

High Country

News

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Friday, April 30, 1971



"This is the forest primeval . . ." Man needs the quiet, the solitude, the sense of oneness with Mother Earth that is found on sojourns into the woods.

Green River Is To Be Studied

by Tom Bell

Wyoming's Upper Green River is due for intensive study as directed by the 41st Legislature. Legislative action called for a feasibility study of the need for new water storage facilities in the Green River Basin.

The first meeting of the management Council for the Green River water development study is being held as HIGH COUNTRY NEWS goes to press. The management group is composed of four state legislators, two representatives from the Recreation Commission, two representatives of the Game and Fish Commission, two representatives of the Agriculture Department, and representatives of the State Department of Economic Planning and Development and the State Engineer's Office.

An advisory group is to be named later to participate in the study. This will be composed of representatives of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, the Wyoming Water

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'Environmentalism' Catches On in Big Sky Country

by Tom Brown

The following feature article on the recent Montana Legislative session was written especially for HIGH COUNTRY NEWS by Tom Brown, staff writer for the Billings Gazette.

* * *

The 1971 Montana legislature may go down in the record books as the session in which "environmentalism" finally caught on.

Bills passed and signed into law by Gov. Forrest Anderson include new zoning provisions, creation of an Environmental Quality Council, tougher water pollution controls and measures to stop unregulated hunting of mountain lions, protect a variety of birds including hawks, falcons and owls, and to require a seven-year waiting period between individual grizzly kills.

But the biggest environmental victory of all and the one which made the 1971 session so special was the passage of a hard rock reclamation bill—a piece of legislation strongly opposed by Anaconda Co.

From the earliest days of Montana statehood Anaconda has called the shots on bills in which its interests were involved.

In 1971, however, a bill which the mining firm strongly opposed was indeed passed and signed into law in a landmark for the Big Sky state.

The reclamation bill, engineered and guided to passage by Rep. Harrison Fagg, R-Billings, basically requires the reclaiming of open pit mining operations and will include future tailing pits at Anaconda's Berkeley Pit at Butte plus possible activities by the company or other companies at Lincoln and in the Stillwater complex.

The only exception to the reclamation provisions, which requires miners to return the land to a state equally as useful as when they found it, are the small, one-man-type mining operations. They were exempted in a compromise on the House floor which, according to Fagg, enabled the bill to be approved.

In companion with Fagg's bill is a Senate measure which discourages use of bulldozers in mining exploration by permitting other types of assessment work.

It doesn't outlaw bulldozing but, since any disturbance of land must now be reclaimed, it makes caterpillar use among the most expensive methods.

Some conservationists, however, are concerned by provisions of the bill which require some type of earth movement after two years and call for assessment work on at least every ten claims. The latter provision, they argue, may lead to more damage than under current regulations where work on one claim can be credited against any number of other claims held by the same person or firm.

"But the combined bills," says Fagg, who is one of the legislature's strongest mining opponents, "will come close to stopping mining degradation in the mountains of Montana."

The new Environmental Quality Council, sponsored by Rep. George Darrow, R-Billings, will consist of 18 members appointed both by the legislature and the governor. Their task will be to oversee state government agencies in the protection of the environment and to settle conflicts over allocation of natural resources. Some have termed the bill, which was approved with little opposition, a method by which the legislature can keep environmental taps on state government.

In the area of state government, conservationists won another victory in the defeat of a bill which would have allowed Gov. Anderson and the Fish and Game Commission more

control over the department director Frank Dunkle. Termed the "get Dunkle bill" it would have allowed the governor to fire the director at whim instead of being forced to show him incompetent at his job. The bill died in committee when it became apparent that its introduction on the Senate floor would badly split the Democrats.

Anderson, however, did gain some small measure of control over Dunkle in a provision of his reorganization bill which allows the governor to change directors at the start of each four-year term without showing cause.

Fish and Game, according to environmental wishes, was preserved as a single department under the new state government organization instead of being lumped into a Department of Natural Resources.

Water pollution control was toughened when its control was taken from the Montana Water Pollution Control Council, which is dominated by polluter interests, and given to the State Board of Health.

The health board was also given power to act more rapidly against polluters in emergency situations. In addition, silt was added to the list of pollutants which was a goal of fish and game personnel seeking to protect fish. Silt is harmful to game fish through destruction of natural foods and the suffocation of eggs on the spawning beds.

Under new zoning measures, counties now have the right to zone land against certain types of uses. If implemented by county governments, it could guard against unregulated strip type growth in recreation areas such as near Chet Huntley's Big Sky in Gallatin County.

Another zoning bill allows the prevention of certain types of building on flood plains.

A new, tougher coal strip mining reclamation bill was enacted into law by the Montana Legislature. It sets up model guidelines for reclaiming stripped land which call for restoration of ruins to useful purposes.

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Photo by Charles W. Smith

Heidi Smith, miniature snow-queen.

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

It is Sunday afternoon. Outside, it is snowing as if it were the middle of winter. I am here in the office to open mail, look through the correspondence, and try to gather my thoughts for the week ahead when the next paper must appear.

This is one of those times when I am feeling rather low. (I think Amos & Andy used to call it 'down in the dumps'.) There is so much to do and so little time to get it all done. Until I became immersed in the work of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, I had no idea of the amount of time and energy which could be expended in the CAUSE of the environment. I don't think the public has any inkling of the flow of information and the amount of involvement which seems to build day by day, year after year. There is no end in sight.

And then because there was a need to provide more information to the public, I became involved with High Country News. When it ran out of money, I stepped in as editor because there was no other way. Now, for more than a year I have found myself trying to do two jobs and just falling further behind. I cannot do justice to either. And in so doing (or not doing) I am selling the CAUSE short.

As an example, today's mail (Sunday) was about average: newspapers which I scan for the articles or leads to stories which I think you as readers will find important and worthy; letters - sympathetic, understanding, and much appreciated; and statements on timbering, grazing, mining, public lands, wilderness areas, power plants, legislation - the whole gamut of environmental problems and ills. What do I do with them?

If some of you, including my closest friends, have not received answers to your letters to me in the last few months, it is not because my heart has not cried out in response. It is because there are not enough hours in any day. I ask your forgiveness and forbearance.

The articles, the statements, and the documents lie here before me. And as I view them, my frustration mounts. So many of them beg for exposure to the public eye. All of them are valid and worthy of pages of copy in the paper. Most of them, indictments of what we have done to our fragile, finite planet.

My rage has finally calmed - the rage I felt when I read one statement in particular that had been given at the timber hearings in Washington.

I am naive. I still cannot believe that some of my fellow human beings can be so blind to the truth, and so coldly calculating in robbing future generations of their birthrights. Some speak in forked tongues and some utter the witless remarks of a mynah bird. I cannot forgive either. These, too, should be exposed to the public for the frauds and the cheats which they are.

And so my dilemma. How do I pick and choose the worthiest material? And having done that, how do I find the time to research, to be as certain as possible of the facts, to condense and edit and re-write, and then to get it all fitted in? And the answer is simple - I don't.

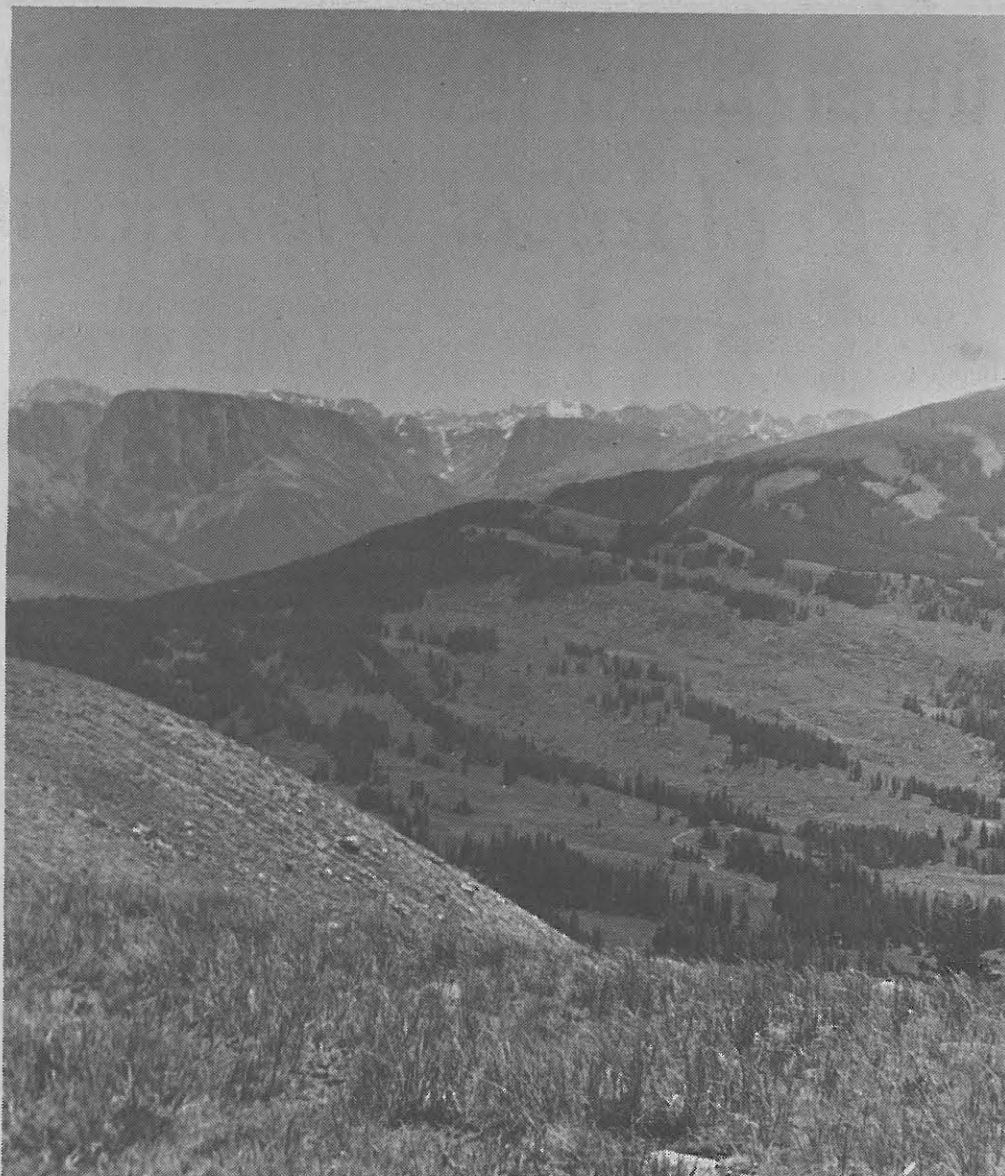
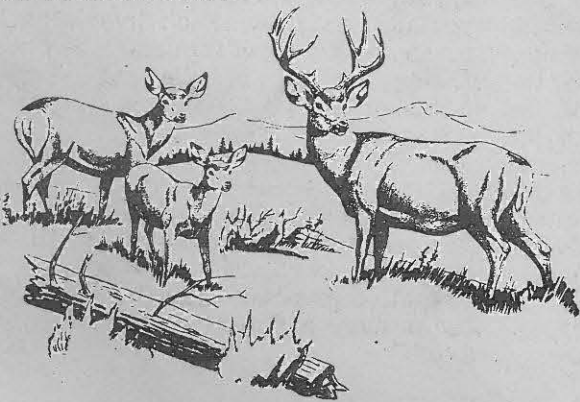
Wyoming problems demand attention. The miners resist any changes in the mining laws and the strip mining regulation; the timber industry propagandizes the public on the need for more lumber for 'those poor people in the ghettos; (whom they know damned well will never see the sleek, expensive, suburban homes where most of their lumber goes), the state developers want to dam and destroy one of the last magnificent, free-flowing rivers in the lower 48 states, ad infinitum, ad nauseum.

The Outdoor Coordinating Council has built a reputation. We cannot back away from that now. We have made implacable enemies at the highest levels of state government because we dared to expose the facts and the truths. That is all the more reason to persevere. Power and political influence have already taken their toll of our environment. I, for one, say NO MORE!

But all of this compounds my personal problem. How do I stretch myself thinner so that what few talents I have can be made more effective? I haven't yet learned the answer but I pray God each day that I have the strength to meet that day's challenges.

So that no one may misunderstand, I would not trade my life for any other. It may be frustrating and demanding and at times even disheartening. But I can go to bed each night, bone-weary and content in my own heart that though I may have fallen short, I had done my very best. The Good Lord cannot fault me for that.

The remuneration is practically nil but the rewards are many. My conscience is clear and I can sleep well. Tomorrow is another day of challenge and exciting work. No man could ask more.



Wyoming's highest and ruggedest mountains located at the head of the Green River. This view is from Little Sheep Mountain, looking across the head of Gypsum Creek where clear-cut timbering was carried on some years ago. The area is located on the Bridger National Forest.

Letters To The Editor



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Editor:

Please continue our subscription to your publication, the High Country News. Your paper is doing a magnificent job of shedding light on those who wish to preserve and those who wish to exploit and despoil, for personal gain, our nation's resources. Keep up the good work of informing an interested and concerned public.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Krause
Maringo, Ill.

* * *

Editor:

I am enclosing a check to renew my subscription to High Country News.



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Keep up the great job you have been doing to keep people informed on the many environmental issues in our western states today. It is only through people like you that we will be able to save our remaining wilderness, rivers and wildlife to be enjoyed by future generations.

We stopped for a short time in Lander while on vacation last summer, saw where your office was and had it not been Sunday, we would have dropped in and said hello. Although we have never met you, to us you seem as old and dear friends because of the firm stand you have taken on the environment issues facing us today.

God save us from those who would exploit what little wilderness we have left to further their own ends.

Yours truly,
Roger Holm
Minneapolis, Minn.

Editor's Note: Our deepest thanks and best regards go back to readers Krause and Holm. We appreciate your confidence in us and your thoughts on our endeavors. We are grateful to be able to perform a service to all our readers and to be able to join our efforts with others who are trying to maintain a quality environment for our children.

* * *

Editor:

I received a copy of your paper from my daughter in Blackfoot, Idaho, the Dec. 18, 1970 issue.

You have an article in this paper about cisco fishing at Bear Lake and you state that nowhere else in the world are these fish found. Half of the lakes in Northern Minnesota have ciscoes, inland herring, tullibees and white fish and they are all classed as rough fish, angling all year, with no limit. In the fall, residents of Minnesota can purchase two netting licenses, one dollar per hundred foot net and can net ciscoes from the middle of October to middle of January, with no limit on the amount but only for their own use. Every fall, I net from two to three hundred pounds of ciscoes for eating and lake trout bait.

The ciscoes here run latter part of December so have to be netted under ice. When they come to shore to spawn they swirl in spots, so the thaw out as thick as twelve inches of ice.

Sincerely,
Chas. Kosola
Britt, Minnesota

Editor's Note: Thanks to Mr. Kosola for his clarification of the story on the ciscoes, and his interesting comments. He might be interested in knowing that the ling or burbot is considered as a desirable game fish in Wyoming and other western states but, as he knows, is classed a rough fish in the midwest.



Guest Editorial



An Ecological Viewpoint on Natural Beauty

The following guest editorial was written for America the Beautiful Fund, 219 Shoreham Building, Washington, D. C.

* * *

A NEW AND INTERESTING ROLE is required of the American citizen today - that of practicing ecologist. However, he bases his choices - on school biology, everyday experience, plain common sense or sophisticated scientific knowledge - his opinions and votes will influence environmental decisions.

Even though most of us have achieved a progressively higher standard of living as a result of the American technological revolution, many basic human needs remain unsatisfied - particularly the need for an orderly beautiful natural environment. On a small scale and in a largely rural society, the unintended side effects of specialized technology may have been tolerable. Today their cumulative effect is becoming steadily more damaging, spoiling the land and natural resources people need for physical and spiritual sustenance.

Assailed by clamor for rapid development everywhere, the citizen wonders what effect all the cumulative changes, or any one of them, will have. Should he reject or adapt to the latest proposal? With change, can his community remain beautiful, or be restored? Will it be healthy? Or ugly and chaotic. Applying ecological principles, he can and must decide among alternatives for himself.

A RATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Ecology is the study of interaction between living things and their environment. From its scientific principles we hope to discover what happens when change takes place in "living communities," including man's. Surroundings can be healthier, more liveable and more beautiful too, if we learn how to weigh environmental alternatives. As a recent President's Council on Recreation and Natural Beauty pointed out:

A beautiful environment is one that is functioning properly; where energy from sunlight, water, minerals and soil are channeled into the production of wood and grass and wildlife, farm crops or garden flowers. . . . Malfunction is . . . ugliness; it reflects a breakdown in both man-made and natural order and a decline in both human and environmental health.

