

High Country

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

News

Vol. 3, No. 9

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, May 14, 1971

Wyoming Eagles Die Mysteriously

by Tom Bell

A tragedy involving America's symbol of freedom has struck in central Wyoming. Eleven bald eagles were found dead on the west end of Casper Mountain near Casper. In addition, five golden eagles were found dead and one that was partially paralyzed and near death.

Two high school students hiking in rugged Jackson Canyon ten miles southwest of Casper found 7 dead eagles on May 1. An extensive search the following day revealed 8 more dead eagles and the sick one. Still another dead bald eagle was discovered May 11 in another canyon 4 miles east of Jackson Canyon.

The sick and partially paralyzed golden eagle was taken to Jackson Hole by State Rep. John Turner. Turner is a Ph. D. candidate in ecology at the University of Michigan and an authority on eagles. He reports that the eagle is satisfactorily recovering and flew almost a mile on May 12.

Bart Rea, a member of the Murie Audubon Society at Casper, told High Country News that 13 of the dead birds had been sent to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife lab at Laurel, Md. Four of the birds have been analyzed and the organs sent to the Denver, Colo., lab for further testing. In addition, some of the birds may be sent to other laboratories for more extensive testing.

Tests conducted so far have eliminated DDT, mercury, disease, or gunshot wounds as the cause of death. The tests have also shown that a fluorescent tracer used by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1080 and other poisons is not

(Please turn to page 15.)



Thermopolis, Wyoming has been chosen as the site of Wyoming's Third Environmental Congress to be held during May 1972. The setting will be Hot Springs State Park. Here, the mineralized terraces and the top of the large bathhouse are shown. The Bighorn River flows by in the foreground.

Water and Land Problems Discussed at Wyoming Meet

David Dominick, Commissioner of the Federal Water Quality Administration and a Wyoming resident, told the Second Wyoming Environmental Congress that Wyoming has the purest and least defiled waters of any state or territory under his jurisdiction. But he also said Wyoming was going to have to work hard to keep its waters at such a high-quality level.

Dominick, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Public Lands, Harrison Loesch, and a number of other outstanding speakers appeared at the one-day environmental meeting at Casper on May 1. The Congress is sponsored in the public interest by the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council. The Council is made up of a number of outdoor and civic-minded citizen groups.

Dominick told the meeting of over 300 concerned citizens and public officials that without the persistence and attention of citizens, government cannot do the job of cleaning up the environment. He called the attention of Wyoming people to five areas where he thought they should take action. He said Wyoming's water quality standard includes the so-called antidegradation clause (Section 14) which will allow Wyoming's water to be degraded unless citizens insist upon the most advanced water pollution treatment.

Speaking on the problems of salinity control, Dominick said there was need for more study and solicited citizen support in calling the attention of the state to the problem. He said, "We will have to look very closely at any new, proposed irrigation developments for their impact on salinity problems."

The State of Wyoming is proposing a number

of new irrigation projects in the Green River Basin where salinity problems are critical. The irrigation projects are in conjunction with proposals to build a dam or dams on the Upper Green River. The Green River provides some of the freshest water in the Colorado River System which is suffering dangerously high salt levels. Dominick's remarks may have been aimed at this situation.

Dominick said Wyoming needed to upgrade water quality standards and state legislation. He said citizens should look closely at both the standards and the waters to which they apply. He said he thought there was a need for standards to cover all waters of the state and not just those waters which flow across state lines. He said there would soon be hearings on the 1899 Refuse Act and called for citizen participation.

Wyoming state officials probably felt shock when Dominick called for a state wild or scenic river system. He said that state versus federal control of water was an explosive issue and intimated that the state should move on the issue before the federal government did. Again, he may have been referring directly to the Upper Green River which was one of the original six rivers in the United States proposed for wild river designation. He also said Wyoming needed to designate recreational use of water as a beneficial use.

Finally, Dominick said citizens should read and learn of their responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act. He said the act gives access to information which was vital if citizens were to responsibly participate in decision making.

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Photo by Charles W. Smith

It's Spring and the herons have returned to the rookery near Lander to renew the cycle of life. These large, ungainly birds build their nests in the tops of big, cottonwood trees along the river bottoms.

Friday, May 14, 1971

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

The U. S. Forest Service is under massive verbal attack. I have been in the forefront of those of who have held the Service up for criticism. It hasn't been easy. If my love for game animals had not been an Nth degree stronger than my love for trees, I would have trained to be a forester. My admiration and respect for the rank and file of the men who wear the uniform is undiminished.

But something has happened to the Service. Through no fault of most of the men who man the ranger districts and the supervisor's offices, a chain of events has involved them all. They are the men closest to the woods. That is where accusing fingers point to the catastrophes that have happened on the land.

Circumstances beyond the control of any one man have brought us to this sorry state. It is true that there are a few men who could have guided the destiny of the Forest Service with more skill and acumen than was displayed. Foremost among them I would list Chief of the Forest Service Ed Cliff and the hierarchy which surrounds him. But without actually occupying their shoes, it is difficult to know and judge the pressures which helped to shape their thinking. Certainly, if there had been counterpressure from citizens earlier in time, the woods would not be in the shape they now are.

Nevertheless, the policies of Chief Cliff and his staff are in discredit. I can imagine the anguish of many young men in the Service whose dedication is to better land management. They can see and feel the discredit being extended even to them and yet they are helpless.

It is time for a change of direction from the top. Surely Chief Cliff and most of his staff have served long enough, and are now eligible for retirement. Into their place should come some of the bright new thinkers. And amongst these new men should be not only the trained foresters but the men of other disciplines who can bring a balance to the top management level. After all, forests are noted for values and products other than lumber and pulp.

Along with a change in direction at the top of the Service should come a change in emphasis on the funding of Forest Service activities. That has to come from Congress. And that is where we as citizens should come in. Only if we let our congressional delegations know how we feel about funding for environmental planning, recreation, fish and wildlife, watershed, wilderness management, and others can we expect the appropriations to get the job done.

Timbering has been too much of a good thing for too long. It is time to put the emphasis back on the land itself rather than just the wood crop that could be taken at the least cost and the most profit. There is no doubt that a change of direction is going to reduce what is euphemistically termed "allowable cut." (In many cases, it can be called rape.) But to continue the policy is to court disaster. It can only end as it did at Dubois, Wyoming, where the woods were stripped for too long, and where allowable cut was realistically reduced by 92 percent.

Meanwhile, back on the districts we can point to the good things being done by the men of the Service and commend them for their efforts. As a whole, they are dedicated public servants. They are doing good things under trying circumstances, and attempting to work with all the public in getting them done.

Management plans on some of the districts and in some of the forests of Wyoming are far ahead of the national commitment to better land use. It has come about because the public has insisted that a better job be done on the ground, and there were men ready and able to do our bidding.

If I could make a plea, it would be not to lose confidence in the integrity and ability of the rank and file in Forest Service to do a good job for us. They can do it if we give them the money, the means and the direction.

Hopefully, the strong criticism of the misapplication of clearcutting will be a beneficial purgative.



Land Use and Wildlife

A 262 - page book entitled "Land Use and Wildlife Resources" has been published by the National Academy of Sciences, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The new publication contains excellent evaluations of the interrelations of agricultural land-use and the protection and production of wildlife and other natural resources. It examines areas of apparent conflict between the objectives of agriculture and wildlife management with consideration given to what might be done to solve some of the problems. From the

viewpoint that many critical problems of wildlife are involved with the extent and quality of aquatic habitats, wetlands are discussed as they are affected by land-use practices.

Contributing authors included Sanford Atwood, Durward Allen, Stanford Fertig, William Giles, Donald Harvey, Ralph Hill, Daniel Leedy, Emmett Pinnell, Edward Smith, and Gustav Swanson. The book is available from the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C. 20418 for \$6.95.



The southern end of the Wind River Mountains can be seen in this early Spring photo from Blue Ridge in the Shoshone National Forest. The proposed Popo Agie Wilderness Area will extend to the vicinity of the high peaks in the background.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

I am not against all dams. I can understand that when a private individual builds a dam on his own property, using his own money, and backing water on his own land only, with all this for his own use OK. If it fits his situation and does this individual some good, more power to him.

I am not against the Federal government building a worth while, money making dam for hydro electric power or irrigation that has been completely planned out, found to be reasonable in all respects and has a vote of approval from all the local citizens involved - then and only then this is fine.

However if any individual or local group of individuals continue to get government funds to dam up water on land they do not own, against the wishes of the majority of the

local citizens just for their own personal gain - then this is nothing more or less than a blood sucking welfare case.

If the shoe fits wear it.

Keep up the good work Tom Bell & Company. I enjoy your paper. Please renew my subscription.

Jon Flamming
Tyndall, So. Dak.



EDITOR:

I enjoyed reading Verne Huser's column, "The Wide World," in the last issue of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS. Some of your readers will want to know that "Encounters With the Archdruid," by John McPhee, will be published in book form in August by Farrar and Strauss.

Mr. Huser repeated an error which Mr. McPhee made in the THE NEW YORKER series. Dave Brower is not the founder of the John Muir Institute for Environmental Studies (JMI); that honor belongs to Max Linn of Albuquerque. Mr. Linn is president of JMI and vice-president and treasurer of Friends of the Earth (FOE). Mr. Brower is founder of Friends of the Earth and co-founder, with

Marion Edey, of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV).

JMI is tax deductible. I assumes that the conservationists's cause is good and his heart is in the right place, but that he deserves better information. FOE, not tax-deductible, rejoins that the researcher's cause is good, his head in the right place, but that unless we act now on what he already knows, he may never complete his studies. LCV mobilizes support for political candidates with outstanding conservation records who face close election races. Working together, complementing each other, properly separating funds and combining their efforts, the three, along with other organizations, try to get new things accomplished.

If your readers would like to know more about the three organizations, they should contact me.

Sincerely,
Dale Jones
Northwest Coordinator, FOE
1624 East McGraw
Seattle, Wash. 98102



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Published bi-weekly at 140 North Seventh Street, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Tel. 1-307-332-4877. Copyright 1970 by Camping News Weekly, Inc. Entered as Second Class Matter, August 26, 1969, at the Post Office in Lander, Wyoming, under the Act of March 3, 1897.

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Subscription rate \$10.00

Single copy rate 35¢

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by John Pastier

Times Architecture Critic

The following guest editorial was reprinted from a copyrighted article in the LOS ANGELES TIMES, May 2, 1971.

After a brief cease-fire, the war on the environment is being openly resumed. Barely a year after the first Earth Day, the polluters, land exploiters, bureaucrats, special interests and growth fanatics are back to business as usual.

They no longer feel obliged to pay lip service to "ecology," and make little attempt to conceal their dislike for "whimpering environmentalists," "citizen ecologists," and "Chicken-Little emotionalists." Last year's sacred cows are quickly becoming this year's dirty words.

Even some allies seem to be wavering. The latest issue of the American Institute of Architects' Journal tells us in capital letters that "too much ecology can be a bad thing." Clearly, the struggle to make or break the environment is in a phase of escalation.

Fortunately, environmentalists are adjusting their strategy. Previously they have relied on a policy that could be called guerrilla warfare—opposing individual outrages such as ill-conceived freeways, intercontinental jetports, bay and mountain landfills and even misguided city plans.

The problem with this approach is that even with 100% success (a figure never approached in reality), very little is accomplished. Deferring mistakes is the net result, and few victories are permanent.

Clearly, what needs to be fought is the system that permits outrageous proposals to be made and carried out in the normal course of events.

California Tomorrow, a 10-year-old group of planners and conservationists, has taken a bold first step in this direction. They have prepared in skeleton form a plan for the future development of California as an alternative to the present course of piecemeal decision-making and project planning.

Actually, the state itself was supposed to prepare such a plan. The effort was authorized by the Legislature in 1959, and more than \$4 million was spent for that purpose over the succeeding decade.

The final product was not a comprehensive plan for the future development of the state, as the Legislature intended, but instead was a lengthy, impressively printed document that discussed aspects of state development and recommended that some planning studies be initiated.

When this planning illusion was released, California Tomorrow was one of the few organizations aware of its existence. Noting the event in their journal, "Cry California," they were both disappointed and incensed at such an inconclusive conclusion to the state planning program.

Later, after satisfying themselves that the state would plan no further, California Tomorrow decided that the only way to get a state plan would be to prepare it themselves.

Of course, our governor has long felt that private enterprise is more effective than government, but this seemed to be carrying things too far. How could a group composed largely of amateurs having a budget of \$50,000 do in roughly a year what the state could not do in 10 years while spending 80 times as much money?

My strong personal skepticism was proven incorrect by their first published report.

"The California Tomorrow Plan-A First Sketch" is a document worthy of broad exposure. (It can be obtained for \$1 from California Tomorrow, 681 Market St., San Francisco 94105). It seeks to identify and deal with the causes of California's environmental problems and to relate them to social and economic factors as well.

