

High Country News

Vol. 3, No. 10

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, May 28, 1971

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

Awards announced . . .

Noble, Others Win National Honors

Carroll R. Noble of Pinedale, one of the grand old men of conservation in Wyoming, has been announced as a winner of the American Motors Conservation Awards for 1971. Noble joins 17 other men and two women from 15 states in the nationally recognized honor.

Noble won his award in the non-professional category. He was selected for his dedication to wilderness preservation throughout Wyoming. He has been an outspoken opponent of allowing public lands to be used to the detriment of antelope and other wild animals, including wild horses. He is himself a rancher and the son of pioneer homesteaders in the Upper Green River Valley.

He was one of the first to call attention to the problems of clearcut timbering on national forests, where high elevations and fragile soils preclude good forest regeneration and where other resources such as watershed, wildlife and recreation are more valuable than the wood products.

Three of the award winners are from Colorado. Montana, Idaho and Utah each had an outstanding conservationist named.

Frank H. Dunkle of Helena, Montana, director of the Montana Fish and Game Department, was honored for bringing stability, continuity and a high level of professional administration to a field of public affairs often marked by dissension and partisan politics. He

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Photos by Ron Johnston



A golden eagle looks over the Wyoming countryside from a rocky ledge.



Wyoming's eagle population, considered by some to be the largest concentration in the United States, has had heavy toll taken during the past winter. Poison baits containing thallium sulfate are now known to have been scattered by unknown sheep ranchers in many areas across the state. Many have died from these baits, indiscriminately scattered on both private and public lands. Golden eagles range over large areas, from the mountains to the deserts.

Poison found . . .

Eagle Death Toll Mounts

The latest toll of golden and bald eagles found dead in Wyoming, and reported, now stands at 43. Fifteen golden eagles were determined to have died by electrocution near Worland and a bald eagle was found under a power line near Cheyenne.

Twenty-three eagles are either confirmed or suspected of being killed by poisons. Unconfirmed, but suspected of being shot, are 35 more eagles.

Another area of Wyoming which has heretofore had no reports of dead eagles will be searched this weekend. But poison baits found in the area where there is high eagle concentrations lead officials to believe more poisoned birds will be found.

Meanwhile, the tragic deaths of so many of the big birds has stirred national interest. Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming has scheduled a hearing in Washington on June 2. There, a number of witnesses will put the spotlight on what has happened in Wyoming.

Evidence continues to mount that the thallium poison which killed the eagles was not a single instance of a poisoned bait. Besides the known eagle kills in central Wyoming, two more were picked up near Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in southwestern Wyoming.

A poison bait containing thallium has also been discovered in west central Wyoming. An analysis of the bait showed that domestic sheep and antelope meat were present, along with antelope hair and sheep wool.

Officials theorize that two-pound packages of the poisoned baits are prepared and then scat-

tered from snowmobiles or airplanes. The distribution is indiscriminate as to public lands or private, and as to the meat-eating animal or bird which eats it. No one knows where the baits are scattered except the person doing it.

Thallium is one of the heavy metals and like so many of them is extremely poisonous. It is slow acting and cumulative, concentrating in the vital organs and the brain. It causes irreversible brain damage. It can be absorbed through the skin.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife once used thallium sulfate as a predicide (predator killer). But the poison will kill animals and birds indiscriminately. So when 1080 was developed to selectively kill canines, the Bureau stopped using thallium. That was in 1967. The poison was supposedly taken off the market in 1965.

It has been available to ready purchasers at all times. Charles H. Lawrence, chief of management and enforcement for the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, told HIGH COUNTRY NEWS that 65 pounds of thallium sulfate had been purchased and brought into Wyoming during 1970-1971. He said in normal predicide usage, one ounce of the poison was used per 100 pounds of meat.

Lawrence said that investigation has revealed four companies which have been producing the poison. One of them was licensed to sell thallium in Wyoming. However, Wyoming's existing laws and regulations concerning all pesticides are so lax that practically

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Friday, May 28, 1971

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Wyoming's eagle population has suffered a serious loss. If evidence available is any indicator, ALL eagles may be endangered species in this state.

Already over 40 dead eagles in widely separated parts of the state indicate that known losses may be only a small part of the actual loss. No one will ever know of lone eagles which crashed to earth at some remote spot, never to be seen again.

Some of the eagles are known to have been electrocuted. Their large wingspread got them into trouble when they landed on electric-transmission line poles.

But most of the known dead are dead because of man's colossal ignorance, his inordinate greed, or his contemptuous value of a wild thing. They are dead because men deliberately and wilfully put terrible poisons where anything or everything could readily eat them.

There ought to have been some lessons learned after all the publicity resulting from "Silent Spring" and the sequels which have followed. That doesn't seem to be the case amongst a goodly number of Wyoming's big sheep operators. I know there are many responsible and understanding ranchers who have problems with predators and deal with them in specific ways which do not jeopardize other wild things or even human life. They deserve our respect and support.

The others, those who deliberately make up packets of poison-laden meat and then indiscriminately scatter it on their land and ours, should be summarily dealt with. And laws should be instituted as soon as possible making the possession, use, or transportation of certain deadly substances an unlawful matter.

The fact that poisoned eagles and the poisoned packets of meat have been found at widely separated points throughout Wyoming is evidence enough that there is more than one guilty party. It would almost appear to be a conspiracy amongst certain members of the sheep industry.

Spokesmen for the industry don't help their case. And neither do their releases on numbers of sheep and lambs killed by the various predators. Figures of animals killed by all predators are so out of line as to be unbelievable by even the most gullible. How the ranchers who help perpetuate such patently phony statistics can believe they can make a case with the public is beyond me.

And now comes M. Joseph Burke, past president of the American Sheep Producers Council, who says, "I would beg the public to withhold judgment on such an emotional issue, regrettable as it is, (the eagle poisoning) because of the irreparable damage they may do to an historic industry that has prided itself in preserving our heritage and way of life in this state, and will continue to do so."

Burke then goes on in a news story (Casper Star-Tribune, May 25, 1971) to plead for understanding of the sheep industry because the industry was the savior of the big game animals in the state!

"Coyotes are big takers. If they don't have sheep to kill, they'll really kill young deer and antelopes. You wouldn't have any fawn crops if the coyotes weren't controlled," he said. (See Verne Huser's article, page 6).

Burke said he personally recalls that as a boy - about 30 years ago - deer and antelope were almost extinct in vast areas of Wyoming. This, he said, resulted from coyote killings of the wildlife.

Yet, records show antelope numbers to be at a near-record high only a few years later.

Burke really should have said 40 years ago for that was when western ranges were so badly overgrazed by the livestock industry that not even a jackrabbit could have lived over vast areas. Furthermore, it was not until 1933 that the Taylor Grazing Act was passed and even a semblance of control over grazing livestock numbers was instituted. And to further compound the issue was the fact that a severe drought through the early and middle thirties reduced the chance for a comeback of any kind of animal.

When Mr. Burke says his is "an historic industry that has prided itself in preserving our heritage," he is stretching a point almost beyond credibility for those of us who lived here then and know better.

I know. I was also a boy on a Wyoming ranch during those times.

No, times have changed but the attitude of the old, livestock-industry land baron hasn't. Many of the old barons still see themselves as ruler of all they survey, including yours and my land, and all the things thereon - including God's eagles.

Bureau of Reclamation to Direct Water Resources Study

Interior's Bureau of Reclamation will soon be directing a massive, multiagency investigation of water resources in the western United States, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The study, scheduled for completion in 1977, will supply necessary data to establish and implement a so-called "Western U.S. Water Plan."

The study was authorized by the Colorado River Basin Project Act of 1968 and will include the 11 states lying

wholly or in part west of the Continental Divide. Primary objectives of the study will be to develop a general plan to solve complex water problems in the 11 western states. It will be designed to determine the most economically acceptable means of augmenting area water supplies. Interestingly, the study will consider recommending non-development for those areas where preservation of existing conditions is a viable alternative.



Wyoming's DuNoir River and Wind River flow together in the center of the photo, thenceforth to be known as the Wind River. This scene is from U.S. Highway 287 between Dubois and the Jackson Hole.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

In Reading one of your recent editorials in the "High Country News" concerning your problems with keeping up with correspondence, I fully appreciate the rush and demands on your time, and certainly want to congratulate you and thank you for your continuing efforts in the preservation of Wyoming for future generations. I have just returned from a flight from Sheridan to Gillette, Wyoming and back to Sheridan in which we passed over the oil fields adjacent to Gillette. I was appalled at the tremendous destruction that has taken place to the "useless" land in that area. The area is honeycombed with roads and erosion into the heads of the creeks, with pools of oil either openly burning or sitting in exposed areas. Also, the remains of the countryside following the



grading and construction of the new railroad line across the center of the country to connect the "rich coal fields" to the present railroad.

I merely mention these things in order to keep in mind that the conservation and eco-preservation is an unending one, and if anything we lose ground daily instead of gaining. Certainly Wyoming needs much stronger strip mining laws and probably a basic change in the philosophy of the people to prevent Wyoming from becoming a state in which extractive industries have the upper hand. I'm afraid that in Wyoming, in this area, that the public cannot be depended on to understand and appreciate the destruction that is taking place around them in sufficient numbers to stop it. Therefore, congratulations and thank you again for your efforts in these areas.

Sincerely,
John M. Omohundro III, M.D.
Sheridan, Wyoming

Editor:

I would like to compliment you on a very fine and interesting newspaper. My wife has been sending it to me while I have been in Vietnam; it is a very welcome piece of mail when it arrives. Keep up the good work.

Today everybody seems to be getting into the act of saving the environment. As an avid outdoors-man, as well as a Navy Chaplain, I would like to offer the enclosed excerpt from a sermon as possibly just one more reason for our responsibility to the environment. So far most reasons offered have been of the type---preserve the

natural beauty for our grandchildren, etc. While such an approach is correct, it falls far short of really reaching and convincing the vast majority of society. I am not naive enough to feel that an appeal to man's obligation to the Almighty is going to reach everybody, but if it succeeds in making just one more person aware of his responsibility to preserve the natural environment and to take an active stand against pollution, then my time will have been put to good use.

Again, thank you for a very fine newspaper.

Sincerely,
Robert Dale Coapman
LT, CHC, USNR

CREATION OR DESTRUCTION

God created everything in the universe. He is the creator of all the birds, animals, insects, plants, yes, even the earth we walk on, the air we breathe and the water we drink and enjoy. He is also the creator of man and woman. According to the creation myth in the book of Genesis, God stepped back at the completion of creation---looked at what he had made and proclaimed that it was good!

He then said to man you are in charge of the universe; it is your responsibility . . . And we blew it !!! Did we?

The purpose of human history is the continued creation of the universe . . . Creation in all fields of endeavor and the sustaining of all things that have been created. The Judeo-Christian heritage does not believe in a God who acted once to create the world; it believes in a God that con-

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Guest Editorial



by John D. Mosser

The following speech by John D. Mosser before the Bonneville Regional Advisory Council on January 9, 1970, is reprinted here in the interests of further informing our readers on the problems of power generation which face our region and nation. Elsewhere in this issue is an article dealing with existing, proposed and projected steam generating power plants in the Rocky Mountain-Plateau region. The prospects are frightening.

The editor.

During the past few years with increasing forcefulness the electric utility industry has been jolted from the comfortable assumption that it could continue growing along a geometric curve of doubled use every decade. To be sure, the attacks of conservationists on dam locations are nothing new; but the vigor of the opposition has lengthened the delays in hydro power site approvals to a new dimension. Further, growing storm has arisen to delay site after site for nuclear plants which the industry had been thoroughly convinced would be the source of the future. Now even conventional coal, oil and gas-fired plants are being banned in some locations.

As if all that were not enough, you should be undergoing a dawning realization that even if there were no ecologists, conservationists and do-gooders in the path, there simply is not enough money to build all the power plants that further decennial doubling requires. Unless, that is, it is to be given a priority similar to space exploration or war and well ahead of such things as education, housing, poverty and pollution programs.

Not a few in the utility industry, I expect, feel that just such priority will be forthcoming. The headaches of looming brownouts and blackouts will, it is assumed, at last awaken the public to the true necessity for more power regardless of some further environmental degradation and a congress awakened by the cries of outraged consumers will see that the money is forthcoming on a suitable priority basis. If any of you harbor such views, stop dreaming. The lessons of the '70s and '80s are going to be quite different - I think.

The first hard lesson that must be learned is that man may not within any short time frame do everything which his technology permits him to do. We undoubtedly have the resources of material, machinery and manpower to provide adequate housing for everyone in this nation by the end of the '70s; or—to rebuild our central cities or—to construct new transportation systems or—to provide adequate diet for all or—to meet all the potential demands for energy from various sources or—to upgrade and expand our educational systems or—to launch exploration rockets to Mars, Venus, Jupiter and the outer planets or—to achieve a hundred and one other major goals that people have discussed. But we definitely do not have the resources of manpower, machinery and material to accomplish all of those goals.