HOW NATURE WORKS

In the country, practically all environmental housekeeping of open land is accomplished by the natural phenomenon called succession. Successional regrowth will almost always heal land after abuse by this free process of nature. New plants spring from roots of old and from seeds both old and new; animal life arrives from surrounding areas to complete the community. In harsh environments like mountain tops or in areas subjected to extremely destructive conditions (oil spills, erosion, poisons), natural succession of course cannot easily recover its delicate balance. The ecological rule is that succession generally operates more slowly in higher, colder, dryer regions and faster in warmer, wetter, lower regions. For this reason we must treat deserts, tundra and mountain tops as "fragile" environments requiring special protection.

Certain kinds of lands, when left in their natural condition may perform such work for man that they may be worth more as natural space than as developed space. Such processes include underground water storage and purification, dispersal of air pollution and control of floods and erosion. Since most of these processes relate to water, it follows that such natural systems as stream valleys, marshes, flood plains, mountains and ground water recharge areas should be reserved from development whenever possible.

Many rural streams even now restore themselves of serious pollution by aeration and other processes--downstream sections of many small rivers and streams can become pure enough for fish and swimming even after continuing pollution upstream. The stream preservation now being called for should include undeveloped segments of all major streams, so natural cleansing processes are perpetuated. In Man, Medicine and Environment, 1968, Rene

Dubos points out that simply an abundant supply of clean water is probably a far more effective and less costly approach to curing intestinal disorders than management with drugs and vaccines.

Air pollution is growing. While we do not yet know enough about how much land and forest is needed as an "airshed" for an urban region, we can provide a temporary margin of safety by permitting growing vegetation to take up harmful CO₂ and give off life-giving oxygen in green environmental belts.

Nature's restoration can be many times cheaper than man's, as in the case of natural regrowth. The Federal Highway Administration has used good ecological sense by adopting alternative mowing as its major right-of-way landscape policy. By not mowing on some good growing sites, native grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees will come in by successional regrowth, and artificial transplanting need not be relied on. Curvilinear mowing around the resultant tree groves, rock outcrops, wetlands and wildflowers should soon produce very beautiful roadsides at half the original cost.

OPEN SPACE AND 'EDGE EFFECT'

At least 25% of any site's total land area located near human habitation should be kept as open space, most land conservationists believe. A few communities now require dedication of up to 10% of a given subdivision space for park land, but such an amount does not often approach community need. Crowded lots, bulldozed, flat acreage, or high-rise, multifamily buildings require much more green and growing open land--probably up to 50-90%. On the other hand, well-designed, good-sized lots with preserved woods and topography may require minimum open space of as little as 5%.

Ecologically richest land is located where two or more habitats come together in the phenomenon called "edge effect." Such areas go by a variety of names such as buffers, zones, corridors, environmental belts, open spaces and green lands. All are distinctive for their diversity, and should be identified and mapped across the country. Some rich edges, for example, contain not only a concentration of archeological sites, but also many times as many animal and plant species and landmarks, historical buildings and scenic lands as the surrounding land mass.

TO CONSERVE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

- * Save "fragile" environments as a matter of local, state and national policy;
- * Safeguard the integrity of aquatic and other biologically rich regions;
- * Retain the utility of agriculturally rich soils for special farming zones (vineyards, truck crop areas, dairy valleys);
- * Protect parts of most streams as ecological "recovery" zones;
- * Identify for protection as many "edges" or corridors of ecological and cultural diversity as soon as possible;
- * Preserve ecologically rare natural communities.

Our understanding about the carrying capacity of land for people has begun to advance. If you wish to widen your ecological horizons, we will be glad to supply a selected reading list.

Will Americans decide to work within the scope of interlocking, interdependent natural systems? The effort requires thought, new values and individual acceptance of environmental stewardship as a worthwhile goal. --P. B. D.

Green River...

Development Association and the Wyoming Council for Economic Development.

The organizational meeting will determine the policies and objectives of the feasibility study. It has been announced that Governor Stanley K. Hathaway will attend the meeting. His participation is purportedly to outline the state's viewpoint on the feasibility of water storage projects. Many outside observers believe he will attempt to use his political power to influence the setting of policies and guidelines.

Most of the individuals who compose the study group serve at the Governor's pleasure and therefore are not immune from undue pressure. Those who could be expected to resist influence are in the minority.

Conservationists view with some concern the study group make-up which is top-heavy with individuals who are known for their support of dams on the Upper Green River. Some of the present group were in charge of past studies which unabashedly presented evidence of the need FOR dams.

Don Brunk Director of the State Department of Economic Planning and Development and charged with the responsibility for the feasibility study, recently returned from Arizona. He was accompanied by representatives of the Governor's office and the State Engineer's office. Their mission was to assess the threat of loss of Wyoming water to the Central Arizona Project.

Upon his return Brunk said that unless the state takes action in the form of new reservoirs, Arizona will be using Wyoming water in the 1980's. He said nothing of alternative methods of retaining water.

In the meantime, the Secretary of the Interior has announced the finding of giant, underground aquifers in California. Preliminary findings by the Bureau of Reclamation suggests a potential water supply of up to a million acre feet a year. Such a supply could help fulfill U. S. treaty obligations to Mexico of which Wyoming's share is three quarters of a million acre feet.

Conservationists have repeatedly pointed to existing reservoirs as alternative storage sites. Fontenelle Reservoir was constructed primarily for an irrigation project which no longer appears economically justifiable. Flaming Gorge has

storage capacity for all of Wyoming's allotted water under the existing Upper Colorado River Compact.

Comparable figures of costs per acre foot of water stored in Flaming Gorge and pumped back upstream are less than those for water stored in new construction upstream. Conservationists say it is folly to destroy all of the upstream values when existing reservoirs will fulfill Wyoming's needs.

The Green River STAR (April 28, 1971) reported Brunk to have said that Flaming Gorge had never been full because the Bureau of Reclamation is not concerned with managing Wyoming water, only to fulfilling commitments downstream. He further elaborated by saying the state must consider the possibility of capturing water further upstream. He asked, "Will industry use water from that far south?" His reference was obviously to the fact water would have to be pumped upstream from Flaming Gorge.

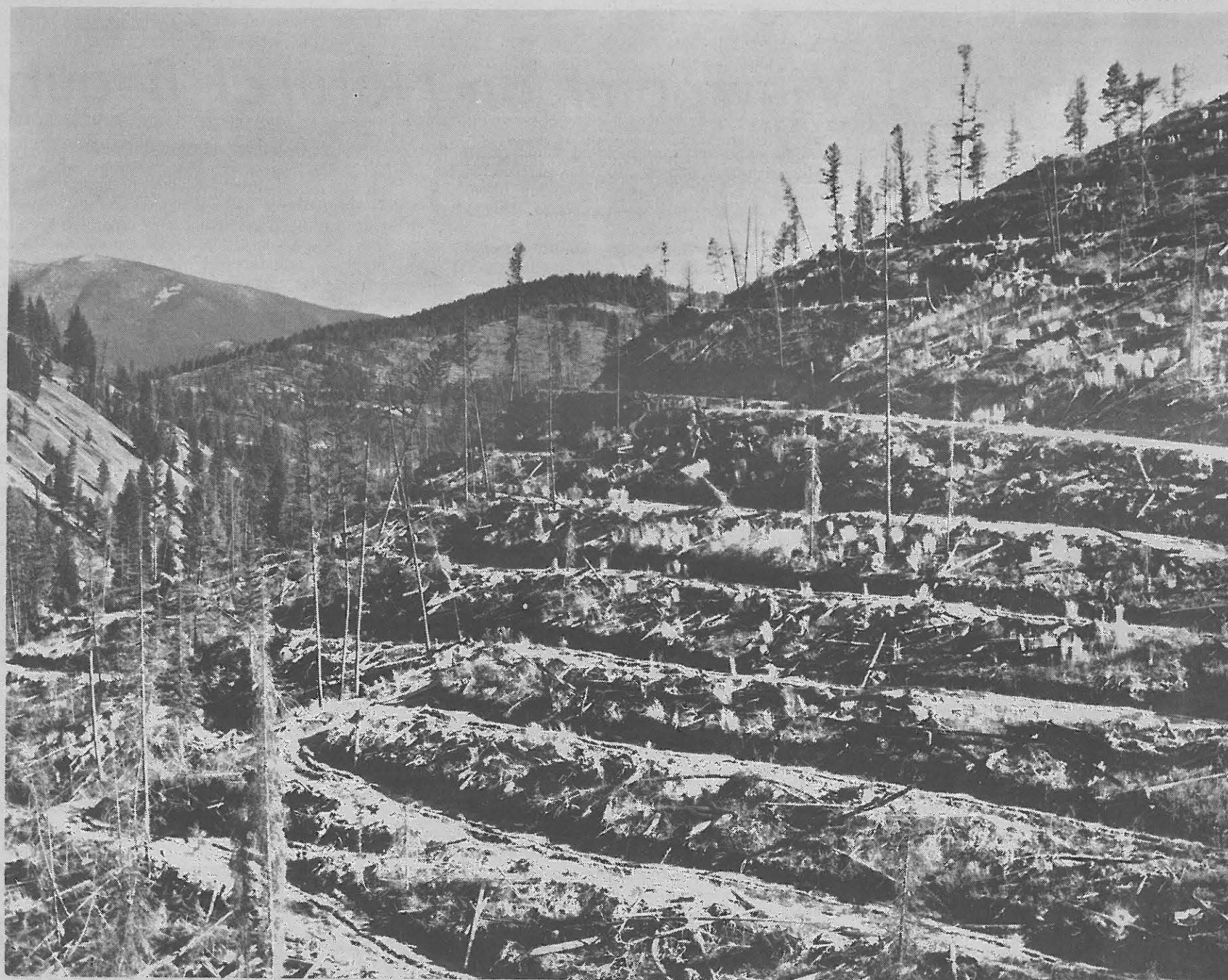
The state study of transbasin diversion to the coal fields of the Great Divide Basin indicate the most feasible pipeline would be from a point near Green River City. Bureau of Reclamation cost figures are less for water pumped from Flaming Gorge than state figures for water stored upstream and picked up below at the pumping site.

It would appear that state officials have an exaggerated fear of water storage in Flaming Gorge because it is a federal installation. As the Governor and others see it, the only way Wyoming can safely guard its water is to build its own reservoirs upstream.

Conservationists have already approached the Congressional delegation for consideration of special legislation. Such legislation could provide for storage of Wyoming water on top of existing storage in Flaming Gorge and specifically spell out Wyoming's rights, rental terms and other aspects.

Higher water levels would materially benefit recreational uses of Flaming Gorge especially on the upstream, Wyoming end.

Conservationists believe state officials are not willing to concede the worthiness of the alternative proposals. Such unwillingness will lead to more and more conflict in the months ahead.



This timbering and terracing at Mud Creek Saddle in the Blue Joint Area of the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana was severely criticized by the Bolle Report. That

report said, "The practice of terracing on the Bitterroot National Forest should be stopped. Existing terraced areas should be dedicated for research."

Clearcutting Stirs National Controversy

By James Risser

Special to the Washington Post

Editor's Note: James Risser is a Washington correspondent for the Des Moines Register and Tribune. The following article is excerpted from an original six-part series and appeared in The Washington Post, Sunday, April 4, 1971.

The people of Montana's Bitterroot Valley live in a nature lover's paradise, surrounded on all sides by the Mountain peaks of the Bitterroot National Forest. In years past, they gazed up at their beloved government-protected hills to see solid stands of magnificent Douglas fir, ponderosa and lodgepole pine. But these days, their attention is fixed on the barren, treeless fields that break up the wooded vista.

Vast areas of the Bitterroot have been "clear-cut" by commercial loggers -- victim of the nation's apparently insatiable demand for more and more timber. Some of the land stripped bare by the loggers is severely scarred and eroded, and almost impossible to reforest even if there were money and personnel to do it.

What started out as a local conservation controversy in western Montana may well turn into a new nationwide questioning of what is happening to our national forests. An Interior sub-committee on public lands, chaired by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), will begin hearings Monday on the performance of the loggers and the U. S. Forest Service.

What has happened on the Bitterroot Forest is not an isolated case of abuse. Similar depredations have occurred among the beautiful hardwoods of West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest, in the national forests of Wyoming and other Western states. The problems go far deeper than the furor over clearcutting, a month-long study of the national forests shows. Specifically:

The key law that governs national forest usage--the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960--is being violated daily.

Timber-cutting on the national forests has more than doubled since 1950 to a total of nearly 14 billion board feet a year, without a similar increase in the replanting that is necessary to prevent the forests from eventually becoming depleted. Yet, the Nixon administration has recently announced a plan to increase the annual timber harvest by 60 per cent (another 8 billion board-feet) by 1978.

The U. S. Forest Service, pressured by the timber industry and at times by Congress and high officials of the executive branch, has emphasized logging and virtually ignored the other legally mandated "multiple uses" of the forests--recreation, wildlife and fish protection, watershed development, grazing.

There is new evidence of serious deficiencies in the Forest Service's timber sales programs, a problem that to date has received little scrutiny. In contracting to sell timber to commercial loggers, the Forest Service sometimes under-appraises the value of the timber. Particular sales often are tailored to the needs of an individual lumber mill. There is collusion between lumber buyers in bidding on government timber. The existence of these practices was learned from sources within the Forest Service, the timber industry and conservation groups, and many of their complaints are substantiated in a previously unreleased Forest Service study.

Timber-cutting methods, particularly "clear-cutting," have resulted in unnecessary ecological and esthetic damage to the national forests. Some loggers violate their contracts with the Forest Service by their poor road construction and by leaving behind huge piles of unsightly waste materials which are serious forest fire hazards.

A Change of Values?

The Forest Service, an arm of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, administers 154 national forests sprawling over 183 million acres of the United States. Once a proud, conservation

minded agency--dedicated, like its Smokey the Bear symbol, to guarding the nation's woodlands -- the Forest Service in recent years has fallen into the clutches of the timber lobby, in the view of many environmentalists and some foresters.

Today it is five million acres behind in reforesting previously logged public lands, another 13 million acres behind in badly needed tree-thinning and other timber-stand improvement. Edward P. Cliff, chief of the Forest Service, admits that the total cost of wiping out this backlog would be a staggering \$900 million. But he nevertheless backs the proposed sharp step-up in timber-cutting, and the Public Land Law Review Commission, in a report harshly attacked by conservationists, says logging should become the recognized "dominant use" of the national forests. The reason usually given is the much repeated, but unlikely, target of constructing 26 million new homes in this decade.

It was in this setting that a special committee at the University of Montana issued its report in November charging that "quality timber management and harvest practices are missing" in the Bitterroot National Forest. "Consideration of recreation, watershed, wildlife and grazing appear as afterthoughts," it said.

Created at the request of Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.), the committee was headed by Arnold W. Bolle, dean of the university's school of forestry. The Forest Service, the committee concluded, "is a federal agency which measures success primarily by the quantity of timber produced weekly, monthly and annually . . . getting the logs out comes first." Its "heavy timber orientation" may have made some sense in the immediate post-World War II years when there was a building boom, but today "it is simply out of step with changes in our society," said the Bolle report.

In the Bitterroot, the Forest Service policy of permitting loggers to "clearcut" (chop down all trees in a given area, rather than selectively

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Clearcutting...

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cutting only the mature trees and leaving the others to develop) has produced ugly, barren areas and "cannot be justified," the committee said. Clear-cutting took place on steep hillsides, which had to be terraced afterward to prevent soil erosion and to aid reforestation. The terracing is unattractive, and in some areas erosion has simply washed away new seedling trees.

Forest Service figures set the timber industry's "allowable cut" in the Bitterroot forest at 50.3 million board-feet a year, a figure that was exceeded in actual cutting by 6 million board-feet in 1968 and by almost 13 million board-feet in 1969.

Controversy Rages

ISSUANCE OF THE REPORT brought a storm of controversy to the Bitterroot Valley, where the multimillion-dollar timber business is king but where the people also are fiercely protective of their environment. Bolle says the timber industry has overcut its own, privately-held woodlands and thus keeps the pressure on the federal government to increase commercial sales of national forest timber.

Edward L. Shults, vice-president of Tree Farmers, Inc., of Missoula, whose parent firm, The Intermountain Co., cuts some 40 million board-feet a year in the Bitterroot, blames criticism on "people like the Sierra Club, who pose as conservationists but really are damned, hard-core preservationists. They always want to tie up commercial timber land in wilderness and take it out of the economy. We can't waste all these resources."

Forest Service regional officials in Missoula also were stung by the Bolle report, although they had acknowledged some faults in their own earlier report. "The public thinks we're raping the forests, but we really are not," says James L. Wenban, deputy regional forester. "We are not in bed with the timber industry," he says. But that's exactly where the Forest Service is, in the view of G. M. Brandborg, a white-haired old forester from Hamilton, Mont., who served 20 years as forest supervisor in the Bitterroot before his 1955 retirement.

Raised in the traditions of Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, Brandborg says that "in my day, the forester was imbued with a 'land ethic' that no generation could be allowed to damage or reduce the future wealth by the way it uses natural resources. There was never any fear then in speaking out against the special interests and in making decisions that were for the good of the public. But in the middle 1940's, the leadership in the Forest Service and other public land agencies capitulated to the timber barons and other economic forces. The Forest Service now is operating under a system that precludes scientific forestry, but it will not admit it."

