and chalk up another lamb loss to the eagles or the coyotes. I'm merely suggesting that livestock loss statistics are nebulous at best and downright dishonest at worst, and I can't see the eagle taking the blame for poor statistical method.

Dr. John Craighead reported in NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Magazine on an eagle study in Montana on an area that supported 30,000 sheep. He found that only one lamb could be verified as an eagle kill during a lambing season. He also cited a study in Scotland involving a flock of ewes that produced 4,000 lambs over a five year period in an area where golden eagles were numerous. A total of seven lambs were verified as losses to eagles.

In the Trans-Pecos area of West Texas—great eagle country—a sheep rancher found a golden eagle nest with two young birds in it on his sheep range. Instead of killing the eaglets, he decided to show those darn conservationists the truth about eagles and lambs. He observed them and the parent birds and doubled the surveillance of his flocks. And he staked out a lamb near the nest site, feeding and watering it every day. For 57 days the lamb remained unmolested. It was never attacked by either of the adult eagles, and the rancher lost not a single lamb to eagle predation. The rancher became a believer when he saw his range support four eagles on nothing but rabbits and rodents.

How on earth did Wyoming sheep ranchers lose 8,200 sheep and lambs to eagles in a single year? Incredible! I have rarely talked to a sheep rancher who can verify a lamb's being killed by an eagle. I've heard some wild stories about eagles swooping down to pick up a lamb—even one about an eagle that carried a full-grown ewe across Hell's Canyon—but I know eagles well enough to realize that the rancher was not being honest with me. I've seen bald eagles fish, and I've seen golden eagles take ducks out of the air and rabbits on the run. The descriptions I've heard from sheep ranchers don't convince me. I say again, I don't deny that an eagle can kill a lamb, and I'm sure that at times they do, but they don't kill lambs as a general rule. They don't kill eight thousand in a single year in Wyoming! I recall talking with a sheep

rancher from California a few years ago while I was camping and hiking in Yosemite National Park. He began telling me about his problem with a golden eagle—a golden eagle, not golden eagles in general. He told me that he had one old eagle on his ranch, a big bird that liked lamb; that the eagle had killed eight lambs that spring (he knew it was the same eagle because it had a couple of wing primaries missing). He asked the California Fish and Game Department to live-trap the offender—just that one "bad" eagle because he had no case against eagles in general. But they refused. He took matters into his own hands, shot the eagle the next time it came around, and dropped it down an abandoned mine shaft so that no one would find it and persecute.

I'm with him. If a particular eagle is guilty of killing lambs in the spring, he should be controlled. But just as certainly, the eagle species should not be persecuted as a whole.

But eagles continue to be persecuted in Wyoming and in other Rocky Mountain states where sheep are raised, mostly on public land. Just last month, some 25 eagle carcasses were found buried in a ditch in central Wyoming. Poisoned, trapped, shot, the eagle deserves better treatment for all the rabbits and rodents he kills. It seems time for ecological evidence to replace the old wives' tales that govern Federal predator control programs and sheep-rancher

initiated persecution of this great bird and his bald cousin.

People need to know more about eagles and what they're really like. May I suggest a trio of books that might help: THE EAGLE IN FACT AND FICTION by Johanna Johnston, PINION, THE GOLDEN EAGLE by Leslie Whitten, and THE GOLDEN

EAGLE by Robert Murphy. But better still, go out and watch the eagle in the skies of Wyoming or Colorado, of Idaho or Oregon, of West Texas or New Mexico. Watch his flight and his stoop; watch what he kills and what he eats. Only real knowledge can save the eagle from the old wives' tales that currently threaten his very existence.



Photos by Bill Meiners

Dr. Roland Clement, vice president of the National Audubon Society, has said that preserving predators helps to preserve man; that to persecute predators helps to destroy man. The golden eagle is being persecuted for crimes it did not commit.

Forest Service Unit Used For Mapping Volcanoes

The Forest Service infrared scanner unit that maps hot spots in forest fires is now spying on dead volcanoes to make sure they are really dead. This is only one of many jobs done by the airplane-mounted scanner, which has the ability to photograph heat rays through smoke and haze.

The unit is based at the Boise Interagency Fire Center and is operated by Forest Service pilots for many government agencies, state and federal. It has been flown over grass, tundra, brush, and timber fires in all stages of control -- from active uncontrolled burning through advanced mop-up. In addition to fire assignments, the unit has been used for surface water location, drainage ditch reconnaissance, civil defense exercises, search and rescue, and other scientific applications.

The unit has been in service since 1965. During this period of time, it has saved an estimated \$4 million in fire control activities.



The mysteries of volcanoes are being probed for the U. S. Geological Surveys Branch of Regional Geophysics. During the past few months, the Forest Service air-borne infrared mapping unit has flown thermal-mapping missions over dormant volcanoes and lakes in the Northwest, including Mt. Rainier, Crater Lake, and Mt. Baker. The result of the missions is a map of latent geothermal activity in these

areas.

Heat waves emitted from the earth's surface are recorded on a cathode ray tube similar to a TV tube. These impulses are photographed with a polaroid camera which provides an instant recording of heat variations on the earth's surface.

Work done to date by the scanner suggests it has a wide range of potential use in environmental studies.

Trail Symposium Held In Washington

A three-day National Symposium on Trails will be held in Washington, D. C. beginning June 2, the Departments of Agriculture and Interior announced jointly today. The Symposium is sponsored by the two Federal Departments and the Open Lands Project, a Chicago-based foundation with an active trails program.

"How-To" aspects of modern "trailblazing" to be stressed will be methods, criteria and problems in establishing urban, State, regional, and national trails for public recreation. Among the subjects to be covered are: establishing trails on existing rights-of-way, legal obstacles encountered in establishing trails, problems

of trails construction, financing trails, and building or adapting of trails for the blind and other handicapped people. Participants also will be briefed on progress in expanding the National Trails System since its establishment in 1968.

One session will be devoted to citizen action and how the many hundreds of unaffiliated trail clubs and other trail-interested groups and individuals can achieve a larger voice in national and local efforts to create more trails.

Trail club members and other interested organizations and individuals, as well as representatives of Federal, State and local governments are invited to attend.

WILDLIFE



WMO

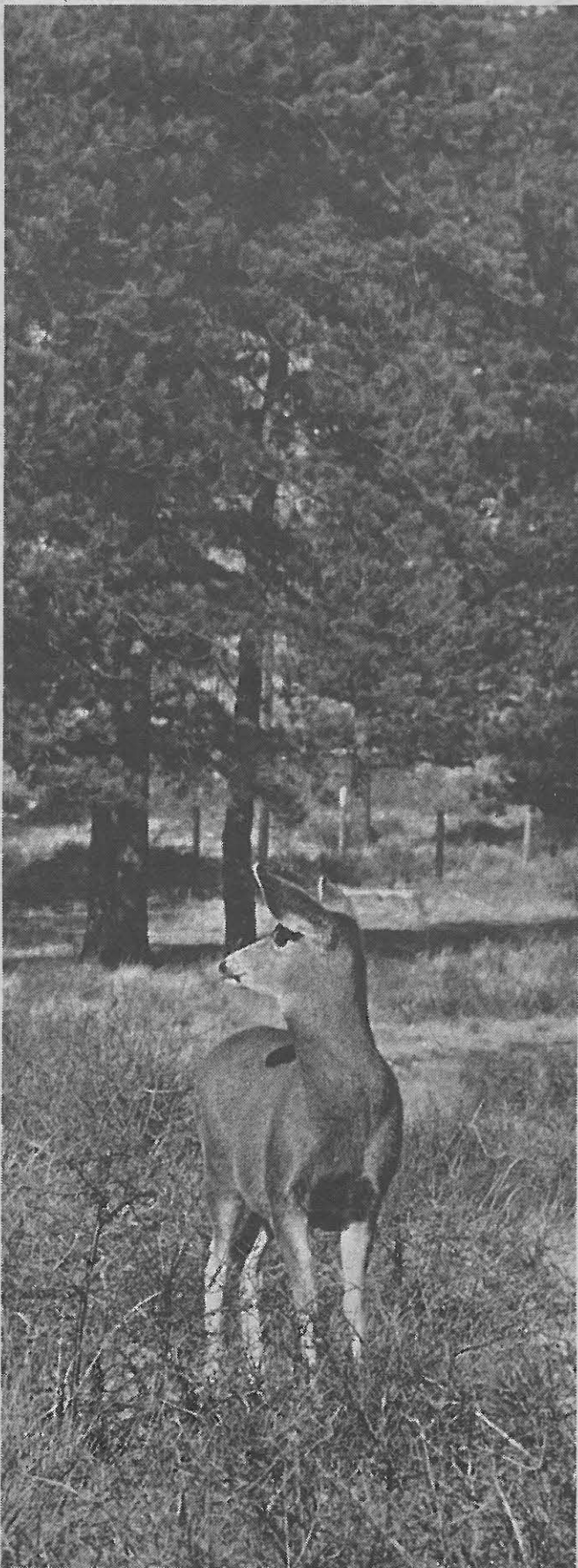
National Wildlife Week is March 21-27. It would be well for all of us to consider what our world would be like without our fellow, wild creatures.