It attempts to treat those problems as systematically and comprehensively as possible. The policies and actions recommended are not inflexible "blueprints." They are intended for discussion and revision where possible.

Transcending any specific proposals in the sketch plan is a general philosophy dealing with quality of life and levels of amenity. Our present system defines "the good life" as a collection of possessions bought to bring happiness.

Each new electric bacon fryer, remote vacation home, whirlpool bath attachment or fourth family car is advertised as another necessary and measureable step toward fulfillment.

Consumer Delights

What presently passes for planning in California operates on the same principle. Uncoordinated projects are promoted as giant consumer delights, whether they be overdeveloped state parks, concrete drainage channels, shopping centers or \$1.5 billion water transfer schemes.

The sketch plan sees quality of life in more honest terms. Under its proposals, amenity would be a generally existing quality built into normal life, not something to be bought and sold.

The cities and the countryside would provide the high degrees of satisfaction that are either threatened at present or have already been destroyed. Living would take priority over consuming.

Shift of Power

Of course, an outlook such as this is potentially subversive to the more questionable aspects of our present way of life. It presupposes a shift of political power from bureaucracies and special interests to "the people."

Indeed, if it were not being proposed by some of the wealthier, more established, and more influential people in California, there might be reason for alarm in some circles.

The California Tomorrow sketch plan begins by describing the status quo, referred to as "California Zero." It then sketches out two possible futures - California One, the result of following current policies and trends, and California Two, their vision of what good state planning could accomplish.

Needless to say, California One will leave much to be desired, since it will be a relatively random combination of advances and (more often) setbacks arising from our present system of patchwork problem-solving.

'Driving Policies'

The details of California Two can best be alluded to by describing its main principles, called "driving policies" in the sketch plan.

The first is to "develop a framework for settlement." Such a framework would combine policies of urban development with those of (pardon the discredited expression) ecology.

The state would be divided into four major zones - Agricultural, conservation, urban, and regional reserves. The first two would permit construction only at very low densities and under strict controls.

Urban zones would include land already so developed, as well as land not in the first two categories that is suitable for future urbanization. Regional reserves are the lands remaining. Their use would be left to the decision of regional planning agencies and governmental bodies.

Air and water quality standards, pesticide control and open space standards would be developed under this policy, as would an "infrastructure plan" providing for movement of people, goods, water, wastes, energy, and information.

The second policy is to "establish new patterns of consumption." It includes a program to stabilize population. (This would still allow a 50% increase over the next 30 years; stabilization would take strongest effect after that.)

There would be a system of taxes, fees and fines to limit the unwise consumption of natural resources. Land would be taxed according to use rather than development potential, thus reducing the pressures for premature development or rebuilding.

Significant fines would be levied against polluters, and interbasin water transfers would be limited. Natural methods of climate control would be substituted for resource-consuming mechanical ones wherever possible, and urban rehabilitation would be stressed rather than development.

Welcome Innovation

The last two policies go beyond the conventional scope of planning. The previous lack of such policies is what has crippled American planning efforts in the past, so their inclusion is a welcome innovation.

They are to "guarantee economic sufficiency," and to "guarantee political participation."

The first would include a beneficial public works program to substitute for present efforts that provide employment but harm the environment. It would include, for example, construction of a north-south high speed ground transportation line that would not only link established urban areas, but would serve a series of planned new towns as well.

An income floor would be established on a statewide basis, and a planning-programming-budgeting system would be instituted for each region to assure more effective public expenditures.

Public Control

Broader political participation would include public control over state development policy through an 11-member state planning council. Regional governments would be formed to deal with regional problems, and political campaigns would be subsidized and regulated to minimize the effects of personal wealth and special interests.

The sketch plan was formally unveiled and lengthily debated at a well-attended two-day conference sponsored last month in San Francisco by California Tomorrow. Like all such conferences, the discussion produced abundant chaff; unlike most, however, it also brought out much of value.

There was criticism that hit significant targets and which was welcomed by the sponsors. In fact, Alfred Heller, the organization's president, was genuinely upset that specific criticism was not as abundant as he had hoped for.

There were justified charges that the plan included proposals that could prove harmful to the poor, minorities, and "counterculture" groups. There was also private doubt expressed over the propriety and efficacy of the proposed regional governments.

These criticisms should not prove fatal to the plan, for unlike most "official" efforts its purpose is not to dictate to the public but to be strengthened by such comments.

As an implicit tribute to the plan's substance, one conference participant submitted a 15,000 word written critique that he called "California 2-1/2."

If it can be improved as it is brought into its later states (remember that it is called a first sketch), the plan can very possibly have a beneficial impact upon the real world. Dean Harvey Perloff of the UCLA planning school, a member of the task force that produced the plan, sees the document as a reinterpretation of three significant American movements—conservation, city planning, and a drive for equity (encompassing such issues as tax reform, minority rights, and socially oriented public works).

He points out that the city planning movement had historically regressed into a defense of property rights through zoning and failed to seriously attempt to create a good urban environment.

Some Political Interest

Perhaps this plan can become a catalyst to bring these movements together. Some political interest has already been shown, but the major task ahead will be to involve a broad range of people in its future phases.

So far, most of the impetus has come from Northern California - a problem that can be attributed in some degree to mild provincialism on the part of northerners, but more to apathy on the part of southerners. Besides involving the lower half of the state, there is also a necessity to gain the active allegiance of other organizations such as the Sierra Club, the American Institute of Planners, and (unless they really do believe that "too much ecology can be a bad thing"), the American Institute of Architects.

Starting from such an augmented base, public involvement can gradually be expanded while the content of the plan is refined. It is well worth the effort, because the struggle for a livable state will become more difficult in the future and cannot be successful if fought only on a piecemeal basis.



Guest Editorial



The following is reprinted as a guest editorial so that our readers may see how others view us. The author, Bert Thurber, writes a regular column entitled *On My Farm* in the *Montana Stockman Farmer*. In reprinting his remarks, *High Country News* certainly does not ascribe to all of his contentions. But as a rural landowner, he does have some very valid criticisms of the actions of SOME people who do use our land as a dumping ground and who do think the farmer and rancher needs an unlimited supply of dogs and cats. Thurber speaks for a good many responsible STEWARDS of the lands they own, just as we speak for a good many responsible "ecologists." But he cannot presume to speak for a number of landowners who live in rural slums by choice, abuse the land, litter and dump as badly as any sad human could, and could care less about the whole bit. Neither do we "ecologists" pretend to speak for all of the slobs that we know litter the land, dump their garbage and offal on any site, drive indiscriminately over any lands under any conditions, destroy the heritage of America the Beautiful, and could care less about the whole bit. We respect the Thurbers and we join hands with them in working to make our country whole and aesthetically pleasing once more.

The Editor.

By BERT THURBER

THE NEWS these days is full of references to pollution, "clean air," "preserve our resources," "ecology," etc., etc.

I guess the fact is that to some extent we are guilty of pollution. I suppose an ecological group could conduct a "sniff test," and when riding through the fresh, green countryside, occasionally detect an offensive odor. Anyway, I suppose it would be classified as offensive to some.

And if some enterprising, young ecologist wanted to, he could no doubt take water samples from the headwaters of the Sun River, high in the mountains, and other samples further downstream and prove beyond doubt that the farther downstream their source, the dirtier the water got. And I suppose that proof could be obtained that some of the "pollutants" came from agriculture.

Since the word agriculture means to cultivate the land, if there is land or soil in the water, we're guilty. I guess a little fertilizer — nitrate, or phosphate — might be found in the water; or after a cow grazed near the stream, something even worse might be found. So okay, we're guilty — we pollute!

But now how does Mister Ecological John Q. Public treat our rural, agricultural domain? Where does he keep his cigarette packs, beer cans, pop bottles, garbage sacks, old tires, car bodies, or other refuse he may no longer need? I'll tell you where he keeps them. In our fields, along our roads, in our borrow pits, in our ravines and coulees, where the ensuing gunk drains back to pollute his pure water supply; and we get blamed for it!

As I drove to town this morning, I counted four different sacks of beer cans that had been discarded in our borrow pits in the seven-mile trip to town. Every year, for the past 10 or 12, the local 4-H Club has "cleaned ditches" — in other words, picked the garbage out of the borrow pits throughout the community. Every year club members get about two, two-ton dump trucks full of pollutants in a 3-mile stretch, all left by our city cousins, who are accusing us of polluting their domain.

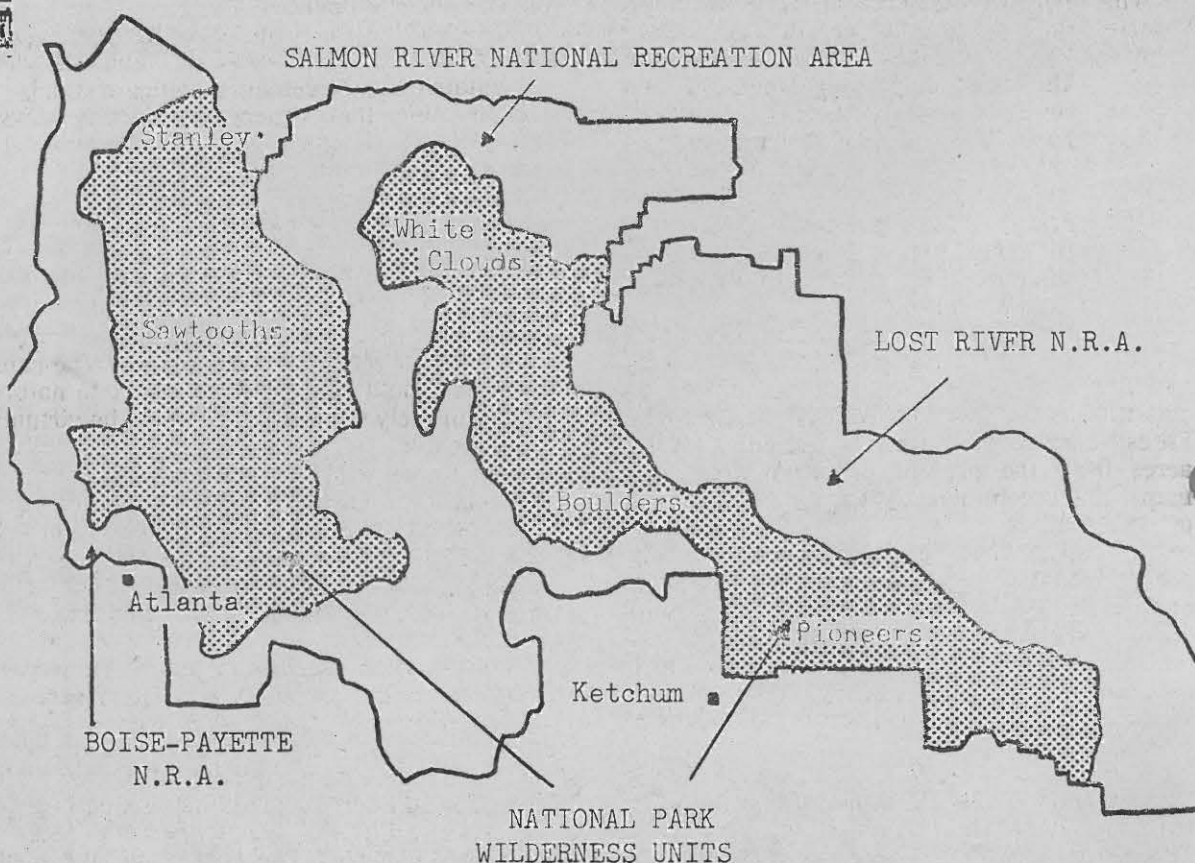
What would happen if when one of our old trucks gave out, we towed it into town and left it on somebody's lawn, or if when our old cow was no longer useful, we took her for a ride and "dropped her off" in a nice residential area hoping someone would take her in? Yet every year our community collects old car bodies, dogs, cats, and anything else the city folks didn't want. "Take it out in the country" seems to be the answer to their disposal problems.

So, what do we do about this? I don't know. I've considered writing a letter to the editor of our city paper, but haven't. I'm open to suggestions on how to solve this problem. If your community has an answer, why not write in, and maybe you can help some of us who don't have the answers.

I agree that the task of farming the land, feeding the cattle, milking the cows, and growing the crops to feed this nation is not 100 per cent efficient. We do have some refuse, which may cause some pollution from fields, feed lots, and dairies; but through our efforts we also manage to feed the country. Those who pollute our environment with their garbage accomplish no useful purpose for us. They only degrade our countryside and mar the beauty of our communities.

When the ecologists meet and start to condemn agriculture, I think we should stand up and point our fingers and yell foul!