"Most of the money is going into timber harvesting, and very little into the other uses of forest land. We are overcutting. We are far exceeding the sustained-yield capacity of the timber lands to produce."

The pressure, says Brandborg, has come from the timber and housing industries and from presidential directives to cut down more trees. Through it all, the Forest Service has silently complied and "has betrayed the public by not telling them what is happening," he believes.

Allocation of Funds

One of the Forest Service's own studies shows that in the eight years ending with 1970, the Forest Service got 95 per cent of the funds it sought from Congress for timber sale activities in all the national forests, but only 40 per cent of the money it asked for reforestation and timberstand improvement. Likewise, the other required uses of the forest system got short-changed. Recreation got only 4 per cent of the funds requested, wildlife management 63 per cent, soil and water management 52 per cent, and a range management 81 percent.

Brock Evans, Northwest representative of the Sierra Club, says that the overcutting in the Bitterroot is typical of what goes on in other national forests. Until 1964, the Monongahela National Forest in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia was one of the finest mixed hardwood forests in the country -- a source of wood for quality furniture and an ideal spot for recreation and for wildlife. But there, too, Forest Service officials abandoned their traditional "selective cutting" method of harvesting only the mature oak, maple, beech and cherry, and instead allowed the Georgia-Pacific Corp., and other timber companies to begin "clear-cutting."

"Shocking," said Sen. Jennings Randolph

(D-W. Va) when irate local citizens showed him the results one day last year--large devastated sections of the forest which had been laid bare in sections ranging up to 550 acres. The West Virginia legislature set up a special commission, which recommended a halt to clear-cutting except in occasional patches of less than 25 acres. The Forest Service was termed "timber oriented" by the commission.

Most of the public uproar across the country has been over the volume of logging in the national forests and such techniques as clear-cutting, but there is a potentially scandalous situation too in the way the Forest Service sells its trees to the timber industry. A previously unreleased study by the Forest Service's northern regional office--obtained only after repeated requests to the agency--documents numerous instances of questionable price appraisals of timber, poor supervision of road-building in the forests, and poor clean-up in the forests, and poor clean-up after logging.

Whose Timber?

In one instance, the report found, Forest Service officials set up a planned timber sale to meet the needs of a particular timber buyer, although national forest wood is supposed to be sold solely on the basis of competitive bidding. Even then, the proposed buyer did not want to bid at the suggested price and, in order to encourage him, the district ranger lowered the minimum sale price by setting a "biased and low" figure for waste disposal costs. The intended bidder then bought the timber at the new lower price and, under the terms of the sale, did not remove the waste produced by his logging.

"The results are as expected," said the report. "We now have an area with heavy concentrations of flash fuels, with the immediate potential for destruction of a newly thinned stand of timber, and no effective means or money for abatement of the hazard."

Then there is the problem of dishonest bidding. Gordon Robinson, for 27 years timber manager of the Southern Pacific Co. and now

pened to grow to maturity all of a sudden."

Asked about collusive bidding, the company official asked: "Do you want me to go to jail?" Then he added: "Yes, there is some collusion. You make deals with other companies about who will bid on what. In cases like that, we might as well just sit down with the Forest Service and divvy up the lumber instead of going through any bidding process. It's wrong because we're dealing with public lands. It should be stopped."

Industry Pressure

If the Forest Service has gone astray, one reason may be the pressures on it by the timber lobby and by Congress. The timber industry backs bills to increase national forest logging, and has induced Congress to clamp export restrictions on national forest trees so that the industry can ship wood from its private lands to Japan at high prices and still be guaranteed a good source of lumber for its domestic needs. Two years ago, the industry persuaded President Nixon to order an additional cut of 1.1 billion board-feet from the national forests, without a corresponding increase in reforestation efforts or any money for other forest uses.

The timber lobby operates out of the handsome, eight-story Forest Industries Building at 1619 Massachusetts Ave. N. W. The main organization is the National Forest Products Association. There is an educational arm called the American Forest Institute, and a political campaign organization named the Forest Products Political Education Committee.

The latter group gave a total of \$28,000 to the 1970 election campaigns of 42 senators and congressmen last fall, according to reports it filed with the clerk of the House. Many of the recipients are on key committees dealing with public lands and with Forest Service appropriations, and many of them were the congressmen who had pushed hard earlier last year for an unsuccessful industry-backed bill to step up national forest logging. Among them were Rep. Dave Martin (R-Neb.) who is a retail lumber dealer, and lumber state spokesmen B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.), Don Clausen (R-Calif.), John Dellenback (R-Ore.) and Wendell Wyatt (R-Ore.) Former Rep. (and now Interior Secretary) Rogers C. B. Morton (R-Md.) was a sponsor of the bill, and he was given a \$300 contribution by the timber lobbyists in 1968 and \$500 in 1970. This was one of the factors that led the Sierra Club to oppose his confirmation in January to the cabinet post.

H. P. (Buck) Newson, public affairs official at the National Forest Products Association, insists that the industry's effort to log more trees in the national forests "is not a question of us increasing our own markets; it's a question of helping to meet the social needs of the country for decent housing. We have to build some public backfire against the hysteria of setting all this land aside."

The timber lobby and its backers in Congress have had a definite impact on the Forest Service. Agriculture Secretary Clifford Hardin and his under-secretary, J. Phil Campbell, have supported industry demands for more access to the national forests, which now contain more than half the remaining softwood sawtimber in the United States. Hardin's executive assistant, E. F. (Fritz) Behrens, was manager of general operations at the National Forest Products Association from 1958 to 1967.

Brock Evans of the Sierra Club asserts that the Forest Service has become "a classic case of a regulatory agency being governed by the industry it should be regulating." The charge is denied by Forest Service chief Ed Cliff and by his deputy for timber management, Homer Hixon. Cliff has acknowledged in recent formal statements that "our program is out of balance now" and that more attention must be paid to forest uses other than logging. But in an interview he insisted that the national forests have reached "only an intermediate stage of development. We are not overcutting our national forests."

Hixon said "the demand for wood products is going right up, with our increasing industrialization and growing population. There is great pressure on us from industry to step up the cut, and we are willing to do so within the constraints of sustained yield and multiple use." He defended the use of clear-cutting, which he said produces better forest regrowth despite temporary scenic damage.

Struggle Ahead

WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK for the national forests? On one side, a Nixon Administration task (Please turn to page 7)



Frank Miller in the Des Moines Register & Tribune

"You want houses, don't you?"

forestry consultant for the Sierra Club, charges that the Forest Service bases its timber appraisals on statistics supplied mainly by industry, with a generous profit margin of 12 per cent or more figured in. Even with these favorable prices, "buyers of national forest timber frequently agree among themselves in advance of bidding to keep prices under control," he claims.

Robinson's complaints are borne out by Forest Service and industry sources. One Montana timber company buyer said privately that "certain types of sales are set up to help certain companies and sometimes you wonder how that much more of a certain type of tree just hap-

Predator Control In Wyoming

Editor's Note: This is the second half of Verne Huser's article on Predator Control in Wyoming, Part Four: Of Coyotes and Wolves.

* * *

Wolves, like coyotes, feed upon carrion and upon rabbits and rodents, but they are a larger, heavier animal better equipped to kill the larger ungulates. They are more likely to play an important predator role than the scavenger coyote, and many ranchers greatly fear the return of the wolf, for the wolf has returned to Yellowstone. Recent reports indicate no fewer than six of the great canines roaming free in Yellowstone National Park.

The Park Service officially reports that the wolves were there all the time, just rather scarce in a vast area and not often seen, but there were reports of wolf sightings during every decade in this century. Adolph Murie says of wolves in the Park, "It is probable that none now remain" (1939), and "The last wolves were eliminated in the twenties although a few have been reported in recent years." He reports having seen no wolves during his coyote study in the Park. The Craighead brothers, Frank and John, who studied the grizzly bear in Yellowstone for more than a dozen years report that neither they nor any of their students or associates saw a wolf or any wolf sign.

There are also wolves in northern Minnesota where the supervisor of Superior National Forest, Craig Rupp, recently closed the forest to the taking of wolves. Deer hunters in Minnesota, many of whom killed a Wyoming mule deer as non-resident hunters last year, were up in arms, but the fact remains that the Minnesota deer hunters—consumptive users—have a higher success level in the five counties that have wolves.

Perhaps the classic popular study of wolves in relation to a prey specie has been David Mech's "The Wolves of Isle Royal." This was carried in National Geographic Magazine a few years ago and available for \$1 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Mech has recently published a book on the subject as well. Mech's study of wolves and moose on the 210-square-mile Isle Royal, a national park in Lake Superior, has revealed once again that even so large and powerful a predator as the timber wolf normally takes the misfits and actually controls the ungulate herd naturally, allowing the survival of the fittest to operate.

The old and the weak and the young of unhealthy mothers are taken by the predators. A healthy adult moose can withstand the attack of a whole pack of wolves, and even in severe winter conditions the moose maintain their numbers. The wolves, in turn, maintain their population at a relatively stable number dependent upon the availability of moose. No hunting of either moose or wolves is allowed on the island, and predator control is outlawed, yet the natural balance is maintained by the animals themselves. There are roughly 25 wolves and perhaps a thousand moose on the island.

The television documentary film "The Wolf Men," which was shown November 18, 1969, and again June 9, 1970, further popularized many of the facts about wolves. However, this film was not shown in Alaska because of an injunction. Alaska's Governor received nearly three thousand letters from viewers in the lower 48 states concerning the plight of the wolf in Alaska. There, a thousand of the noble canines were killed in 1969 which constitutes roughly a fifth of the total estimated wolf population of Alaska. And the slaughter still goes on—frequently from airplanes.

Adolph Murie's comprehensive study of wolves in Mount McKinley National Park may give a fair picture of the wolf's relative effect upon wildlife. A food study suggests that the large ungulates of the park furnish the major part of the wolf's diet: caribou (43%), Dall sheep (26%) and moose (less than 1%). Ground squirrels (13%), marmots (8.5%), and mice (5.5%) are relatively minor items compared to the caribou and the Dall sheep, but even this heavy predation upon two species seems not to decimate them.

In his conclusions Murie says that "the caribou is the main food of the wolf, and a heavy toll of the calves is taken. Yet the park herd of between 20,000 and 30,000 is apparently maintaining its numbers." Of the Dall sheep he says, "It seems apparent that the wolf is the chief check upon the increase of the Dall sheep in Mount McKinley National Park . . . that the predation on lambs is the most important limiting factor in STABILIZING (my emphasis) sheep numbers . . . that the sheep preyed upon, other than lambs, were generally old or diseased," and that "the size of the sheep population was satisfactory from the standpoint of their survival as a species in the park."

Canadian naturalist Farley Mowat, whose popularized study of Canadian tundra wolves entitled *Never Cry Wolf* has probably been read by more Americans than any other wolf study, found that wolves do indeed depend heavily upon caribou for food but primarily during the periods of migration of the caribou through the wolves' territory. Wolves, he found, maintain home territories, and while they hunt widely, they cannot hunt widely enough to follow the caribou herds and still maintain their home territories.

Mowat found a nursing female wolf that killed 23 mice and ate them, quite a meal even for so large a carnivore. He also found the typical pattern: the wolves, even when

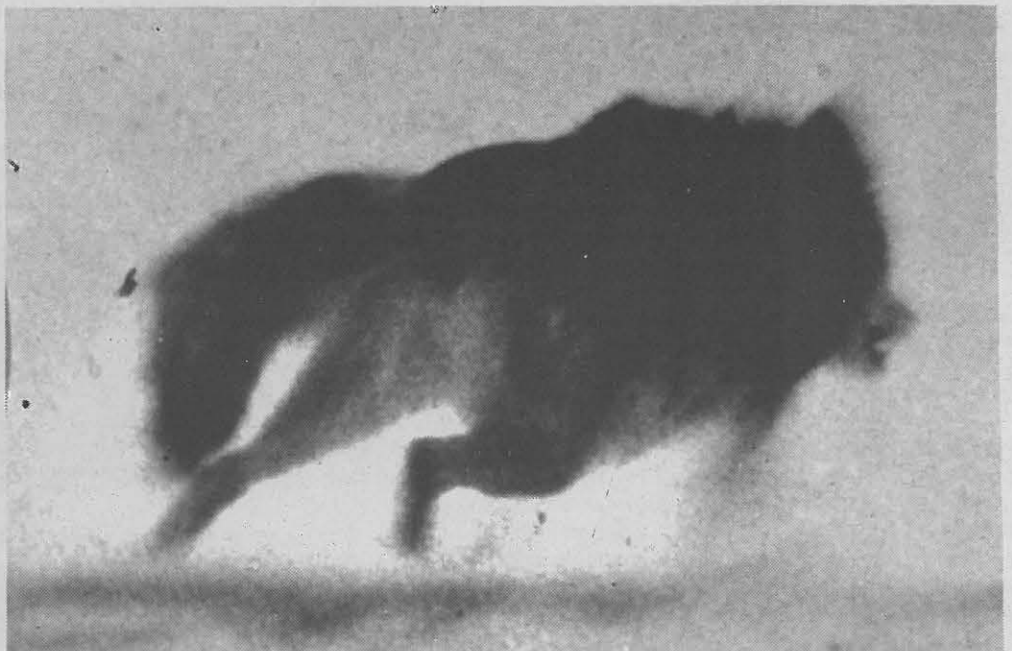


Photo credit Yellowstone National Park

Wolves have returned to Yellowstone as evidenced by this photo taken by a park ranger on movie film.

feeding upon caribou, took the misfits that were easily overtaken and killed. A pack of wolves might chase bunches of caribou, which tolerated the wolves to within a hundred yards or so. If the wolves found no stragglers after a few hundred yards, they gave up the chase, and turned their attention to another bunch. Once they found a straggler, however, they pursued it until they killed it. Mowat relates an old Eskimo legend that ends with the axiom "So the caribou feeds the wolf, but the wolf keeps the caribou strong." These native peoples perhaps understand ecology better than we do.

Last spring when winter lasted well into April in Yellowstone National Park and the grizzly bear's grazing grounds were still snow covered as they emerged from their winter dens, the grizzlies turned to the Norris elk herd—the only elk herd in the Park that has never been controlled by man—and killed dozens of elk. Once again, it was the age-old pattern: the elk being killed by the grizzlies were the sick, lame and lazy. Every ecological study indicates the same thing: the predators preserve the species by controlling the misfits. When will man learn?

In Montana in 1967, domestic dogs were listed as the second leading killers of domestic sheep, the third leading killers of lambs (behind coyotes and eagles). The same pattern held for Wyoming in 1965 through 1968. Yet dogs are not listed as predators under Wyoming Game and Fish laws nor can local wardens control domestic dogs (several attempts to do so have resulted in the warden's being persecuted and prosecuted). Dogs no doubt kill much wildlife. My own dog—until I got rid of her—used to come home with an occasional ruffed grouse, and I know that neighborhood dogs killed a moose calf two years ago. Domestic dogs turned free in nature constitute an artificial control that upsets the balance of nature as surely as does overgrazing by domestic livestock.

I don't suggest that we should turn the whole world back to nature or that we shouldn't raise sheep or cattle. I'm saying that we can't live outside of nature, that we can't raise cattle and sheep outside of nature. There are lessons to learn from nature, and as consumptive users, we must listen to nature because we live in a finite world. There is room for both man and wildlife, for domestic livestock and natural predator. It seems that the sheep ranchers are the emotional ones who refuse to listen to the facts.

A recent (Feb. 9, 1971) article in the Casper Star-Tribune headlined "Coyote Numbers Treble In Red Desert Habitat" suggests that despite concentrated predator control programs over long periods of time in the area, "We've got more coyotes than we ever had," as one Wyoming Game and Fish warden put it. A letter to the editor of the Star-Tribune on Feb. 22, 1971 by H. E. Dearing of Wheatland says, in part, "My wife herded sheep (2,000) and lived in a sheepwagon back in the days, 1914, when there were coyotes everywhere and never had any loss to predators." A March 4, 1971 letter-to-the editor from Leonard Zierlein of Casper says in part, "I have heard far more herders give the coyote false credit for sheep losses than I ever have the ranchers." Zierlein has been a Natrona County trapper for 14 years and closes his letter with this comment: "The wolf may be smarter but the coyote is more clever in my opinion, and I see a continued future for the coyote even with predator control."

Obviously, wolves and coyotes are both intelligent. They have outwitted man's attempts to wipe them off the face of the earth for decades, but it is true that the wolf is an endangered specie in the 48 contiguous states. It is also true that with subtle and powerful poisons and with aerial shooting of these canine predators, their future may be bleak, especially if ranchers are given Federal immunity to kill predators from the air. Man—who has not yet learned his own place in nature—still attempts to control nature, and by doing so he may himself become an endangered specie.

Forest Service Gets Easement

The U. S. Forest Service has obtained the first scenic easement within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The easement applies to 112 acres of property along the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River in north central Idaho.

Scenic easements provide constraints on future developments which could detract from the purpose of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Clearwater, which flows in part through the Clearwater National Forest is one of the eight rivers initially designated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. This initial easement was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Ward Green, Yuba City, California who have been ardent supporters of the Act.