Only by protecting our total environment, and preserving parts of it in wilderness, can we be sure wildlife will continue to co-exist with us. If all wildlife were to someday disappear, such a catastrophe would surely be an indicator that the human being was also marked for extinction.

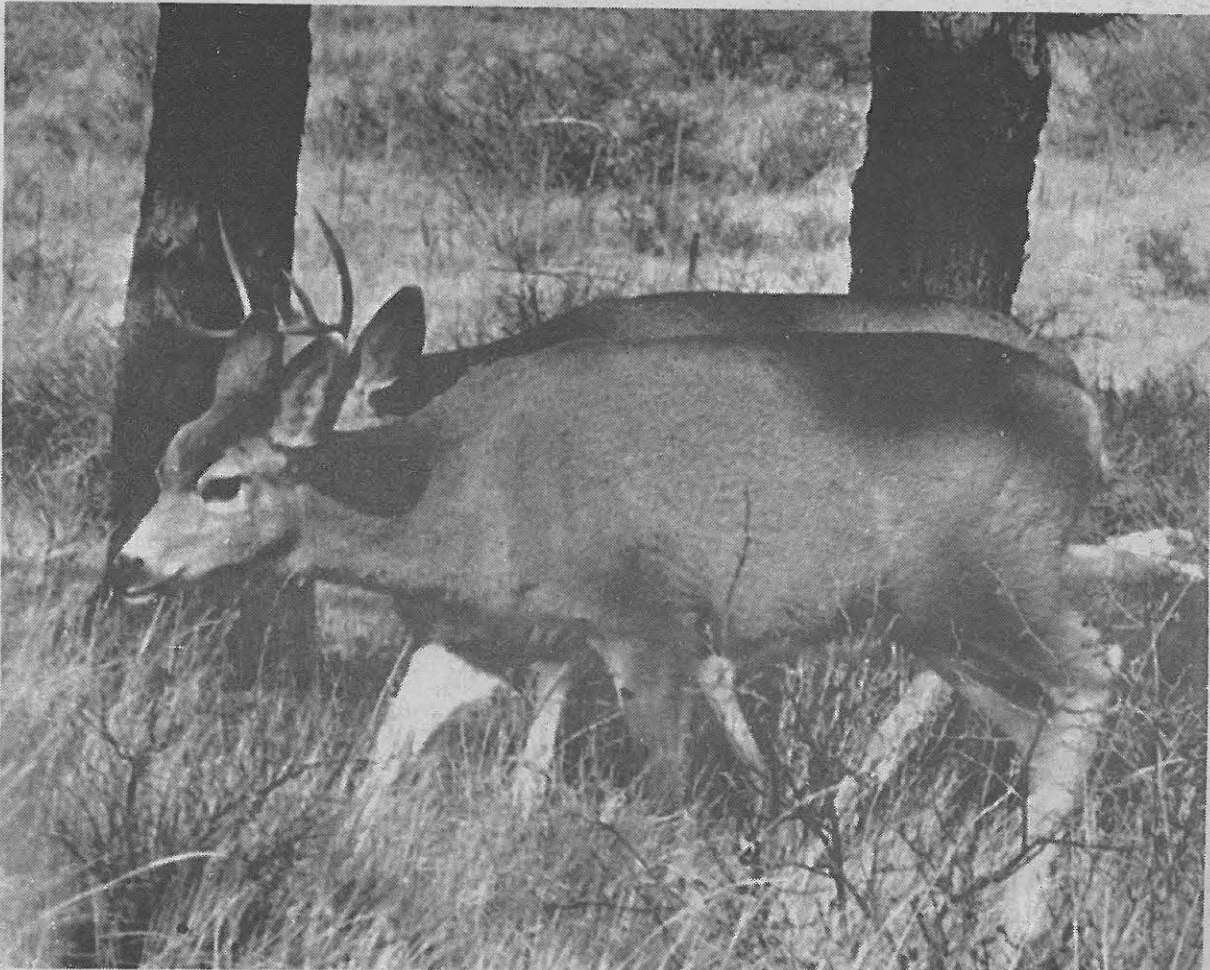
But a world bereft of wildlife would also be one lacking in color, interest and distinction. Man would sorely miss the cultural, aesthetic, and recreational ties he has with all of God's creatures.

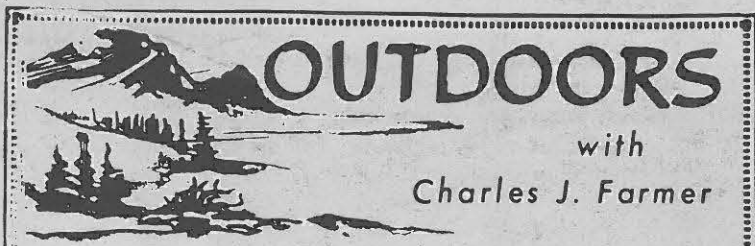


NEEDS IT?



PHOTOS BY DAVE SUMNER





OUTDOORS

with
Charles J. Farmer

PLAN FOR EARLY FISHING

So you think I have cabin fever, spring fever, fishin' fever and the double taper twitch? Well, you are right my fellow outdoorsmen. I do! I'm itchin' to wet a line... and I don't mean through the ice. I'm craving the warm days... those sun-drenched treasures that produce May fly hatches and tire-size swirls from rainbows and browns.

They are not far off, you know. But like anything else so desperately desired, it seems like a long time between now and then.

Fishing plans are now being made by anglers in the Mountain states. My plans are being formulated. In the past I have mentally listed all the lakes and streams that I will try during the spring, summer and fall months. Somehow I have forgotten several of those places by the time warm weather comes. And then there is always the excuse of not having enough time.

Things are different now. I am writing these streams and rivers, lakes and ponds down on my warm weather calendar. I'm going to fish every one of them this season. Anyway this is my job as a full time freelance outdoor writer and photographer... that's as good an excuse as any for not mowing the lawn or picking dandelions.

Actually this column is dedicated to all you worm tossers, fly flickers and lure lobbers who, after the end of the fishing season say, "Gee, I wished I could have done more fishing." This includes me.

Let's all work this pre-season fishing experiment together. If, at the end of the season, you haven't had the time for fishing, then you haven't followed directions.

Here goes: You should make a minor investment right off the bat. Purchase a calendar... the large kind that gives you plenty of space to write notes near the date. Remember, now is the time to start. If you wait much longer someone or something may plan your spring or summer for you.