National Park Proposed



Idaho conservationists are greatly concerned over the latest congressional moves to protect the Sawtooth, White Clouds, Boulder, and Pioneer Mountains. The Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council, the Idaho Environmental Council and other groups were hoping action would be taken on proposals for a combination national park-national recreation area (see map). Instead, the four members of the congressional delegation have introduced a new national recreation area bill.

As conservationists see it, the NRA bill will effectively eliminate any chance of obtaining national park status for the alpine regions of this scenic wonderland. They feel that without the protection of a national park, the White Clouds particularly are laid wide-open to the open-pit mining now threatened there.

Basically, the conservation proposal calls for a national park-national recreation area complex of 1.3 million acres. Included are national park units totalling 563,000 acres. The national recreation area units would total 825,000 acres. The feeling is that the long-range, overall protection of wilderness, wildlife, and recreation values would be best achieved by such a complex.

The national recreation area bill leaves much to be desired. According to the Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council, the bill would provide for:

- a Forest Service administered NRA, thus preserving the empire and continuing the multiple use business-as-usual.
- a 5-year moratorium on new mining claims.

Old claims such as the 300 or more that blanket

the Little Boulder Creek Basin in the White Clouds are not affected.

- wilderness status for the present Sawtooth Primitive Area, now in the final stages of creation anyway. This is considered a useful but rather cheap bit of window dressing.

- a Park Service study by 1973 which would be required to justify, in great detail, the need for and the impact of a national park. A park master plan could have been requested at any time during the last few years, without legislation, by any member of the delegation. Governor Cecil Andrus has just made such a request, which should be finished by July of this year.

- special use permits for the exercise of existing valid claims, with special language used to ensure the creation of those scenic corollaries of open-pit mining — roads, processing mills, waste disposal dumps, and tailings ponds.

The Idaho conservationists are determined that the national park-national recreation area proposal be given serious consideration. The Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council has pledged all of its resources to fight the current legislation and protect the area from mining and overdevelopment. They need your help. They need funds for publications, mailings, and a possible television campaign.

Memberships in the GSPC may be mailed to Box 1156, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401.

In addition, concerned citizens can write their own congressmen and request no consideration of the national recreation area bill. You can also express your views on the larger proposals to protect the entire Sawtooth complex.



Photo by Ernie Day

Bighorn sheep roam the Whitecloud Mountains of Idaho.



Voices Needed on Sawtooth Wilderness Area

The Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho are aptly named. Jagged, granite peaks soar above hundreds of alpine lakes. The headwaters of some of the most important steelhead and salmon streams are located here.

Carved out of the Boise, Challis and Sawtooth National Forests in this great mountain range is a 205,172-acre primitive area. The original Sawtooth Primitive Area was established by the U. S. Forest Service in 1937. Recent hearings on the reclassification of the area have been held in Boise and at Sun Valley.

The U. S. Forest Service recommends that 185,368 acres of the Sawtooth Primitive Area, together with 13,902 contiguous acres, be classified as the Sawtooth Wilderness Area. The Forest Service recommends excluding 19,804 acres from the present primitive area (see map). The recommendation is for a wilderness of 199,270 acres.

An important and precedent-setting recommendation has been made by the Forest Service for the Sawtooth Wilderness proposal - the immediate withdrawal from mineral entry of all lands within this wilderness area upon passage of the bill adding the Sawtooth Wilderness to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Under the existing Wilderness Act, all Forest Service units within the wilderness system are open to mineral claims and patents until 1984. This move by the Forest Service is an important step toward closing that loophole in the Wilderness Act which could lead to the destruction of some wilderness areas by mining.

State and national conservation groups have gotten together in recommending a somewhat larger, 225,000-acre Sawtooth Wilderness. The conservation groups strongly support the recommended additions of the Forest Service (areas 1 through 6 on the map). They disagree in the recommendation that areas A, B, C, D, and E

be left out of wilderness.

The North Fork of the Boise River (area A), the Queens River (area B), and Greylock Mountain (area C) contain significant stands of yellow pine that deserve protection. These magnificent forests form an important and somewhat different ecosystem within the total Sawtooth Wilderness. The remainder is largely comprised of more barren country with high-altitude species of trees.

An old road and miner's cabin exist in area E. It is felt this important segment of the drainage of the South Fork of the Payette River should be included in the wilderness. The cabin and road could be allowed to revert to nature, and ultimately their presence would be virtually unnoticeable.

The Forest Service wishes to exclude area D but conservationists urge that the end of Pettit Lake be retained in wilderness. The relatively short hike from the end of the existing road, along the north shore of the lake, does not justify any further intrusion into the wilderness for purposes of access.

Conservationists recommend two important additions to the proposed wilderness (areas 7 and 8 on the map). Area 7 takes in the upper end of Redfish Lake. It would approximate 400 acres and involve less than a quarter of the total lake area. The addition would retain this small part of the lake adjoining the wilderness free of motorized intrusion. The rest of the lake would remain open for motorboating. Access to the upper end of the lake would be little affected.

Wilderness designation for this small segment of the lake would also assure some non-motorized recreational boating opportunities not currently available in any of the valley lakes adjacent to the Sawtooth Mountains.

The Hanson Lakes-Upper Trail Creek addition includes approximately 6,000 acres. The area has enough significant wilderness characteristics to justify adding it to the Sawtooth Wilderness. An old road up Stanley Creek to the abandoned Greenback Mine can be closed and provision made to acquire the abandoned claims.

Governor Cecil Andrus has sided with the conservation groups in saying there is no reason to exclude areas of the original primitive area from designation as wilderness.

The hearing record on the wilderness proposal will remain open until June 3, 1971. It is important that citizen comment be made. It is especially important that the Forest Service receive maximum support for its bold step toward truly protecting the proposed wilderness from mining. Given enough citizen support on this proposal, the Forest Service might continue the practice of recommending withdrawal from mineral entry for all subsequent wilderness reviews. **YOUR VOICE IS VITALLY IMPORTANT ON THIS PRECEDENT SETTING MATTER.**

Mail your letters to the Regional Forester, Federal Building, 324 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401, with the request that your letter be made a part of the hearing record.

Air Pollutants Are Explained

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed National air quality standards for the six classes of pollutants on January 30, 1971 and invited comments at that time. The pollutants are:

SULFUR OXIDES -- Sulfur oxides come primarily from the combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels. Their presence has been associated with the increased incidence of respiratory diseases, increased death rates, and property damage.

PARTICULATE MATTER -- Particulate matter, either solid or liquid, may originate in nature or as a result of industrial processes and other human activities. By itself or in association with other pollutants, particulate matter may injure the lungs or cause adverse effects elsewhere in the body. Particulates also reduce visibility and contribute to property damage and soiling.

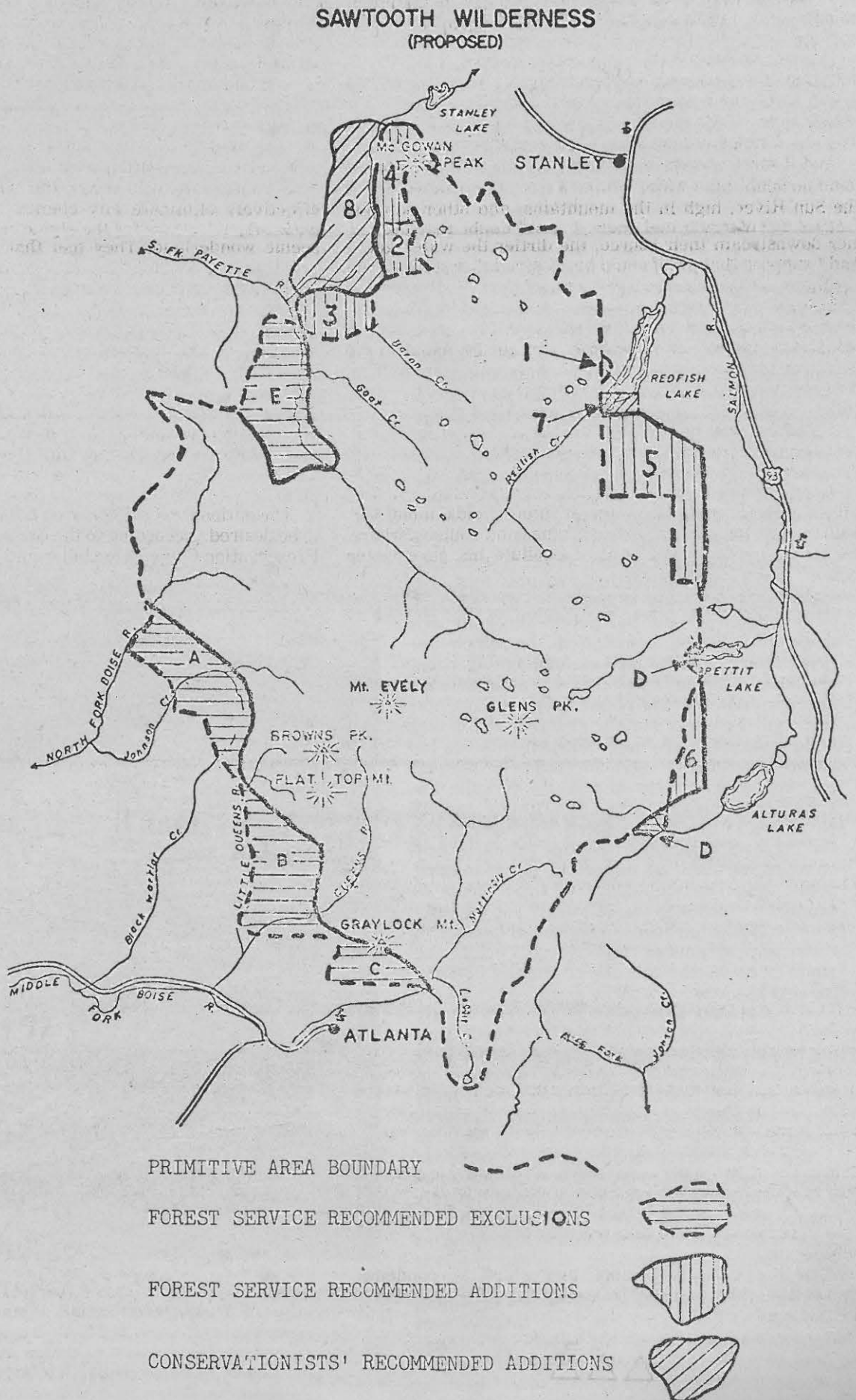
CARBON MONOXIDE -- Carbon monoxide is a by-product of the incomplete burning of carbon-containing fuels and of some industrial processes. It decreases the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood and, at levels often found in city air, may impair mental processes.

PHOTOCHEMICAL OXIDANTS -- Photochemical oxidants are produced in the atmosphere when reactive organic substances, chiefly hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides are exposed to sunlight. Photochemical oxidants irritate mucous membranes, reduce resistance to respiratory infection, damage plants, and contribute to the deterioration of materials.

HYDROCARBONS -- Hydrocarbons in the air come mainly from the processing, marketing and use of petroleum products. Some of the hydrocarbons combine with nitrogen oxides in the air to form photochemical oxidants. The hydrocarbons standards, therefore, are for use as a guide in devising implementation plans to achieve the oxidant standards.

NITROGEN OXIDES -- Nitrogen oxides usually originate in high temperature combustion processes. The presence of nitrogen dioxide in the air has been associated with a variety of respiratory diseases. Nitrogen dioxide is essential in the natural production of photochemical oxidant.

The Environmental Protection Agency is examining other pollutants to determine whether any may be covered by future air quality standards.



The Bolle Statement on Clearcutting

The following statement was made by Dr. Arnold Bolle, Dean of the Montana University School of Forestry at Missoula, to the Senate Interior Subcommittee hearing on public land management in Washington on April 5, 1971. Dr. Bolle explained and elaborated upon the report which he and others made at the request of Senator Lee Metcalf. For the benefit of our readers, the summary statement of findings in the Bolle Report is reprinted on page 7.

My name is Arnold W. Bolle. I am the Dean of the School of Forestry at the University of Montana in Missoula.

I wish to authenticate the report, "A University View of the Forest Service," prepared under my direction for this Committee. At the request of Senator Lee Metcalf, I selected six members from the University of Montana faculty whose knowledge and experience in my judgment best qualified them for the task. We represent neither the University of Montana nor the School of Forestry as such, but speak only as a Select Committee of the University of Montana.

The Report was prepared by us and is based upon our considered evaluation of our findings in the case. We take full personal and professional responsibility for the Report. I appear here today representing the members of our committee. We feel that we have a responsibility to aid in every way we can to work toward improved public land management. We intend to do so. Our aim today is to offer possible solutions and needed courses of action.