102 Monitor Is Available

A monthly listing of "impact statements" on the environmental effects of federal projects is now available through the Council on Environmental Quality, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The National Environmental Policy Act provides that federal agencies must identify the effects of their projects on the environment. Such reports must be made available to the public. To inform the public of available reports, the CEQ has initiated a monthly publication of statements that it receives.

Included in the listing, known as the "102 Monitor," are names and telephone numbers of agencies from which copies of the statements and comments thereon may be obtained. The "102 Monitor" is available on request from the Council on Environmental Quality, 722 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20002.

Big Sky . . .

Although the environmental victories were sweet, there were also some major defeats.

The worst was in the area of stream bank preservation. "It was a total disaster here. We just didn't pass anything," Representative Fagg observed.

Four bills were introduced in this area which would have allowed the preservation of stream banks for public use through scenic easement. Another would have allowed the state to declare recreation as a legitimate use for stream water thus preventing states downstream from forcing the release of water needed for fishing and boating. All met defeat.

"The real estate interests were just too powerful," Fagg said. Included in these interests were ranchers along streams who feared their land might be condemned for the easement although bill backers said that would be impossible.

A second major loss came in the defeat of bills which would have allowed citizens to file class action suits against present and potential polluters and other forms of environmental degradation even if the citizens were not directly involved.

Chief sponsor of the bills was Rep. Jeff Scott, R-Billings, who termed their defeat a "vote against the people."

"We just couldn't get our point across," he said.

People pollution bills also got the ax in the legislative session.

Rep. Dorothy Bradley, D-Bozeman, was the leader here introducing a liberalized abortion bill and another measure, in conjunction with Rep. Robert Watt, D-Missoula, to remove the state income tax exemption for the fourth child and subsequent additions.

After some emotional testimony from both sides, the bills were both killed.

Finally, a couple of minor defeats came in a compromise pesticides bill and another measure to stop unregulated stream channelling.

The pesticides control bill was approved but chief power for enforcement went to the Agriculture Department which is strongly controlled by user interests.

On stream channelling, Sen. Harry Mitchell, D-Great Falls, sponsored a bill which would require state agencies to coordinate channelling plans so as to prevent fishing-stream ruination.

Opposition was strong from Montana Power Co. and Agricultural interests and, finally, after numerous amendments, a bill was approved which only requires the Fish and Game Department to notify the Fish and Game Commission (the agency's governing body) when federal agencies are disrupting the environment.

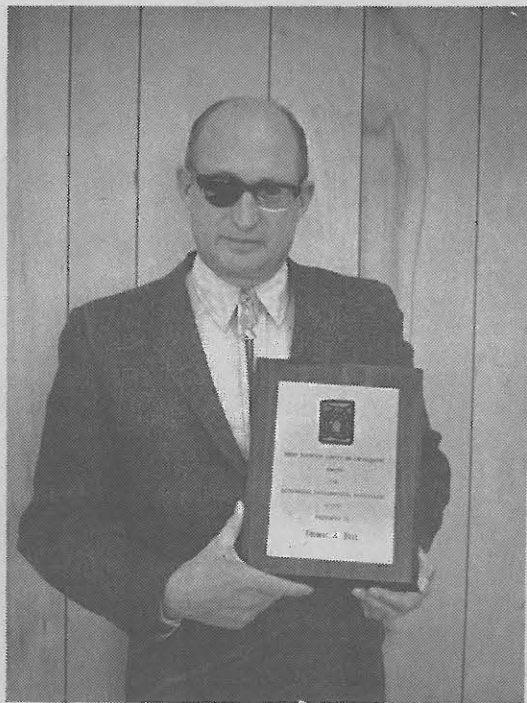
Funding for enforcement of the mining reclamation bills, along with most of Montana state government, hangs in the fire as Democrats and Republicans argue over taxes and financing. A special session to, hopefully, settle the dispute has been called by Gov. Forrest Anderson for June.

However, temporary funding through July 1 has been provided and Representative Fagg is confident financing beyond that date will also be approved.

He also has praise for State Lands Commissioner, Ted Schwinden whose agency has the responsibility of administering the hard rock mining reclamation bill. "He's a swell guy and will do a good job," Fagg said.

For the future, the representative predicts following sessions of the Montana legislature will be even more environmentally inclined.

"The increasing numbers of young legislators made the difference in the current session," he analyzed. "I think this trend both for youth and environmentalism will continue."



Editor Tom Bell and the award presented by the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment at Denver on April 21. The award was one of six presented for outstanding environmental achievement during 1970. On April 23, Bell was presented the Shikar-Safari award as Wyoming Conservationist of the year, 1970.

Environmental Awards Presented By ROMCOE

The Rocky Mountain Center on Environment has recognized six individuals and one company for outstanding environmental achievements for 1970. The awards were presented at the first annual awards dinner at the Denver Hilton Hotel on April 21.

The Edward H. Hilliard Jr. Memorial Award for Outstanding Environmental Achievement went to Maurice D. (Red) Arnold of Denver. Arnold is regional director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. He was cited for his ability in bringing government, industry, academic and conservation interests together on environmental matters.

The Memorial Award was established in Hilliard's honor. He was a founder of ROMCOE and a nationally recognized conservation leader. He died last year in a climbing accident in the Colorado Rockies.

Two women were cited for their citizen efforts. Mrs. Mary Kozlowski of Las Vegas, Nevada, helped organize the Nevada Open Space Council and has been a leader in citizen conservation activities. She is the first and only woman to serve on the Colorado River Commission.

Dr. Ruth Weiner is the president of the Colorado Citizens for Clean Air. She is an outspoken critic of state and federal agencies on many environmental matters. She is an assistant professor of chemistry at Temple Buell College in Denver.

Frank H. Dunkle, Montana's Fish and Game Director, won the award in government for his outstanding defense of the natural resources which are his responsibility. He was cited for courageously resisting political and industrial pressures which would undermine his authority.

Dr. Richard G. Beidleman is chairman of the Biology Department at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. His award was for education in which he was cited for outstanding efforts in disseminating environmental information. He made more than 100 speeches in 1970 and travels extensively as a speaker for the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

High Country News—7
Friday, April 30, 1971

Clearcutting . . .

force has called for a step-up in logging. President Nixon has endorsed it, cautioning that the environment and other forest uses must be protected, and the Forest Service has announced On the other side is a small but growing number its 60 per cent targeted logging increase. of conservationists, who have vowed to fight what they see as an attempted new raid on the public woodlands. Based on Forest Service performance, they are skeptical of claims that the forests will not be impaired. The 60 per cent logging increase, said the Sierra Club in a bulletin to its members, would "finish off the virgin forests within our national forest system."

The conservationists are shocked, too, by the Public Land Law Review Commission's complaints of "conservative cutting practices" of the past and its conclusion that there is "no compelling reason to treat public land timber differently from the way it would be treated by the owners of well-managed private forest lands."

The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club, with backing from Sen. Randolph and Gale McGee (D-Wyo.), are fighting back with a proposal to create a blue-ribbon commission on timber management in the national forests. Sen. Church's hearings this week will highlight some of the abuses.

On the House side, Rep. John Culver (D-Iowa) has asked for an investigation by the House subcommittee on conservation and natural resources, and Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) has prepared legislation to restrict clear-cutting, protect de facto wilderness areas, and regulate use of both public and private woodlands. Mr. Nixon wants to get the Forest Service out of the production-minded Agriculture Department and into a new Department of Natural Resources.

Wherever the Forest Service ends up, the dilemma that faces it in the years ahead is to reconcile the country's timber demands with the need to also make the national forests a place of recreation, a haven for wildlife and a protector of the water supply. The agency's problem is summed up on a plaque that hangs on the wall above Chief Cliff's desk. It bears this quotation from George Washington: "Do not suffer your good nature, when an application is made, to say yes when you ought to say no: remember that it is a public, not a private cause, that is to be injured or benefitted by your choice."



Thomas A. Bell, editor of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, was recipient of the media award. The paper was cited for its coverage of environmental matters in Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain region.

The "Be Ecological" program of King Soopers Discount Stores won the industry award.

The company was cited for its emphasis on merchandising of returnable containers and other efforts aimed at environmental concerns.

Cleanup Costs Millions

Idaho Rep. James McClure has asked for a \$2 million appropriation so the U. S. Forest Service can clean up the South Fork of the Salmon River. The money would be used to rehabilitate the river and its watershed to save salmon spawning grounds on the headwaters.

The South Fork accounts for about 20 percent of total salmon spawning in Idaho. Ernest E. Day, national director of the National Wildlife Federation from Boise, Idaho, says the area is referred to as the "bedroom" of the salmon in Idaho.

McClure said the

rehabilitation project would consist of closing or restoring roads, installing gully plugs and doing reseeding, and removing sediment from the spawning beds.

Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$6.5 million. It will take five years to complete.

The areas involved were logged prior to 1965 when a series of disasters caused catastrophic erosion into the river. Logging roads, a fire, and unusually heavy rains contributed to the disasters.

Logging is still being carried on along the river further downstream.

Environmental Spokesman for the Mountain West

High Country News

Box K Lander, Wyoming 82520

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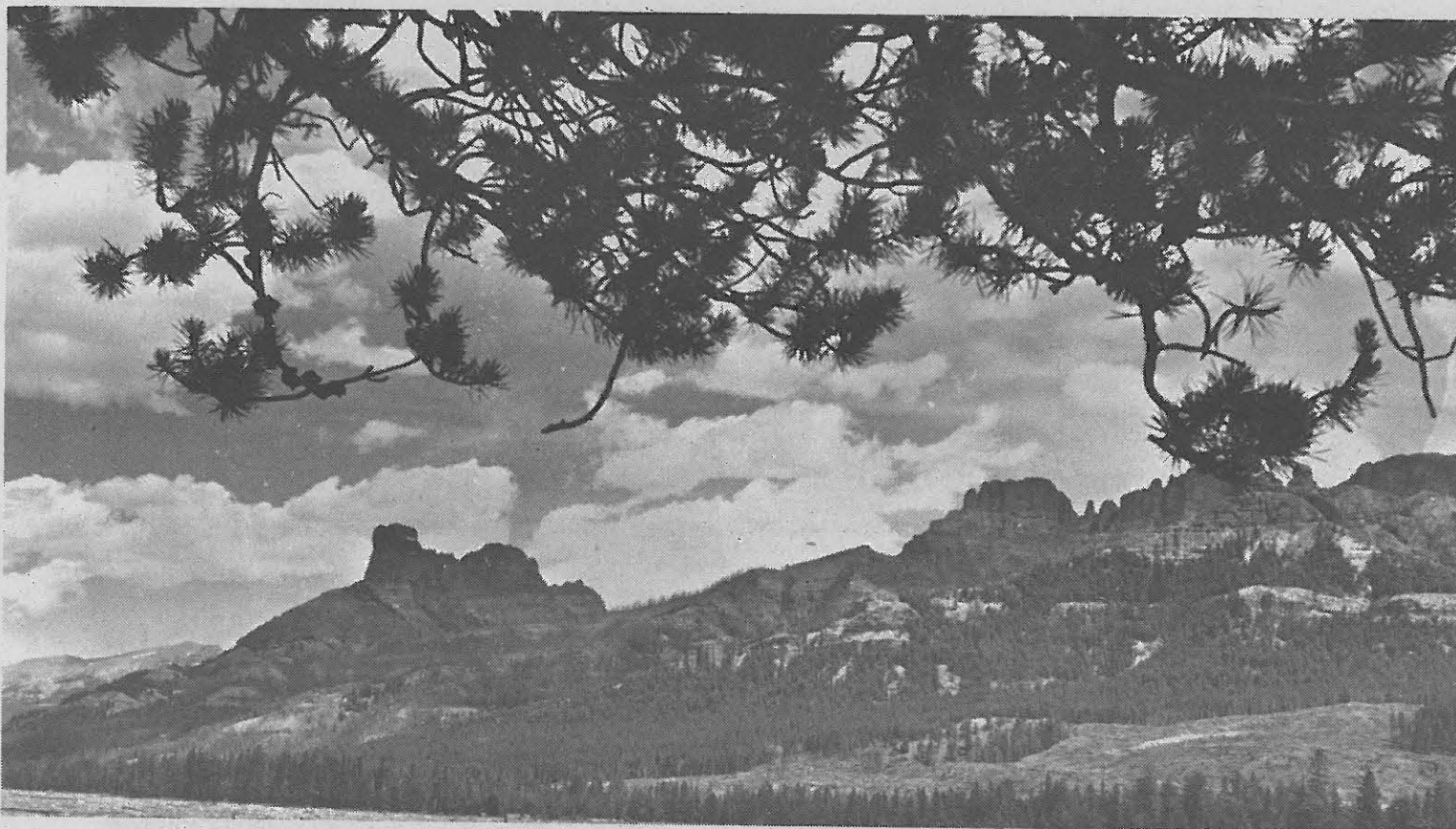
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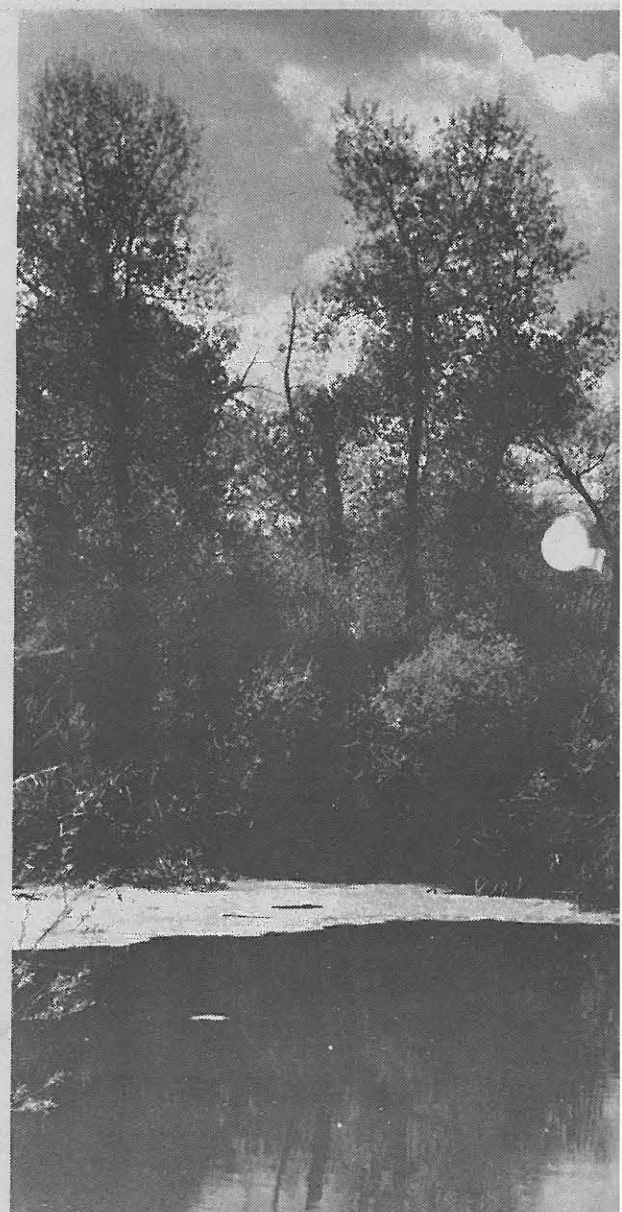
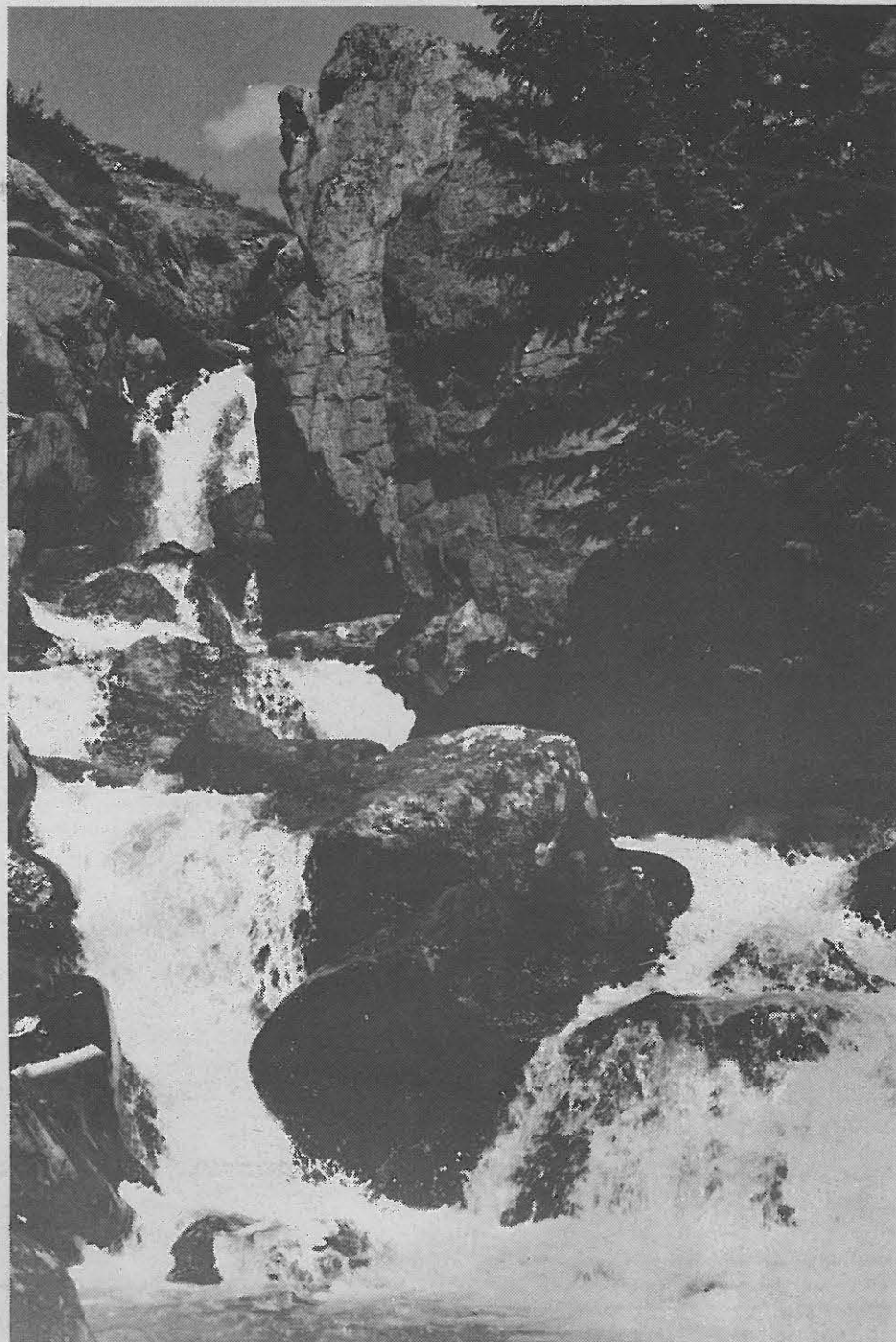


LAND



Wyoming is a land of contrasts. It has been acknowledged by many that there are those places that should have been reserved for Indians.