Unless the priorities are very clear and firm, we shall probably reach none of them. Rather, without reasonably settled and accepted priorities, the question would be whether we would make some progress toward each or whether general dissatisfaction with the gap between what is technologically possible in any area and what is realistically possible in any area will lead to such strife that we move backward instead of forward.

If the goals are left to the market place to decide, I feel confident in saying that the electric utility industry with its problems of regulation will not be able to compete to attain its own goals. Neither do I think it likely that in any politically established system of goals electricity wants will be deemed of high enough priority to meet the industry's goals.

One reason for this lies in the growing awareness of the second hard lesson: that man **SHOULD** not do everything which his technology permits.

The most important information that has been so far gathered from the billions invested in space exploration is that man is on a small planet quite different from anything else within the reach of man's technology, in short, that he has no place else to go. Star Trek, Dick Tracy, Flash Gordon, Buck Rogers and a host of other fictional characters in whom I have long delighted notwithstanding; the prospect that any significant number of human beings will find a

home anywhere other than on earth in the foreseeable future is just about zero.

What is necessary is the preservation of the vital balance on this blue-green orb, this earth, this home of ours, measured in that frame. The real question for the next decades may not be whether power is necessary but whether power is tolerable.

Before examining the environmental problems of more power, let us look for a minute at the question with which I titled this speech, "Is Power Necessary?"

There is certainly some evidence that power is not a prime necessity in the fact that human life flourished on this planet without it until the very recent past. Hundreds of millions of people lived, loved, enjoyed family life, friendships, worked and played without a single kilowatt-hour as an aid. Most of what we still recognize as the great art, music, literature and philosophy of mankind was created without any knowledge of electricity.

"Ah!" you say, "but that was long ago and things have changed. There are too many people crowded into large cities now. We could never survive without ever increasing quantities of power!" I wonder. On checking my world almanac, I found that the seven hundred million plus people of China, many of whom are packed into larger cities than any we have in the Northwest, survive with less power than is produced by the Bonneville Power Administration. "Well," you say, "Who wants to live like a Chinese Coolie?"

Now we are getting to the real crux of the matter. There is serious question whether the world can support even its present population at an American standard of living, much less an increased population at an increased standard of living. Ever increasing use of resources and mechanical servants looks more and more like a standard of death, rather than life.

Nearly all the world's major religions contain something similar to the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. In ecological terms this means do not use more of the world's resources than you expect others to use.

History teaches that man does not live by the Golden Rule. But it also teaches that whenever there is too great a disparity between the consumption of resources by one group as distinct from other groups, revolution and warfare result. The Atomic Bomb should certainly make us realize that all-out warfare is beyond the capacity of our environment. Vietnam seems to teach that we can no longer afford even limited warfare. If I read all these things correctly, the Golden Rule is rapidly becoming not an imperative for getting to some heaven but for remaining on earth.

Here in the Northwest, we have a hydrothermal power program projected for development to 1990. The plans call for an additional 41-billion-500 million kilowatts of peaking capacity, or a tripling of the present capacity. Increasing reliance is to be put on thermal plants and primarily nuclear thermal plants.

Now, assuming that the world and the environment of the Northwest could easily survive this expansion, I ask you would you be prepared to live with a comparable goal on a per capita basis for China? Suppose that nation decided that its top priority were to provide power for its people comparable to that of the Northwest. Suppose it also felt that nuclear power was the best way to meet its goal. It would set out to build six thousand nuclear plants the size of the Trojan plant, which is the first of only 20 to be built under the Northwest program. Are we prepared to accept the environmental consequences?

I do not mean to make a whipping boy of power. Clearly we could have equally disastrous results if the Chinese decided their top priority was to match our use with 500 million automobiles by 1990. What I am saying is that it is impossible to continue to project power programs on the basis of an expansion of the American standard of living and an expansion of population which could be derived from past curves.

Some of you are no doubt thinking that I am overlooking a major point: that power often offers environmental benefits compared with any of the alternatives available. For example, there is less pollution using electricity for home heating than using wood, oil, gas or some other fossil fuel. I realize this. What I am suggesting is that the choices are much more fundamental than that.

In terms of environmental impact, how big are the homes that we can afford to heat? And to

what temperature can we afford to heat them? Do the Hippies perhaps have a point in not taking a bath every day or using electricity to shave their beards?

Should electric power be used to light and rotate giant hamburgers and other advertising symbols in the sky?

Should electricity be used to amplify sound to the point where it deafens?

Should we bring a miniature power saw to the table to carve the roast because we are too lazy to learn to sharpen a knife?

Or, and this one usually wins applause from the environmentalists, should we build a nuclear power plant in order to power a dirty aluminum plant in order to produce another billion aluminum cans a year to litter our countryside?

I would not blame you for skepticism as to whether people will make these hard choices. I am convinced, however, that if they do not make them utilities will encounter the headaches of brownouts and blackouts and have to throw the switch on industries or areas, cutting off all uses at some times during the coming decades. It, therefore, behooves you to start educating the public on what types of choices are available and, at the very least, to stop promoting those uses of power which seem least essential. Further, the public must be educated to understand that there is no such thing as a clean industry without environmental impact. Agriculture, education, electronics and tourism all have some detrimental consequences and so do all forms of power. The problem is selecting, minimizing and balancing the amount and location of these impacts with environmental capacity.

All this undoubtedly seems very gloomy to you. In a sense it is unduly so, for I certainly do not expect that there will be no increase in power use in the Northwest, the United States or the world in the coming decades. What I have tried to do is make you aware that the environmental issues are not merely superficial issues of beautification by putting power lines underground or planting roses at sub-stations or even conservationist issues as to whether a certain area should be used for power production or left in a natural state. What is directly involved is the question of standard of living and the thousands of individual choices made by each of millions of consumers of power. We can either educate them to make more intelligent choices or face dictated choices by government intervention or experience wholesale elimination of power through blackout and brownout without discrimination among uses.

Perhaps I should make some comment on the emphasis of the regional plan on nuclear power. I am certainly no expert. I did make an extended effort to become an informed layman when the State Sanitary Authority faced the job of determining waste discharge permit limitations for the Trojan plant. As you know, I voted to issue such a permit. Some of my conclusions were manifest in its issuance and conditions. Let me briefly reiterate these and also state some not previously expressed:

1. Thermal pollution of inland waters by once-through cooling of these plants must be prevented by cooling towers or ponds.

2. Cooling towers or ponds will involve some environmental problems. These should be minimal east of the Cascades, tolerable in most areas, possibly serious in areas subject to icing problems like the Columbia Gorge from Portland to The Dalles or areas with inversion problems like the Willamette Valley.

3. The possibility of any disastrous explosion or release of massive radiation at the plant can be virtually eliminated. However, the same type of prudence that quarantines initial moon visitors on return to earth favors site locations away from major population centers until more operating experience is gained. In the longer run, sites in densely populated load centers may be the best to utilize waste heat and avoid transmission costs, both economic and environmental.

4. The environmental problems that may be most serious lie in biological concentration of initially low radiation levels, about which we know very little, and in the transportation and safe disposition of nuclear wastes. I would not halt nuclear power development on these grounds; but I would certainly go slow with it.

5. The economics of nuclear power do not seem nearly so favorable as to justify the emphasis utilities are placing on it. No plant as large as Trojan is yet operating. Costs of com-

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The Wind River wends its way through beautiful Wind River Canyon between Thermopolis and Shoshoni, Wyoming, on U. S. Highway 20. Fishing is excellent, permitted by the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Famous Artist's Paintings Now on Sale

Copies of William Henry Jackson's paintings are now on sale at the Visitor Center at Scotts Bluff National Monument. Superintendent Homer Rouse announced that reprints of two of this famous pioneer artist's paintings are available. They sell for \$1.75 each, or \$3.00 a set. They are of a wagon train passing through Mitchell Pass, and one Approaching Chimney Rock.

Numerous visitor requests have been received for copies of Jackson's watercolor paintings, so the Oregon Trail Museum Association contracted the Brown and Bigelow Corporation of St. Paul, Minnesota, to produce the reprints. Mr. Tom Midleswart, president of the Association, said, "This is a

non-profit organization authorized to assist the National Park Service in furthering its interpretive program by meeting visitor information needs. These reprints will help satisfy this special need."

In the spring of 1866, Jackson traveled through Mitchell Pass as a bullwacker with a wagon train. He made numerous sketches as he traveled the Oregon Trail to California. Later, in 1931 and 1937 he produced the watercolor paintings that are now being made available to the public.

A room in the Visitor Center at Scotts Bluff National Monument is devoted to the exhibition of Jackson's work. Some 35 of his original paintings and

sketches, including the two that have been reprinted, are on permanent display. The William H. Jackson room is an important visitor attraction at the National Monument dedicated to the westward migrations.

Nebraska Begins New Program for Wildlife

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Oklahoma's Department of Wildlife Conservation have announced the start of new programs to benefit wildlife by creating and maintaining additional habitat, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The new citizen participation projects are called "Acres For Wildlife."

Participants qualify for the program by soliciting at least one acre of land from a private landowner to be designated "Acres For Wildlife." These acres cannot be mowed, grazed, or burned for a period of one year.

Those who enroll tracts of land under the program receive a certificate signed by the directors of the

Wildlife Departments, plus an attractive shoulder patch identifying him or her as an "Outdoor Cover Agent," as well as periodic bulletins on management of wildlife habitat. The landowner is rewarded with a one-year subscription to the official magazine of the Wildlife Department.

HELP!

The Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council needs your help. New legislation to create a national recreation area will not protect the magnificent Greater Sawtooth Area. The GSPC is working for legislation which would create a combination national park-national recreation area complex. Such a complex would provide better protection for the irreplaceable resources of the entire area.

They need letters to your congressmen expressing your thoughts. And they need money for publications, mailings, and a possible television campaign. Your contribution of whatever amount will be used to alert the public and mount the campaign to protect one of America's last remaining scenic areas.

Can you help? Send your contribution to the Greater Sawtooth Preservation Council, Box 1156, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401. Use the enclosed blank below for your address so they may keep you informed.

Name

Street

City

State

Zip



Photo by Pat Hall

Smoke stacks from industrial plants as well as steam generating electric plants and the ever-present automobile contribute to our growing, national, air pollution problem. Technology is not available to remove all pollutants from stack emissions. In addition, industries balk at the additional cost to remove the last two or three percent of emissions.

Energy May be Cause Of Environmental Degradation

by Tom Bell

National concern for energy may be leading our western states into an era of environmental degradation unprecedented in history. The unfortunate circumstance of geology and geography is such as to mislead all but the most concerned environmentalists that the problems are not insurmountable.

From Canada to Mexico, the Rocky Mountain states have been blessed with vast, unspoiled open spaces, clean air, and an environment relatively unpolluted in all respects. That may now be coming to an end.

Millions of years ago, the great swamps of the Dinosaur age filled in vast inland oceans which once covered the Plateau and Rocky Mountain States. Today, the resulting coal beds are viewed as the nation's answer to ever-growing demands for more electricity.

Coupled with that is the fact that vast open spaces are the answer to a polluter's dream. Smoke, fumes, and deadly emissions can be dissipated over wide areas with nobody but Indians or sheep herders to suffer the immediate consequences.

Hearings now being held in the West concerning power plant siting, coal strip-mining, and the impact of huge transmission lines are finally beginning to focus attention on the overall problem. It is doubtful if the public will be made aware of the enormity of the situation which faces the entire area. Like so many other problems, we deal with the whole

problem on a piecemeal basis.

Chambers of Commerce and industry spokesmen will tell us on each individual power plant that its impact is really insignificant. Not even they may be looking at the whole scope of the problem. But when you view the projected, the proposed, the now-building, and the operating power plants which will stretch from Montana to Arizona and New Mexico, you cannot but wonder if sparkling, clean air is not to go the way of the passenger pigeon.

That the concern of many more people is beginning to surface gives hope that most stringent environmental protective measures will be required. Even so, the destruction of land and air resources will be on a massive scale.

Demands for power may be so great that environmental considerations will be rejected. That could be a threat of enormous proportions.

As an example, the Huntington Canyon project in Central Utah does not plan to choose SO₂ (sulfur dioxide) removal equipment in time to have it installed when the first unit goes on line. The plant will produce 170 tons of SO₂ per day. Sulfur dioxide can produce "early aging" in vegetation. A natural forest lies just to the west of the plant site.

The alarm of the environmentalists is now showing in half-page newspaper ads (The Denver Post, May 23, 1971) and in

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Electricity Does Not Give "Power to Spare"

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publications of newly-formed specialized groups such as Utah Clear.

The latter recently published a flyer, "The Energy Ethic", in which the following is recounted:

"FOUR CORNERS AREA HEADED TOWARD BECOMING POWER GENERATING HUB OF NATION. The cluster of coal-fired plants planned for the area would supply electricity to portions of several southwest states. Most of the power produced would go to the Los Angeles area.

Two plants are in operation (Fruitland and Mohave), and three are under construction (Navajo, San Juan, and Huntington). The huge Kaiparowits plant (twice as big as any of the others) is in the advanced planning stage. At least a dozen more are in one stage or another in the four Corners states, Wyoming, and Nevada.