We are planning our fishing schedule for Wyoming so for all safe, practical purposes April is a good starting month. I have had good fishing in March though—in between 50-mile-an-hour winds, torrential rains, and late blizzards. By starting in April, we can promise ourselves that only the worst of storms will stop us from wetting a line. Let us be faithful to our fishing calendar and it will be the faithful to us.

In April... let's see—beaver ponds are a good bet in the lower Wyoming altitudes. The brook trout are in their best moods then. Tiny gold or silver spinners, baited with worms are killers. There's some good ponds in the Snowy Range, Pinedale and Jackson areas, or wherever beavers, streams and rivers are found.

In May, I am going to jot down a lot of lakes on the calendar. Oh, I may try the North Platte and the Upper Green rivers. But for the most part, the rivers will be high and roily, depending on the amount of runoff. The lakes, will be blossoming with life. Glendo Reservoir, the Laramie plains lakes such as Hattie and Meeboer, Boysen, Buffalo Bill, Flaming Gorge and Seminole Reservoir should be good. Trolling should produce some fine catches.

In June, provided the rivers are not fighting heavy rains and snow runoff, the rainbows, browns, cutthroats and whitefish will be cooperative. A float trip on the North Platte River is my choice for mid-June. The Saratoga area is best. The middle and upper Green River should be hot for two to four pound browns and rainbows. The Snake, Wind and Laramie rivers should be good. Fish them with live bait and lures in June. Fish deep and slow. Around August and September they will be at their flyfishing best.

You say that your calendar is full already? My gosh we haven't even talked about July, August, September and October.

Now you finally have an excuse to fish this spring. When someone asks you for time this spring say, "Just a minute I'll check my calendar." It will amaze you how much fishing time you will have!



Photo by Ron Johnston

Like Charlie Farmer, there's many a follower of Ike Walton who is craving those warm days of Spring. And who wouldn't in a setting like this?

Many Environment Bills Introduced In Congress

Approximately 3,000 bills were introduced during the first week of the 92nd Congress. Several conservation measures which almost made it through the last Congress were among those dropped in the hopper early this session, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

Bills to abolish record-keeping requirements on .22-caliber ammunition have been introduced in the House and the Senate by Congressman Al Ullman (Oregon) and Senator Gale W. McGee (Wyo.). Another measure on which time ran out during the 91st Congress was the proposal to provide a criminal penalty for shooting animals from aircraft. Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wis.) and Congressman John P. Saylor (Pa.) have reintroduced this bill in the two houses.

A flurry of bills and resolutions has been introduced in both the House and Senate to create a Joint Committee on the Environment. This joint committee, among other things, would conduct studies on how man can better

harmonize with his environment. Several bills and resolutions have been introduced that would amend the rules of the House and establish a standing Committee on the Environment which would consider all environmental legislation for that body.

On the negative side, Senator Mark O. Hatfield (Oregon) has introduced S. 350, a bill dubbed the American Forestry Act. In presenting the bill, Hatfield stated that timber management on federal forestlands must be intensified in a manner consistent with good environmental practices. "To this end," he said, "my legislation includes provisions for a federal forestland management fund.

This fund would include receipts from federal timber sales, and expenditures would be authorized for reforestation, improvement of timber management, improvement of quality of the environment, and forestland research, consistent with the principles of multiple use on our national forestlands."

It sounds good, but on closer inspection con-

servationists report the offering to be a rehash of the Timber Supply Bill which Congress rejected last year. As indicated by Hatfield's remarks, this legislation could result in intensive timber management on national forest lands with little consideration for other values.



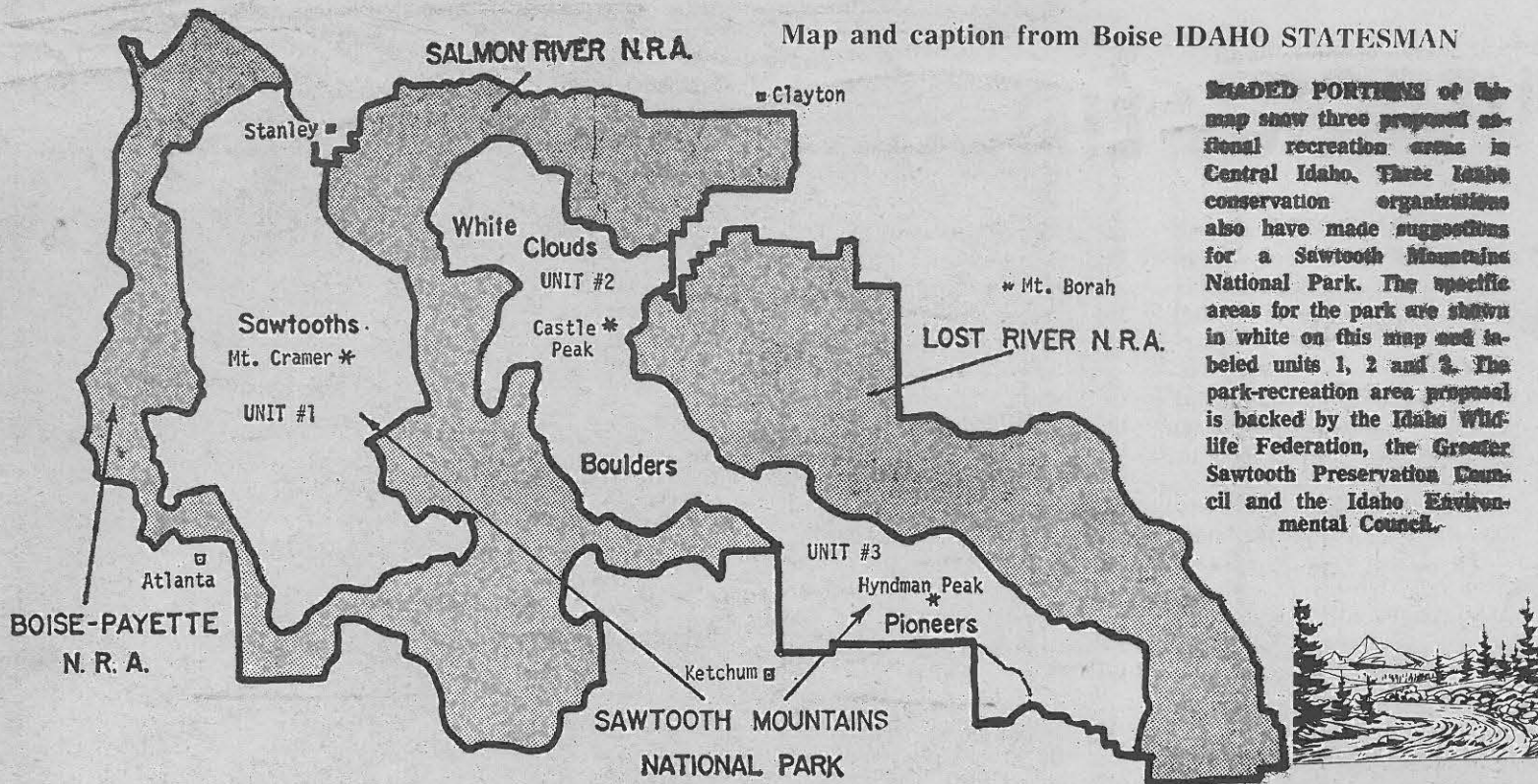
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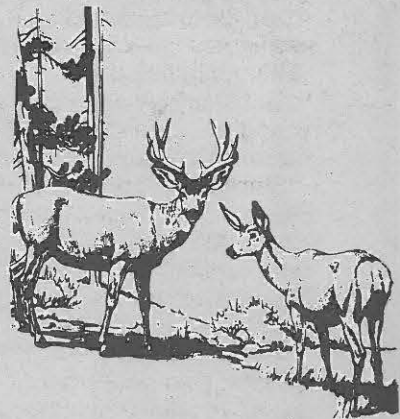


Idaho Parks Successful

A survey of Idaho's state park system has revealed that income derived to the state far exceeds the operating budget. The survey was done for the years 1969 and 1970.