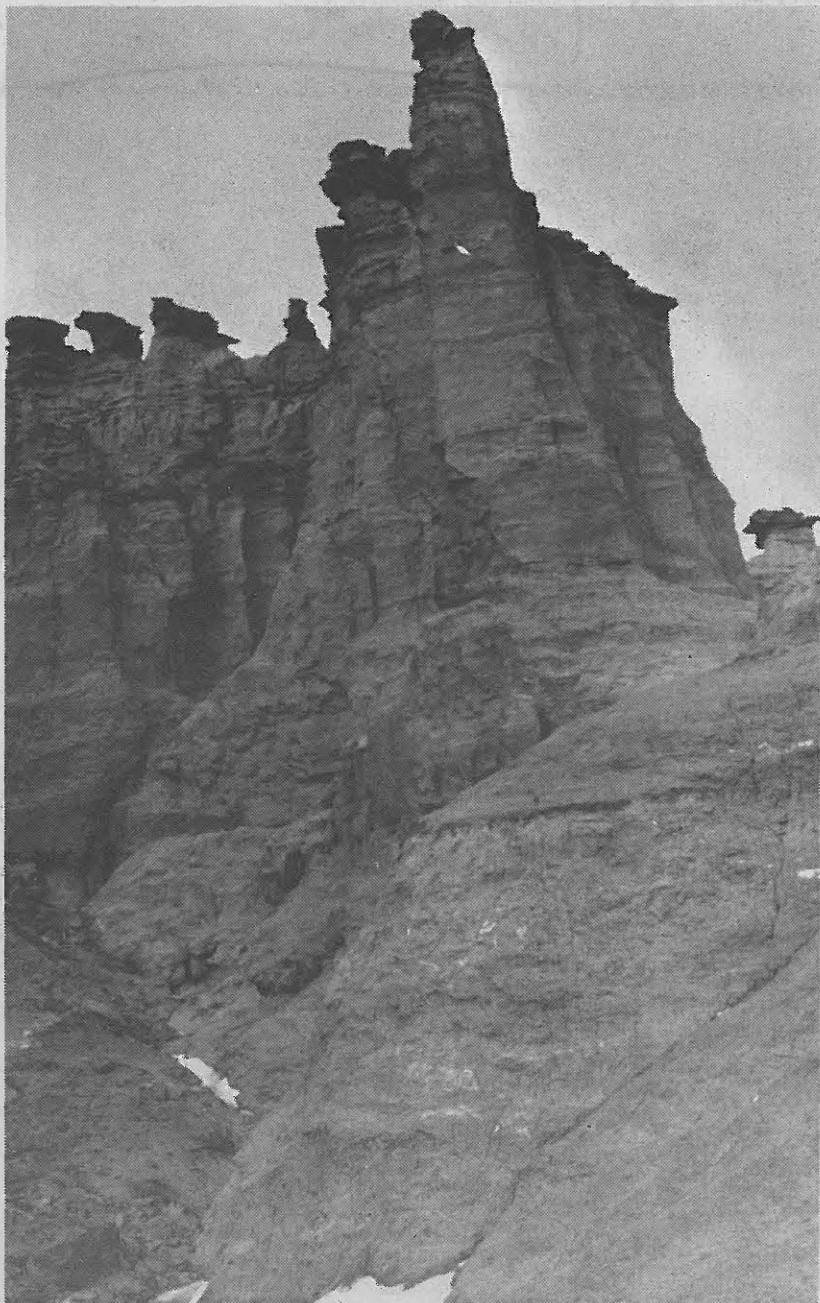
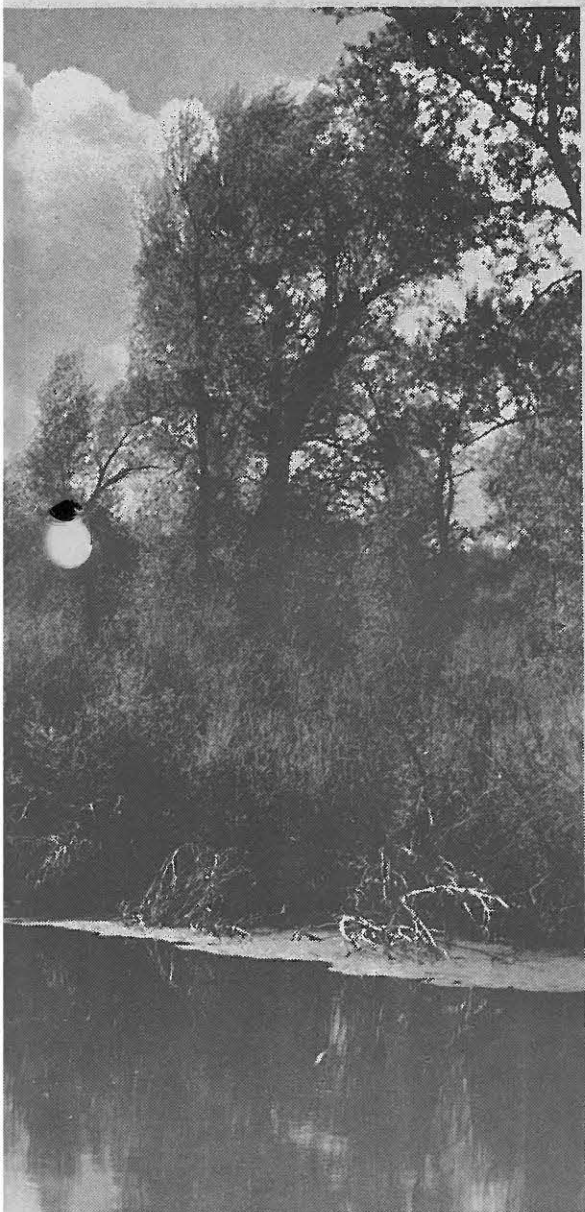
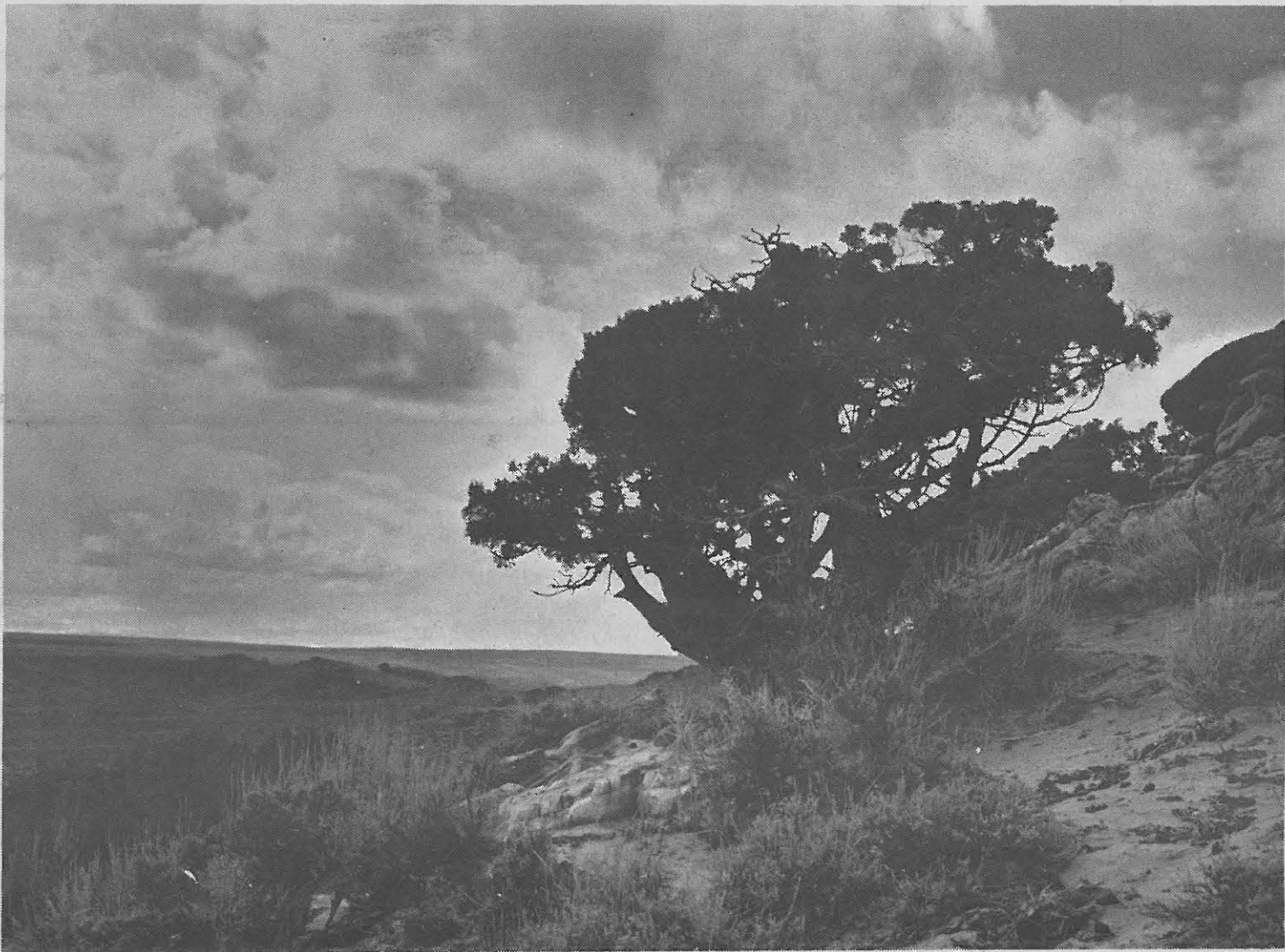
But from serene dunes to the top, those who look for something appealing find a lonely emptiness and grasslands prairie which is balm to the soul. In between are rushing rivers with rugged juniper and across sage-scented the distance between the earth and the sky.



W O F C O N T R A S T

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by Verne Huser

THE WILD WORLD

If you haven't seen the trio of articles by John McPhee about David Brower that has just appeared in THE NEW YORKER, you owe it to yourself to dig them out of your back files or out of the public library, for it is a conservation classic. Entitled "Encounters with the Archdruid," the series of articles pits Brower against Charles Park, a geologist and mineral engineer; Charles Fraser, a developer; Floyd Dominy, a dam builder (head of the Bureau of Reclamation and a Wyomingite).

Brower, if you don't know, was for more than 17 years executive director of the Sierra Club; he is also founder of Friends of the Earth and the John Muir Institute. Just a year ago he spoke in Casper at the First Wyoming Environmental Congress. If any single man epitomizes the environmental movement, it is David Brower.

The first article (A Mountain), which appeared in the March 20 issue, dealt with a backpacking trip into the North Cascades in the state of Washington. Kennecott Copper Company, the same corporate structure that is polluting Salt Lake City, plans to build an open pit copper mine in the Glacier Wilderness northeast of Seattle. Brower and Park hiked into the area for a first-hand look and a running battle about basic values.

Park says at one point "If there were a copper deposit in Yellowstone Park, I'd recommend mining it." Park sees every mountain as a potential mine. He knows his out doors and appreciates it, but he believes that "population pressure is irresistible" and that being so, no place on earth should be inviolate from human use--and by use, he obviously means consumptive use.

Brower, on the other hand, suggests that we must stop right where we are and re-think our values. "The theory of economic growth is doomed on a finite planet," he says, and therefore we must learn to re-use our resources instead of throwing them away. "We have got to get into our heads a concept of limits," says Brower at one point: "We're not so poor that we have to spend our wilderness or so rich that we can afford to."

I came out of my reading of this first article with respect for both men. I'd gotten inside them both, it seemed, through McPhee's objective and subjective observations. Park says in effect (and in fact) "The future can take care of itself," while Brower says, in the words of Nancy Newhall, "Conservation is humanity caring for the future."

Part two (An Island), which appeared in the March 27 issue, features Brower and Charles Fraser, who developed Hilton Head Island off the coast of South Carolina. If it has to be developed, says Brower, let Fraser do it. But basically Brower opposes any further development in the nation's few remaining wild areas such as Cumberland Island, where Fraser wanted to turn a natural wilderness into another tasteful bedroom.

Actually, the title of the whole three-part series comes from Fraser's evaluation of conservationists, whom he calls archdruids, - preservationists who want to save things they like for themselves. This second article presents many of Brower's ideas--some of the ones he developed in Casper last May. But when Fraser and Brower get together, Fraser does most of the talking. The continual by-play of the first article is missing; there is less dialogue and more monologue. Fraser frequently asks Brower's advice or view on a subject, but he seems to be playing with Brower much of the time. Yet a real respect seems to grow up between the two apparent opposites.

"The highest and best use of this island is for children," says Fraser of Cumberland, which ultimately--against Fraser's wishes--becomes a National Seashore. Brower, in contrast, says "We're committing grand larceny against our children," by the ways in which we rape the planet earth: "When rampant growth happens in an individual, we call it cancer," yet we continue our rampant growth on the face of the earth.

The third and final article, entitled "River" and appearing in the April 3 issue, contrasts Floyd Dominy, former Campbell County Wyoming Agricultural agent, with Brower as they float down the harnessed Colorado River below the just completed Glen Canyon Dam. This article offers the greatest contrast of them all: Brower and Dominy rarely find any common ground. Dam building is Dominy's greatest good, and Brower says at one point "If you are against a dam, you are for a river," for rivers--says McPhee--are the ultimate metaphors of existence, and dams destroy rivers.

I do not mean to steal any of McPhee's thunder. He has written a fine series of articles in which the reader gets to know a great man and a great conservationist, who says "We should touch nothing more in the lower 48... Whether it's an island, a river, a mountain wilderness--nothing more. What has been left alone until now should be left alone permanently."

McPhee doesn't take sides, it seems to me, and he presents an objective account of Brower and of his three antagonists (Brower is the obvious protagonist of the series). Anyone with the least interest in conservation should read this series. There are implications here for the Green River, for the White Clouds, for Wagonwheels, for every issue that conservationists-environmentalists embrace, for Brower's viewpoint is all-encompassing, and

ENVIRONOTES

McGee Chides Industry

Wyoming Senator Gale McGee has taken sharp exception to timber industry accusations that a two-year moratorium would cause "skyrocketing" lumber prices. McGee cited rising lumber prices for the past two years and the doubling of export lumber since 1965 as indications that industry is trying to dupe the public.

McGee said it was time to get serious about a natural resource "that belongs to all of us" and is being seriously depleted by the practice of clearcutting.

The senator said the consequences of clearcutting would be better understood by forest industry spokesmen if "they would do more on-site observation and less justifying of their profit and loss columns."

Commercial Fishing Ended

State agencies in Washington and Oregon have closed the Columbia River to commercial fishing for an indefinite period. The reason given was that insufficient numbers of salmon are negotiating the man-made dams to perpetuate the species.