"AN END TO CLEAR SKIES IN SOUTHERN UTAH AND ADJACENT REGIONS. The scenic Southwest-- including Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, Arches, Canyonlands, Monument Valley, and countless other areas-- is at present most famous for vast scenic views under clear, blue skies. When (or if) the power plants are built, tons of fly ash, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and other pollutants spewed into the air as waste products from the burning of coal (to produce steam to generate electricity) will put an end to clear blue skies, distant views, and fresh air.

"LOS ANGELES SMOG AT LAKE POWELL? More of a certainty than a possibility. The Lake Powell area is prone to inversions. The two plants to be built at the edge of the lake will burn 70,000 Tons - of coal per day. They will produce 1,100 tons of sulfur oxides per day (three times the amount put out by Kennecott in Salt Lake, and four times as much as all Los Angeles); over 100 tons of fly ash per day (as much as Los Angeles); and over 650 tons of nitrogen oxides per day (as much as all the cars in Los Angeles emit) . . . From only two plants.

"DANGER TO HUMAN HEALTH. Significant increases in the U.S. death rate from lung cancer and emphysema are directly related to increases in air pollution, particularly sulfur oxides and particulates. Few people live in the Four Corners area, but their lives are none less valuable than those of people living in cities. Particulates, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides have long range, cumulative effects on all living things. We don't fully understand what the total impact of these poisons might be. Is it wise to dump huge quantities into the air without knowing?

"POOR USE OF WATER IN OUR ARID REGION. The Colorado River Basin is one of the most water-short areas in the country. The immediately planned power plants will consume enough

water to supply a city twice as large as greater Salt Lake City. Since much of the power will be used outside the Colorado Basin, we are essentially exporting this valuable resource to areas with more abundant sources of cooling water.

"DAMAGE TO THE LAND. The most significant damage comes from the strip mining of coal. (Over 400 acres per year at Black Mesa.) Failure to restore lands abused by strip mining in the East has resulted in a strong movement in Congress and State Legislatures to ban strip mining. We should not allow extensive strip mining to even begin in the Southwest. Roads, fly ash disposal areas, railroads, pipelines, transmission lines, and dams and reservoirs add to land destruction.

"INDIANS ONCE MORE BEING FORCED FROM THEIR LANDS. Navajos and Hopis--How many injustices from the white man must they endure? Their clean air, their water and land is being taken from them by the power "needs" of far-away urban areas. Their peaceful pastoral existence is threatened by activity which may lead to the end of their way of life. Few at Black Mesa speak English. Hundreds of them are being displaced. "Relocated" is the term. But to where? For traditional Navajos (not the urbanized, Anglicized progressives of Window Rock who signed the lease contracts) there simply is not any place to go. All other favorable areas are occupied.

Functionally illiterate and unemployable for industrial and urban life, these people will be refugees. This is progress...

A PROBLEM FOR THE FUTURE. Pollution, health effects, water waste, land damage, Indian injustice. All that is bad enough, but the most serious problem is the accelerating rate of consumption of energy resources. This too-rapid consumption may deprive future generations of their needed power--AMERICANS USE 50 TIMES AS MUCH POWER PER CAPITA AS THE REST OF THE WORLD. If we could but convince ourselves that we could get along with only 25- times as much power, we would only need half as much power. Half as many dams. Half as many power plants. Fewer strip mines, transmission lines, poles, and wires. THE ESTIMATED POWER OUTPUT INCREASE IS 500 PERCENT IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS. Are we intelligent and responsible enough to recognize this prediction as a warning signal, and reduce our consumption rather than increase it?

"MUCH OF OUR DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY IS ARTIFICIALLY PRODUCED. Much of the "need" for power plants has been caused by intensive and often irresponsible advertising by utilities and appliance companies. We do not, nor does any power company, have "Power to Spare " Producing electricity from coal is also very

inefficient. The following quote is from Outlook for Energy in the United States, Energy Division of Chase National Bank N.A.: "...utilities are trying to eliminate or minimize the seasonal aspect of the demand by promoting the use of electricity for heating. Their efforts, thus far, have been vigorous, imaginative, and fruitful. And with the prospects for much more extensive use of air conditioning in the future, there is the accompanying likelihood of a rapidly growing use of electricity for heating, too... And because the use of electricity for heating is less efficient, the consumption of primary energy will need to be correspondingly greater."

"DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENERGY ETHIC IS LONG OVERDUE. We are rapidly destroying our en-

vironment by wastefully consuming energy sources. Our civilization--which prides itself on its philosophical and theological developments, on its social and moral ethics--has failed to develop an Energy Ethic. We must realize that energy sources are finite--once we consume what are now stored, they will be gone..

And then they ask: "IF YOU BELIEVE AS WE AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS DO, THAT--

1. A moratorium on building of power plants in the Four Corners area should be declared until the true need for power can be established, and until adequate pollution controls can be designed for any that must be built;

2. Overpopulated cities like Los Angeles should not be allowed to have cheap

electricity at the expense of polluting the air and endangering the health of people in the Four Corners area;

3. Irrational exploitation of coal resources may degrade the quality of life of future generations;

4. The public must be educated to reduce consumption of electricity and to stabilize the population;

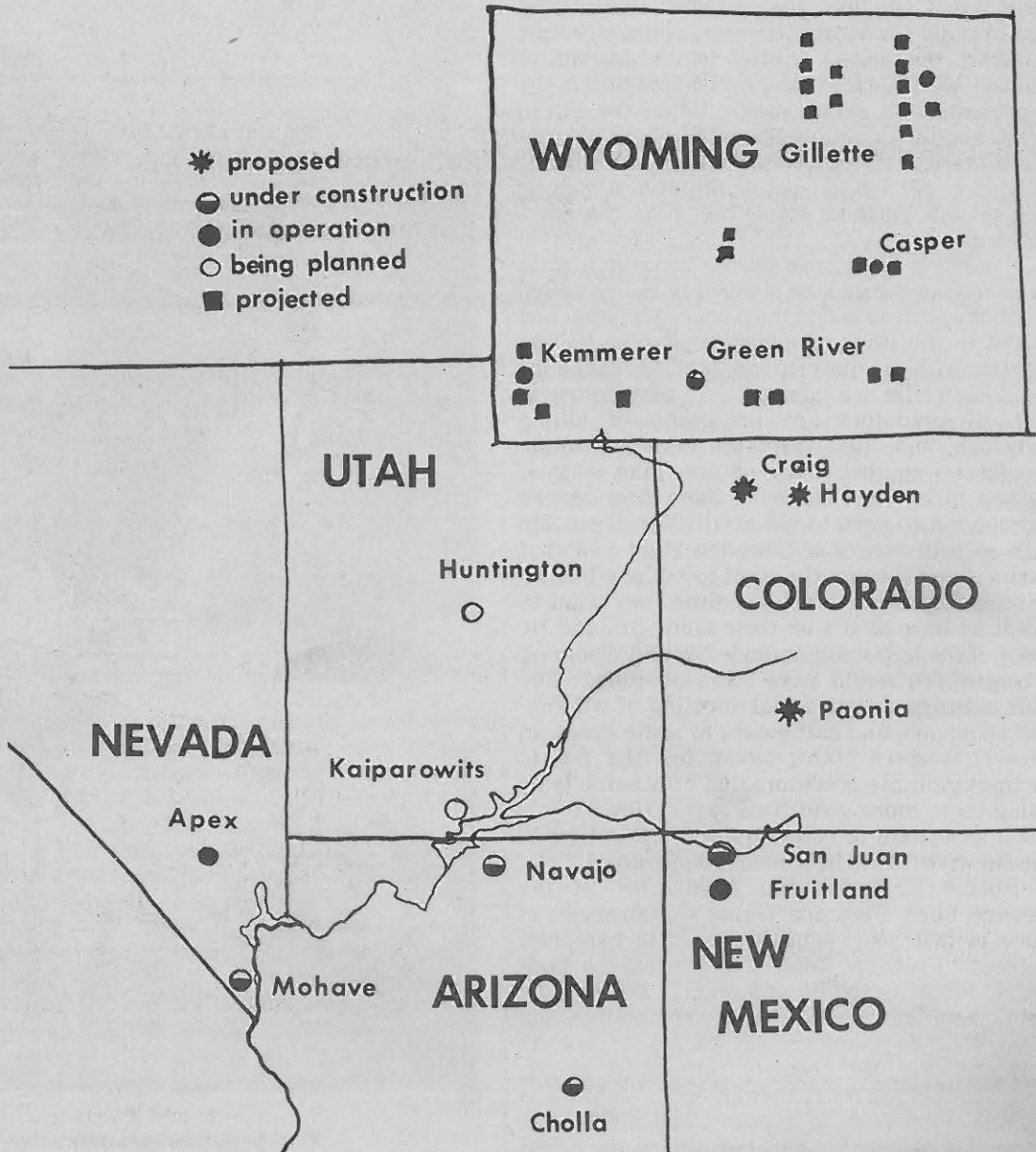
5. And that advertising for increased use of electricity by utilities and appliance companies should be illegal;"

THEN JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THESE BELIEFS by writing statements for the record, and to your congressmen.

The problem is so great and the need for public awareness so imperative that HIGH COUNTRY NEWS will run a continuing series on the issue.

Plant Site & Size (MW) ¹	Plant Owners	Complete Date	Coal Burned Daily (tons) ²	Fly Ash Emitted Daily (tons) ³	Sulfur Oxides Emitted Daily (tons) ⁴	Nitrogen Oxides Emitted Daily (tons)	Water Used Annually (Acre ft.) ⁵
Fruitland 2,085 MW	Units 1-3, Ariz Pub Svc Co, 100%; Units 4-5 APSC 15%; So Cal Ed 48%; El Paso Elect 7%; Pub Svc Co of NM 13%; Slt River 10%; Tucson G&E 7%	7-1-70	22,000 (0.7% S) (21% ash)	320 (to be reduced to 38 by late 1971)	384	182	34,000
San Juan 1,035	Pub Svc of NM 50%; Tucson G&E 50%	6-1-73, (1st unit)	10,000 (0.7% S) (21% ash)	18 (99.5%)	141	93	20,200
Mohave 1,580 MW	So Cal Ed 56%; L.A. Dept W&P 20%; Nev Power 14%; Slt River 10%	10-1-70, complete 6-1-71	14,000 (0.5% S) (8% ash)	30 (97%)	157	140	33,000
Navajo 2,310 MW	BuRec 24.3%; Slt River 21.7%; L.A. Dept W&P 21.2%; APSC 14%; Nev Power 11.3%; Tucson G&E 7.5%	7-1-74, complete 7-1-76	24,000 (0.5% S) (8% ash)	14 (99.5%)	210	204	34,000
Huntington 2,000	Utah Power & Light 100%	1974, complete 1978	17,000 (0.5% S) (7.5% ash)	6 (99.5%)	170	180	35,000
Kaiparowits 5,000 MW	BuRec; So Cal Ed; San Diego G&L; APSC (% not known)	1978	45,000 (0.0% S) (8% ash)	98 (97%)	880	450	102,000

¹MW = 1 million watts. Total output of plants about 14 billion watts.
²Average life of coal-fired plant roughly 35 years. 35 x 365 x coal burned daily = total amount to be burned.
³For plants already in operation, actual fly ash emissions are given; for those not yet constructed, we assumed 99.5% fly ash recovery. Initial Kaiparowits plans indicate 97% anticipated recovery. It should be noted that neither of plants in operation now are achieving the 99.5% optimum figure; actual recovery closer to 97%.
⁴Power companies say, "No technology exists to remove sulfur oxides". Many scientists dispute this. At any rate, no plants will have sulfur oxide removal capability until that great "technological breakthrough". No plans at all for removal of nitrogen oxides. (Kaiparowits plant: Fly ash removal at 97% removal instead of 99.5% efficiency will provide about 100 tons rather than 17 tons per day.
⁵Acre Ft. = 325,850 gallons (Sufficient to supply water needs of 6 persons for 1 year.)



Predator Control In Wyoming

Predators--those creatures that live by killing and consuming other creatures--kill livestock and wildlife. There is little doubt about that fact, and certainly livestock owners have the right to protect their investment, at least on their own land, when they suffer losses. But more and more people are questioning their right to kill predators on public land they may be grazing, and the indiscriminate killing of all meat-eaters through poisoning campaigns or of all curious animals--including man--with cyanide guns is highly questionable.

One Colorado trapper once studied the tracks of a cattle-killing mountain lion, a big tom, in midsummer when he knew he'd have a most difficult time trapping or hunting down the critter. As soon as the first snow fell in the fall, he went after that one cat--not cats in general. He treed five different cougar, including one female with two kittens, before he found the guilty tom and killed it. That is sane and reasonable predator control. When a rancher begins losing calves to coyotes, he should have the right to kill the offending animals--but not all coyotes everywhere by whatever means possible.