Howard R. Alden, associate professor of forest recreation at Colorado State University, conducted the survey. He said Idaho profited by a total of \$4.9 million over and above the costs of running the state park system. His figures were based on statistics compiled as a part of a comprehensive statewide outdoor plan.

Alden said the \$4.9 million was from non-resident users and therefore represented new money brought into the state. He said the survey indicated that the Idaho Parks Department was deserving of "all the fiscal support that is available."



Sawtooth Mountains National Park Proposed By Conservation Groups

Three Idaho conservation organizations have proposed a Sawtooth Mountains National Park. The proposal would also create three new national recreation areas in conjunction with the park.

The Idaho Wildlife Federation, the Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council, and the Idaho Environmental Council have joined forces in pushing for the new areas. The proposal has been submitted to Idaho's congressional delegation.

The groups have patterned their proposal after the already established North Cascades complex of national park-national recreation areas. Under this concept, the higher peaks and more inaccessible areas are protected for their high-quality wilderness values. The lower elevations and

accessible areas would be managed for a more diversified outdoor recreational opportunity.

The proposal was prepared in consultation with the Idaho Fish and Game Department, professional planners, geologists, foresters, landscape architects, biologists, and any other professionals concerned with environmental quality. The proposed boundaries have been drawn to have the least effect on hunting opportunities. The park would be closed to hunting while the recreation areas would be open.

Affected by the overall proposal would be the Sawtooths, White Clouds, Boulder, and Pioneer Mountain Ranges. The Sawtooth Primitive Area which exists in the area at the

present time would be automatically designated a wilderness upon passage of the proposed bill.

Other provisions of the bill would allow the existence of patented mining claims, and recognize existing property rights. Claims taken to patent on existing entries would allow for the mineral lodes to be taken but would give no title to the surface.

In other action, the Idaho

House has concurred in a Senate memorial asking Congress to set a five-year moratorium on any new mining claims in the White Clouds region.

The U. S. Forest Service has announced that its study of the White Cloud-Boulder-Pioneer Mountains complex will be completed this spring. Results of the study will be available to the public.

Youth Conservation Camps Established

Regional Forester Vern Hamre announced today that two Youth Conservation Corps camps will operate in the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service for approximately seven weeks this summer.

One coeducational camp will be located near the Alta-Brighton Ski areas on the Wasatch National Forest, which is headquartered at Salt Lake City, Utah. It will accommodate 50 young people.

The other camp will be located at the Idaho City Jumper Base on the Boise National Forest, which is headquartered at Boise, Idaho. This camp will accommodate 40 young men.

"We are pleased that two Youth Conservation Corps camp sites have been selected on National Forests in the Intermountain Region," said Regional Forester Hamre. "This pilot program offers a unique opportunity for young people to be gainfully employed while learning about the environment and doing much-needed conservation work."

Under provisions of a law signed by the President last

August, about 2,200 young men and women, ages 15 through 18, will be employed at 56 Youth Conservation Corps camps located throughout the country. Half of these camps will be operated by the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the other half will be under the direction of the Department of the Interior.

The pilot nature of the program will generally limit the selection of participants for each YCC camp to those who live within the boundaries of a school district or the area served by a community youth organization—selected to recruit and process applicants for that camp. The YCC serves youth of all social and economic backgrounds.

Mr. Hamre explained that because the Youth Conservation Corps is a pilot program, the number of youth in the program will be very limited this year.

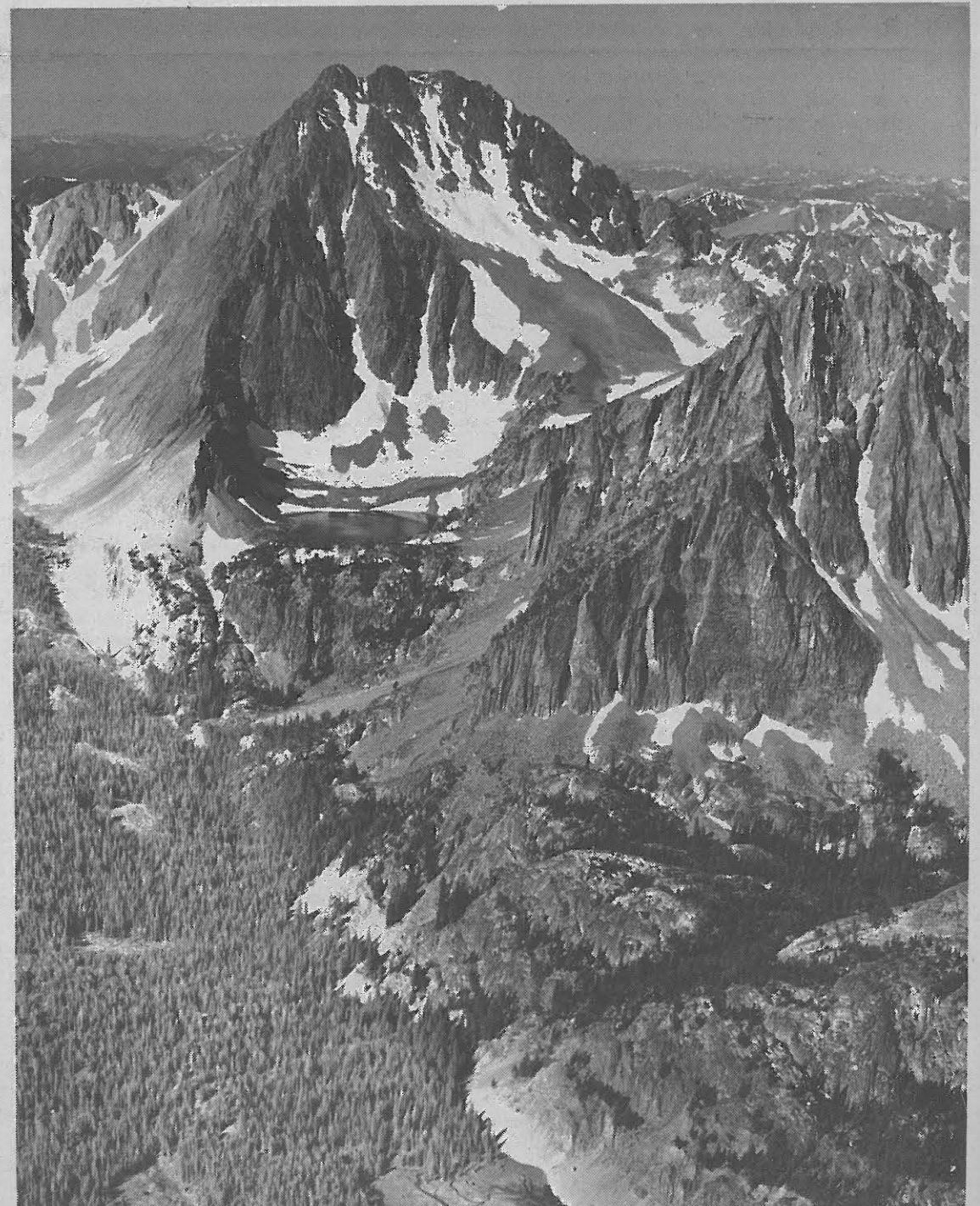


Photo by Ernie Day

Castle Peak, one of the beauty spots of America, lies within the proposed Sawtooth Mountains National Park in Idaho. This is the area threatened by molybdenum mining. Along the left side of photo are the string of clearings for helicopter pads and drill sites. This would be the area in which open pit mining would take place.