In our Report we pointed out a number of present problems and inadequacies of public land management. Our Report on the Bitterroot National Forest in southwestern Montana criticized the U.S. Forest Service for its overriding concern with timber production in the decision process, for the use of uneconomic systems of timber harvesting, and for a general lack of concern for aesthetic and non-timber values. We pointed out the need for a far greater research effort as well as increased money and manpower to do a quality job. We do not believe that these are likely to be effective until there is a studied change in the bureaucratic structure of the organization.

We found serious weakness in the fundamental assumptions of professional forestry — assumptions that prevail in the face of profound shifts in the American public's values and goals. To paraphrase Professor William A. Duerr, Chairman of the Department of Forest Economics at the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, "The subculture of forestry is out of step with American culture. We haven't made the necessary changes." Our Committee found that the Forest Service, in making professional assumptions, and in responding to Congressional budget signals, had overweighted commodity values and underweighted amenity values.

The agencies and the public generally are unclear as to the assumptions on which appropriations to public land management agencies are based. The de facto basis of Forest Service appropriations is the dollar income from the National Forests, mainly from timber, and budget increases are made with stipulations for harvest increases. These increases in harvest are "explained" lately on what we consider the unrealistic projections of timber needs developed in the Mayo report. The direction of the Forest Service thus becomes primarily one of supplying building materials, not managing public lands on the ability of those lands to produce a wide array of commodity and amenity values. This policy leads to serious imbalance of resource programs on the National Forests and tends to encourage the use of simple, blanket, harvest systems.

We see land management agencies overly restricted in terms of the specific results they are to achieve with specific appropriations. This may not describe the case as Members of Congress see it. But we believe it does accurately describe the case as many public land managers encounter it.

Congress needs to specify explicitly the broad management program it expects on public lands — and in existing statutes, it can be legitimately argued, Congress has done a fairly good job of it. But now Congress needs to confirm those policies with adequate appropriations in broad program form.

The agencies, we think, are quickly becoming sensitive to the need for a land management program that recognizes the increasing value of amenity resources. But they can respond only to appropriations allocated to them. Well-meaning

policy pronouncements are no match for a budgetary emphasis on commodity production. How has this state of affairs come about?

For Congress, certainly, is equally aware of the political importance of the environmental issue today. It is no trivial matter or passing fancy. But legislative efforts so far have been primarily in the area of pollution control, and not much attention has been paid to the environmental consequences of public land management. Today's hearings, of course, are a very appropriate exception. Not much Congressional attention has been directed at public land management. And still less has been directed at broad-program appropriations.

The public land management situation could be improved, we think, by providing the agencies with broad program funding to match their broad statutory latitude. This would help immensely, but there are several other dimensions of the problem that call for simultaneous improvement. These dimensions have to do with the professional assumptions and bureaucratic organization I mentioned earlier.

The agencies have developed a philosophy of intensive forest management based upon assumptions that are best characterized as unrealistic. For example, appropriations largely have been tied to income from timber. This leads directly to the assumption that the goal which Congress honors most is lumber produced. And the Mayo Report, in urging that lumber supplies were responsible for a housing scarcity, reinforces some old professional spectres of timber famine. The housing problem is much more complicated, and timber famines have been far more often predicted than realized. But forest management agencies nonetheless have assumed a need for intensive land management systems based on maximum volume production of timber. Extensive clearcutting and road building are undertaken on the assumption that we must get rid of the virgin or residual timber stands before we can get that timberland producing at a maximum. And the management objective comes to be stated in terms of maximum timber volume.

One efficient tool of management, incidentally, for achieving this objective is clearcutting. We have no argument with clearcutting as a tool in forest management. It is a most desirable alternative under certain forestry conditions. Given the right combination of both biologic conditions and economic conditions, i. e. where highly capital-intensive harvest and regeneration practices can be rationally employed, clearcutting can be defended as an optimal management practice. But these methods cannot be rationally em-

ployed, we feel, in much of the forested land of the northern Rockies, characterized by slow timber growth and low unit-values for the product.

We recommend that a system of public forest management be adopted which would emphasize rational management. Rather than any blanket recommendations, we recommend systematic, situational land management related directly to the ability of the land to produce desired values. We advocate intensive management for timber on productive sites when the return warrants the investment made in economic terms, and a corresponding continuum of other management practices including those appropriate for poor sites where no investment is warranted. Within such a system all other values would be considered. This continuum would consider the sustained yield of total values, not timber alone, and would lead to a far different pattern of development and harvest than presently in use.

A responsible multiple-use approach to the management of National Forest, in short, is not going to be possible until a continuum of land management practices from capital-intensive to capital-extensive is recognized and applied in management of our public lands.

The Forest Service, other land management agencies — the executive branch — needs to change its concept of land management and thereby reconcile programs with the considerable changes taking place within American culture. We foresee much additional change in the decades ahead.

At this point in our nation's growth, we should no longer advocate or permit dominant, commodity-use management of our public lands reserved for general land management. A broad-based, multiple-use philosophy must be our policy, particularly as the amenity resources continue to increase in value. Congress has stated this in the Multiple-Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960. We can no longer permit public land uses which accumulate social costs, or even long-range economic costs in order to provide short-range profits or advantage to minority private interests.

Public funds for management must be allocated among these alternative uses to accomplish broad multiple-use results. Not only must there be changing Congressional authorizations and appropriations by the executive branch and its agencies, but also change is required on the part of forestry as a profession.

As we see it, the change within the profession must take place at both the operating level of applied forestry and also where the professionals

(Continued on page 7)

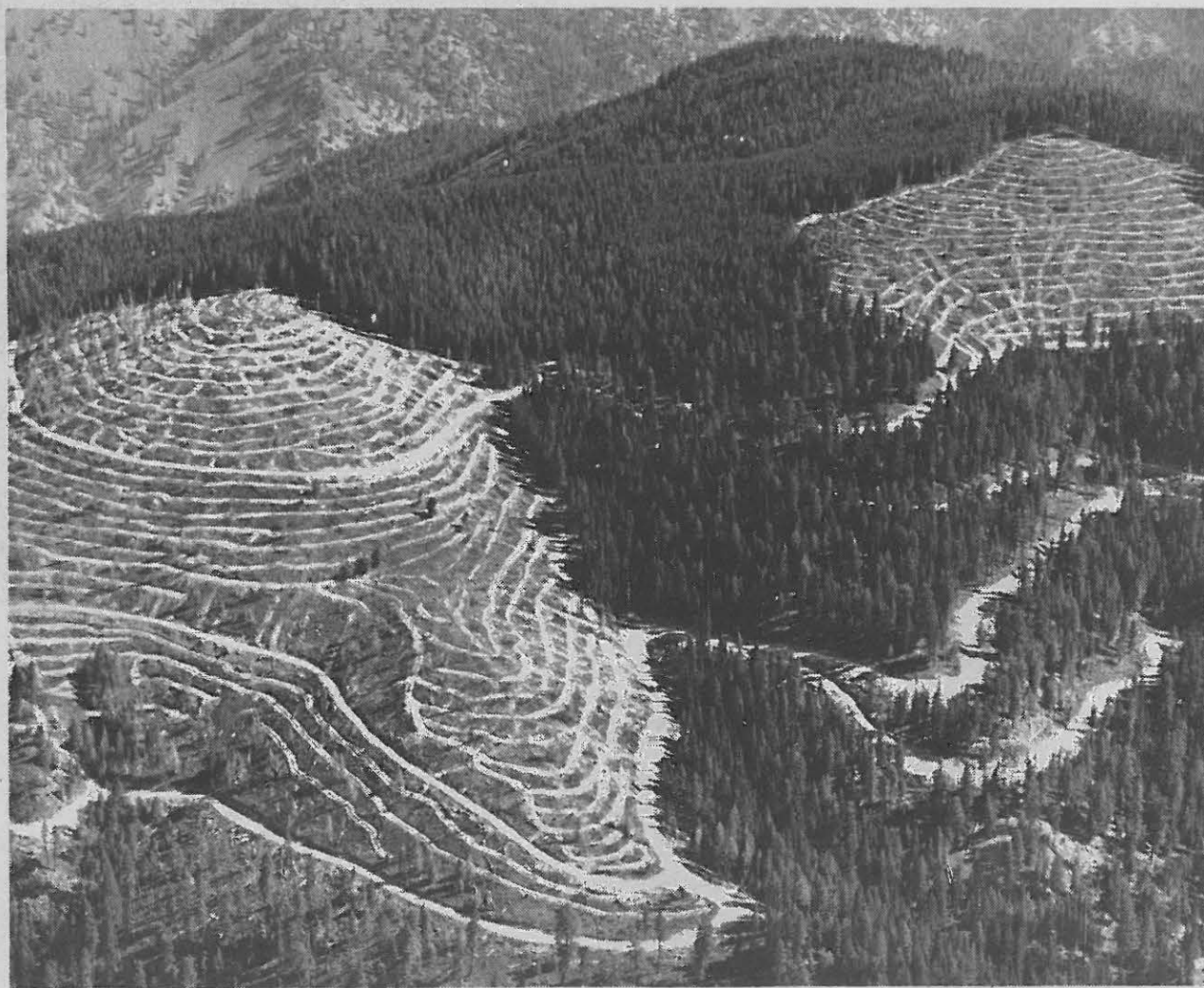


Photo by Ernst Peterson

Terracing and roading, as well as clearcut timbering, make profound changes on the landscape. The Bolle Report was critical of the Forest Service for the use of uneconomic systems of timber harvesting and a lack of concern for aesthetic and other non-timber values. The report is as done on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana, shown here on the Little Sleeping Child district.

Natural Resources Department Proposed

The President has released particulars on the proposed Department of Natural Resources which he says is designed "to keep up with the times and with the needs of the people," according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

The new department would be headed by a secretary and deputy secretary supported by two under secretaries for policy and program development and for administrative

matters. Next would be an assistant secretary for research and development bridging the gap between the Department and the scientific community.

There would be an administrator for land and recreation resources, assisted by a deputy for land management and a deputy for recreation resources with principal responsibilities for departmental conservation efforts. The administrator would supervise the present

Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and Bureau of

Army Corps of Engineers, the Soil Conservation Service, and others. An administrator for energy and mineral resources would oversee the

U. S. Geological Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Finally, there would be one administrator whose full-time responsibility would be the improvement of opportunities available for Indians, Alaska Natives, and Territorial people.

In commenting on the proposal, Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton said, "If this nation's future natural resource requirements are to be met through the wisest conservation and management of available resources, there is urgent need to provide that governmental organization and capability which can most effectively achieve the essential coordination and implementation of comprehensive natural resource policies and programs."



Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, among others.

An administrator for water resources would take charge of the present Bureau of Reclamation, the planning and budgetary functions of the civil programs of the

Bureau of Mines, the Office of Coal Research, and other mining groups including some functions of the Atomic Energy Commission. The Administrator for Earth Sciences would provide leadership for what is now the

The Bolle Report

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

1. Multiple use management, in fact, does not exist as the governing principle on the Bitterroot National Forest.

2. Quality timber management and harvest practices are missing. Consideration of recreation, watershed, wildlife and grazing appear as afterthoughts.

3. The management sequence of clearcutting-terracing-planting cannot be justified as an investment for producing timber on the BNF. We doubt that the Bitterroot National Forest can continue to produce timber at the present harvest level.

4. Clearcutting and planting is an expensive operation. Its use should bear some relationship to the capability of the site to return the cost invested.

5. The practice of terracing on the BNF should stop. Existing terraced areas should be dedicated for research.

6. A clear distinction must be made between timber management and timber mining. Timber management, i. e. continuous production of timber crops, is rational only on highly productive sites, where an appropriate rate of return on invested capital can be expected. All other timber cutting activities must be considered as timber mining.

7. Where timber mining, i. e. removing residual old growth timber from sites uneconomical to manage, is to be practiced, all other onsite values must be retained. Hydrologic, habitat, and aesthetic values must be preserved by single-tree selection cutting, a minimum disturbance of all residual vegetation, and the use of a minimum standard, one-time temporary road.

8. The research basis for management of the BNF is too weak to support the management practices used on the forest.

9. Unless the job of total quality management is recognized by the agency leadership, the necessary financing for the complete task will not be aggressively sought.

10. Manpower and budget limitations of public resource agencies do not at present allow for essential staffing and for integrated multiple-use planning.

11. Present manpower ceilings prevent adequate staffing on the BNF. Adequated staffing requires people professionally trained and qualified through experience.

12. The quantitative shortage of staff specialists will never be resolved unless the qualitative issue with respect to such specialists is first resolved.

13. We find the bureaucratic line structure as it operates, archaic, undesirable and subject to change. The manager on the ground should be much nearer the top of the career ladder.

14. The Forest Service as an effective and efficient bureaucracy needs to be reconstructed so that substantial, responsible, local public participation in the processes of policy-formulation and decision-making can naturally take place.