More and more Wyoming ranchers are turning to illegal poisoning programs, and the practice of aerial shooting of predators is growing in the state. Reports of a Rock Springs woolgrower's shooting 40 coyotes in a 3-hour flight by helicopter and of 25 eagles shot and buried near Saratoga may not be true, but again they may. The coyote carcasses poisoned with 1080 and left on the lower end of the Teton National Forest recently suggest once again the widespread use of that dangerous poison by Wyoming ranchers who can apparently buy it as readily as snuff. The 22 eagles--11 bald and 11 golden--that were found near Casper in early May certainly suggests foul play, perhaps illegal poisoning. Both species are protected by Federal law and with good reason (I recommend to the readers of the series Leona Train Reinow's book *THE YEAR OF THE LAST EAGLE*, written in conjunction with her husband Robert Reinow; the Reinows are also the authors of *MOMENT IN THE SUN*).

I have always wondered how wildlife got along before man came onto the scene to control the predators. When the wolf still roamed the state, the buffalo was common, and elk roamed the plains as well as the mountains. When the deer and the antelope played, the wolf and the mountain lion were more plentiful than they are today. Over on the California Coast, the abalone, a large edible--and delicious--snail, was everywhere in the shallow waters when the sea otter count ran into the millions. Today, the commercial abalone fishermen blame the few hundred remaining sea otter for the paucity of abalone while they harvest millions of tons of the succulent flesh every year. When the Snake River and the Columbia flowed freely to the sea, there were millions of salmon and steelhead; natural predation did not decimate the salmon and sea-run rainbow trout, but man, the dam-builder did.

Predators don't have much chance in a state so geared to the gun, so steeped in the so-called frontier spirit, so tied to the pioneer tradition and mired in the myth of superabundance. Killing predators is as natural as fencing range or carrying a rifle in a gun rack in a pick-up truck. Yet all predators are not guilty of killing livestock, and often predators benefit wildlife. Predators, by their very nature, take what is easiest to kill--and many of them find enough carrion not to need to kill at all. Yet, there are bills in both houses of Congress right now that would give ranchers the right to kill any bird or animal they want to kill any time they want to kill it as long as it's on their land (S78 and H75060), if the bills were amended as the Wyoming Woolgrowers would have them amended. The bills actually outlaw aerial shooting of wildlife. But sheepmen and cattlemen, in some cases, in several western states would use the bill to further decimate predators that may actually be doing them more good than harm. How do you get a sheepman to listen to the facts instead of the old wives' tales he's been brought up on?

Robert V. Broadbent, a member of the Nevada State Fish and Game Commission, in June of last year published a little pamphlet entitled "Predator Control in Nevada--a pork barrel threat to the environment," in which he pointed out that "the total value of livestock and poultry lost to predators was \$32,315 (in Nevada in 1969). Yet the 'control' amounted to expenditures of ten times that amount." In Utah in 1970, the total value of livestock and poultry lost to predators was \$74,830, but during the same period the predator control program in the state

received \$187,937 from the State Department of Agriculture, the State Fish and Game Division (\$15,000), county commissioners, wool growers, cattlemen and grazing associations.

Broadbent's pamphlet quotes a number of experts on predator control:

Walter Shannon, past-director of the California Department of Fish and Game--"Our department could not demonstrate the need for predatory animal control for the benefit of wildlife."

Robert L. Salter, assistant director of the Idaho Fish and Game Department--"General widespread predator control for game management purposes has been demonstrated to be of little, if any, value and we do not support this philosophy."

Wendell G. Swank, director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department--"I believe it behooves the state wildlife management agencies to have ample and adequate justification for control of any animal."

Harry R. Woodward, director of the Colorado Department of Game, Fish and Parks--"There is considerable evidence that predator effect on game is negligible when habitat conditions are good." I might add that the same is true for livestock.

Ted Trueblood, associate editor of *FIELD AND STREAM*--"The perpetual war against the coyote would dwindle to an occasional skirmish if there were no domestic sheep."

Mike Frome, conservation editor of *FIELD AND STREAM*--"The War on predators has been waged with little scientific knowledge of their beneficial roles in the biotic community, with a little moral or ethical consideration for man's responsibility in conserving natural life as an integral part of the environment."

Several statements quoted in the Broadbent pamphlet relate to predation on antelope: 1) basically, the key to the antelope situation in Utah lies with the land." (Jay R. Udy, "Effects of Predator Control on Antelope Populations," a Utah Fish and Game publication); 2) stomach samples from 911 coyotes in northeastern California were studied and "When these samples were analyzed, no antelope remains were found," in an area thick with antelope. (James Gilman, past game manager for the California Department of Fish and Game); 3) "Predators are not the factor that are limiting antelope numbers. Most wildlife technicians consider range conditions as the most significant force controlling antelope." (Glen Griffith, Nevada Fish and Game Department at the 1962 Interstate Antelope Conference); 4) "The most important limiting factor to antelope increase and distribution at the present time is the intense food competition from domestic sheep." (Helmut Buechner's "Life History, Ecology, and Range Use of the Pronghorn Antelope in Trans-Pecos Texas). Can the antelope situation in

(Continued on page 7)



Coyote and bobcat carcasses are often ignominiously hung from fences or posts as if in bizarre warning to live animals.

Predator Control...

High Country News—7
Friday, May 28, 1971

Wyoming be so vastly different from that in Utah, California, Nevada, and Texas?

When Wyoming woolgrowers claim—as they have in a Campbell County publication—that they are providing more wildlife for the hunters by killing predators, what real justification do they have? Perhaps the facts are that by overgrazing their own lands and their Federally owned grazing lands, they are in fact reducing the antelope and deer populations that they claim to be enhancing. And now Wyoming woolgrowers have objected to the wild horses grazing in the state because the horses eat what the sheep should have. Do those sheep ranchers ever consider the amount of sheep graze eaten by the rabbits that overpopulate because coyotes are killed off? What will it take to make believers out of the woolgrowers? Why can't they accept fact?

Quoting from the 1964 Leopold Report, Broadbent develops the case against predator control programs even further: "It is the unanimous opinion of this board (Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall's Advisory Board on Wildlife Management) that control is considerably in excess of the amount that can be justified in terms of public interest . . . (my italics). The primary target of predator control in the western United States is the coyote and the main purpose of coyote control is to protect domestic sheep," and "It is traditional for sheepmen to charge nearly all losses to predators." Something close to half of all lamb losses for 1970 were attributed by Wyoming woolgrowers to the predators, primarily the coyote. And finally, "The assertion that native birds and animals are in general need of protection from native predators is supported weakly, if at all, by the enormous amount of wildlife research on the subject conducted in the past two or three decades."

When are we going to start listening to the truth? The Division of Wildlife Services, currently being sued by Defenders of Wildlife and the Sierra Club in one case and by the Humane Society in another, conducts and coordinates predator control programs in every western state. Its avowed three-fold purpose is 1) animal damage control, 2) wildlife enhancement, and 3) monitoring and surveillance. But the animal damage control means preventive control, in most cases before the fact, and indiscriminate control, not merely control of the individual guilty predator(s). The enhancement of wildlife means killing non-game species to protect game species, a practice that frequently upsets the natural balance and leads to further control efforts and mis-management by man—such as the mass rabbit drives in Idaho this past winter and the widespread poison campaigns aimed at rodents.

The monitoring and surveillance program leaves much to be desired. In Wyoming, for example, the DWS cannot tell you how many black-footed ferrets—if any—still live (Utah's DWS can't either, but at least they are conducting a search for the rare mammal: in a ten-square-mile prairie dog town near Monticello in southeastern Utah, DWS observers have found trenches similar to those made by ferrets in South Dakota, their last real

predator kill count included 2707 coyotes, 408 bobcats and lynx, 408 foxes, 110 badgers, 29 cougars (out of an estimated population of over a thousand), and 13 bears. It is interesting to note that while 13 bears were killed by DWS personnel, only two cattle were killed by bears (though bears did take 64 sheep and 66 lambs). The cougars lost 29 of their number to DWS trappers and hunters. They killed only three cattle (plus 160 sheep and 195 lambs). How many sheep are worth one free-ranging mountain lion?

How were these thousands of predators killed? In Utah more than a quarter (27.5%) of all coyotes were killed by denning (dug out of their dens as pups and clubbed or shot or poisoned). Coyote getters accounted for 18.5% of the total number of coyotes killed (no records are available concerning other animals killed by these cyanide guns, which—according to a DWS document—are theoretically capable of killing a person who weighs less than 275 pounds. Jack Olsen reports the death of a 49-year-old Texan as a result of his being shot with a coyote getter in his Poisoning-of-the-West Series in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED.) Traps (17%), aerial shooting (15%) and ground shooting (11%) were all more effective as coyote killing methods than "predicides" (mostly 1080), which killed only 10% of the total coyotes (but who knows how many other creatures?).

Wyoming's kill of coyotes in 1970 breaks down as follows: total kill, 5,475; traps and snares, 417 (7.4%); coyote getters, 1,477 (27%); predicides, 113 (2%); shot, 687 (12.5%); shot from airplane, 1,554 (28.4%); denning, 1,220 (22.3%); taken by dogs, 7. Again, the two percent of coyotes killed by predicides cannot justify the widespread use of poisons.

The fact that poisoning is such a relatively ineffective killer of coyotes and such a totally indiscriminate killer of everything that eats the baits (or ever touches them—you can absorb a lethal dose of 1080 through the skin) raises the question of whether or not poisoning ought to be allowed at all. That's what the Defenders of Wildlife-Sierra Club suit is all about. Land administered by the Forest Service and the BLM belongs to you and me; yet we and our pets and our wildlife are all endangered by the practice of spreading poison baits and coyote getters all over our land to "control" predators who may be guilty of nothing more than killing mice.

Again I ask, who has the right to kill my coyotes on my land so he can raise sheep that destroy my land with overgrazing, and at the same time create an imbalance in the ecosystem that leads to further environmental degradation? When the rodent and rabbit population explodes in the absence of coyotes, we are told that a poison campaign is necessary (or a community rabbit drive), so we pump more poison into the ecosystem, a practice that causes even further environmental degradation. Why do we continue to base our predator control programs on old wives' tales instead of ecological evidence? On personal prejudice instead of scientific fact?

Wildlife includes all species, predators and prey alike, and as Park Service research biologist Glen Cole points out, "Harmful relationships cannot exist in nature." At the Thirty-sixth North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference in Portland in March, Cole said "Previous assumptions which were the basis for artificially regulating ungulates overestimate the regulatory effects of predators." Left to itself in a natural situation, wildlife doesn't need our help; it needs our wisdom and tolerance. But in roads on wildlife habitat such as the Kendall Dam project or the Clark's Fork Canyon Road, both in Wyoming, will destroy our wildlife as surely as 1080 and coyote getters, as surely as the aerial shooting and denning practices we allow in the name of wildlife enhancement.

Domestic livestock is another matter, but it

involves the same general principles. We cannot continue to upset the natural ecological relationships by overgrazing or by indiscriminately destroying whole species. Livestock owners should have the right to kill predators that are decimating their herds and flocks, it seems to me, but they should not have blanket authority to kill on mere circumstantial evidence. If they graze their livestock on public lands, they should take their chances with whatever other wildlife may use that public land. (Have you ever counted the coyotes on the National Elk Refuge? Yet we still have elk).

But a better idea than killing predators might be a livestock insurance program that pays livestock owners for their actual losses. Throughout the west predator control programs cost more—even in dollars and cents, but especially in environmental damage—than the actual loss of livestock. Rancher traditionally overestimate their losses to predators, exaggerate their financial losses to coyotes and eagles and other predators. Would it not make more sense to turn the DWS funds into an insurance program for livestock losses and stop killing the predators unless they become epidemic? And we have learned—though livestock owners rarely listen to the truth about predators—that uncontrolled coyotes don't overpopulate, that predatory species are in fact controlled by the prey species.

Poisoning, indiscriminate killing of predatory targets as well as many innocent non-target species, should be ended in Wyoming, and throughout the West. Responsible control of proven livestock killers may make some sense in certain areas at certain times, but the blanket killing of important—to ecological relationships—wildlife species cannot be allowed to continue.

Yellowstone wolves and grizzly bears and eagles—all of them endangered species—are still threatened by 1080 stations outside the park. Those in Montana have been removed from areas adjacent to the park under the direction of Montana DWS Director Norton Miner. But 1080 stations remain on both the Targhee and the Shoshone National Forests, according to Park Service authorities, including one in the Clay Butte area of the Beartooths, in areas where wolves have been reported during the past ten years. Of four wolves known to have existed in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone a year ago, only one appears to remain at present.

Do we continue to destroy our wildlife through ecological ignorance (we know the facts but we ignore them) or do we put an end to personal-prejudice politics and preserve the integrity of a natural world that has room for man only if man finds his place in that world. Man cannot control the natural world, as much as his ego would like to believe he can. And the more man meddles with nature without attempting to understand the delicate interrelationships, the sooner man will cease to be part of that world. As Aldo Leopold tried to teach us, we must develop an ecological conscience. We must come to understand our role and accept it instead of trying to play God. And we must co-exist with the predators because they play a vital part in our lives.