Idaho Policies Listed

- The Idaho Environmental Council has urged land and wildlife administrators to take bold steps in promoting sane, sustainable wildland ecology. Dr. D. W. Chapman, speaking for the Council, stated several IEC policies and recommendations.
1. Adopt maximization of net social benefits as the goal of wildlife management. This maximum usually occurs when number of participating anglers and hunters is below that which will maximize total sustained kill or catch.
 2. Undertake social and economic research prerequisite to regulating participation in wildlife-oriented recreation. Limiting participation is necessary for maximization of net social benefits from recreation on public lands.
 3. Gradually eliminate stocking of catchable hatchery front on wildland streams which can be managed for native fish. This may require drastic regulation of harvest. The Council objects to the concept

of ecosystem welfare embodied in stocking catchable-size trout or winter feeding of big game.

4. Protect and manage carnivorous predators such as the cougar, grizzly, and bobcat. The Council urged an insurance or direct-payment plan to landowners whose stock was killed by predators, rather than the indiscriminate predator-control system used by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

5. The Council urged that the allowable-cut concept be eliminated by the Forest Service, and that staffing and funding move away from a commodity orientation toward optimization of a mix of benefit flow. This shift is consistent with changing public values.

6. The Council urged repeal of the archaic mining laws on public land, and a shift of emphasis to optimization, with minerals to be considered as one of the products of public land included in the optimization mix.

7. Increased research funding for the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service, with emphasis on planning for optimization, zoning, and socioeconomics.

8. Statewide public land zoning and a state water plan before more piece-meal commitment of public resources, lest wildland management come to the same chaotic state as urban land use.

9. Routine and complete public display of alternatives before an alternative is adopted. This display should consist of major plans and zoning, not day-to-day specific practices undertaken within a plan for optimization.

10. Microzoning for or against trail machines, snowmobiles, horses and other vehicles. This will be less disruptive now than later, when more use has developed. In general, the use of machines should be discouraged in unroaded areas.



Photo by Charles W. Smith

This beautiful bull elk looks up from his lunch to give the photographer an inquisitive stare.

Bill Exempts Oldsters

WASHINGTON -- Senator Cliff Hansen is a co-sponsor of a bill to exempt senior citizens 65 or older from

paying national park and recreation area admission, entrance or user fees.

"We recognize that the Golden Eagle Passport program, at a fixed price of \$10 per year, is a tremendous deal for both young and old," Hansen said. "But at the same time, we are aware that many of our senior citizens are on fixed incomes and have virtually little to spend on recreation of any sort."

Hansen said the bill would exempt America's 20 million citizens who are 65 and older from having to pay for visiting and enjoying the national parks and forests. Hansen is a member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

"The Special Committee's report on a two-year study of the economics of aging includes some pretty grim statistics," Hansen said. "Among the findings of the report is the fact that aged Americans live on less than half the income of those under age 65, despite the stopgap 15 per cent social security increase of December, 1969."

Hansen said the fee elimination "would express, in some small degree, our appreciation for the contributions these senior citizens have made to this nation during their more productive years."

Speaking of big fish in Idaho, the largest sturgeon caught in the Snake River, near Swan Falls, weighed 394 pounds, while the largest Kamloops caught at Lake Pend Oreille weighed 37 pounds.

Refuge Has Rare Birds

The tiny islands of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge have more rare and endangered species than any other refuge in the national system, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The refuge, established in 1909 by President Theodore Roosevelt to protect large colonies of nesting sea birds, still does that, but protection of rare and endangered species is becoming increasingly important.

The refuge consists of an island chain 1000 miles long, stretching from the state's larger islands to Midway. Four rare and endangered birds are found only in the refuge, the Nihoa finch and millerbird and the Laysan finch and duck. About 1,000 Hawaiian Monk seals, the entire known population, are also found on the refuge, and the green sea turtle breeds there.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife have capable personnel to care for the refuge, but transportation problems through the islands hinder adequate protection efforts. Caretakers now hitch rides on a Coast Guard buoy tender. One suggestion to alleviate this situation is the cost sharing of a proper ocean-going vessel with another agency.



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Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

by Norma R. Hentges

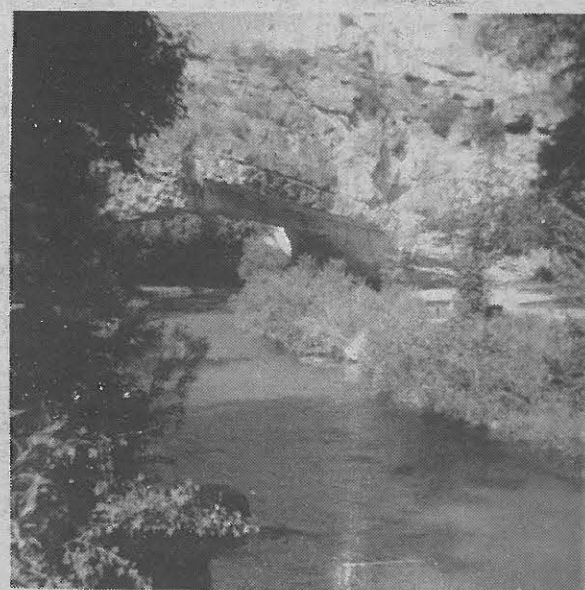


Photos by Norma R. Hentges

AYER'S NATURAL BRIDGE

Twelve miles west of Douglas, Wyoming, on 1-25, then south four miles by county road is Ayer's Natural Bridge. Grey-green La Prele Creek has worn a passageway about thirty feet high and fifty feet long through thick, pink and cream rock, forming a natural bridge. This huge rock cliff forms a fifteen acre amphitheatre.

There is a small campground on the shady banks of the stream. The picnic area offers a small foot bridge over the placid flowing creek. Follow the creek on foot to La Prele Reservoir. Don't over look this quiet, restful, stop on your next trip to Wyoming.



Much of the grizzlies' habitat has diminished. This great brute is a member of the endangered species corps.

Alaska Develops Plan

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has taken an initial step toward developing a time and space zoning plan for outdoor recreational activities, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The first move will be the establishment of controlled-use hunting areas in interior Alaska where hunting with the aid of

motorized vehicles would be prohibited.

James Hemming, Anchorage game biologist, said the development and use of off-road vehicles and bush aircraft have increased greatly in recent years, and that areas in which a hunter can have a high-quality walk-in hunt have diminished.

Some of the areas would

permit travel of all primitive types such as foot traffic, dog team, or horses, while others would permit foot traffic only. Time and space zoning (where only so many people are permitted in a certain area at a time) will become increasingly important as the number of outdoor recreationists grows.



Smalltown Industry Is Not Always Good

The following is from the Lewiston (Idaho) Morning Tribune, Ed.

A study of five towns in Kentucky has blown some holes in the venerable belief that new industries are always good for any community's economy. The survey, by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, showed that when new plants were established in economically depressed towns they sometimes had a "negative net fiscal impact" on local government. By that the department meant they sometimes required more services than they paid for in taxes; they increased the costs for schools and town governments without increasing their revenue.

This was most noticeable when new companies were given tax concessions as an inducement to coming to

town, and when they caused numbers of new people to move into the community. The local economies were benefited, on the other hand, when the new companies paid their fair share of property and other taxes and when they employed a local labor force.

Idaho, like Kentucky, is a largely rural state many of whose towns are losing their vigor as the small farms disappear. One lesson in the Kentucky survey can be applied to Idaho, and it is this: that those communities seeking new industries should seek them selectively, aware that local taxes can go up as well as down when a new plant is sited, depending upon factors that can be analyzed in advance. A new payroll that seems nothing but good at first glance can in some circumstances cost more than it's worth. - L.H.

Reprint of Rare Johnson County War Document

When the Northwestern Livestock Journal published the confession of Geo. Dunning on Oct. 14, 1892, it set Wyoming on her ear.

The cattlemen raided the newspaper office and destroyed 24,000 copies of that paper but one survived.

The Powder River Press has acquired that copy and has issued a limited edition of reprints in exact facimilie.