15. It appears inconceivable and incongruous to us that at this time, with the great emphasis upon a broad multiple-use approach to our natural resources -- especially those remaining in public ownership -- that any representative group or institution in our society would advocate a dominant-use philosophy with respect to our natural resources. Yet it is our judgement that this is precisely what is occurring through the federal appropriation process, via executive order and in the Public Land Law Review Commission's Report. It would appear to us that at this time any approach to public land resources in the long run is completely out of step with the interests and desires of the American people. What is needed is a fully funded program of action for quality management of all of our public lands.



Photo by Tom Bell

Clearcutting has taken place on steep slopes, on highly erodable soils, and on sites which were of far more value for recreation, fish and wildlife. The Forest Service readily admits past mistakes such as this one at Jules Bowl near Dubois, Wyoming, on the Shoshone National Forest. Such mistakes will be continued unless the Forest Service returns to true sustained-yield management practices.

The Bolle Statement...

are trained: within our universities and forestry schools. We must discard outmoded dogma that was inherited from a distant and different past. We must develop realistic bases for management suited to the changing value systems of our rapidly changing culture.

A major portion of our Report to Senator Metcalf was addressed to these issues. In the four and one-half months since the Senator's Report was released, a great deal of professional comment has been generated, most of the comment favorable to the positions which we took. We mean to move forward, working within the profession, to do our part in creating these new management approaches to forestry and its problems.

We believe that reorganization is necessary to change the bureaucratic structures of land management agencies and allow them to strengthen situational decision-making at the field level. Land management decisions need to be made within the context of the specific land being managed and the results desired for the land. In such reorganization, care must be exercised to recognize explicitly the changing demands placed upon our public lands.

One of the critical problems facing the entire profession is the inadequate basis of our knowledge for management. While much can be done now, our progress is going to depend to a large extent on the extension of knowledge. The facts and the systems that are needed can only be developed by research. Research in forestry is a slow process. Changes in management on the ground do not yield overnight results. The passage of time is a critical variable in any adequate and professionally acceptable major research program in land management. Money is needed. More professionally qualified and trained researchers are needed.

But in addition to these research needs, universities like our own and public agencies as well, must develop new, broadly-based and imaginatively conceived management programs for the future.

I feel certain as the Dean of a Forestry School within the northern Rockies that we will meet the challenges posed to the limit of our resources.

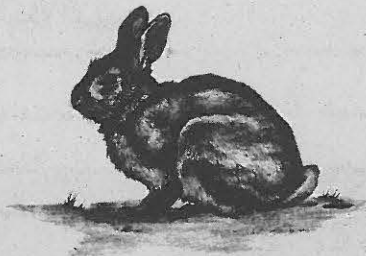
The Select Committee wishes to thank Senator Church and the Subcommittee for this opportunity to affirm our involvement in the critical problems of managing our public lands.

HIS HANDIWORK

Far out across the blue heavens,
great streamers of mist proclaim the
glory of the universe. Set them
against God's other handiwork, the
flowers and the leaves, and man is
humbled. Only when man sees him-
self as a single part of Creation, and
in subjection to the universal laws of
the Great Creator, will he then be
able to work out his destiny on Earth.







Problems Discussed...

Loesch, who is Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Public Lands, spoke at length on problems of the public lands and the part they will play in the future. He said the states will have to do extensive land use planning; that states such as Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico may find brand-new towns springing up where there are none now. He said the states must be careful in developing land use plans to provide for these. He said federal support would be needed for such planning.

Touching on other aspects of the role of public lands, Loesch said the country's energy needs in the next 30 years would equal all of the energy that has been used in the last 200 years. Much of the energy resource is found on public lands.

He said that along with energy needs, water use will double in the next 18 years.

Loesch said that the energy needs will require extensive strip mining of coal, uranium and possible oil shale. He said the Interior Department is looking at all the environmental effects and pledged that disturbed lands will be reclaimed. He said he would not allow unnecessary damage to the land.

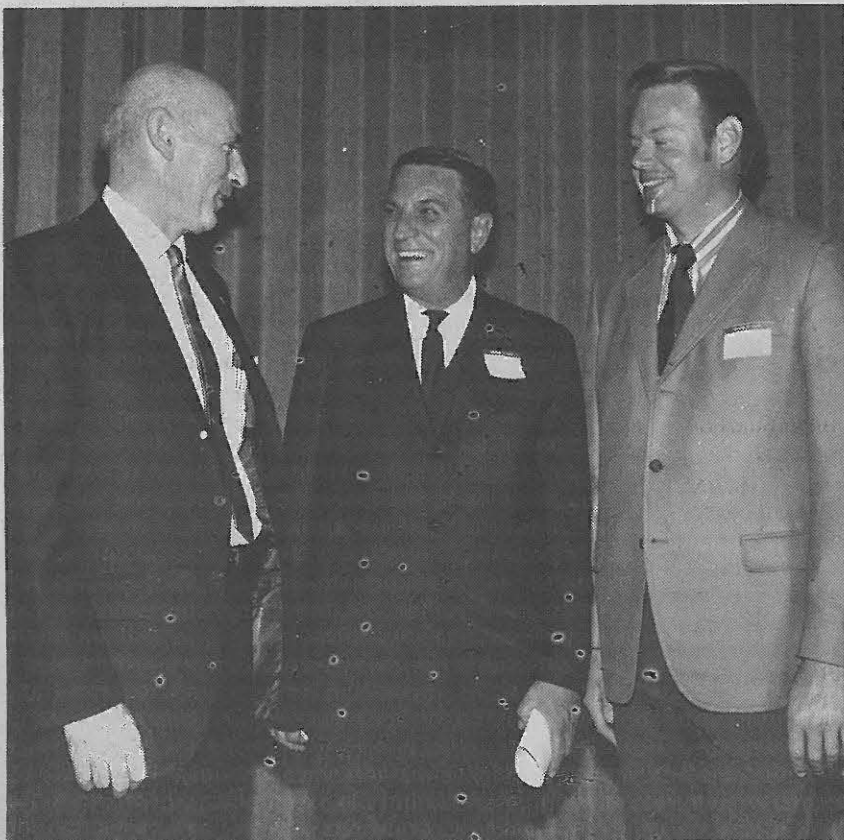
Of considerable interest to many people was Loesch's remarks that Wyoming's Red Desert Area is to be studied on a national level. He said Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton had expressed a personal interest in the area.

On still another subject of some interest was Loesch's remarks that the Bureau of Land Management will propose its own bills for protection of wild horse herds. The Red Desert is a large public land area containing about 800 wild horses.

Loesch referred to decisions he had made regarding the Soapholes area along the Green River in Wyoming. He said he had not had sufficient documentation on the importance of the deer herds in the area. He said his decision to overturn the decision of the Bureau of Land Management was based on what he thought was the best interests of the public.

Loesch was subsequently forced to reverse his decision by Rep. Henry Reuss' Subcommittee on Government Operations. The decision had been challenged by Wyoming conservationists.

Other speakers at the Environmental Congress and other subjects discussed will be featured in future articles in HIGH COUNTRY NEWS: Among them will be information on strip mining, energy demands, and the thoughts of young people.



Guy Williams (left), incumbent president of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation talks with Phil Schneider (center), Northwest Representative of the National Wildlife Federation, and Bob Turner, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society. All were meeting at Wyoming's Second Environmental Congress at Casper on May 1.

Pesticides and Eagles

by Ferris Weddle

The following is reprinted from the IN-TERMOUNTAIN OBSERVER, April 10, 1971.

A recent news release from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife indicts another persistent pesticide in the survival battle of our national emblem, the bald eagle. The pesticide is dieldrin which is considered even more toxic than DDT and one that is still being widely used. Seven of 26 dead bald eagles examined at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Md. had high levels of the poison in their brains.

The eagles came from Florida, Wisconsin, Maryland, Missouri and South Carolina. The report covers results only for 1968, and scientists believe that pesticide residues will be even greater in specimens collected since then. Dieldrin residues have also been found in ospreys and it's believed that the chemical may be involved with the decline of golden eagles, falcons and other birds of prey across the nation. DDT and related hard pesticides, as well as mercury, have already been indicted in past studies.

As the situation now exists, it appears that those raptors which attempt to live too close to man's agricultural activities are doomed unless all of the persistent chemicals are banned. And even then, it takes many years for these poisons to disintegrate in the soil.

Other agriculturally oriented birds also are imperiled - the evidence continues to pile up for such species as pheasants, Hungarian partridges, quail and others. In some areas, sage grouse are endangered, and especially in those areas where sagebrush is sprayed from the air with weedicides. Chukars prefer arid areas away from major agricultural operations, so are considerably safer.

A major study of the golden eagle is now in progress in southwest Idaho, mostly along the Snake River between Bliss and Marsing. This is the second phase of the study conducted by students of the University of Idaho under the direction of Dr. Maurice Hornocker, leader of the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. Michael M. Kochert is the student researcher. Cooperators in the project are the Soil Conservation Service and the Idaho Department of Health.

One major emphasis in the study will be on pesticide effects on golden eagles and on the prey the eagles use as food. Addled eggs and eggs collected from abandoned nests will be analyzed,

and the egg shells will be weighed and measured for thickness. It has been found that the thickness of egg shells is affected by pesticide residues for such species as bald eagles, quail, and pheasants.

Tissue from dead eagles will also be examined for possible mercury contamination, and the livers of prey species will be analyzed for mercury residues. For comparison purposes, both the prey brought to the nests for feeding young eagles and free-roaming prey will be examined. Nestling eaglets will have to donate some blood, too, for a check on organophosphate levels.

Kochert's project continues the population status of golden eagles begun by Gary Hickman in 1966 for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Field studies of the golden eagle of an intensive nature were begun in 1964 and were made in Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Colorado and Wyoming.

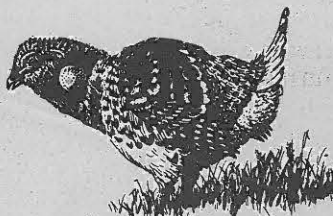
John Beecham, assisted by Andy Ogden, picked up the eagle study in 1968 and continued it through 1969. A University of Idaho student, Beecham located 25 breeding pairs of eagles in 1968 and 36 pairs in 1969 - or about one eyrie for every five miles of river. He and Ogden banded 70 eaglets so that the migratory habits of the giant birds can be checked.

Beecham collected eggs as well as dead eagles for analysis for pesticide residues. The reports haven't yet been made.

Since the food habits of golden eagles was a major part of the study, Beecham collected 483 prey items. Mammals made up 70 per cent of the total, with rabbits and marmots the leading items. Pheasants, however, accounted for 13 per cent of the total. And the most likely source of contamination is pheasants - both pesticides (DDT, etc.) and mercury. One can't however, rule out such mammals as rabbits in areas where there is aerial spraying of sagebrush and farmlands adjacent to rangelands.

Coming up is a study of prairie falcons by University of Idaho biologists and students and an osprey (fish hawk) study is in progress in the lakes country of the Panhandle.

Fortunately, Idaho has a breeding population of golden eagles in several sections of the state. This wide distribution is some assurance that these stately birds may survive in great numbers in the state than in other Northwest and Rocky Mountain states.



Hansen Urges Center

WASHINGTON -- Senator Cliff Hansen, in testimony recently before a Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, urged that \$2.5 million be appropriated for fiscal year 1972 for the Yellowstone National Park Environmental Studies Center.

"It is essential that the National Park Service increase its knowledge of the environmental impact which present activities have within the National Park System," Hansen said. "I strongly urge this Subcommittee to report an appropriation of \$2.5 million for fiscal year 1972 to fully fund the construction of the Yellowstone National Park Environmental Studies Center."

Hansen noted that 1972 is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the park, and that visitors from throughout the world would be present next year.

"When the world looks to Yellowstone National Park on the occasion of its centennial, let them see that the men of 1972 are applying the knowledge of today to improve on the vision of the men of 1872 -- let them see that we are making significant progress," Hansen said.

"Nothing can so indicate our continued progress and concern than the establishment of the Yellowstone

National Park Environmental Studies Center."

Tule Elk Increased

The California Fish and Game Commission has announced that it plans to increase the number of tule elk in the Owens Valley from 250-300 to 490, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The tule is a small species of elk found mostly in the Owens Valley area of California.

Competition from domestic livestock using the public lands in Owens Valley forced game managers to limit the tule elk population to around 300 animals. When their number increases to 490, it will be maintained by removing excess animals on a culling basis.

There has been considerable efforts toward establishing a national refuge for tule elk in California. Most conservationists, however, believe a better solution would be to remove some of the privately owned domestic livestock from the public lands which would allow the elk herds to expand to a more desirable level.



by Verne Huser

WORLD

Spring is an exciting time in the wild world, a period of rejuvenation and return. Only hours after the melting of the snow, flowers appear in the soggy turf—bright shiney rununculus or buttercups, the glacier or avalanche lily bowing its head to the retreating snow, the marsh marigold, the delicate pink steershead.