A recent count of chinook salmon at Bonneville Dam registered only 15,000 fish, compared with 40,000 at the same time in previous years.

Research staffs recommended the closure after citing the nitrogen problem and high, murky waters.

Hickel May Run Against President

Former Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel says he may run against President Nixon if he re-escalates the Vietnam war or ignores environmental problems. Hickel also told an Environment Week gathering in Salt Lake City that the development of mass transportation in the nation's big centers of population should be the main environmental goal of the federal government.

Utah Smog Dangerous

The chairman of the chemical engineering department at Brigham Young University of Provo said daily emission levels of sulfur dioxide are dangerously high along Utah's Wasatch Front.

Dr. Douglas Smoot said a potentially hazardous level of the toxic gas could be reached in less than two days during a closed temperature inversion.

Smoot said the Wasatch Front Basin which contains more than one million people is only one sixth the size of the Los Angeles Basin. However, the Utah basin has the greatest frequency of temperature inversions in the nation.

Engineers Told Solutions Needed

Dr. Raymond Bisplinghoff, deputy director of the National Science Foundation, told an engineering symposium in Utah that the U. S. will lose its high standard of living and international preeminence by the year 2000 "if science and technology do not solve the environmental problems facing this country."

Bisplinghoff said that the single criterion for success during the past two centuries has been expansion of the gross national product with an ever-increasing production of goods for an ever-increasing number of people.

He said in the future we will need a means of "judging progress in terms of the quality of life as well as in terms of national production."

No More Accommodations in Parks

Glen D. Gallison, operations evaluator for the Pacific Northwest Region of the National Park Service told a meeting of Boise, Idaho, Rotarians that the park service policy is to encourage accommodations outside the parks. Gallison said no new services are planned inside of existing parks and that in the newer national parks the accommodations would be developed by private businesses outside the boundaries.

Morton To Come West

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has revealed he will headquarter out of the Denver Federal Center for a four to six week period this coming summer. An aide to Morton said it would put the Secretary closer to many Interior projects and management areas and permit him to review them more closely.

The aide said the move out of Denver is unique for a Cabinet official in recent history.

Railroad Reclaims Lands

A policy of re-claiming to useful purposes, its coal lands in Montana that were surface mined as early as 1923 was announced today by Louis W. Menk, President of Burlington Northern. He said work would start soon in the Colstrip area.

"It is our further intention to require that operators to whom we lease our coal lands also respect the ecological considerations of the countryside, and that when they have finished mining they leave the area in a neat and orderly condition," Menk said. Public concern with protection of our environment is a just one. Burlington

beyond the protective laws - we will insist that use of our Montana lands by others reflect the same high degree of concern for the state as do the railroad's own operations."

Menk cited Burlington Northern's achievements in successfully removing diesel oils from drainage waters at various locations as indicative of the railroad's intent to protect the state's environment.

Burlington Northern's management expertise, Menk said, derives partly from a program of water development, erosion control, reseeding and adjustments in

owned by the company in Eastern Montana.

"Experience gained through these cooperative ventures with land lessees will prove extremely valuable in the management and restoration of lands from which minerals have been removed by surface methods," he said.

"The recent Montana State University study on the reclamation of surface mined lands should provide further useful guidelines for our own program," Menk said.



Habitat -key to survival

High Country News—II
Friday, April 30, 1971



Photo by Ted Carlson

Carrying capacity for game animals is determined by the condition of the environment at the most critical times. For these mule deer, it is most critical during late winter and early spring when the animals are in poor condition

and heavy, wet snows cover the available food. It is then that the living animals as well as the unborn fawns suffer losses which will determine population levels for the next year.

Editor's Note: The following is reprinted from MONTANA OUTDOORS, the official publication of the Montana Fish and Game Department. We thought our readers would also be interested in the basic concepts defined for game management. But more than that, these concepts apply just as well to the human animal. At some point in time, the planet Earth will reach a carrying capacity for human beings. When that point is reached, the universal laws of population dynamics will take over. Man can either control his populations within the limits of the Earth's capacity or he can allow populations to go unchecked and suffer the consequences.

HABITAT - Every living thing from yours truly to the lowest of microorganisms has a home or living area, called habitat, where all its life essentials are found. The habitat must supply the animal with four basic necessities -- food, cover, water and living space. Habitat stands as the single most important factor in any game population. Conservation efforts will have little effect without a foundation consisting of a stable, productive habitat.

CARRYING CAPACITY -- Every habitat has a certain level beyond which it cannot support a game population. The abundance of the various life essentials sets this level. If the population rises above carrying capacity, a surplus forms and must somehow be removed. If the population is not reduced, the extra animals will deplete their habitat and, in turn, lower the carrying capacity for succeeding generations.

BIOLOGICAL SURPLUS -- Animals produced in excess of the carrying capacity are labeled as surplus and must somehow be removed. If left unchecked, a large surplus will quickly lead to a drastic reduction of numbers because of diminished resources.

REPRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL -- The maximum rate at which a species can increase if unchecked is termed the reproductive potential of that species. Most game animals have a very high reproductive

rate. Without certain factors which limit this rate, any game species can easily produce more young than its habitat can support. This uncontrolled population growth raises a game population beyond the carrying capacity of its habitat and creates a biological surplus.

LIMITING FACTORS -- These forces work to keep a game population at or below the habitat's carrying capacity. A brief list of

limiting factors would include disease, starvation, water shortage, severe weather, competition, predation and losses from hunting and fishing. The number of animals existing in a certain habitat at any one time depends on the balance between reproductive capacity and drains upon the population.

These five basic terms make up the language of wildlife management. Without the presence of certain limiting factors, a game species with a high reproductive potential can easily reach and surpass the carrying capacity of its habitat and create a biological surplus which must be removed. In most cases, over-population results in a lower carrying capacity and a drastic reduction, by limiting factors such as disease and starvation, in the original size of the population. The greatest threat to a game species is overpopulation.

The importance of these principles becomes easier to understand when they are applied to a famous example of game mismanagement.

The Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona hosts a mule deer herd very similar to those found in other Rocky Mountain states, including Montana. The only difference is that this deer herd has already demonstrated what can happen when nature's tools are misused and her earnings ignored.

In 1906 nearly 4,000 deer resided in the area. Supported in part by the deer herd, a fairly abundant predator population consisting of mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats and a few grizzlies and wolves also frequented the area. Man has arrived on the scene so that limited numbers of cattle and sheep also obtained their livelihood from this range.

In the same year, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the Kaibab region a federal game preserve. It can be guaranteed that President Roosevelt was well-meaning in creating the refuge on the theory that protection always meant good wildlife management. However, what resulted could hardly be called good management.

After the creation of the refuge, more protection was authorized in an attempt to increase the deer population. First, all livestock was moved out in order to leave more food for the growing deer herd. This action did benefit the herd. More food and the lack of competition with livestock increased the carrying capacity of this range and allowed the deer herd to increase accordingly.

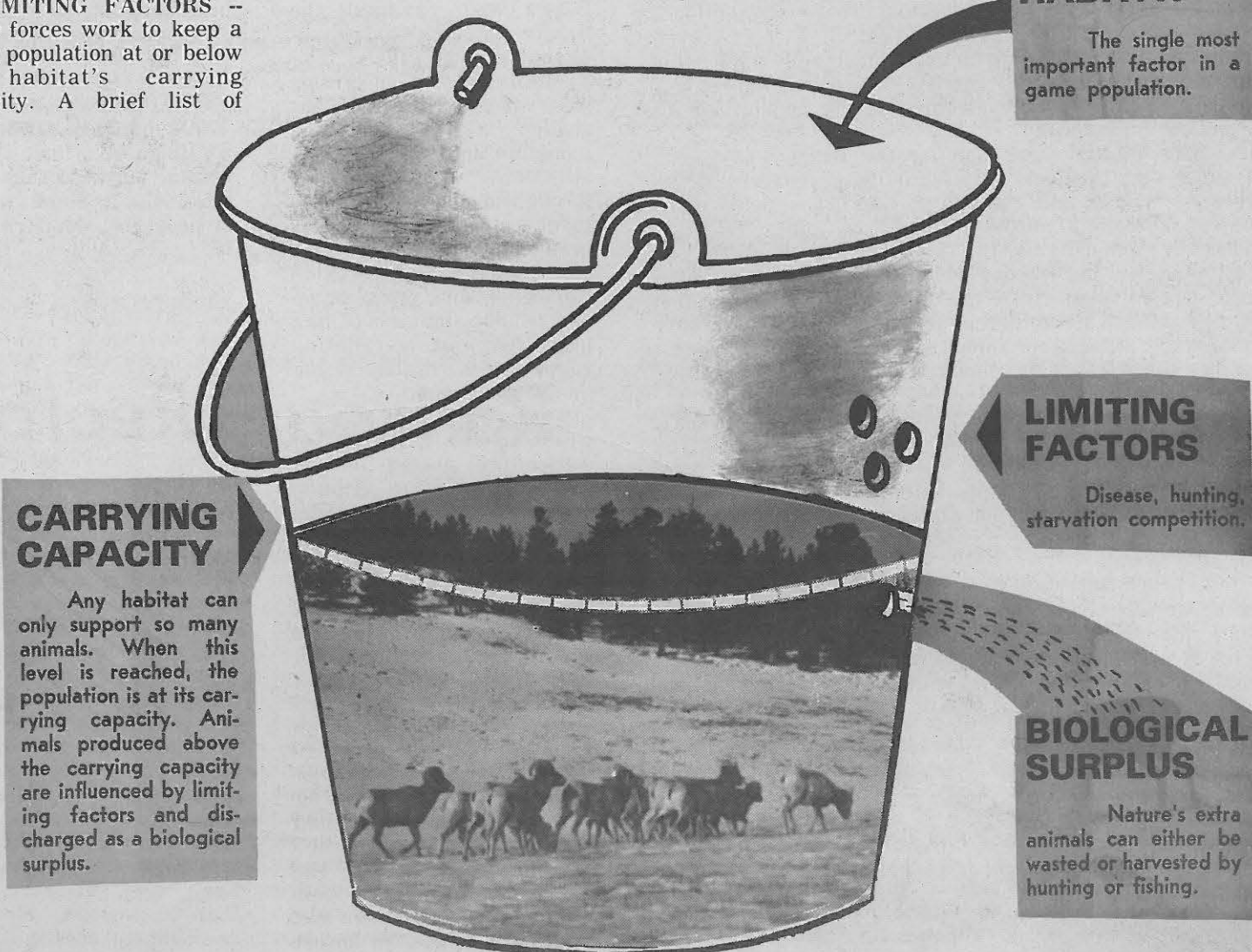
Next, trappers were put to work to remove natural predators. They accomplished their task efficiently and exterminated the grizzly and wolf and greatly reduced the mountain lion and other predators. As a final act of protection, hunting was no longer allowed on the refuge.

The groundwork had been laid. Now the Kaibab hosted a deer herd with very few natural enemies, complete protection from hunting and extra food from the absence of livestock. The population responded accordingly... it exploded!

At first observers were overjoyed at the increasing numbers. Deer were everywhere. A tourist could count hundreds on a trip through the refuge. The range was being forced to support a deer herd above its carrying capacity. Instead of acting immediately to remove the surplus, game managers allowed the herd to increase until detrimental effects on the habitat became evident.

Shrubs began to take on a "hedged" appearance as though a troop of gardeners was at work. Aspen groves exhibited a definite browse line where deer had stripped every leaf and twig as high as they could reach. Timber reproduction began to suffer. Seedlings were sought out and eaten by the always-hungry deer herd. The U. S.

(Continued on page 14.)



Timber Controversy Grows

The following news release was made from the office of the Supervisor of the Bridger National Forest, Kemmerer, Wyoming. It is in answer to the news release from Senator Gale McGee's office in relation to the moratorium on clear-cut timbering (see story this page). Supervisor Bill Deshler is correct in pointing out that the size of clear-cuts on the Bridger are not on the order of 1,200 acres as might be inferred from Senator McGee's news release.

In the words of Senator McGee, "I saw what at first was almost unbelievable to me - acre after acre, in patches sometimes 1,200 acres in size, that looked as if a squadron of B-52's had ravaged the beauty of the Wind River Mountains." Senator McGee was here referring to clear-cuts on the Shoshone National Forest, Dubois District, which is located in the Wind River Mountains but across the Continental Divide from the Bridger National Forest. I know - I was there.

The rest of Supervisor Deshler's statement speaks for itself.

The Editor.

Supervisor Answers

Within the last several weeks, State and National news media have carried news stories severely criticising timber management practices of the Bridger National Forest, located in Southwestern Wyoming - the most recent article appearing in the April 21 issue of the Casper Star Tribune. Since facts are being severely distorted and non-factual statements are on the increase, Forest Supervisor Bill Deshler stated today that it was time to deal in fact and objectivity - and not from distorted emotion.

Basic facts concerning harvesting practices over the past ten years are: The largest clearcut area on the entire Bridger National Forest has been measured at 512 acres. This cutting was done between 1956 and 1961 in an attempt to control an epidemic of spruce bark beetle in the Moose and Gypsum Creek drainages. Excluding these sales, there have been about 45 sales made and/or cut on the Bridger Forest in the 1960-1971 period, containing 655 harvesting units which covered eleven thousand acres, averaging about 17 acres per cutting unit. Of these, our records show only four clearcut areas which exceed 100 acres in size, the largest being 251 acres.

Up through 1968, our policy allowed clearcut patches of up to 100 acres with provision for larger areas under special circumstances. In early 1969, the Forest adapted our current 35-acre maximum for cutting units, with provision for larger blocks only with Forest Supervisor approval. The record speaks for itself as to the extent to which these maximum size limitations have been used. Cut areas over the past ten years have averaged only 17 acres in size.

"Sure we have some problems," Deshler continued, "but none on which corrective action has not been taken or planned where any significant damage to other resources was occurring or imminent. We just do not have any significant erosion from cutover areas. They are all basically in good watershed condition and generally revegetate with flowers, weeds, and grasses or young seedlings the year after harvesting. There is some lag in slash disposal, particularly due to old sales where current requirements for cleanup do not contractually apply - but the acreage is minor. If current elk harvest figures and visual observations are meaningful, elk populations are excellent Forest-wide."

"The multiple use plan for the Bridger Division," Deshler said, "reflects very factually our concern for all resource values and recognition that trees serve many other significant purposes than sawtimber. We are currently intensifying the multiple use plan for the Wyoming Division in order to revise and update our timber management plan. Since our initial work indicates that some reduction in commercial forest land is likely, we have tentatively reduced our annual sales program from about 30 million board feet to 15 million board feet pending final land use determinations."

In summary, the Forest Supervisor said, "Resource management decisions should be based on all available facts and information and not be the result of gross exaggerations and other mis-statements. Our records are open to the public as are our works on the land itself. While some mistakes have been made over the years, we have nothing to hide."

"In fact," Deshler stated, "I am proud of the resource work we have done and the dedicated District Rangers, staff, and other members of the Forest organization who have done it. Consequently, I invite and urge individuals and organizations concerned with the wise use of our natural resources to spend several days on the Forest and see it like it is."

WASHINGTON- Sen. Gale McGee, D-Wyo., has introduced a bill calling for a ban on all clearcutting on federal lands for two years and the establishment of a commission to investigate and study the practice.

"For some three years now, there has been a growing controversy over the timber management policy of clearcutting," McGee pointed out to his colleagues in the Senate. "In my own mind there is a growing conviction that the practice of clearcutting is not really management of our forests at all. In its worst sense, clearcutting is the systematic ravishment of our forests."

McGee has received nationwide response, not only editorially but also from private citizens, expressing support for his proposal which he made public just two weeks ago.

McGee explained that clearcutting was the practice customarily used in the timber industry which required the removal of substantially the entire stock of timber within a particularly designated area for the purpose of commercial harvest of timber.

"It is a practice stubbornly pursued by Federal agencies charged with the trusteeship of our natural resources on public lands," he said.

McGee pointed out that until three years ago he was only vaguely aware of the devastation occurring on Wyoming's mountainsides.

"In 1968, I toured the Bridger National Forest at the urging of concerned Wyomingites and because of my own nagging concern about the condition of timbered areas in that forest," McGee said.

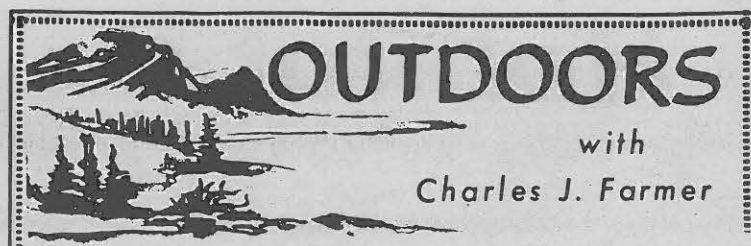
"I saw what at first was almost unbelievable to me - acre after acre, in patches sometimes 1,200 acres in size, that looked as if a squadron of B-52's had ravaged the beauty of the Wind River Mountains," he said.