Johnson County war buffs will want to read the confession "Just as it appeared," and see the gaps in advertising space where the cattlemen had boycotted the paper.

If you are sympathetic with the rustlers "you can't afford to miss this important reprint." And if you are a cattle baron and still feel that way about it, you'll probably want to buy a copy and burn it.

Send \$3.50 for each copy to—Powder River Press, P.O. Box 153, Dept. HCN, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.

The Gros Ventre Wilderness

The Teton National Forest in northwestern Wyoming is the location of a little known and seldom visited mountain range. It has been overlooked largely because it is in the vicinity of two national parks and a number of national forests and wilderness areas. It is unique in a great many ways and it will surprise anyone with pre-conceived notions gathered from impressions of the ranges which surround it. All of the wild plants and animals of the nearby mountains exist there, interwoven with an unusual climatological and geological environment.

The range bears a French name applied by the early French trappers to a group of Indians who frequented its domain in the hunt for game. These Indians were thought to have very large stomachs and so the area became known as the Gros Ventre (pronounced Gro-Vaunt') to these early trappers, and the usage continues to the present day.

The Gros Ventre Range extends approximately 40 miles east to west and 15 miles north to south. Its high peaks lie on either side of a line running from Jackson, Wyoming, southeastwardly, terminating in the wilds overlooking the Upper Green River Basin. They are bordered on the north by the Mt. Leidy Highlands, on the south by the Green River Basin and the Hoback Range, on the east by the Bridger Wilderness and the Wind River Range, and on the west by Jackson Hole and the Teton Range. These mountains bear some relationship to each of the ranges surrounding them but they are thought to have been originally a continuation of the Teton Range.

The Gros Ventre River begins in the high peaks near the range's southeastern end, flows northeastward for about 10 miles, makes an abrupt turn westwardly and then flows in a long sweeping arc for about 30 miles to its confluence with the Snake River in Jackson Hole. The principal tributaries along the way are Fish and Slate Creeks to the north and Crystal and Clear Creeks to the south. Flat, Cache and Granite Creeks drain large areas from the south slopes.

A large area of the Gros Ventre has been designated as defacto wilderness by the

Teton National Forest. The Gros Ventre River is the only river in Wyoming whose entire length has been proposed as a National Wild River. Clear-cut timbering has been occurring in some of the high altitude forests in the periphery of the Gros Ventre wilderness. Although not in the heart of the wilderness

property of L. D. Frome of Frome & Hyde, Afton, Wyoming, our genial outfitters. It was into their hands we would place our dependence for food, shelter and guidance for the next nine days.

Our truck traveled westward to Moran, Wyoming, and then turned left toward

Bridger Wilderness could be seen on the horizon to the east. By mid-afternoon we arrived on the rim of White Canyon, a deep and spectacular setting for lower Crystal Creek. We paused here and rested, enjoying the view while our outfitter went ahead to scout our route to our first campground at Two-

fir, we hiked on through a seemingly endless forest. We searched for evidences of the particular branch to take when the trail divided, but eventually broke out into a clearing with Jagg Creek in sight. The grove of trees through which we had passed is considered marketable by the Forest Service. It would be an important contribution if it were left in its virgin state as part of the proposed Gros Ventre wilderness.

Jagg Creek flows into Crystal Creek. Here we staked our tents, ate, and settled down for the night. Most of us retired early to leave the exploring and fishing for the day following which would be a lay-over day.

Crystal Peak, above our camp, beckoned those of us who were ambitious enough to climb its steep slopes the following day. A party of eight made the hike for a beautiful view of Crystal Canyon and Sportsman Ridge. Crystal Canyon is rugged and isolated, a vast expanse of wilderness that is almost inaccessible. Sportsman Ridge stands out in sharp contrast to the surrounding country with its colorful sandstone cliff. The view of Sportsman Ridge, from a distance, somehow gave one the feeling of prehistoric times when the dinosaurs roamed the face of the earth. The Six Lakes were spread tranquilly below us, gleaming in the sunlight, reflecting deep, limpid-blue waters.

Continued next issue



This huge monolith of limestone shows evidence of the inland seas which once covered this area. It also brings to mind a similar formation which appears in the Teton Range to the west. Although the Gros Ventre Range has some of the character of each of the ranges which surround it, it is thought that at one time the Gros Ventre were a part of the Teton Range. Due to the Jackson Fault, the Tetons are still rising while the Gros Ventre is being eroded away. Some of the boulders which had peeled off of this formation were as big as a house. This view provided a beautiful setting for our last camp.

itself, they are critical to the support of the area. The cutting should be deplored by all who understand the implications of the total effect on watersheds and upon the interior of the wilderness where timber is sparse.

Last summer The Wilderness Society sponsored a trip into the Gros Ventre. This was the first organized group of its kind ever to go into the area. It was substituted in the place of a walking trip originally planned to travel the Teton National Park backcountry. Late spring snows forced a cancellation of the Teton trip because many of the passes were still snowbound in late July. So this is the story of the substitute journey through a part of the Gros Ventre Range.

The Wilderness Society party of 20 left Togwotee Mountain Lodge early Friday morning July 17, 1970. They loaded their gear around them in a cattle truck, the

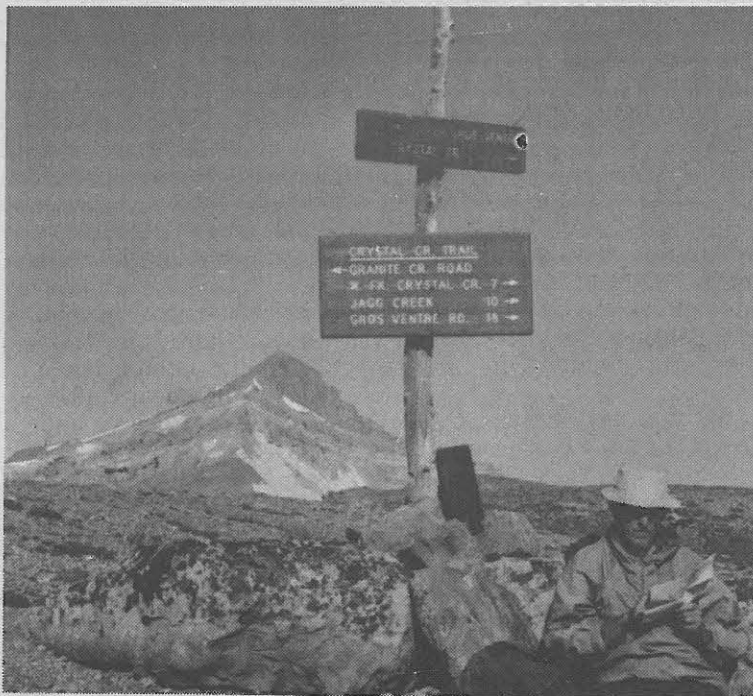
Jackson. It continued south along the Snake River, the towering Tetons on our right and the Mt. Leidy Highlands to our left. Near the point in Jackson Hole where the Gros Ventre River joins the Snake, our truck made a sharp left turn and headed upstream along the Gros Ventre River. We passed the historic landslide at the northern tip of Sheep Mountain, and continued on past Slide Lake under the colorful red sandstone hills above Redmond Creek. Some of us were impressed by the large number of antelope grazing the slopes as we crossed and recrossed the bridges over the Gros Ventre.

By noon, we reached our destination, a staging area near Goosewing Ranger Station. Our supplies were unloaded and more trucks arrived with the horses which were to carry our food, gear, and heavy equipment. We ate our paper bag lunch of fruit, sandwiches and candy at the Ranger Station. Our outfitter scouted out the trail which would be our starting point for the walking trip.

Our party began a steep climb up the trail passing through lodgepole and an occasional aspen grove. We soon arrived at the top of a ridge which presented a nice view of the valley below. We could see the outline of an ancient stream bed, probably the path of the Gros Ventre River in ages past. As we penetrated deeper into the back country we traversed the ridge between Goosewing Creek and Tepee Creek and a saddle between ridges known as Tepee Pass. The Wind River Mountains and the

Echo Park.