Few creatures have stirred the human spirit as greatly as the mighty eagles, both the golden eagle that was the symbol of the Roman Empire and the bald eagle that is our own. Few creatures have stirred the human heart—with both fear and respect—as the wolf, the grizzly bear, the cougar though old wives' tales about these great predators have painted garish pictures of them all. In ancient Europe and in primitive America the fox and the coyote became the epitome of cleverness. We deny our very culture when we insist in destroying these creatures that live by killing, and perhaps we show our own true colors.



stronghold). The ferret, by the way, has been brought to the edge of extinction by poison campaigns aimed at prairie dogs, the basic food of the ferret.

Jack Olsen points out in his second SPORTS ILLUSTRATED article in the "Poisoning-Of-The-West" Series the kind of wildlife enhancement program the DWS conducts. In a single year DWS personnel killed 90,000 coyotes, 300 mountain lions, 21,000 bobcats and lynx, 2,800 red wolves, 800 bears, 24,000 foxes, 7,000 badgers, 19,000 skunks, 10,000 raccoons, 1,200 beaver, 7,600 opossums, 6,700 porcupines and others. And the next year livestock losses to predators were higher than ever—according to the estimates.

The Wyoming predator count kill for 1968 was 5,637 coyotes, 3,770 bobcats and lynx, 940 foxes (foxes killed 800 lambs), 151 bears, and a single mountain lion (out of an estimated population of between 50 and 75 in the whole state).

In Utah during the fiscal year 1970 the

Campgrounds Reserved for Memorial Day

Developed campgrounds in the inner canyon (below the rim) of Grand Canyon National Park are fully reserved for the Memorial Day weekend and for most weekends and many weekdays between now and mid-June.

Campers wishing to hike the developed trails into the canyon and camp overnight should request reservations far in advance of their planned visit to the park. To avoid disappointment, a minimum of one month in advance is suggested.

For those who plan to use

these campgrounds in 1972, reservations will be accepted beginning October 1, 1971. Applications with a postmark before October 1 will not be considered. Address requests to the Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. Reservations for 1972 will be awarded on the basis of the earliest postmarks. If more applications are received than spaces available, a drawing will be held to determine who will receive permits to camp.

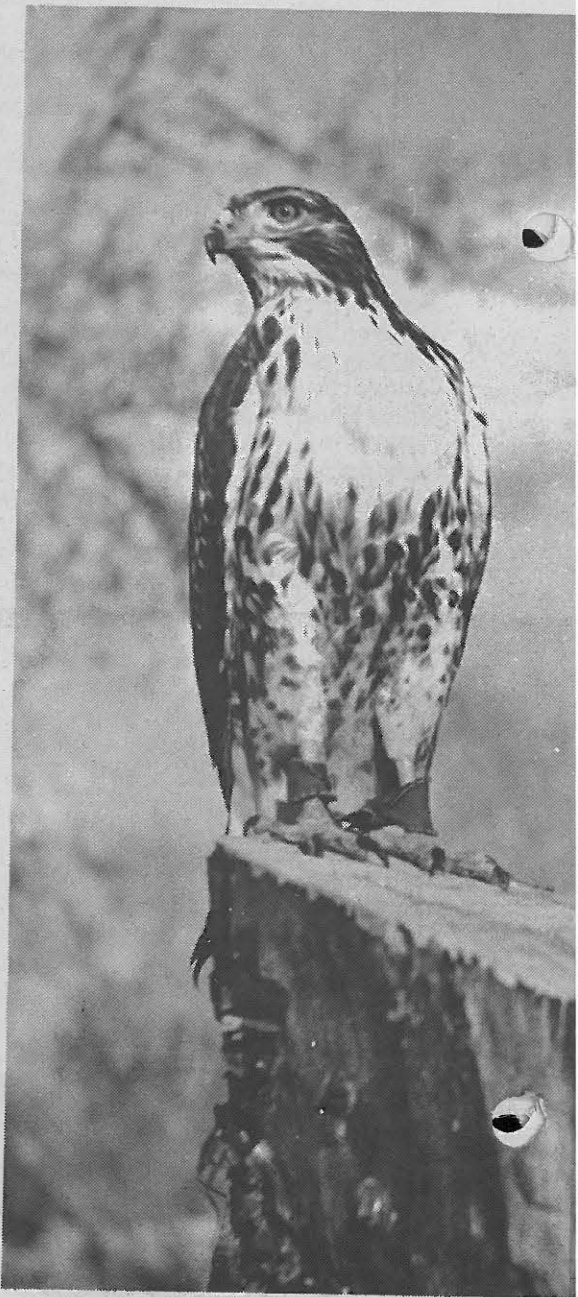
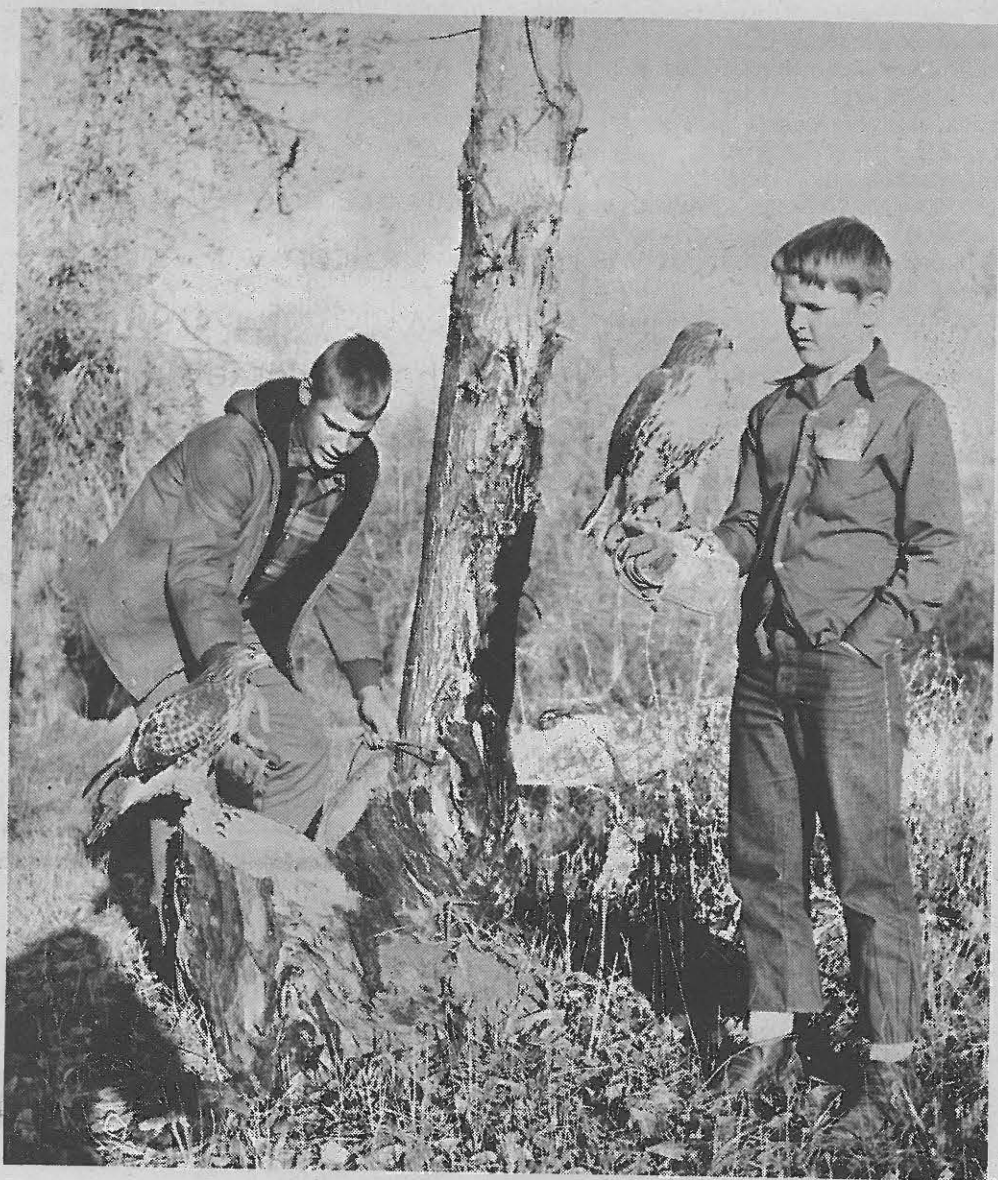
Regulations instituted this year include a prohibition

against open fires and the gathering of wood in the canyon. Campers must carry stoves and fuel if they wish to cook meals below the rim. These rules were made necessary by the excessive destruction to living trees due to wood gathering.

Campers hiking the developed trails of Grand Canyon National Park have given overall acceptance to the registration system recently instituted by the National Park Service at the park.



Boys -

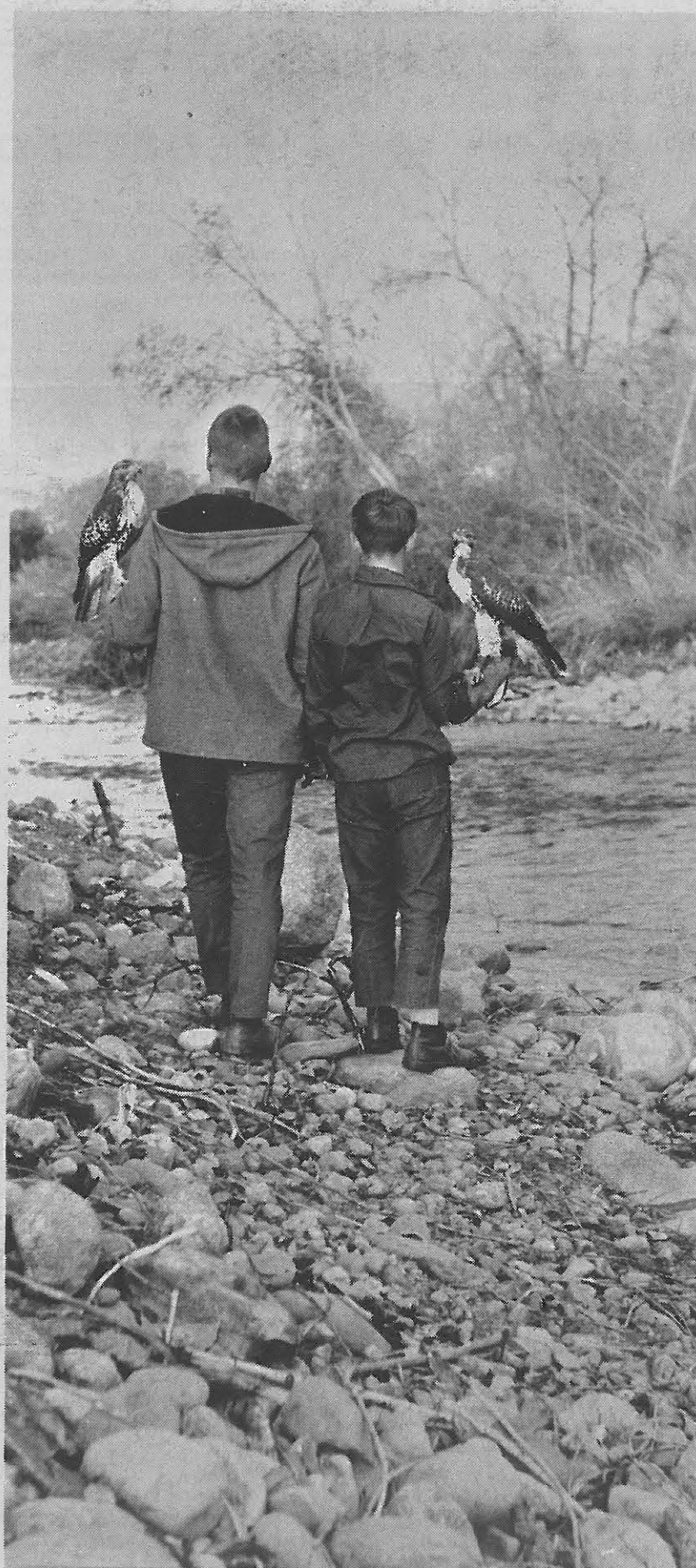


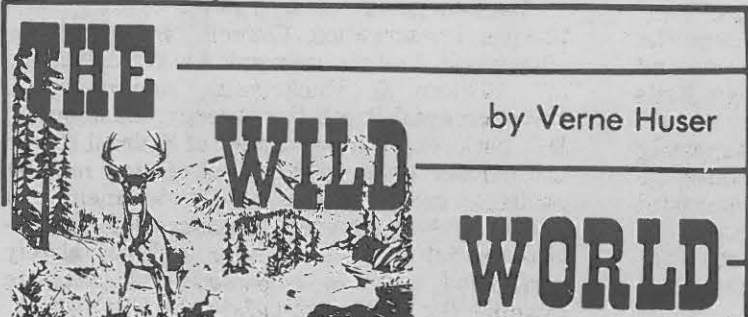
and the Sport of Kings



Scott Davis and Russell Lewis are two Lander, Wyoming, boys whose hobby is falconry. Each of them has a red-tailed hawk which he is training for the fun of it. Later, as they become more proficient, they hope to train their birds to hunt rabbits or rodents.

They and their birds are legally registered with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. They obtained permits to capture and hold the young birds a year ago.