McGee pointed out erosion was working away at the shallow soils of the high mountain country; choking siltation was rampant throughout the water shed; forced reforestation was practically nonexistent; slash piles, scar and erosion producing roads were abundant; and the ugliness of once beautiful and re-creating vistas was a tragedy of immense proportions."

McGee said soon after he wrote to the Secretary of Agriculture asking for an independent Blue Ribbon Commission to examine the practice of clearcutting.

"The Secretary wrote back to deny my request," he said. "Since that time, I have requested the Secretary to appoint such a commission, but the communications from the Forest Service have been largely efforts to persuade me that what my eyes saw really wasn't so bad, and that the professional expertise of our land managers would make everything allright."

But McGee added, the evidence in Wyoming, West Virginia, Oregon, Alaska and other states was in direct (Please turn to page 13.)



'Shoes n' Skis'

Just because it is spring, let's not rush the snow sports from the high country scene. April in the mountains is often the best time of the year to enjoy the snow. Warming temperatures and longer days mean more time to enjoy snowshoeing and ski touring. Both are fine tonics for the anticipation of upcoming fishing and camping seasons.

Shoeing and skiing have a lot in common. Both sports can be enjoyed at the participant's own pace. They are quiet, relaxing forms of fun and exercise . . . great conditioners. They both can be combined with backpack camping for weekend outings.

The initial investment is rather modest compared to the hours of pleasure derived from snowshoes or cross-country skis. There is little maintenance required in keeping the equipment in good working order. Under ordinary conditions, shoes and skis can last a lifetime. Just like other sports, it is best to buy good equipment to get the right start in the enjoyment category.

A good ski touring outfit will cost around \$80. This includes laminated hickory skis, \$40; special touring boots, \$30; bindings and heel assembly, \$10. Those are average retail prices of one manufacturer, Bass Sports, Box W, Wilton, Maine 04294. This touring package is far less expensive than a downhill skiing outfit of similar quality. Plus the fact there is no need for purchasing tow tickets and waiting on lift lines.

Skiing can be just about anywhere that has an accumulation of snow. My preference however, is selecting one of many Wyoming national forest recreation areas. Good recreation areas in the state include Black Hills, Medicine Bow, Bighorn, Shoshone, Teton, Yellowstone and Bridger national forests and parks. General maps of these forests are available from district ranger stations in adjacent towns. Detailed topographic maps can be obtained from the Geological Survey, U. S. Federal Center, Denver, Colorado. When inquiring about maps, ask first for the listing of maps available for Wyoming. You can then place your order according to the number and name of the area on the listing.

The best ski touring areas serve just fine for snowshoers. There's no competition for room and the two sports are very compatible. In fact both of them can be enjoyed in a single day or weekend.

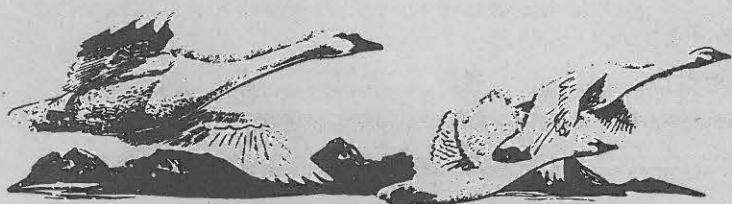
A good pair of snowshoes will cost from \$20 to \$40. Some points for selecting a pair are important in getting the right start in the sport. Consider the type of terrain; prevalent snow conditions in your area; usage (backpacking, hunting, etc.); your weight and height, and finally your snowshoeing experience.

Bear Paw models, for example, are favorites for beginners and hunters due to their versatility. Designed for heavy forest and brush, most can support weights to 200 pounds.

Cross country models (pickeral, Michigan, trapper) add a wooden tail to the frame. The tail offers less drag than bear paw models, and acts as a stabilizer, much like a fin on a boat. It is a little more difficult to master for the beginner, but worth the extra effort.

Plastic snowshoes are good for emergencies, but do not consider them as equals to a good pair of aluminum or wood-framed rawhide webs. They add too much work to the sport of snowshoeing.

A supplier of rawhide and aluminum frame snowshoes is: Hoigaard's, Inc. 3550 So. Hwy. 100, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Vermont Tubbs, Inc., 18 Elm St. Wallington, Vermont 05773 is one of the leading manufacturers of rawhide or neoprene, wood-framed snowshoes.



Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

Patty Calcaterra is a strikingly beautiful, blonde, young woman from Missoula, Montana. She is also concerned and involved with environmental matters. She went to Washington for the April 5-6-7 hearings on national forest timbering. The following is her statement to Senator Frank Church and the Subcommittee on Public Lands.

The Editor.

Chairman Church and members of the Committee: I am Patty Calcaterra, from Missoula, Montana. I am a housewife and the mother of two small boys. I have hiked and fished with my family extensively throughout western Montana and particularly in Rock Creek, which is a very beautiful Blue-Ribbon Trout stream, twenty miles east of Missoula.

I was deeply upset upon my personal observation and was greatly disturbed by the forest management practices within the Rock Creek area. It was the way that adjacent areas were being logged that caused me to delve deeply into the logging practices of the Forest Service. I watched great cleared areas begin to appear upon our mountains and great raw slashes of roads beginning at the foot of the mountain and going to the top with much soil erosion and land disturbance.

Alarmed by the sight, we contacted the personnel of the Lolo National Forest and determined from their five-year timber plan that the whole of Rock Creek was slated to be treated with the same disregard. We found in meeting with the rangers and other forest officials that the Forest Service did not know what effect the logging did have upon the big game population of the area and particularly the elk. We found that there were no proper geological or soil surveys made of the extremely steep mountain sides. We found further that no water quality studies had been made in depth and we expressed fear to the rangers of the harm that would be done to the fisheries. We urged that the Forest Service stop logging until the wildlife and water resource could be studied and we wanted to know how these same resources could be protected.

The Supervisor of the Lolo National Forest admitted that the Forest Service had gone too far in logging adjacent areas and that it was too bad. However, members of his staff told us they could not stop logging because the Forest Service had a commitment to the timber industry. However, at the same time we were told that Schwartz Creek, lying adjacent to Rock Creek was a mistake and that we should forget mistakes.

It seemed to strike no logic with the Forest Service that if mistakes were made in a nearby drainage and if the same logging practices were to be used in our beautiful Rock Creek, would not the same horrible results occur all over again in the Rock Creek Drainage. We questioned again the great ugly clear-cuts, the great amount of soil moved by bulldozers, the tremendous amount of wood piled up and wasted with heaps of charred logs left after the burning. We questioned again about the elk and the Blue Ribbon Trout Stream and about the amount of silt that could get into our Blue Ribbon Trout Stream. Yet all these questions and our desire to work with the Forest Service availed us nothing.

So we went then to the Montana Fish and Game Department and we found again that no cooperative plans had been worked out for the benefit of the wildlife resources. So it is to this day that our pleas go unheeded and that there are no plans for the comprehensive resource protection for the Rock Creek area. That is why, Gentlemen of the Committee, I have traveled to Washington. For if we cannot find redress with you, our Congress, then it appears that the cause for Rock Creek and its many varied resources will go unprotected. At the same time, I feel that if we cannot protect the Blue Ribbon quality of Rock Creek, then we must ask, if we may protect any drainage anywhere.

When I started to raise my family, I hoped that I would be able to show my boys beautiful, wild areas in their natural state, where we could drink the water, catch fish, and perhaps someday, my boys could hunt its wild elk. I strongly feel, however, that if the present methods of forest management are continued, the pleasures that I have known will be denied not only my young ones, but all future generations.

Before I return to Montana, I would like to go away feeling that I have been heard and that you, our Congressmen, will heed our deep concern and from this, a new direction for our forest land will be given where the love of the land and its beauty will be the dominant theme. Thank you.



Photo by Ernst Peterson

This is the type of devastation on the national forests referred to by Mrs. Calcaterra (see Thoughts from the Distaff Corner). The Bolle Report said, "A clear distinction must be made between timber MANAGEMENT and timber MINING." Many people are now challenging this type of timbering which destroys the entire forest ecosystem.

McGee Asks Moratorium...

conflict with "What the Forest Service is saying."

McGee admitted his procedure was unusual but added "I do not make the proposal casually. I make it because a natural resource which belongs to all of the people is fast becoming a disaster area."

"Those who have been charged with the responsibility for protecting and managing that resource have been largely unresponsive to the growing cry for evaluation," he said. "It is true, that the Forest Service has appointed a number of in-house committees to investigate the practice, but to my mind, this is akin to setting up the fox to guard the hen house."

The Wyoming Democrat said an expanding sensitivity to the quality of "our environment is another reason I submit my bill. If we cannot take the results of our recognition into legislative process, then the legislative process has little meaning."

McGee said he was also convinced the bill he was introducing had a number of "spin-offs" which might prove to be very worthwhile. McGee concluded by saying he was also giving a "good deal of attention" to the economic problem which would arise should a moratorium on clearcutting come to pass.

"Certainly, the question of economic difficulties for timber operators and their employees will be present," he said. "In my judgment, there is much to be said for approaching the problem by carefully developing the possibility of subsidizing timber operators and their employees during the moratorium."

In raising the possibility of such a subsidy, McGee said such an approach should be contingent on the operators turning their talents and energies toward planting the

4.8 million acres of national forest lands which constituted an unrepanted backlog on federal lands.

"Given our American know-how and capacity to respond to challenge," McGee said, "there is no reason why we cannot turn our energies, at least in part, toward planting rather than cutting."

Other senators who are cosponsoring Senator McGee's bill are Sen. Hubert Humphrey, D-Minn. Sen. Jacob Javits, R-New York; Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass; Sen. Edmund Muskie, D-Maine; Sen. George McGovern, D-S-Dak.; Sen.

Gaylord Nelson, D-Wisc.; Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn.; Sen. Clifford Case, R-New Jersey; Sen. John Tunney, D-Calif.; Sen. Harold Hughes, D-Iowa, and Sen. Allen Cranston, D-Calif.

Sen. Clifford P. Hansen, R-Wyo., has said in a letter to the editor of the JACKSON HOLE NEWS that he is opposed to clear-cutting on areas of high altitude and unstable soils, and that he agrees with Senator McGee that many clear-cut areas in Wyoming should not have been cut. However, he does not endorse a nationwide moratorium, imposed legislatively.

Wildlife Is Concern

During a recent survey, the U. S. Forest Service found wildlife to be of primary public concern over all other values in northern Florida's Ocala National Forest, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

Officials stated that chief areas of interest were: (1) Wildlife--The plea was for better overall management of wildlife on the Ocala. (2) Timber--More conservative management of this resource was requested. Comments indicated a need for more consideration of aesthetics and other resource needs. (3) Wilderness and Historical Areas--Strong sentiment existed for the protection of historical areas and areas with unique ecological or scenic value. (4) Oklawaha River Valley--The public strongly supported wild or scenic river status for the Oklawaha under management by the U. S. Forest Service. (5) Roads and Litter--Participants indicated there were too many access roads and they were excessively large. Requests were for a halt to road construction.

This data resulted from a series of nine listening sessions held throughout Florida to allow interested persons an input into improving management of their national forest. Conservationists have commended USFS for this practice and recommends it be adopted by other land management agencies.

Corps Vetoed

The President's Advisory Council on Executive Reorganization has recommended veto authority over civilian programs of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Atomic Energy Commission be given to a proposed Department of Natural Resources, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The suggestion reportedly is part of the Administration's plan to abolish the Department of the Interior and bring together under one roof nearly all federal agencies dealing with problems relating to the nation's natural resources.

Fishing—Who Needs It?

In the Spring, a young man's fancy turns to dreams of fishing holes inhabited by trout—big, mean and hungry. In fact, dreams come true if they are just hungry.

And so it was that Jeff Smith went with his Dad, no other than photographer Charles W. Smith, to their "secret" fishing hole not far from Lander. There, the young man learned the art of

catching the wily trout.

Jeff was obviously pleased with his trophy, as any small fisherman might be. And father and son counted the day a success when they started home with their string of fish.

This could be the scene throughout the West. Wherever the creeks run free and clean, there are those followers of Ike Walton

who cannot wait until the ice breaks loose. The pressure has been building all Winter and when the first scattered days of Spring arrive, their pent-up energy can no longer be contained.

These are the experiences which draw father and son together. But more than that, such spiritual values are needed if man is to retain his identity and sanity in a technological world.

Fly Casters Need Help?

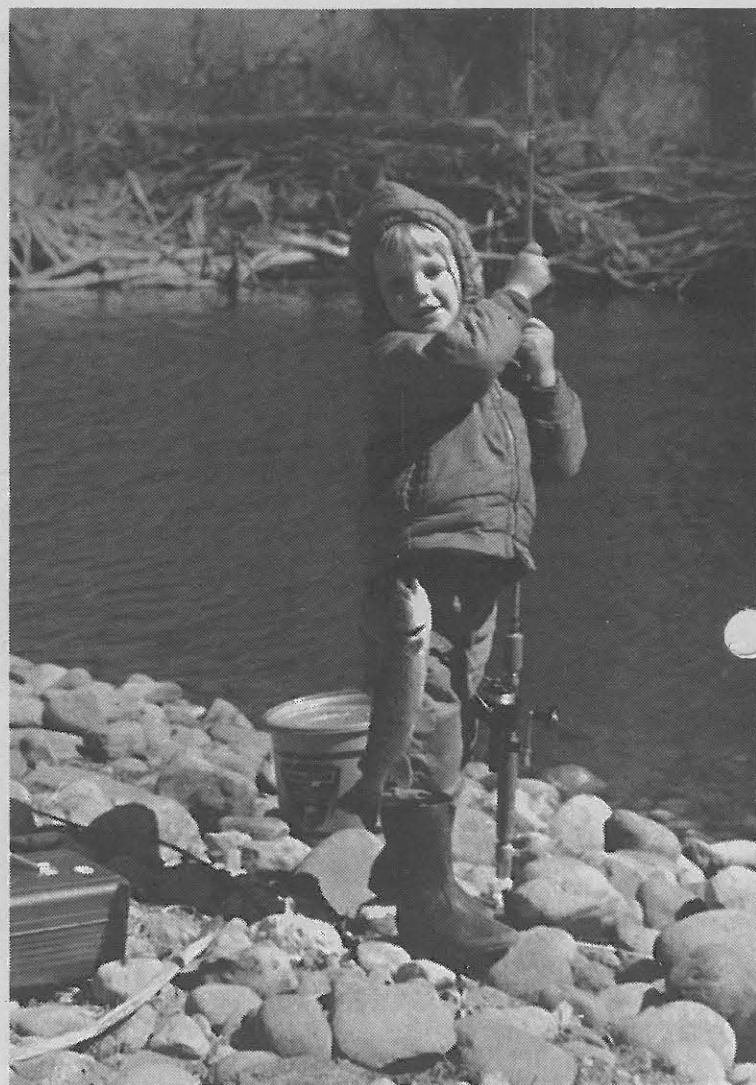
Fishermen who may not be so adept at casting a fly can now obtain expert help through an inexpensive booklet on the subject.

To Cast A Fly is touted as "a step-by-step guide for the modern angler . . ." Ted Trueblood who wrote the foreword says it "is the finest thing on fly casting I have ever read."

The 36-page booklet is a beginner's how-to-do-it. But the experienced angler may also find some valuable tips in the expert directions on all types of fly casting. Good line drawings and illustrations help the reader perceive what is being described.

The contents covers all aspects of the art of fly fishing beginning with Tackle and ending on Common Casting Troubles and How to Correct Them.

The booklet costs 50¢ and may be obtained from dealers or by writing Scientific Anglers, Box 2001, Midland, Michigan 48640.



Photos by Charles W. Smith

Steelhead Need Streams

Pointing out the importance of small tributary streams to the survival of summer steelhead in the Rogue River Basin, research workers of the Oregon Game Commission reported that a total of 97 ustream tributaries, many of them intermittent, are utilized for spawning purposes by these world-famous game fish.

Previously research investigations on the life history of the Rogue River summer steelhead, which began several years ago, revealed 81 small streams utilized for spawning. This past winter summer steelhead were found using 16 additional tributaries.

Many of the tributaries are small, ranging from 1 to 20 cubic feet per second, but the average is about 5 cubic feet per second. Significant numbers of adult fish spawned in streams with flows as low as 3 cfs, indicating that very few streams in the Rogue Basin with suitable gravel and cover are too small for summer steelhead reproduction.

Biologists report that these great game fish move into the small tributaries during high flows in winter and spawn on gravel bars in water which barely covers their backs. Since many of these streams are intermittent—down to seepages or potholes by late summer—

the young fry seem to possess a built-in instinct to move downstream to the main Rogue or into larger tributaries before their place of birth goes dry. According to the investigators, it's an amazing story of survival, yet these small streams are the absolute key to the maintenance of the famous run of summer steelhead in the

Fish Eggs Destroyed

LINCOLN, Nebr. — About 90 percent of the 1971 crop of northern pike eggs was destroyed at Pawnee Lake near Emerald, Nebraska, recently when the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers lowered the level of the lake by about 12 inches to counteract erosion on the face of the dam, according to Game Commission fisheries biologists.