Would you believe Indian paintbrush, Wyoming's state flower, blooming even now on the National Elk Refuge where a month ago there was still snow? Many of the cows and yearlings remain on the refuge, but most of the bulls have pulled out for higher country. They follow the snowline's retreat as do the flowers.

Coyotes are whelping, and as the snows disappear, they have better hunting. Ground squirrels are out of hibernation, some tunneling through three feet of snow to reach the sunlight. They make a perfect target for a soaring raptor—Swainson's hawk or a red-tail—or for the coyote.

One day I watched a coyote sitting in the snow, cocking his head this way and that. What's he up to, I wondered. Suddenly he leaped into the air and came down in a bunch with his four paws, smashing a mouse to the wet ground. He tore at it with his canine teeth, then proudly carried it toward the nearby butte, where he must have had a den full of fat pups.

The moose are out in the sagebrush a great deal this time of year as they begin to move toward their summer range. A dozen or more may bed down together on the open flats, then nuzzle the snow and browse the newly appearing dry grass and forbes from last fall. Deer leave their winter yards and the wind-blown southern slopes of the low hills where they've congregated during the snow time.

The ruffed grouse sneak through the wet woods, and finding a log for drumming, go into their mating dance, whipping their stiff wings more and more rapidly against their taut breast, hoping to attract a female. Sage grouse set up camp in clearings in the sagebrush and practice their elaborate strutting and plopping pattern to bring in the hens, a truly weird sight and sound.

The juncos and robins are back from points south taking over their territories to sing in the twilight. Mountain bluebirds spot the dull earth with delicate sky blue as they flash bits of colored glass in their insect hunt and mating flight. Geese are nesting on the mid-river brushy bars, and sandhill cranes are dancing in the meadows. Great horned owls are already feeding their young as great blue heron return to their rookeries. The breeding season is in full swing.

It's a great season to get out on touring skis or on snowshoes, and if you go early enough or stick to south slopes, you can even hike. Floating the rivers can be chilly at times but rewarding, both in the way of wildlife observations and fishing. The water ouzel, flitting low over the water near shore, stops on an ice-covered rock to do his push-ups. A pair of bald eagles launch themselves into the rising air currents and soar high above—this pair must not be nesting this year or one would remain on the nest—or perhaps the young have hatched, and both are fishing.

A pair of Canada geese, alert on the bank as the raft nears, are startled by the swoop of a golden eagle, which breaks only inches from their weaving heads—and they take off in a wild thrashing and honking. A muskrat, shaken out of his torpor as he suns himself on a bunch of dead reeds, takes to the water. A large cottonwood tree, winter cut by beaver, testifies to the depth of the winter's snow—the cut is four-and-one-half feet from the ground.

A mink slithers across an island and swims toward the far shore. Another and larger member of the weasel family, the river otter, cavorts in the fast-moving water. Another eagle wheels in the sky, and a small band of elk spook into the woods. Flights of ducks winging north, pairs of geese seeking nest sites, moose and elk looking for calving areas, and fishermen looking for the first trout of the season—all this is part of the wild world of the high country. And even higher the bighorn sheep fatten on fresh spring vegetation after a long tough winter on the high wind-stripped openridges. Lake ice begins to break up, and the streams swell with snow-melt water, often full of silt where man's works appear or where overgrazing has occurred, but we build dams to remove the silt. So do beaver.



Spring returns once more to the high country. Wildflowers brighten the landscape and doe deer discreetly lead their fawns from seclusion in early morning light or at dusk.

::::: ENVIRONOTES ::::::

Hickel Says No More Dams on Snake

Former Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel says all dam construction on the Snake River should be halted. He said, "There are areas where the value is greater than just the commercial value, and I think the Snake River is one those areas." Hickel also told an Earth Week audience at Idaho State University that he was opposed to the practice of poisoning predators and rodents just to get rid of them.

Paper Says Gravel Pits Unsightly

The Utah DESERET NEWS has editorially condemned strip mining in West Virginia, planned strip mining for flagstone in Capitol Reef National Monument, and stripping for gravel along the Wasatch Front. The NEWS says, "Unsightly gravel pits are being gouged to all along the Wasatch Front and elsewhere that denude the earth and scar the hills permanently once their need to furnish road-building materials is finished."

Nevada Has New Mining Law

Nevada Governor Mike O'Callaghan signed into law a bill which eliminates the requirement for location work on mining claims. The law will now require a simple map recorded with the county recorder and a \$15 filing fee for each claim. The governor said, "We cannot skin and abuse our land without thought of coming generations."

Land Fever Hits Utah

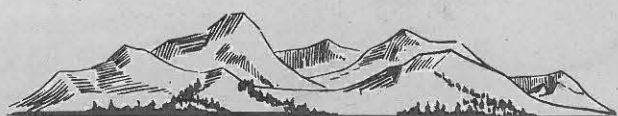
Land fever has hit southwestern Utah where buyers from Las Vegas and Los Angeles have sky-rocketed prices. Near Cedar City, small acreages in mountain locations have gone up from \$200 an acre to \$2,000 an acre. In other areas, flat land is selling for up to \$2,000 an acre. Realtors think taxes, crime rates, smog, and crowded conditions are factors which are driving people to these areas.

BLM Wants to Cull Wild Horse Herd

The Bureau of Land Management has announced plans to cull 15 to 20 head of old horses from the wild horse herd on the Pryor Mountain range in Montana and Wyoming. The suggestion ran into opposition from Lovell, Wyoming, residents who think the herd should be left on its own with nature allowed to do the culling. The BLM has determined that 40 percent of the total herd consists of stallions.

Strip Mining Proposed for National Monument

A proposed strip mining operation in Capitol Reef National Monument in Utah has been held up pending an appraisal of the flagstone to be mined. The operation would mine about 6-1/2 million tons of a "ripple" flagstone over a 20 year period. The owners claim a value of almost \$90 million.



Groundswell for Dams on Green River?

AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE the Wyoming House of Representatives held a hearing concerning Senate File 124, the bill which concerned the Green River and its development. At this hearing, Floyd Bishop, State Engineer, made a statement to the effect that many citizens had made oral and written statements at the four hearings held around the state concerning the Green, and these statements were in opposition to published plans for damming the Green and other developments. Bishop added, however, that there were other individuals and companies which had not made statements at the hearings, but had instead sent in written statements for the record. These statements, Bishop said, supported plans for development of the Green River later.

We looked into this, and find supporting statements were received from eleven individuals and associations. None was received from business corporations. The names of the persons and associations who made supporting statements are listed here, with a brief summary of their recommendations:

Casper-Alcova Irrigation District. Supports water developments plans for the use of Green River water.

Goshen Irrigation District. Favors feasibility study of storage reservoirs. Interested in development of Wyoming's water and financing of same by revenue bonds. Hopeful for transbasin diversion of Green River water to the North Platte River.

Wyoming Water Development Assn. (3 statements submitted). A general statement regarding Wyoming water resources, nothing specific on the Green River Basin.

Wyoming Water Development Assn. (addressed to Wyoming legislators) Supports Senate File 124, which it called the Green River Basin Feasibility Study Bill.

Wyoming Water Development Assn. (a news release) Same general statement, nothing specific on the Green River Basin except to support SF 124.

Wyoming Assoc. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Recommends financing of feasibility studies on Green River Drainage and others. Supports development of Wyoming water resources. Recommends completion of Seedskaadee Project.

Wyoming State Soil and

Water Conservation Committee. Supports "the study enabling legislation." Supports study of recommendations to bring about development of Seedskaadee project. Other recommendations regarding development and water storage which do not specifically mention the Green River.

Wyoming Assoc. of Water Users and Irrigation Districts, Wheatland. Urges steps be taken to retain Wyoming's water in the Green River for Wyoming use and development.

Water Committee, Sublette County Farm Bureau. Purchase unused water in Fontenelle Reservoir for future municipal-industrial use in the Green River Basin and/or transbasin diversion. Increase storage capacity of the several lakes in the Green River Basin. Study the effects of a small dam in the Green River to divert high runoff water only. Study pumping from the Green River below Fontenelle and storing this water in reservoirs on the east side of the Continental Divide. Investigate the Sanders Dam site for future storage.

Associated General Contractors of Wyoming. Recommend study and

development of detailed cost estimates and other related activities.



B. B. Brooks Co., Dr. Harry E. Stuckenhoff, Casper. Wyoming should not lose the water because it will not spend money to put it to use. Reservoir on the Green River would add to environment and ecology. Recommends we protect our unused water and develop the state.

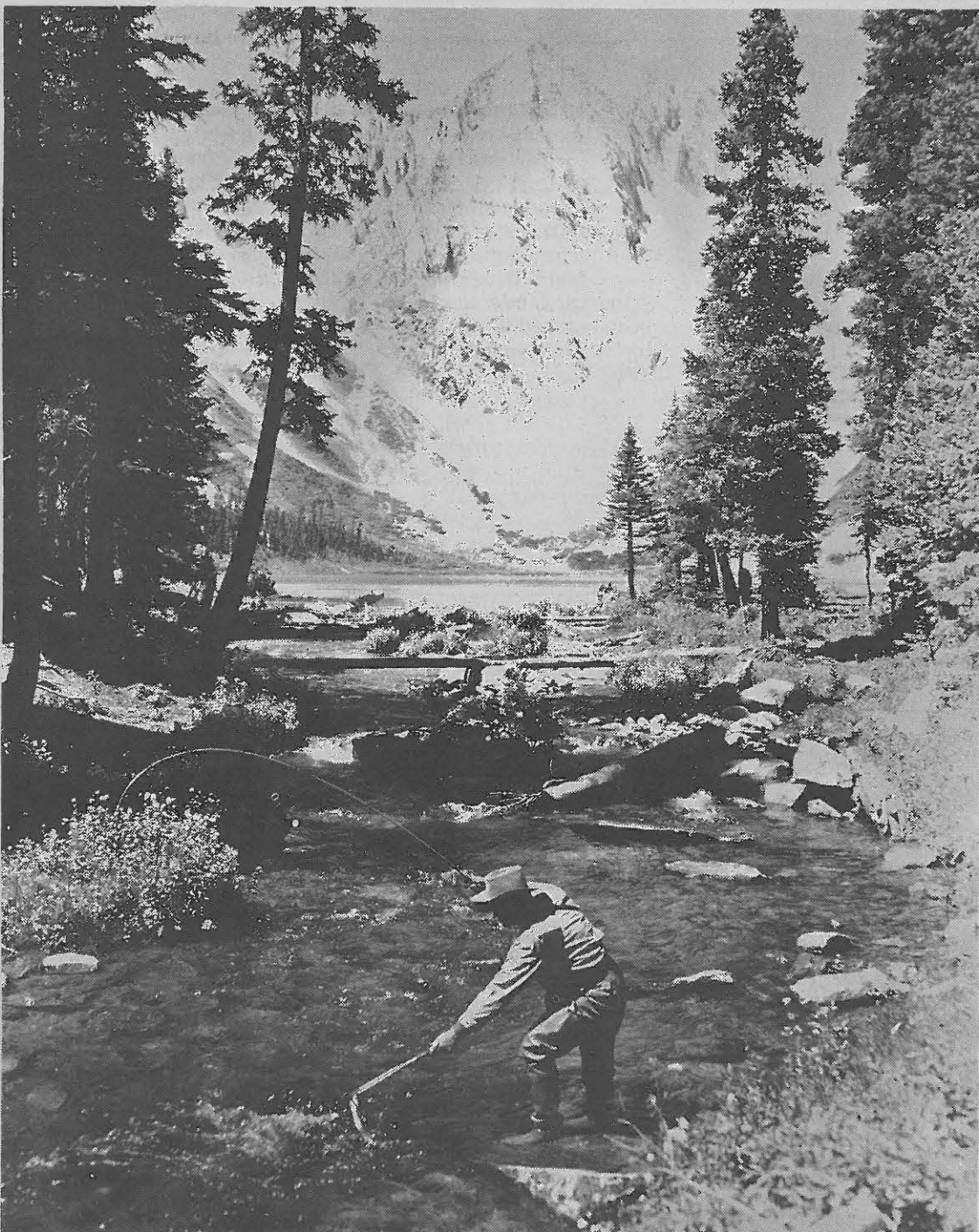
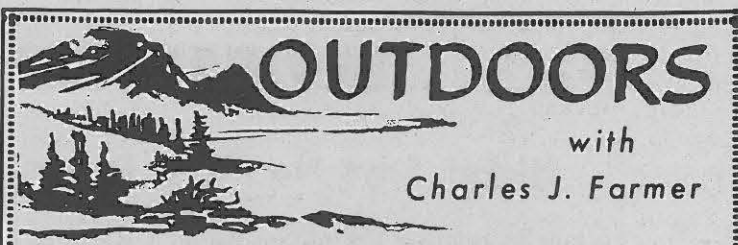
Dan Budd, President, Wyoming Assoc. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (a news release). No specific recommendations on the Green River Basin.