What is Yellowstone National Park like when it is first opened to the traveling public in the spring? Snowmobilers have owned the park all winter, roaring around in their noisy machines (more than 16,000 over-snow vehicle visitors in 1970 compared to 267 over-snow foot travelers; snowmobile visitors outnumbered automobile visitors 3,381 to 1,440 during December).

One of the sounds I associate with spring in Yellowstone is the absence of snowmobiles. For a while there is the roar of the snow-removal equipment, then the ever increasing sound of automobiles and even trucks hauling supplies to the in-park tourist facilities.

But there is also the howl of the coyote in the cold quiet night and the winnowing of the Wilson's snipe as it declares its territory in skylark-like flight at dusk. There is the honking of the Canadian geese, the resonant melody of the trumpeter swan, the wild weird rattling of the sandhill crane. If you're lucky, you might even hear the howl of a wolf in the Hayden or Lamar valley or on Cougar Creek.

There is still lots of snow. Snowdrifts may be twelve to twenty feet high even in mid-May, but almost everywhere the snowbanks are above the top of a conventional car when the park opens May 1 (from a Land Rover you can just barely see over the roadside snowbanks in most places, but occupants of conventional cars see little except in the thermal areas, especially in the higher country).



And yet, the game is somewhat concentrated by the snow. Buffalo still hover about their winter range near the hot springs as do the elk, and consequently the grizzly bear emerging from their winter dens congregate there too. Since these areas are usually served by roads, the traveling public has a good chance of seeing all three of these species as well as moose and mule deer, coyotes and Canadian geese.

Porcupines waddle about from evergreen to evergreen on the snow or along the water-logged openings where the snow has just melted. Marmots emerge to sun themselves on the rock piles, and robins stake out their territories in the piney woods, singing until darkness takes over.

It's fun and kind of exciting to wallow about in the winter elements. I saw one father digging a snow cave into the seven-foot bank for his sons to play in, and others bring their sleds and saucers. The snow, for the most part, has long since disappeared at home—usually much lower areas—and the kids haven't had a chance to play in the snow for weeks. Oversnow foot travel has greatly increased in Yellowstone during the past few years (an increase of 2,670% in 1970 over the previous year: 10 to 267), and spring touring has become quite popular in the park. Even as late as July warm-climate visitors to the park thrill at finding snow in shaded pockets near the passes as my brother and I did many years ago coming up from central Texas where we'd rarely seen snow.

But spring storms can block passes and make roads dangerous even in May or June—for that matter, almost any month as in August of '60 and again in August of '68. Rock slides are common, and snow slides are not unusual even in May. Winter weather can be unpleasant and downright dangerous to a family out for a Sunday drive in anticipated spring weather. Changing a flat tire in a short-sleeved shirt with a hungry grizzly bear looking over your shoulder may not be the most pleasant way to go.

Most of the lakes are still frozen over when the roads open, even in such relatively low areas as Mammoth, but as May merges into June they begin to open. A full moon on the ice-covered lakes, on the steaming hot springs, on the

flowing streams and snow-bound woods is a sight to behold. Yellow monkeyflowers blooming in the thermal-fed streams as early as the first week of May surprise even the veteran visitor, and glacier lilies follow the receding snowline with their bright yellow.

Hundreds of elk in small bands—sometimes up to thirty or more—graze the newly-opened meadows. Snowshoe hare hop about the woods in their changing coat. A pine marten watches slyly from behind a log. A black bear yearling perches high in a lodgepole pine while a young grizzly feeds nosily upon an elk carcass by the river nearby. An osprey family rebuilds its nest on a pinnacle in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and a dipper (water ouzel) sings by the rushing waters.

A grizzly sow with two large cubs—probably two-year-olds—digs for roots and rodents in the Hayden Valley. A huge bull buffalo detours traffic near the mud volcano. A trio of white pelicans feeds in the Yellowstone River while geese and several species of ducks search for nest sites. This is Yellowstone in the spring before the thousands of tourists arrive—relatively few of the tourist accommodations are open yet. And you bring your own picnic lunch instead of waiting in line for poor food at high prices. You worry about running out of gas (some roads aren't open yet—I may have to back track—where was there a service station open?) but you see auto license plates from only a dozen states.

Spring and fall are the times to see Yellowstone for those who live near enough not to be forced to visit only at the height of the summer season. How many people can Yellowstone National Park experience before the people no longer have a Yellowstone experience? Or is the Yellowstone experience the over-crowded scene that many of us know from a visit in July or August? I hope not, and I like to visit the park before everyone else gets there.



Reports of Trail Study Available

A report of the Continental Divide Trail study has been completed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The report has gone out to the various states through which the trail would pass, as well as to the congressional delegations.

The report covers the feasibility and desirability of designating national scenic trails in the vicinity of the Continental Divide. It also explains the possibility of a similar pathway—the Kit Carson National Scenic Trail—through the mountain

ranges and adjacent lands of central New Mexico.

The Bureau has been concerned not only with the feasibility of such a trail system but also the desirability. The Bureau relied on public reaction, ideas and comments as to the desirability. Enthusiastic support, as well as direct opposition, was received and incorporated into the report.

The Bureau is now asking for comments and suggestions on the report. Address them to the Regional Director, Bureau of Outdoor

Recreation, Building 41, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225.

The reports are available for review at the state offices of the Bureau of Land Management and at all of the forest supervisor's offices through which the trail would pass. They may also be seen at various national park headquarters and at district BLM offices through which the trail would pass, as well as state parks or state recreation commission offices in the various states.

Dr. Curry Testifies at Washington Hearings

Dr. Robert R. Curry is assistant professor of environmental geology at the University of Montana at Missoula. He appeared before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands holding hearings on clearcutting of timber on the national forests.

Dr. Curry's testimony was some of the most damning to be brought before the hearings. As a direct result of his testimony, Sen. Lee Metcalf of Montana said he would ask that substantial amounts of forest research monies be redirected into the kind of research Curry advocates.

Curry said research done by himself and others points to massive loss of soil nutrients by reason of clearcutting. He said, "... recent work on soil and forest watershed chemistry... indicates that chemical reactions in the soil following logging in many areas cause the soils to be stripped of their nutrients so rapidly that soil sterility is virtually assured in a matter of two to, at maximum, six theoretical recyclings of forest growth..."

"Both clearcutting and some selective cutting effects a speedup of bacterial action that ultimately renders the soil sterile," Curry said. "The soil looks fine but actually it is eroding in the form of sterility."

He said that sterilization of some soils may come in 20 years even though it took 20,000 years to form. Curry added that in clearcut areas soil loss is occurring 40 to 400 times the rate of soil formation.

Dr. Curry told Senator Church and members of the Subcommittee, "I humbly and openly challenge anyone in the Forest Service or industry to prove that clearcutting can scientifically meet the Sustained Yield and Multiple Use Acts."

Curry said the Forest Service has ignored significant findings from its own research on the subject of loss of soil nutrients. He also said research which is documented in a U. S. Geological Survey report has been ignored. Senator Church called his testimony "alar-

ming" and said "If you're right, Mr. Curry, you have made a very serious indictment of the Forest Service."

In his written statement, Curry concluded by saying, "The matter is, in my opinion, so serious and so universal and so completely damaging to our land that a full-scale, crash, 4-year nationwide fact-finding effort should be undertaken now, administered by non-governmental and non-industry related agencies and personnel."

He called for a 4 to 5 year moratorium on forest cutting.

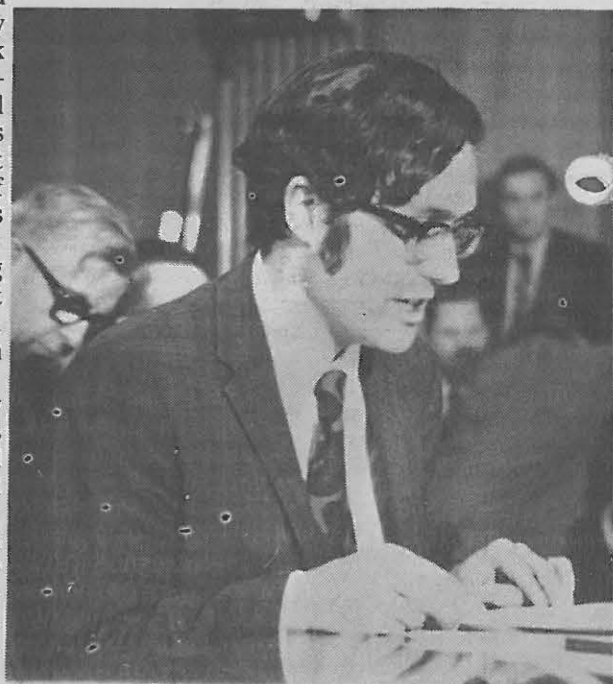


Photo by Dale Burke, The Missoulian

Dr. Robert Curry, geologist from the University of Montana, testified at the clearcut hearings in Washington on April 5 that the practice was rendering the forest soils sterile.

National Coalition Underway to "Save the Snake"

A national coalition of conservationists and environmentalists has gotten underway in the Northwest to save the Snake River from further damming. The coalition's main initial effort will be to work for passage of Senator Bob Packwood's Hells Canyon-Snake National River Bill.

The new group may be called the Coalition To Save The Snake, a name suggested by attorney Lewis Bell of Everett, Washington, and president of the Federation of Fly Fishermen.

Jack Hemingway of Sun Valley, the eldest son of Ernest Hemingway and Northwest Field Editor for Field and Stream Magazine, has agreed to head the new organization.

Pete Henault, president of the Hells Canyon Preservation Council, said the long-range purpose of the new group is to prevent any more dams being built on the entire Snake River. This includes its source in Yellowstone Park to its confluence with the Columbia River.

Henault said the coalition is the first of its type in the Northwest. It will bring together all of the diverse organizations that are concerned about the declining quality of the Snake River and the rapidly increasing losses of aquatic life each year.

"For too long we've been losing all the battles on the Snake," Henault said. "We've already lost the upper reaches of Hells Canyon, the world's deepest river canyon and as magnificent as any anywhere. We've lost Twin Falls and Shoshone Falls and most of the springs near Hagerman. We've lost all the anadromous fish runs upstream of Hells Canyon Dam; not only those of the Snake itself but also the Weiser, Payette, Boise, Owyhee, Bruneau, and a score of others. The lists of losses go on and on and we have yet to win our first real victory."

Henault said three organizing meetings have been held beginning in early April. The first was in Washington, D.C. and included officers of The Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the Hells Canyon Preservation Council, and the environmental councils of Idaho, Oregon and Washington. A second meeting in Seattle was attended by the Federation of Fly Fishermen, Trout Unlimited, and others. The third meeting in Sun Valley was a get-together of Idaho leaders

who have been active in various groups.

Another meeting is planned for the Memorial Day weekend when Senator Packwood and others will be floating the Snake through Hells Canyon.

A final meeting, to include all participating groups and concerned individuals is slated for Lewiston, Idaho, on June 26. All interested persons and groups are invited to attend.

Idaho conservationists point out that the question of keeping some of the Snake River free of dams, and its tributaries, has been around for a long time. The situation has been studied, countless articles have been written, hearings have been held, and still the dam builders get preferential treatment.

A moratorium against dam building backed by Idaho's two senators was supported by conservationists in the last session of Congress. However, they have now withdrawn their support in favor of bills to create a Hells Canyon-Snake National River.