When our scout returned, we walked along the rim of Sportsman Ridge, a finger of red sandstone cliff which



Norman R. Roesch of Chicago takes time out to study his map near Corner Peak. A Forest Service marker shows the distance to civilization.

extends for about twenty miles through the Gros Ventre. We were careful to avoid any exposure to electrical storms along this ridge. A scouting party sent out by our outfitter had been scared stiff here a few days earlier as the electricity played in the rocks around them.

We descended the south bank of Sportsman Ridge into Two-Echo Park these we discovered our changing, that the lake near which we had planned to camp was dry. This meant more walking for an already tired party. Entering a thick stand of lodgepole pine interspersed with an occasional spruce or



Campsite at the head of The Six Lakes. A waterfall feeds the lake out sight in the left background.



Wyoming To Continue Grizzly Bear Hunts

Wyoming will have grizzly bear hunting seasons again in 1971 in Park and Teton counties with six fewer permits issued than there were last year.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has established grizzly and black bear hunting rules and regulations for 1971 with only minor changes from the 1970 rules. Eighteen grizzly permits will be issued for Park County—two less than last year—with 12 permits going to residents and six to nonresidents. Grizzly bear hunting in Teton County will be restricted to six permit holders (four less than last year). Four Teton County permits go to residents, two to nonresidents. In 1970, 20 permits were issued for Park County and 10 for Teton County.

Grizzly bear hunting seasons will be from April 1 through June 30 and from September 1 through November 15, 1971 with all of Park County and Teton County except the lands controlled by Grand Teton National Park open to hunting.

Meanwhile, hunters holding grizzly bear permits for the 1970 hunting seasons were polled by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and have reported harvesting eight animals last year.

In Park County, where 20 permits were issued, six hunters reported filling their bag limit while in Teton County two of the 10 hunters holding permits were successful. Two permit holders did not hunt. Game and Fish enforcement personnel report finding evidence of three grizzly bear being illegally killed and one bear was killed

in Park County by a landowner for damage control reasons. Hunter success in both counties open to hunting was 30 per cent.

Questionnaires returned by grizzly hunters in Park County reveal five hunters saw one bear each, one hunter saw two, another saw four grizzly bears but five hunters did not see any. In Teton County, one hunter saw one and five others reported they did not observe any grizzly bears. Nineteen outfitters in Park County reported they saw 45 grizzlies during the hunting season.



Bear Hunts Regulated

Montana hunters who are lucky enough to bag grizzly bears in future seasons will have to wait seven years before another shot at this big wilderness monarch. Senate Bill 287, that establishes the waiting period, becomes effective July 1, 1971.

Persons who hunt but are unsuccessful may get licenses in succeeding years provided they turn in their unused license tags when applying for new licenses.

Stature of the grizzly was given another boost in the form of hunting license increases to both residents and non-residents. Cost of a resident grizzly hunting license will now be \$5.00 instead of the \$1.00 fee previously paid. Non-residents will need both a \$151.00 general license and a \$35.00 grizzly license. Cost of the trophy permit to persons who bag a bear will remain at \$25.00.

The grizzly trophy license was first required in 1967. Since then the hunter takes has been: 1967, 24 bears; 1968, 12 bears; 1969, 33 bears; and 1970, 13 bears.

Season dates and other regulations for the 1971 season have not yet been set.



Harry C. Barker, Jr.

Harry C. Barker, Jr., a Jackson area rancher, was elected President of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission during a Commission meeting in Cheyenne this week.

Barker succeeds Charles M. Crowell who has served as the body's President for the past two years. Crowell was reappointed earlier this year by Governor Stanley K. Hathaway to a second four-year term on the Commission.

Reginald C. Bafford was elected Vice-President of the Game and Fish Department's governing body during the same election. Bafford, a Lusk businessman, has served on the Commission for the past two years.



Ice Is Gone From Gorge

Constantly changing weather has broken up much of the ice on Flaming Gorge Reservoir. For the last month there have been alternating periods of warm and cold weather. It appears that the warmer temperatures are winning. The only remaining safe ice is found in Sheep Creek Bay, small bays north of Antelope boat ramp and small bays north of Buckboard. Sheep Creek Bay appears the safest with nine inches of ice.

Boaters can now launch at Lucerne, Dutch John Draw and Cedar Springs ramps. But ramps should be checked for ice before launching. Boaters are cautioned to watch for floating ice cakes which can be dangerous particularly in the canyons. Another hazard is periodic strong afternoon winds.

The only camping facilities with water available are at Lucerne and Antelope. At Antelope, water is found only in the restroom at the top of the ramp. Visitors must bring culinary water if they plan to stay at any other locations.

Traffic at Flaming Gorge remains low during the winter period. An estimated 21,200 travelers passed through the area in February. Approximately 31% came south from Green River, Wyoming, 10% south from Interstate 80 near Rock Springs, 19% east from Mountain View, and 40% north from Vernal, Utah.

Early spring visitors to Flaming Gorge should come prepared for all types of weather. Wind, sun, snow and rain can all occur during short periods of time.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Sang the lark, in very fine voice,
"If Nature has any choice
The Green will flow free
As 'twas meant to be,
And all of us will rejoice!"

* * *

Senator Gaylord Nelson, credited with originating and promoting Earth Day, 1970, says the environmental movement has come of age. He points to a key development - "critical dialogue in the political arena." He says that to put it more bluntly, the environment has "finally got political clout - and that has all happened in the past year."

* * *

A Soviet spokesman says the U.S.S.R. will start SST service this year - and it won't harm the environment!

* * *

In what could be a significant breakthrough in energy production, scientists at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory said efforts to harness fusion reaction have passed a major test. The efforts have come through development of a new device called Scyllac. Scientists on the project said if fusion reaction can be controlled, there is enough energy in the world's oceans to supply power at 100 times the current consumption for 10 billion years.

* * *

Reliable reports indicate the ivory-billed woodpecker has gone the way of the passenger pigeon. There have been none seen for at least three years. One was believed to have answered a tape-recorded mating call being played in the Santee Swamp near Columbia, S. C., but the bird was not seen. The last reported sighting was from the Big Thicket area in East Texas.

* * *

The Environmental Protection Agency has reported that fish kills in the nation's waterways were nearly three times greater in 1970 than in 1969. The report shows that agricultural pollution, from pesticides and herbicides, was mainly responsible. Other leading causes included industrial pollution, highway and building construction, and mosquito control. The greatest single kill resulted from an industrial pollution incident.

* * *

Mrs. Velma Johnston, better known as Wild Horse Annie, has convinced a freshman senator from Connecticut, Lowell Weicker, Jr., that wild horses need protection. Mrs. Johnston is in Washington to gain support for a bill to create 12 refuges for the nation's remaining mustangs. Weicker announced his support and called on Congress to protect wild horses and burros.

* * *

Montana's Legislature has allowed to die a controversial "Electric Land Use Act." The act would have given the Montana Railroad and Public Service Commission authority to approve and locate major thermal electric generating plants and transmission lines. Environmentalists said the act would have crippled existing regulations on air and water pollution. The measure was backed by Montana Power Co.