These fourteen statements

do not appear to be any overwhelming endorsement of efforts to dam the Green. Put them up against a hundred or more statements recommending no dams above Fontenelle, or a request that ecology and beauty be given consideration in plans for industrial development and you begin to see the will of the people of the state. That will is a balance between blind industrial development at all costs and no matter what happens to the state we live in, and no development at all, leaving the Green Rivers as it is.

Our hope is that reason, good sense and good will will prevail, because we feel that nearly all reasonable desires can be fulfilled in this case. With the possible exception of more irrigation water for unsuitable lands, it is an area where we can have our cake and eat it, too.

From Wyoming Izaak Walton League Bulletin, May, 1971.



Fishermen are returning to their haunts along stream and lake as winter snows melt. The Colorado Rockies and mountains throughout the West will provide untold hours of peace, quiet and contentment for campers, fishermen and outdoorsmen.

Here is a run down of some Wyoming lakes you can fish this spring. Fishing activity is picking up in all of them. They are good bets for April and May when the angling is relatively slow in the rivers due to runoff.

Alcova, Pathfinder and Seminoe Reservoirs near Casper are good for rainbow trout. Boats, bait, guides, tackle, camping facilities and lodging are available on the lake.

Glendo Reservoir, near the town of Glendo in southeastern Wyoming, is a likely spot in the spring. The 12,000-acre body of water has a complete line of facilities on the lake at the Glendo Marina. Glendo State Park offers good camping facilities around the lake. Rainbow trout fishing is good in the spring especially by trolling with hardware.

Packer's Lake near Torrington is only 80-acres in size, but it provides good fishing for bass, walleye and brown trout. Festo Lake near Wheatland is another small, warm water lake that supplies plenty of action in the form of largemouth bass, bluegill and yellow perch.

Saratoga Lake, near the town of the same name is notorious for being a hot spot in the spring. Rainbows and browns start hitting good just after the ice goes out. Hardware, especially silver and brass spoons are effective, in morning and late afternoon. Nightcrawlers work well during mid-day.

Lake Hattie, near Laramie is a good spot to be in the spring. Browns, rainbows and yellow perch provide good fishing. They can be taken on both lures and bait. Trolling is a popular method for catching browns in the four to five-pound category. The "Platte River Special" streamer fly trolled behind a boat or cast with a spinning outfit and bubble usually produces results.

Flaming Gorge Reservoir is about 43,000 acres in size. Located near the town of Green River, this lake has gained a reputation for big rainbow trout. The size of the lake itself, makes it ideally suited for trolling. Bank fishermen, however, have their moments of glory in the spring and fall when trout are in the shallows.

Viva Naughton Reservoir, near Kemmerer, is sometimes described as a "sleeper." Rainbow and brown trout seem especially cooperative in the spring. This is a lake of big fish, many of which are in the two to four-pound class.

One of the finest collections of good fishing lakes in Wyoming, and in the United States for that matter, are located around Pinedale. Halfmoon, Willow, Fremont and Meadow Lake offer lots of angling variety, plus better than average-sized fish.

Variety to the fishermen means rainbow, brown and lake trout. Meadow Lake offers fine fishing for grayling. Many of those waters do not become ice-free until May. Road conditions can also vary. It is wise to check with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission district office in Pinedale (Tel. 367-4353) Box 54, 82941 for current fishing and road conditions before planning a trip.

Yellowtail Reservoir, near Lovell should supply good fishing this spring for walleye, brown and rainbow trout. Again, trollers will fare best in this 13,000-acre body of water.

Plant Ecologist Speaks

The following statement was presented in the form of a letter to Senator Frank Church, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands. It was written by Dr. William Moir, plant ecologist in the Department of Range Science, Colorado State University. Dr. Moir has a bachelor's degree in physics from Purdue University, a master's degree in biology from New Mexico State University, and a doctorate in botany-soils from Washington State University. During 1967-68, he was a Research Fellow in forestry at the Australian National University. He has been in his present position at CSU since 1968.

I am a professional biologist (plant ecology) and have conducted forest research in Colorado for some six years. I would like the following comments on forest clearcutting practices in Colorado to be included in the hearing record on forest clearcut operations.

I think that there are many persuasive biological reasons for condemning large scale forest clearcut harvests in Colorado, and your subcommittee has heard many of these arguments. However, there is one fundamental argument that has not been stressed, and that is the general inability of foresters to identify meaningful ecological bases upon which forest classification and forest harvest should rest. Site classification is currently based, in general, on timber volume and rather crude estimates of site index, or growth potential. Often the basic data upon which cutting schedules are determined have been procured by poorly trained, ill-equipped timber cruisers. The basic biology of forest succession, forest habitats, and forest productivity is all but unknown to Colorado foresters who ultimately decide when, where, and how much timber shall be cut. This inability to foresee the kind of ENVIRONMENTS that result from large clearcut operations is, in my thinking, the root of the ill. High elevation cuttings in the spruce-fir region may result in quasi-tundra environments that are very inimical to forest re-establishment. Seedling spruce may be killed by the intense solarization or by severe desiccating winter winds. In some instances a reversion to dense brush - unforeseen by the foresters - may retard forest reestablishment. In other forest zones, too, this lack of understanding of forest ecology can, and frequently has, resulted in virtual landscape devastation.

For many years plant ecologists and enlightened research foresters within the forest service itself have been arguing that a habitat-type classification of forest lands, undertaken by skilled ecologists, should form the basis for predicting the growth and successional stages of forest vegetation. Habitat typing takes into account critical aspects of the total environment: soils, understory and overstory plants, animal factors, fire frequency, landform and topography. It has become an increasingly demonstrated principle that forest productivity classes and modes of forest succession are very closely related to the nature of the forest habitat. Despite this, there is no clearly demonstrated understanding, even in the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Fort Collins (the main center of forest research in Colorado), that a very complex mosaic of forest habitats exist in each forest zone in Colorado. The nature of this mosaic should determine the kind and intensity of forest harvest, but few foresters are prepared to define these habitats. So the timber cruisers continue their routine tasks in unenlightened ways, while forest ecologists are uncalled upon (in fact, the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station is one of the forest research laboratories in the U. S. that has no Principal Plant Ecologist in its Civil Service ranks!!). This anti-ecological attitude in the U. S. Forest Service in Colorado may help explain why past and anticipated clearcut acreages in Colorado forests may be grossly overextended.

I view large scale forest clearcut operations in Colorado with considerable apprehension, for generally our forest lands - the commercial forest lands as they are currently classified - are of extremely low productivity. The concept of timber "mining" as expressed in the Bolle Report has great validity in this state, I feel. The lumber industry gets in, guts the land, and gets out, and let the devil take the hindmost. In addition Colorado, like Montana and Wyoming, is becoming increasingly a recreational state insofar as usage of public forest lands is concerned. Curiously, the Rocky Mountain Station of Fort Collins has no ongoing research projects on the impact or importance of recreation on the Service's lands. Perhaps it would be wise to reorient foresters here into something other than timber "management." Colorado forests have poor timber growth but high recreation potentials.

Trails Will Be Discussed

A three-day National Symposium on Trails, sponsored by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and the Open Lands Project of Chicago, will be held in Washington, D. C., June 2-4, 1971.

The Symposium is called in response to many requests for information about the nationwide trails program and for guidance for future action by all interested organizations and individuals.

Symposium sessions will cover a review of the national trails program, the problems of establishing trails at the Federal, State and local levels of government and in the private sector. A wide range of "how to" subjects will be covered in nine panel workshop sessions.

Flaming Gorge Areas Opened

Many of the facilities at Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area will be open for weekend use through the Month of May. The visitor centers at Flaming Gorge Dam and Red Canyon will be open between 11 AM and 4 PM each Saturday and Sunday.

Water has been turned into the campgrounds at Mustang Ridge, Dripping Springs, Little Hole, and Arch Dam Overflow, loops C and E at Lucerne Valley, and loop A at Buckboard. On May 15 water will be turned on at Bootleg, Greendale and Deer Run. Cedar Springs Campground will have water by Memorial Day.

Boaters can now launch at Antelope Flat (where the ramp restroom and fishing cleaning station are open but the campground is still closed), Dutch John Draw, Cedar Springs, Sheep Creek Bay, Lucerne Valley, Squaw Hollow, Buckboard, and Upper Marsh Creek. In addition, the marina at Cedar Springs is now open daily, and the marinas and stores at Lucerne and Buckboard are open daily. Red Canyon Lodge near Red Canyon Center is now open for business.

Recent snows have made roads muddy. May visitors should also come prepared for wet weather. Also, boaters should watch for debris carried into the reservoir by the spring runoff.

Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

"ROCKHOUNDITIS"

Every year about this time, a strange epidemic sweeps over the country. Actually, it is prevalent all year long, but in the spring the symptoms flare up anew as the snow disappears and the bare ground is exposed. It is called "Rockhounditis."

Lots of people consider rock hunting a hobby, but those of us who are afflicted with it know that it really is a disease! It's very contagious. It may be caught from a neighbor who happens to have a lapidary workshop in his basement; it is easily transmitted to a friend or member of the family. It's chronic, too--once you get it, you're stuck with it for the rest of your life.

This strange malady does not differentiate between young and old; nor rich and poor. Anyone is susceptible. Those who contract it seem to develop a craving for fresh air and exercise. In summer's heat or winter's cold, they may be seen roaming over the countryside, head bent, and eyes on the ground.

The first stage might come simply as a desire to pick up colored pebbles to brighten up the aquarium or the rock garden. From there, it may progress to a growing pile of rocks in the garage or along the driveway. Some mild cases never go beyond this stage, but generally speaking, this is only the beginning.

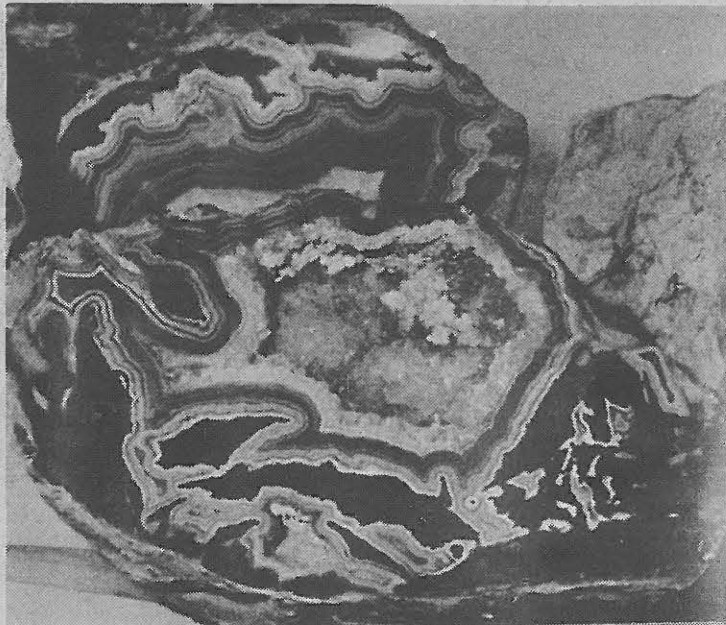
If you fear that someone in your family is coming down with the ailment, there are certain symptoms you can watch for. Be suspect if he (or she) starts talking about "hard" rocks or "soft" rocks--anyone but a rockhound knows that a rock is a hard stone! Listen carefully, too, for indications that this person may consider a slice of colored agate more beautiful than a diamond ring.

There is another very reliable test. Next time you're sitting around the fireplace on a chilly evening, just mention the word "wood", and watch for the reaction. If he jumps up and returns with an armload of logs for the fire, relax! He may be an ever-lovin' homebody, but he's no rockhound! If, however, his eyes glaze over, and he stares into the dying embers and talks wistfully of Eden Valley or Wiggins Fork--then you can be sure he has fallen prey to the disease.

And when a loved one comes home with stars in his eyes and a rock tumbler under his arm, you might just as well resign yourself to the fact that the epidemic is in your home to stay. But don't worry too much about it. As soon as the first batch of polished rocks comes from the tumbler, you, too, will be infected. It's a "misery" that loves company.

Perhaps I should warn you that in severe cases the victim may use every free daylight moment to hunt for rocks, and then spend most of the night hunched over saws, grinders, sanders, and polishers. A very acute stage has been reached if he spends stubborn hours with a handpiece, trying to transform a piece of jade into a bird or an elephant. Even during this critical period, the patient may otherwise appear to be perfectly normal!

There is no cure, nor any kind of antidote. But cheer up! The disease has never been known to be fatal!