"Loss of the young northern is certainly a shame", said Willard Barbee, director of the Game and Parks Commission. "But, according to the Corps of Engineer's assessment of the situation, the drawdown was necessary to save the dam from extensive damage."

According to the Corps of Engineers, the damage involved about 2,000 feet of the rock "riprap" that protects the face of the earthen dam. One theory advanced by the Corps is that rock at the

Rogue.

Biologists also reported that the number of spawning fish recorded this winter indicated a much larger run in 1970 than the very fine run in 1969. Evidence of this large run was borne out last summer and fall when anglers reported some of the best steelhead fishing ever enjoyed on the Rogue.

waterline was disturbed when the ice on the lake broke up a few weeks ago. This left the earthen portion of the dam beneath the rock susceptible to wave action during recent periods of high winds.

The result was the undermining of approximately four feet of riprap above the waterline and the erosion of pockets more than 10 feet into the face of the dam. The exceedingly high winds and resulting possibility of major new damage caused the Corps to conclude that the lake had to be drawn down immediately to expose sound riprap to the waves.

Had the Corps of Engineers been able to postpone the drawdown by three weeks, most of the northern eggs would have hatched and matured sufficiently to survive, according to Game Commission fisheries biologists.



Habitat...

Forest Service finally recognized the problem and sounded an alarm for an immediate reduction in the herd.

Because the thought of "too many deer" was so unbelievable to the American public, the U. S. Forest Service reports were ignored, leaving the deer herd destined for disaster.

When the range was all but destroyed, Mother Nature took care of the situation in a not-so-motherly manner -- MASS STARVATION.

Between 1906 and 1924, while the deer population was strictly protected, the herd mushroomed from 4,000 to 100,000. In the next six years 80,000 deer—80 percent of the population—starved. Before 1940 another 10,000 met the

same fate. The rest survived.

Approximately 90,000 deer had been protected to death.

If a choice had been offered, would these deer have taken a hunter's bullet or a swift attack of a mountain lion instead of months and even years of gnawing hunger ending in starvation?

This lesson should not be limited to deer. With a few modifications it can be applied to any game animals whether they be big game or small game, to any game birds whether they be pheasants, grouse, ducks or geese, or to any fish whether they be game fish or non-game fish. In fact, it can apply in its strictest meaning to every living thing on this earth.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"Here's a list," said Forester Pete --
 "Your forest resources -- complete.
 Now the elk, deer and bear
 We count by the pair;
 But the trees, we count by board feet!"

* * *

Senator Frank Church's Subcommittee on Public Lands will listen to government witnesses on the clear-cutting controversy at a hearing scheduled for May 7 in Washington. Conservation and industry spokesmen appeared before the subcommittee at hearings held early in April.

* * *

A South Carolina state representative has introduced a bill to require sterilization of women welfare recipients who have two or more children.

* * *

Velsicol Chemical Corporation says the company lost money during the last year because of the pesticide controversy. But it also says, "Velsicol has launched a vigorous domestic program aimed at increasing sales of Chlordane. While Chlordane belongs to the family of chlorinated hydrocarbons, it is less toxic in application and less persistent in the environment than others."

* * *

Alabama's attorney general has filed charges of air pollution against 13 industrial giants in Birmingham. The charges followed several days of critical air pollution during which the industries did not close down even when particulate matter reached levels of 607 micrograms per cubic meter - more than three times the 200 level considered critical by some authorities. The state official used an old public nuisance statute to enjoin the industries from further polluting the air rather than the existing state air pollution laws which he said were "worthless."

* * *

New Mexico pilots are being urged by the Department of Aviation to monitor air and water pollution through aerial photos. The photographs will be sent to the State Department of Health and Social Services for investigation.

* * *

Canada, which opposes the Alaskan pipeline, has asked for a meeting with federal officials in Washington. The Canadians fear widespread environmental damage from oil spills along the sea lanes of the West Coast.

* * *

The Powell, Wyoming, high school has approved a new course entitled Environmental Problems. The course will explore problems of the environment from both the natural science and social science aspects.

* * *

U. N. Population experts predict a total world population of 6.5 billion by the year 2000. It is estimated the world population in mid-1969 stood at 3.5 billion. Projected annual growth rates are set at 2 percent through 1985.

* * *

The associate dean of engineering at the University of Utah, Dr. Noel DeNevers, says the right of any person to select the size of his family is not compatible with the right "to a decent, clean and spacious world to live in . . . If we believe that infinite population growth is good, we must likewise conclude that solitude is bad and that privacy is bad and that pollution-free air and water are bad. Or we must conclude that they are expendable."

* * *

HCPC Praises Packwood

The Hells Canyon Preservation Council has praised Senator Robert W. Packwood of Oregon today for his unprecedented speech April 14 on the floor of the United States Senate. Shortly after the Senate reconvened from the Easter recess Wednesday, the Oregon solon spoke for more than 15 minutes, urging the Congress to ban construction of any more dams on the Middle Snake River and preserve intact the deepest gorge on earth. Hells Canyon on the Idaho-Oregon border is the world's deepest river canyon and is still much as it was when the Nez Perce Indians lived along its banks long before the time of Lewis and Clark. The last free-flowing stretch of the Middle Snake River, one of America's mightiest rivers, flows through the canyon and, in the Senator's words, "is threatened with extinction" by the Mountain Sheep-Pleasant Valley Dam Project of the Pacific Northwest Power Company and the Washington Public Power Supply System.

"We cannot speak too highly of Senator Packwood," said Pete Henault, newly designated President of the Hells Canyon Preservation Council, a national organization formed in 1967 for the purpose of preserving the canyon and river in its natural state. The group is headquartered at Idaho Falls, Idaho.

"Never before has a Congressman spoken out in such strong defense of this unique national treasure," said Henault. "Too many in Idaho and Oregon look at Hells Canyon as a local power or water resource, to be exploited for short-term,

monetary gain by those who live near it.

"But Hells Canyon is much more than that. It is a treasure unique in this world, belonging to the poor kids in Philadelphia and Boston who may never see it as well as to the local residents who fish its waters. We feel it is wrong for us here in Idaho to talk only amongst ourselves about sharing in the profits from development just as it would have been wrong for the people of Wyoming to tap the stream potential of Yellowstone for electrical power or the people of New York to tear down the Statue of Liberty to make room for a housing development.

"Treasures like Hells Canyon are found nowhere else on this planet and they should be preserved for all to enjoy and for future generations to know."

Henault noted that Senator Packwood had been doing a great deal in trying to save Hells Canyon since he first introduced the Council-authored Hells Canyon-Snake National River Bill a year ago last January. The Packwood bill, also sponsored in the House of Representatives by Congressman John Saylor of Pennsylvania, provides that a 120-mile stretch of the Middle Snake River and adjacent land areas in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington would be permanently protected from additional developments.

Henault said, "The Senator has supported the Council's action against the Idaho Water Resource Board and has asked the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the legality of the Board's decision to share in the profits of Middle Snake River Dams. Idaho law provides that

public hearings must be held by the Board before such decisions are made and to our knowledge there is no evidence that the Board complied with this law."

Henault noted that Packwood had met with the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, William Ruckelshaus; the President's Scientific Advisor, Russel Train, and Secretary of the Interior Morton on April 1 and had urged their support on steps to protect the area. The Senator also invited the three leaders of the Nixon Administration to join him in a float trip through the canyon next month.

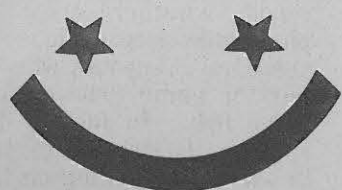
The Packwood bill has gained additional co-sponsors in the past two weeks. These include Sens. Birch Bayh of Ind., Jacob Javits of N. Y., Walter Mondale of Minn., Edward Kennedy of Mass., and George McGovern of S. D.

The Packwood bill would designate three administrative units to be managed under the U. S. Forest Service-Seven Devils, Imnaha, and Snake. Seven Devils would contain 314,000 acres of Nez Perce and Payette National Forest; Imnaha, 355,000 acres in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest; and 50,000 acres in the Snake District, running north for 36 miles. The bill would also provide \$40 million for improvement and development of a road from White Bird, Idaho to Pittsburg Landing and from Imnaha, Oregon to Dug Bar; \$10 million for development of recreational facilities; and \$10 million for land acquisition.



Photo by Anette Tussing

PANNING FOR GOLD. . Hank Miller of Wilderness Encounters, Inc., of Idaho Falls, Idaho, pans for gold along the banks of the Middle Snake River during a recent float trip through Hells Canyon, the world's deepest gorge.



Discover America.
 It's 3,000 smiles wide.

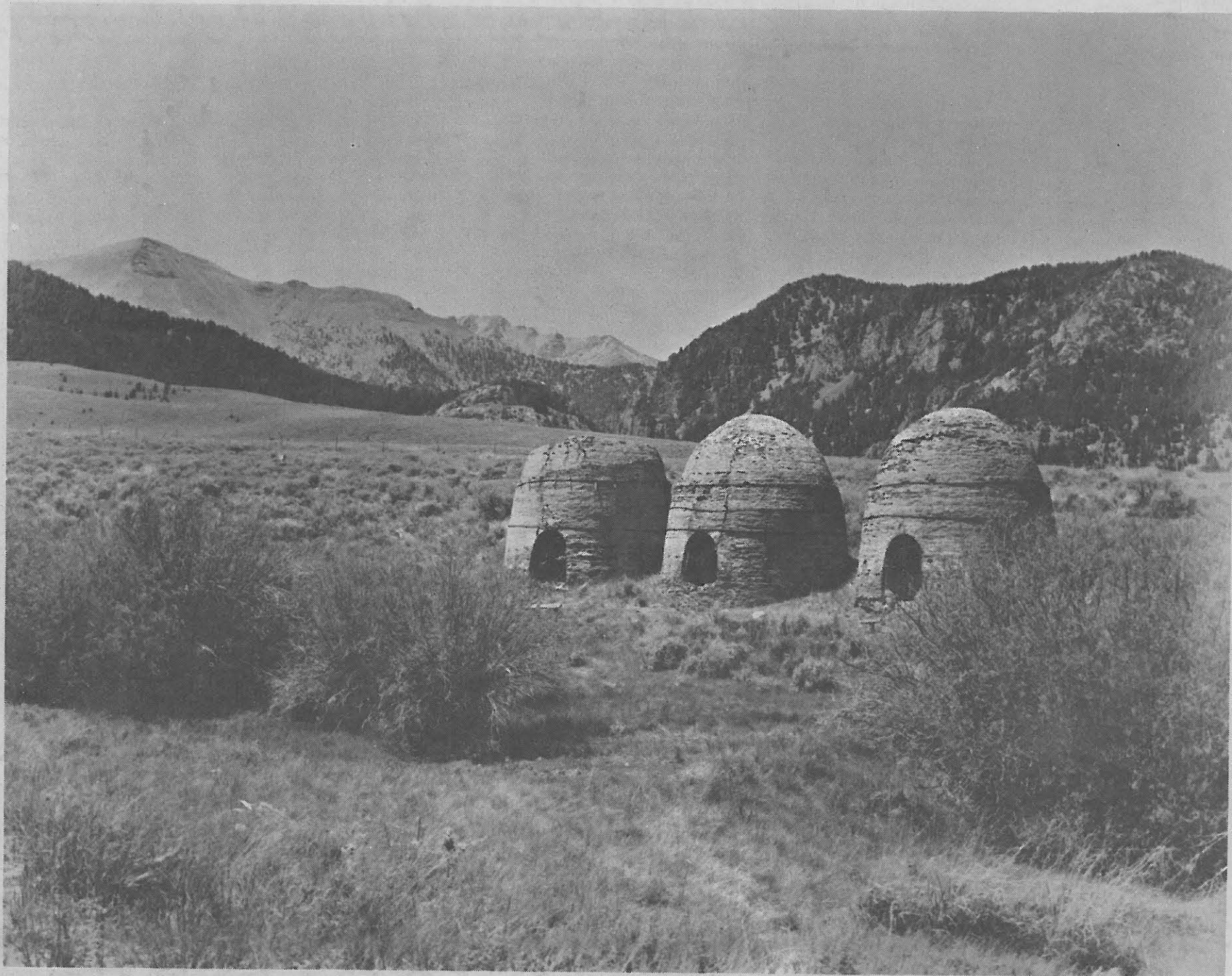


Photo by Idaho Dept. of Commerce and Development

IDAHO CHARCOAL KILNS. These are located along State Highway 28 on Birch Creek. They were used to make

charcoal for a smelter which was active from 1883 to 1889 at Nicholia, across the valley.

Historic Kilns Mark Era of By-gone Days

Off the main traveled highways, Idaho's byways lead to a land not only of unbelievable beauty but into a land of yesterday. Tucked away in mountain fastness where walk the ghosts of yesterday are mouldering ruins of metropolises when gold was king in Idaho.

There in the serenity of nature man can walk and explore the countryside, capturing . . . on film the vestiges remaining of what once was grandeur . . . in imagination reliving the rip-snorting days of mining booms . . . in reality poking around to rediscover the lore of a bygone era. Idaho is filled with just such places, if one but takes the time to visit them.

Stretching around the early-day centers of civilization, one often comes quickly upon a change in landscape . . . a mound sprinkled here and there. Some are covered with dirt . . . others tower twenty or more feet into the air -- all are kilns of a sort. It may have been a brick works, a pottery factory, an assay furnace or even a fuel manufacturer.

It is the latter ones which claim the most attention, and Idaho has two groups of near perfect charcoal kilns that remain in the west. The old rock kilns at Bayhorse lie north of Highway 93 about midway between Clayton and Challis. The best example of

old brick charcoal kilns are located near Highway 28 on Birch Creek about half-way between Mud Lake and Salmon.

The Birch Creek kilns were built about ten miles from the mining camp of Nicholia in what is now known as Coal Kiln Canyon. Many old-timers say that they figured it was easier to haul the charcoal than it was the wood.

These kilns are each about twenty feet in diameter as well as height with brick walls more than a foot deep which are well plastered with adobe, commonly called blue

clay in this area. Estimates lead one to believe that these massive structures hold from forty to fifty cords of wood. Reports indicate that they could be filled within a day's time, but that it took a full week for firing and cooling a single batch of charcoal. These kilns were built in 1883 for a Warren E. King and were used until the Nicholia smelter closed down in 1889.

Early day newspapers report that hundreds of woodsmen were employed to cut and snake the Douglas fir down to the kilns, and that most of the labor around the kilns were done by Chinese,

Italians and Irish. There is evidence around the kilns that many of these people lived next to their work . . . irrigation ditches lead to plots of ground that once were gardens . . . old graves amid the sagebrush have weathered headboards of carved plank and faded dates. Some recall that once there was a school house nearby.

For the adventuresome the canyons to the east and west give evidence that belies the stories that more than 40 open-pit kilns existed.

Old Harv Perkins had a contract with the Smelter

Company to haul the charcoal to the smelter. Harv used three teams of eight-horses each pulling a wagon loaded with 500 bushels of fuel. A round-trip was made each day. All would go well as long as the charcoal was cold, but a "hot load" called for quick dumping.

The last known use of the kilns was as a moonshiner's still during prohibition days.

Today the Birch Creek kilns are not only an historic spot where one can recapture the feel of yesterday but is maintained as a picnic and campgrounds by the Targ National Forest Service.

Reasearch May Increase Pheasants

LINCOLN, Nebr. -- Game farm hen pheasants have been taken to Cornhusker Special Use Area near Grand Island for use in an experiment testing a technique that may provide increased pheasant populations in areas of the state deficient in nesting habitat.

The project involves the placing of game farm hens with flight feathers removed in one-acre plots of alfalfa surrounded by a five-foot wire-mesh fence. The theory behind the program is that the hens will be bred by wild cocks and hatch their eggs inside the fence.

Then, about two weeks after the eggs hatch, the hens should have grown new flight feathers. By that time, the chicks should be old enough to clear the fence and leave with the hens.

Several things indicate that this method of propagation may work. One is the fact that game farm hens are more tolerant of overcrowding than wild hens. Wild hens often need more than one acre each for successful nesting, while breeding hens on game farms, where eggs are collected for artificial incubation, need only about 200

to 400 square feet.

Three pens will be stocked with 10, 20, and 40 hens, allowing slightly more than 4,000, 2,000, and 1,000 square feet per hen respectively. Each enclosure contains large watering devices and self-feeders, reducing care for the birds to a minimum.

If the experiment proves successful, it may provide an answer to the problem of declining pheasant numbers in areas of Nebraska where nesting cover has been lost to intensive agricultural practices. Over the years, much of the state's natural nesting cover has disap-

peared as farmers converted creek bottoms, weed patches, and idle acres to production of cash crops.

However, Game Commission researchers caution that several things could make the concept unworkable on a widespread basis in Nebraska. These factors might include lack of response of wild cocks to the penned hens, stress on hens and subsequent abandonment of nests due to overcrowding, loss of hens to predators, inability of chicks to leave the pen with the hen, and excessive cost in relation to birds produced.