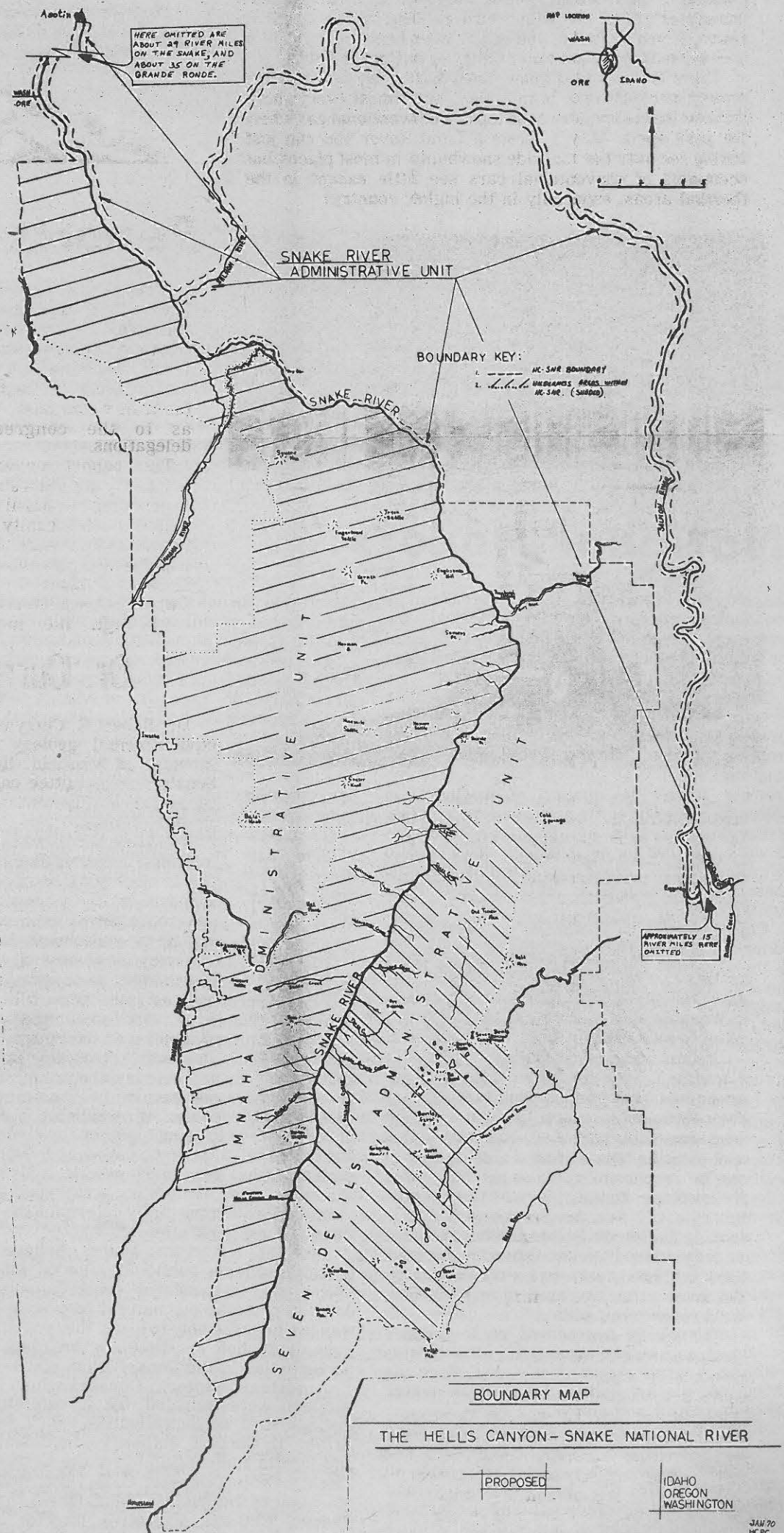
Senator Packwood has introduced S.717 and Congressman John Saylor of Pennsylvania has introduced the companion bill in the House, H.R. 4249. The proposals would establish administrative units to be managed as wilderness or as recreation areas.

The new group, as well as the existing Hells Canyon Preservation Council, is asking for citizen help. Letters are needed to the following: Mr. William B. Ruckelshaus, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460, expressing concern at Federal Power Commission delay in the filing of, and making public, an environmental impact statement, and asking EPA to intervene to insure that the environmental impact is fully and completely considered, and an opportunity is given to examine the statement before the FPC acts.

To: Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Rm. 3106, New Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, asking that the Committee schedule public field hearings on the National River Bill (S.717) and/or if any action is taken by the Committee, that they also consider all other bills relating to Hells Canyon.

Send copies of your letters to Senator Bob Packwood, New Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, Attn: Barbara Holliday.

Those wishing to join in the effort to save the Snake should write or send contributions to Jack Hemingway, Box 387, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353, or the Hells Canyon Preservation Council, Box 2693, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401.



Roncalio Asks House to Develop Federal Offices

Wyoming Congressman Teno Roncalio has asked the House to establish a Select Joint committee of Congress to develop an orderly program of decentralization and dispersal of Federal offices.

Calling for a direct approach to the problem of overcrowding in the metropolitan Washington area, Roncalio urged a moratorium on Federal construction in the capitol.

Roncalio told the House the nation is suffering from two problems resulting from population maldistribution: the plight of overburdened cities and the equally compelling crisis in rural America suffering from outmigration.

He quoted President Nixon as saying, "Vast areas of rural America have been emptied of people and promise while our central cities have become the most conspicuous area of failure in American life."

Noting population losses in the Dakotas and minimal gains in Wyoming, Montana and Iowa, Roncalio said Congress should encourage growth in non-metropolitan areas by a more orderly deployment of Federal offices.

Roncalio said the National Governors Conference in 1970 and the Congress of cities in 1969 had both asked for a national policy of population redistribution to relieve rural and urban areas.

Describing the special responsibility of Congress to Washington, Roncalio said the capital's historic beauty

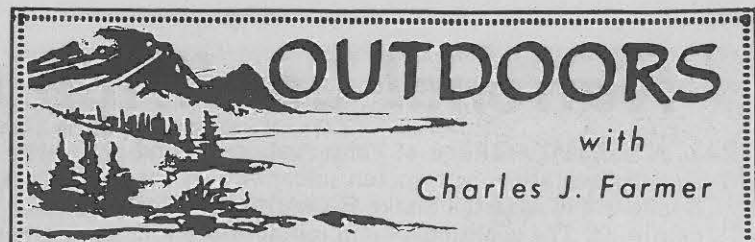
is "being systematically eroded by one construction project after another. As the D.C. funding bills revealed last week, the problems of Washington defy exaggeration. The capital would be better off with a cessation of Federal building. Congress must take the initiative here. Deployment and dispersal have to be the new watchwords on the Potomac."

Reservations Needed to Camp In Grand Canyon

Campers going into Grand Canyon National Park, with the intention of camping below the rim in the inner canyon, will have to apply for reservations beginning in 1972. Applications for campsite reservations along the developed trails during 1972 may be mailed to the Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023 beginning October 1.

The Park Service says if more applications are received than there are spaces available, it will hold a drawing.

Campers will be limited to two days at each camp and a total of seven days in the entire park. They will also have to carry stoves and fuel for cooking. Open fires and the gathering of wood in the canyon are now prohibited.



A rotary snowplow clears the highway on Togwotee Pass between Dubois and Jackson, Wyoming. Heavy snows in the mountainous regions of the West make highway maintenance difficult. Yellowstone National Park highways should open on Schedule, May 1, unless other spring storms interfere.

National Honors...

has led his department into a program of broadening concern for the physical environment, convinced that a sound environment for wildlife is essential to a quality environment for man.

Roger P. Hansen of Denver, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment, was cited for his leading role in the creation of the Colorado Open Space Coordination Council. The Council, which is an ever-growing force for quality environment in Colorado, grew out of his proposal that all state conservation organizations pool their resources to work together for desired legislation and to formulate action programs. He has assisted conservation groups in 17 other states to form similar councils.

Charles Hjelte of Westminster, Colorado, is editor of Colorado Outdoors, official publication of the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Commission. He has initiated numerous programs designed to alert Colorado residents to the fact that their wildlife resources, while bountiful, are not inexhaustible.

Dr. Jessop B. Low of Logan, Utah, is leader of the Utah Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. Dr. Low was selected for his continued influence over a quarter century upon students in the field of natural resources both on a personal and a professional basis. His former students are in positions of responsibility in most state and federal agencies dealing with wildlife conservation.

Robert L. Salter of Boise, Idaho, assistant director of the Idaho Fish and Game Department was cited for his nearly two decades of exceptional service to the cause of wildlife conservation in Idaho. In addition to his duties with the department, he has served on the widely acclaimed and highly successful Idaho Water Pollution Control Advisory Council since its inception, distinguishing himself in water pollution control and analysis.

Ralph R. Hill of Denver is a retired wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service. He was honored for more than 40 years of service to conservation. He has been secretary and president of the Colorado Wildlife Federation and a national director of the National Wildlife

Federation. He has also served on national, state and regional committees of the Wildlife Society and the Izaak Walton League of America.

The two women who won awards were Mrs. Hugh F. Stoddart of Groton, Massachusetts, and Mrs. Charles P. Yarn, Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. Stoddart was cited for her leadership role in restoration and preservation of important water resources and natural settings in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Mrs. Yarn was selected for her ceaseless fight to preserve islands and marshes along the Georgia coast.

The awards, established in 1953, are presented annually to 10 professional and 10 non-professional conservationists for dedicated efforts in the field of renewable natural resources. In addition, awards are presented each year to national and local groups for outstanding achievements in conservation.

All winners will receive bronze sculptured medallions. Professionals and groups also receive honorariums of \$500.

Roy D. Chapin, Jr., chairman of the board of American Motors, announced the awards. In his announcement, he said, "Among problems confronting our nation today, the preservation of our natural resources assumes an imperative quality. The wisdom with which we meet this need can serve to bring together the elements of our nation in a common cause, at a time when such a cause is very much needed. Additionally, of course, our wisdom in preserving the environment will importantly determine the way of life of future generations."

"We at American Motors believe it is essential to focus public attention on what both citizen and professional conservationists are doing to preserve our natural resources. In this way, we hope not only to honor these outstanding individuals but to stimulate broader citizen participation in the Conservation effort."

American Motors Conservation Award winners were selected by a committee of distinguished conservationists which includes Arthur H. Carhart, authority on national parks and forests and consultant for the Conservation Library Center, Denver; C. R. Gutermuth, vice president of the Wildlife Management Institute; Charles Callison, executive director of the

Backpack Camping

There is a motive behind the madness of a man, woman or child who takes pleasure in donning a pack and hiking for the sheer pleasure of being "self-propelled" and "self-contained."

Perhaps one of the most important reasons for backpacking as a sport is the feeling of total independence which comes from the ability to cover distances through the use of foot and leg power. For people brought up in a world of mechanized motivation, the temporary escape from temperamental motors and the noise, stink, and ulcers they cause, is like reaching a cool, sweet oasis after days on the burning, harsh sands of a desert.

There is the sudden realization that the body, and especially the legs and feet, were given a higher purpose than being cramped behind the power of a travel machine. How much better they feel, flexed and relaxed, on the carpet of a forest floor.

Backpacking is a unique sport in that it does not require catching, stalking, collecting, scoring or the highest or lowest number of points in order to be enjoyed. What it does require is a self-respect for the body...a very simple understanding that the "man-machine" is still number one. And that this machine gets better with use.

Backpacking, the term used alone, is somewhat incomplete. There are few backpackers who stretch into a pack simply for the thrill of wearing one. Backpack camping is a more correct term...complete in that it defines the two necessary ingredients for ultimate satisfaction from the sport.

If you have read this far and you are not already a backpacker, at least you are interested. As a rather brief introduction to the sport, I can give some points on equipment especially suited for Wyoming and places to go in the state.

Your basic needs will be a pack frame, bag or sack, lightweight sleeping bag, nylon tent or fly and a pair of comfortable, sturdy boots that give your ankles plenty of support.

Clothing should be loose fitting and worn in layers so that it can be removed and added according to the weather conditions.

Pack frames are usually made of aluminum or wood. I prefer contoured aluminum frames because they are lightweight and require no upkeep. The pack frame with the attached shelf is ideal for securing your sleeping bag. Frame should be complete with padded shoulder straps and waistbelt.

A good rule to follow in selecting a sack is to purchase the largest one you can afford. Heavy duty nylon is the best material. Some packs have the main compartment sectioned, which makes packing large, bulky items tough. Test all zippered compartments for opening and closing.

Style of hiking boot is up to the individual. Leather, rather than man-made materials, are best for walking. Vibram soles are an important asset to a pair of boots whether they are purchased as part of the boot or purchased separately and fitted to a favorite pair of boots.

Wyomingites are blessed with some of the finest backpacking areas in the world. For the most part you will have the forest to yourself. The majority of people do not venture far from the main road.

Some good areas to discover this summer would be such wilderness areas as the Bridger, North Absaroka, South Absaroka and Teton. Primitive areas in the state include Cloud Peak, Glacier, Popo Agie and Stratified. That's a total of 587,930 primitive acres alone that you can explore.

Looking for a different type of vacation? Try a motor-less trip into the quiet outdoor world.



National Audubon Society; Richard H. Pough, Pelham, N.Y., director of the Natural Area Council, Inc., and Dr. A. Starker Leopold, professor of zoology at the University of California.

The awards program is directed by Ed Zern, conservation and outdoor sports writer.



Carroll R. Noble

Wild Horses Need Protection

by Joann Ostermiller

During this century the wild horse and burro population, now scattered throughout eleven Western States, has been reduced from over 2 million to less than 17,000 in number. These animals have been captured and cruelly treated and slain. Many have been tormented, used as pet food, and fertilizer and now are in need of protection to keep them from becoming a part of by-gone days.

A bill was introduced March 4, designed to protect the last of the wild horses and burros of the United States. This bill provides a means of legal protection for the wild creatures.

The Bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to establish and maintain a minimum of 12 refuges with the advice of a board of qualified scientists. Should these animals overpopulate their existing habitat, the bill allows the Secretary of the Interior, in agreement with the advisory board to remove excess animals by their sale to private individuals, however, they shall not be disposed of inhumanely. The Bureau of Land Management officials in Lovell, Wyoming are now discussing the possibilities of culling wild mustangs. A recent helicopter count reveals that forty percent of the total herd consists of stallions.

Reduction of 15 to 20 head seems to be the goal for this year.

The continuous development of the west has forced these wild herds into the desolate and almost useless areas to escape the increasing pressures of man. The bill provides a means of legal protection for private or Government leased land-holders from intrusion on their property of unwanted wild horses and burros.