Rockhunters become entranced with fortification-type agate such as the Lysite agate from Wyoming or the Fairburn agate from eastern Wyoming and Western Nebraska.

Environmental Spokesman for the Mountain West

High Country News

Box K Lander, Wyoming 82520

Name _____

1 Year...\$10.00

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Take one teepee burner . . .



Take one teepee burner at one lumber mill, in a mountain valley, and you have the beginning of an air pollution problem.

It all begins somewhere. The haze which fills the valleys; the haze which hides the distant peaks has a beginning. It can be teepee burners, or oil well sumps, or city garbage dumps. It can be a stream of thousands of internal combustion engines.

We all have our part in it, and we are all a part of the problem. Until we realize that as buyers of products, consumers of products, and wasters of products, we will continue to be a part of the problem. When we decide to use less, to recycle, to force industries to clean up, then we will begin to see cleaner air once again.

This teepee burner is located at the U. S. Plywood mill at Dubois, Wyoming. U. S. Plywood is a big contributor to the Republican party in Wyoming. The Republican party controls Wyoming's state government. It may be no coincidence that the mill continues to pollute the air in this beautiful valley more than one year after Wyoming's vaunted air quality act went into effect.

Deep Snows in Park Slow Road Opening

Superintendent Jack K. Anderson of Yellowstone National Park announced today that deep snow and above normal water content has considerably slowed spring snow removal operations within the park. He said that the park has doubled the snow plowing crews to cope with the unusual snow conditions which enables the crew to keep the plows working sixteen hours a day. There are two crews presently working, with one in the vicinity of Lewis Lake and the other in the vicinity of Sylvan Pass.

Anderson said mechanical failures on several of the snow plows has also hampered the operation. However, by doubling the crews, he said, the park roads will be opened to the public by the traditional May 1 date.

The official said the road from Gardiner to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone will be open to the public within the next few days, weather permitting. He went on to emphasize, however, that this road will be subject to closures without prior notice because of inclement

weather. Anyone planning a trip into the park should check with the nearest Ranger Station before departing for his trip.

He said the average snow depth for the northern part of the park is 50.6 inches with the water content 39 per cent above normal, while the average depth in the southern part is 93.5 inches with the water content 45 per cent above normal.

Snow removal on the Beartooth Highway will begin May 3, with the plows starting from Cooke City.

Rock Show On

June Culp Zeitner will be one of the featured speakers at the 1971 State Gem and Mineral Show in Rapid City, South Dakota, June 25-27.

Mrs. Zeitner, a noted author and lecturer, has written several books on gem and mineral collecting and is a contributing editor to the Lapidary Journal.

Also included in this year's show will be guided collecting trips to Fairburn agate beds, and to pegamites in the Black Hills.



Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

A fisherman named Bill Brash
Tossed his lure in the lake with a splash
What he got served him right--
It wasn't a bite--
'Twas his very own last year's trash!

The Environmental Protection Agency has delayed a public hearing on cancellation of all uses of DDT until midsummer. The delay was said to be caused by the busy schedule of the hearing examiner assigned to the issue.

The Rockefeller Foundation has made a \$600,000 grant to Utah State University for a study of environmental problems of the Mountain West. A faculty-student committee has been named to review problems and establish priorities for work on the problems.

Two Italians who shipped approximately 20,000 Idaho jackrabbits to their homeland for hunting purposes say they will try to collect and ship 60,000 to 80,000 next winter. They paid \$1.50 each for the live rabbits but by the time the bunnies reach Italy, they are worth from \$15 to \$30.

William D. Ruckelhaus, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, has given the Reserve Mining Co. of Silver Bay, Minn., 180 days to stop polluting Lake Superior. Reserve has been discharging 66,000 tons of tailings daily into the lake from an ore processing plant.

The Sierra Club has announced a nationwide wilderness cleanup program. Up to 67 crews of five volunteers, plus a leader, will work for one month in selected areas in 17 states. The crews will gather litter and remove it to roadheads. The volunteers, mostly students, will each pay \$20 and donate one month of their time.

The Treasure Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has announced its opposition to the Lower Ashton Dam on the Teton River, 12 miles south of Ashton, Idaho. The dam will inundate 17 miles of the river which has a self-sustaining population of cutthroat trout. The group also says it is an "ecological tragedy" that a 6,000-foot "borrow area" below the damsite has been used to obtain gravel for dam construction.

The West Virginia Senate voted to ban all strip mining in 36 counties where there has been little or no strip mining done previously, and to limit strip mining in the remaining 19 counties.



Eagles...

present. Nevertheless, the Wildlife Services Division of the Fish and Wildlife Services is thoroughly checking on all of the predator poison bait stations within a 50 mile radius.

An examination of the carcasses showed the birds to have been in generally good condition with fat stored beneath the skin. Eight of the bald eagles were mature and three were immature. Of the five golden eagles, four were mature and one was immature.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting a thorough investigation of the whole matter. Experts and field men were dispatched to Casper from Washington D. C., Tempe, Ariz., Albuquerque, N. Mex., and the Cheyenne office upon notification of the discovery.

The Chief of the Management and Enforcement Division of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Charles H. Lawrence, said the find of dead eagles was the largest single concentration ever reported.

Rea said the canyon where the birds were found was a favorite roosting area for eagles which winter along the North Platte River. Generally, most of the birds leave the area around March 1.

Turner thinks there is a possibility that one or more pairs of bald eagles nest along the stretch of Platte River which courses through Wyoming. If so, those birds may be amongst the dead ones found. He said Wyoming is among the last six states that may have 12 or more nesting pairs.

Turner said the eagles mate for life. The few young which these pairs produce are the only ones to perpetuate the species. He said there were probably less than 200 mated pairs of bald eagles left in the country. They are now listed as an endangered species.

Earlier in the year, a find of about 25 dead eagles was reported from the Saratoga area along the Platte River. Guy Williams of Casper, and at that time president of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, received an anonymous tip that a number of dead eagles had been found. An investigation revealed no dead birds but a leased helicopter was known to have been operating in the area. It is thought that the helicopter had been used in shooting the birds from the air.

Recent reports released by the Agriculture Department in Wyoming showed sheep ranchers had reported a loss of 200 sheep and 8,200 lambs attributed to eagles. Subsequently, Dr. Oliver Scott of the Murie Audubon Society at Casper said he termed the report "grossly exaggerated."

Scott said Wyoming may have a permanent golden eagle population of about 200 birds. Such losses as are attributed to eagles would mean

that each eagle would have to kill 42 sheep or lambs.

Verne Huser, writing in HIGH COUNTRY NEWS (March 19, 1971), said "Several golden eagle food studies have been conducted in recent years that provide sound ecological evidence concerning eagles' prey. John Beecham's study in southwestern Idaho involved 483 prey items found in 61 golden eagle nests over a two-year period. This was in an area of 1700 square miles. He found no evidence of lambs or sheep (he did find that 70% of the eagles diet consisted of mammals, mostly rabbits).

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

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

As a result of the furore over eagles, M. Joseph Burke of Casper, former chairman of the American Sheep Producers Council, is reported in a recent AP release as having said golden eagles are always somewhat of a problem especially in the spring, when lambs are born. However, he said eagles haven't been a major predator problem in recent years and the damage they cause isn't enough to warrant the wholesale killing of the birds.

At a meeting of the Wyoming Pesticide Council at Casper on March 31, 1967, Howard J. Martley, then State Director of the Wildlife Services Division of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, expressed deep concern over unauthorized use of deadly poisons. He said one predatory animal control district in Wyoming had a 20-year supply of 1080 poison which had been purchased in Colorado and brought to Wyoming. He said there was no control over the acquisition and use of 1080, thallium sulfate, strychnine, or other poisons which were being used on both public and private lands to kill predators.

Representatives of Wyoming's sheep industry recently testified before a House Committee hearing in Washington that there was a need for the use of aircraft to shoot predators from the air. Wyoming's Governor Stanley K. Hathaway has interceded on behalf of the sheep industry on several occasions in requesting greater control of predators, including golden eagles.

The next issue of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS will present the final article by Verne Huser in his series on Predator Control in Wyoming.



The West's golden and bald eagle populations are being seriously threatened through pesticides, predator poisoning campaigns, and illegal shooting of the big birds.

* Real Estate
* Insurance
Paul Allen,
Realtor
Pinedale, Wyo.
Phone: (307) 367-2411



When Spring comes to the high deserts of the West, one of the earliest harbingers is the petite, white mayflower or

phlox. This clump was nestled beside a Wyoming sagebrush.

National Air Quality Standards Announced

William D. Ruckelshaus, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, has announced final publication of National air quality standards for six common classes of pollutants — sulfur oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, photochemical oxidants, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons.

The Clean Air Act required him to set pollution limits at levels that protect the public health and provide an adequate margin of safety. States are required to plan to meet the standards by 1975.

"These are tough standards," Ruckelshaus said. "They are based on investigations conducted at the outer limits of our capability to measure connections between levels of pollution and effects on man. In the case of carbon monoxide, one of the most important automobile pollutants, we have set a standard to protect against effects reported by investigations which prompt arguments even among our own scientists. In the case of photochemical oxidants, also largely contributed to by automobiles, our standards approach levels that occur fairly commonly in nature.

"The legislative history of the Clean Air Act makes it plain," he added, "that when we talk about protecting the 'public health' against polluted air, we are talking about protecting those citizens who are particularly

sensitive to it—in other words, those citizens already afflicted with cardio-respiratory problems. If we have erred at all in setting these standards, we have erred on the side of public health."

Ruckelshaus emphasized that meeting these standards in the time allowed by the law will have a profound effect on U.S. cities. He said the carbon monoxide problem would be difficult to solve. "Of seven major cities where we have good enough data to make accurate predictions, only one—Cincinnati, Ohio — will come close with the presently contemplated automobile controls in the time allowed. And Cincinnati will not actually reach the standard until 1977," he said.

Ruckelshaus said that in the other six cities—Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia and Washington—the Federal motor vehicle control program would not bring air pollution down to the standard until sometime in the 1980's.

"If we are to meet the legal deadline for carbon monoxide, then, some cities may have to require drastic changes in their commuting habits," he added.

He said most regions of the country can meet the deadline for sulfur oxides and particulates by switching to low sulfur fuels already available to these regions, and by a much more rigorous

application of existing methods for controlling particulate matter. He said some increase in electric bills might result, "but the resources are there."

He said seven metropolitan areas might have serious trouble meeting the sulfur oxides and particulate standards. "The problem is particulates, and the most difficult case from a control standpoint is New York," he said. "We estimate that to bring air pollution levels down to the standard for particulates in New York will require a 300 percent increase in natural gas usage in the city. The only encouraging feature in the prognosis is that curing the particulate problem with natural gas will also take care of the sulfur oxides problem." He forecast somewhat less serious difficulties for Chicago, St. Louis, Baltimore, Hartford, Buffalo, and Philadelphia.

"All in all," he explained, "meeting the particulate standard in the time allowed by the law in these seven cities will require increasing our total national use of natural gas by about 15 percent, and almost half that increase would go to New York City alone. Unless other sources of natural gas are developed, such an increase in the use of this fuel might soon reduce what has been considered a desirable balance between reserves and consumption."

Ruckelshaus said the

relationship between levels of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides in the air and the production of photochemical oxidants is so complex and at this juncture so little understood, that it is difficult to predict whether or not the Nation will meet the standards for these pollutants in the time allowed by the law. "I am advised that the prospects for achieving significant control of existing stationary sources of the nitrogen oxides themselves in the time allowed by the law are bleak," he said. "However, the picture has its promising aspects. The Federal program for reducing emissions of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from new automobiles, plus the regulations that we will soon issue for controlling nitrogen oxide emissions from new and modified

electric power plants, should carry us a considerable distance down the road to an air quality that we and our children can enjoy."

Under the law, EPA sets two types of air quality standards. Primary standards protect the public health. Secondary standards protect against effects on soil, water, vegetation, materials, animals, weather, visibility, and personal comfort and well being.

Within nine months after a National air quality standard is set, the States must submit plans to meet it. If a State fails to submit a plan, or if a plan is inadequate, the Administrator issues a Federal plan for the State. Ruckelshaus may ask State up to 27 months to submit plans to a secondary standards.

Passport Costs More

Campers, outdoorsmen and recreationists will pay more for the privilege of using the national forests of the West this year. The annual Golden Eagle Passport has been increased in price from \$7 to \$10. The Passport is good from January 1 to December 31, 1971.

A daily entrance permit costing \$1 may be purchased in lieu of the Passport at any particular site to be used. Additional service or user

fees may be charged at some sites in some areas.

Some of the national parks and monuments will also make additional charges above the Golden Eagle or \$1 daily entrance permit. Local concessionaires on special-use areas may also make additional charges for their services.

Golden Eagle Passports can be obtained at any national forest office.