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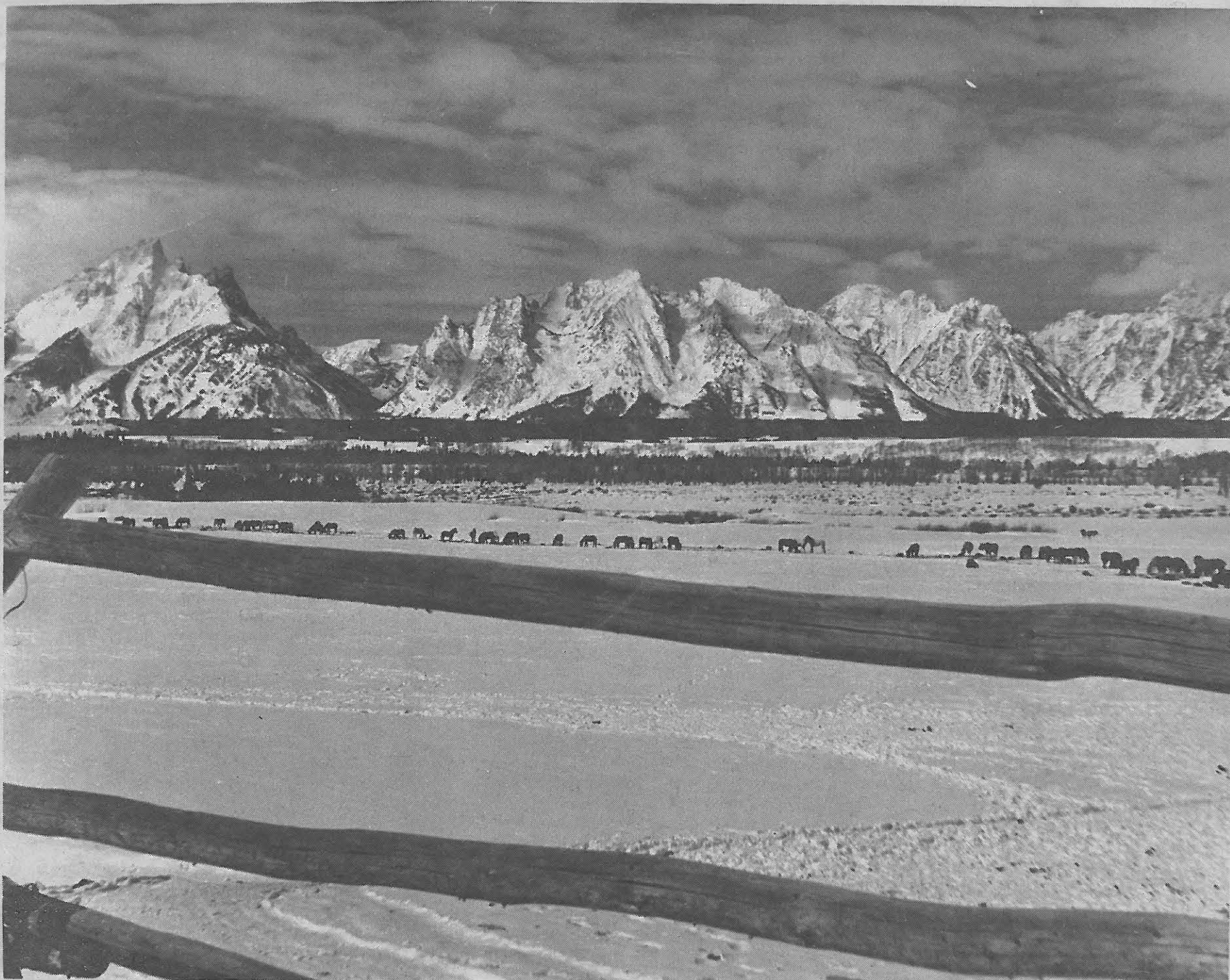
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Bear Permits Being Issued

Wyoming grizzly bear hunting permits are being issued to 24 applicants who were successful in the drawing conducted in Cheyenne.

A total of 134 persons applied for the 16 permits available for Park County and the eight available in Teton County.





Moose and horses take their lunch together under the panorama of the Tetons. This sight can be viewed on almost any clear, winter day from U. S. Highway 187 (89, 26) between Jackson and Moran

Jct. Two moose can be seen above the line of horses and beyond them at right, and another in the line just to the left of the two.

Photo by Charles W. Smith

Environment Has A Champion...

hearings to protest mining proposals and other developments which would pollute and degrade.

Montana people for once were seeing a bureaucrat, a part of the state government apparatus, who was standing up for what they thought was right. They liked what they saw and they did not hesitate in telling the governor so.

This only served to infuriate Anderson and the Fish and Game Commission. Charges were made that Dunkle was not following the Commission's basic policies. One of the commissioners criticized Dunkle by saying, "He devotes most of his time making this into an ecology-conservation fight that I don't believe existed in the first place." But when pressed by the public and the state's newspapers to present specific charges against Dunkle, nothing happened.

Montana's law provides that the fish and game director cannot be fired except for incompetence and neglect of duty. Far from being subject to those charges, Dunkle was criticized and chastised for being too eager at his duties.

Anderson saw a way to get at Dunkle through a change in the law. When the Montana Legislature met in January, the Fish and Game Commission sponsored Senate Bill 298. The bill would have

stripped Dunkle of his lawful immunity from political control and made him subject to the governor's approval. It would have made Dunkle the same kind of environmental eunuch that most fish and game directors are.

However, Anderson had not really assessed Dunkle's strength and his popularity with Montana's rank and file citizenry. The bill threatened to split the Democratic party and when it came to the test of strength, Senate Bill 298 languished in committee.

The governor was heard to bitterly remark that maybe Dunkle should be governor. And the entire Fish and Game Commission resigned. On their way out, the five ex-commissioners gave a final blast at Dunkle. They listed nine points which they said constituted their charges against him. Still, the charges were not enough to endanger Dunkle's position.

Meanwhile, another bill was proceeding through the legislature. House Bill 3 was Governor Anderson's proposal to reorganize the executive branch. Under it, the Fish and Game Department would have been merged with other agencies into a Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The director of that department is to be appointed by the governor, and he, in turn, would be given authority to

hire and fire the directors of the various agencies merged into the department.

The Montana Wildlife Federation and the Montana Wilderness Association both went to bat for an independent Fish and Game Department. They were joined by other groups and concerned environmentalists. And in the end a new department was created but without incorporating the Fish and Game Department.

It is to remain an independent agency.

Montana's existing law giving the fish and game director immunity from political pressure was retained. But the legislature did give the governor a powerful threat to Dunkle's future. The reorganization act provides that a newly elected governor will have the authority to retain or dismiss the director and makes the term of the director con-

current with the appointing governor. Anderson will be up for re-election in 1972. Dunkle is seemingly secure until the first Monday in January, 1973.

So far, only one man has been appointed to the vacant Fish and Game Commission by the governor and approved by the senate. Until others are appointed, the Fish and Game Department will proceed under the expert management of its top man.

Sewage Used On Mined Areas

Revegetation techniques now under study by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Pennsylvania State University scientists may hasten considerably the reclamation of hideous spoil banks resulting from strip mining activity, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

More than 3 million acres have been disturbed by surface mining in the United States. Leaching and erosion of spoil bank material by rainfall contributes in excess of 2 million tons of sulfuric acid and millions of tons of sediment annually to the nation's streams. The acid is a major problem in strip mine reclamation. It causes the release of minerals such

as iron, aluminum, manganese, nickel, copper, and zinc in quantities toxic to plants.

USDA is attacking the problem by using plants that can tolerate some toxicity and by neutralizing the acidity of the soil through fertilization. During the first year of tests, weeping lovegrass and tufted bermuda grass together provided 100 percent coverage of spoil bank areas after soil fertility treatment.

At Pennsylvania State University, researchers are experimenting with the use of sewage effluent to induce vegetative growth on the highly acid, rocky shale that comprises most spoil bank

material. Results so far show that areas sprayed periodically with treated sewage effluent produce luxuriant growth of various plants whereas nothing lived in the non-treated areas. A spokesman for the group said that the economic and aesthetic possibilities of this method are extremely promising.

The public is becoming increasingly concerned about the vast and unsightly scars of strip mining activity. The United Mine Workers Union recently called for better reclamation efforts by companies, and legislation has already been introduced in this Congress to encourage restoration of these ravaged lands.