The bill specifically forbids the establishment of wild-horse ranges on land where these animals do not currently live. A fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment for not more than a year, or both for violations of this act.

Committee hearings have been held. However, it has yet to go to both Houses of Congress. This is where help is needed. Write to your Senators asking their support of the Jackson Bill, S. 1116, and to your Congressman asking his support of the Baring Bill, H.R. 5375.



Wild horse numbers are dwindling as animals are killed, ranges are fenced, and officials look the other way.

New Bill Modernizes BLM

A bill to enhance the administrative powers of the Bureau of Land Management and to modernize the approach to handling public lands is receiving widespread support, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. S. 921, entitled the Public Domain Lands Organic Act of 1971, would update and strengthen BLM's position to that comparable of other federal land agencies such as the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service.

Introduced by Senator Henry M. Jackson (Wash.), the measure would specify these presently unnamed millions of acres of public domain as "national resource lands" in keeping with designations for other federal lands such as national parks, forests, and seashores. It directs that national resource lands shall be administered on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of all their values. It authorizes much needed law enforcement powers for designated BLM employees to make arrests for violation of applicable laws and regulations on the public domain.

Title II of the bill is labeled the "Federal Land Mineral Leasing Act of 1971." Among other things, this section would repeal the outdated Mining Law of 1872 and institute mineral leasing procedures for mining activity on public lands.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

by Cris Pearson

Miss Pearson, the author of the following essay, is the granddaughter of Carroll R. Noble, one of the 20 national recipients of the American Motors Conservation Awards for 1971 (see page 1). She wrote her paper for a senior high school English class at Pinedale, Wyoming.

The editor.

The outdoors--the stem of my very existence. It is through this very source that I draw my exuberant life. A flower extracts essential elements from the rich soil as do I from the sun, the air and the freedom of our spacious outdoors. A feeling of glowing and radiant ecstasy fills my heart when I roam at will amongst God's wondrous creations.

It is on this fine, clear summer's day that I come to realize how truly fortunate I am to possess this great freedom to wander at my heart's desire through such a beautiful, unpolluted surrounding as that of the mighty Green River. Innumerable thoughts enter my mind as I ponder such questions as, "How many people in this enormous world have this chance to see a majestically flowing, undisturbed river as it winds and curls ever flowing, onward, sometimes lazily like a dancing, fluttering butterfly sometimes rapidly as if angered by some unknown force?" And as I sit by the river's edge, a tiny fluffy bumble bee zips by in search of the sweet nectar of a nearby dandelion.

A sudden splash draws my attention at once to the sparkling, shimmering water. Near a ripple by the far, green bank, a German brown makes a fast jump to snatch an unwary horsefly. Further upstream the whirring, whistling sound of wings breaks the solitude of the heavenly air. A beautiful mallard has taken to the sky, his mate following closely behind, winging her way to his side. A gentle breeze begins to softly touch my cheek whisking with it the pleasing scent of sage from the nearby bluff where a proud antelope can clearly be seen as he nibbles tender grass shoots.

A flopping sound draws my attention to the mouth of a tributary that seems to ask admittance to the great river. It is at this locale that a pair of beaver leisurely take a cool dip. They swim along the boulder stream river bottom. An enormous bull moose, in all his vanity, proudly steps forward on nature's stage to display his rack and a long bell that nearly reaches the knobby knees on his lengthy legs. His appearance startles a soft-eyed doe and her curious fawn. They take a hurried leave from the scene with mighty leaps and bounds.

In the deep foliage of splendidly beautiful cottonwood trees, I spot something black. In an instant, I realize that the mysterious, dark object is a Black Angus cow standing knee-deep in waving green grass--grass that grows abundantly, due to its ability to drink the nearby cool, crisp water.

Oh, how nature's children thrill and delight my senses, delving into my soul's very inner depth. As I view with delight these heart-warming occurrences I suddenly become saddened and downhearted at the thought of the proposed Kendall Dam to perhaps be built hastily, at the head of this majestic system of splendor and grandeur. It would be like removing the part of one's body that controls the entirety of one's self.

What will become of these previously mentioned natural and wondrous sights? I can't help but feel a lump swell to enormity in my throat as I think of the possible end of my lifetime pleasures, derived from my existence by the beautiful riverside. But as long as my delights remain intact, I shall enjoy them to the fullest and fight to save this stem of life from whence grows a lasting peace and joy.

Whale Licenses Terminated

Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans has directed the National Marine Fisheries Service to publish a proposal in the Federal Register terminating the licensing of commercial hunting of whales listed as endangered species, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The list contains eight species, including the finback, sei, and sperm whales, which are the only species now sought by U. S. commercial whalers.

Secretary Stans said that while the Commerce

Department is vitally concerned with the economic health of all U. S. business, it is also firmly committed to sound conservation practices. "There is no reason why a sound economy and sound conservation cannot go hand in hand," he said. "In the past thoughtlessness and irresponsibility have removed no fewer than 120 different species of wildlife from our planet." This action will do little for the whales, however, since the U. S. takes only a small percentage of the annual harvest.

Environmental Spokesman for the Mountain West

High Country News

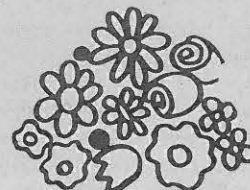
Box K Lander, Wyoming 82520

Name _____

1 Year...\$10.00

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Letters to the Editor...

tinues creation. Creation is not a thing of the past; it is an on-going activity.

God's continuing creation is to be carried on in and through us. But we have failed. We have concerned ourselves too much with material "progress," and have forgotten our responsibility to the created world.

Charles Darwin in one of his numerous studies became enamoured with the importance of the work of earthworms. The earthworm transports vast amounts of soil; he draws organic matter down into the soil; his burrows aid in the aeration and drainage of the soil. This is just a small example of how one seemingly insignificant member of the team does his "thing" in the on-going process of creation. The plants and animals who are our neighbors may not have intentions of benefiting the environment by their life work, but we do have intentions and purposes.

Yet it is becoming clearer everyday that our intentions and purposes are much narrower than those served by our unthinking neighbors—the plants and animals over which we are to have dominion. Most, if not all, of our many "creations" have only one purpose, and that is normally a utilitarian one of a very short life span, when compared to its total existence in the environment. I am heartened by such steps as taken recently by the Oregon House of Representatives banning the sale of non-returnable soft-drink and beer bottles and cans, but that is only a small step on a very long journey. However, as Lao Tzu said many years ago, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." We must no longer concern ourselves with the purpose something is going to serve alone; we must start to concern ourselves with it throughout its entire "life" from the moment of conception, through its creation, its use, its "disposal," and finally its re-entry into the environment.

If we come back to the creation myth we can see that this is not only a matter of the survival of man on earth, as many of our ecologists are saying, but it is also our duty to our Creator. We all learn the ten commandments and the "golden rule;" these eleven guide-lines for life are absolutely meaningless and useless unless we take to heart our responsibility to have dominion over the environment. We could even go so far as to say that the ten commandments and the "golden rule" were derived to help us understand how we are to have dominion over the environment. We have not succeeded.

"Pogo" is one of my more favorite comic strips. About a year ago there was a sequence in "Pogo" dealing with the problems of pollution. All of the characters had decided that they ought to get rid of pollution... a very noble but difficult undertaking. They finally decided that the only way to succeed was to eliminate the cause of pollution. But what is the cause of pollution? Human beings! The answer then is simple, do away with human beings and you do away with pollution. Everybody was agreed; however, nobody wanted to admit to being human. They started to list traits of their own personalities, such as selfishness, cruelty, deceitfulness, carelessness, etc. to show that they were not human. But Pogo, who happens to be as wise as the earthworm, informed them that these were the exact characteristics of human beings. Are they? To my knowledge they still have not resolved the problem for nobody wants to solve the problem of pollution by eliminating human beings... granting that it would definitely be a valid and complete answer.

What we must do is to strive to find another answer and put it into use and practice. We all know that many of the problems of pollution are industrial and that an individual cannot by himself control industry, but governments can and together we control the governments. But even more important, or at least as important, is the pollution that each and everyone of us is guilty of — throwing a piece of paper on the road, throwing a bottle in the river, possibly destroying some plant or animal life for no apparent positive reason. When was the last time you flipped a cigarette butt on the road? I don't have the answers... I doubt if anybody does right now, but we must find them and find them fast or the world which God gave us dominion over is not going to be ours for very long.

Last year Vince Lombardi, one of football's greatest personalities died. In the eulogies that appeared I found the following quotation that Lombardi is reported to have made during his career: "Any man's finest hour is when he has worked his heart out, exhausted on the field of battle, victorious." Our field of battle is to save the environment in which we live; we will have to work our hearts out, and we will be exhausted, but it will also be our finest hour if we are victorious.

Robert D. Coapman
LT, CHC, USNR

Bill to Protect Hawks and Owls

Congressman John D. Dingell (Mich.) and 10 of his colleagues have introduced a bill to give hawks and owls the protection now accorded to bald and golden eagles, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

The bill, H. R. 5821, would amend the Act for the Protection of the Bald Eagle

to include all species of hawks and owls. It would not prohibit possession or transportation of the birds lawfully taken before the effective date of the proposed act. Twenty-six states now have statutes to protect all species of hawks and owls while 22 others have laws giving partial protection.

ENVIRONOTES

Settling Ponds Decrease Number of Toxic Metals

It has been reported that several toxic metals have decreased since the establishment of settling ponds by the mining industry in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho River Basin. A 16-month study was financed by the Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology and funds came from an Idaho Short Term Applied Research Project. Pollution in the study area in 1964 was estimated that 2,217 tons of mining tailings per day were being discharged into the South Fork. Researchers feel that the elimination of zinc and cadmium concentrations is essential to complete recovery of the river.

Buildings in Seven States May be Radioactive

Radioactive leftovers from uranium ore processing mills have turned up in building materials in three areas of Western Colorado and are causing considerable concern as a possible health hazard. An estimated 2,700 buildings are known to have had radioactive tailings used in their construction. Such widespread findings in Colorado have caused worries in seven other states where uranium mills have operated—Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Texas, South Dakota and Washington. Paul Smith of the Environmental Protection Agency's Denver radiological office said the EPA was already studying the problem in Riverton, Wyoming where uranium mill tailings are mixed with selenium, a rare metal toxic to animals.

Automobile Cause of Lake Tahoe Air Pollution

Air pollution, primarily from automobiles, was blamed Monday for damage to pine trees in the Lake Tahoe Basin. A study by the University of Nevada, Reno and the Nevada Highway Department showed evidence of the discoloration of pines and firs in the basin, as well as foliage loss. Dr. John E. Maxfield, a plant pathologist at the university said the typographical make-up and the almost enclosed basin makes the Lake Tahoe area very susceptible in trapping air pollutants.

Game Farm Owner Fined \$900

W. E. Arrington, owner of a game farm in Idaho Falls, was charged with possession of game animals, sale of moose and sale of antelope. He pleaded no contest to these three counts. Arrington was fined \$900 with \$300 suspended by 7th District Magistrate Michael J. Donohoe. County Prosecutor Grant young said Arrington had a Fish and Game Department permit for a private game farm, but was charged with having animals that were not grown on his own farm.

Telephone Company Donates Poles to Birds

The Utah telephone company is doing something for the birds. It has been reported that all of the 18 miles of telephone lines in the Las Vegas-to-Salt Lake link were removed but the 45 poles were left as roosting and nesting sites for eagles, hawks and falcons. The birds have used these poles for fifty years. Platforms were built on the poles to aid in building nests. The possibility of these birds used as targets is a problem the Bureau of Land Management faces. However, they feel the public will see the value of these birds and there will be fewer losses.

Wild Horses Upset Arizona Farmers

Farmers in the Chandler Heights Area 50 miles southeast of Phoenix, Arizona, are complaining of the raids of wild horses on their crops. An estimated 30-50 wild horses slip out of the low-mountain desert land to drink at the irrigation ditches and graze in the grain fields. The horses are also reported to have developed a liking for young apricot trees in orchards along the Hunt highway.



Bighorn sheep feed along an open ridge in Wyoming's Whiskey Mountain management area. Here, through the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, a private landowner, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, one of the nation's largest sheep herds is provided adequate winter range.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"Let's go west," said Tourist McQueen--
"I hope to breathe air that is clean."
But his hope was unfounded
He was always surrounded
By the fumes from his large limousine!

UPI has reported the deaths of 37 members of the Presidential Honor Guard of Honduras. The deaths of the soldiers was attributed to food that had been sprayed with an insecticide. The news release did not give details on the specific poison.

Walrus can tell when Arctic pack ice is about to melt. Soviet Scientists are now using the walrus as forecasters of ice conditions. The discovery that the animals have some uncanny knowledge of the natural phenomena is forcing scientists to re-evaluate the place of wild animals.

It has been reported that a woman eating swordfish as a diet food has died of the first U.S. case of mercury poisoning. Dr. Roger C. Herdman, deputy health commissioner for New York state, said the woman developed dizziness, loss of memory, hand tremors, and difficulty in walking and speaking. Dr. Herdman said it was believed to be the "the first case of human illness in this nation directly attributable to mercury poisoning from ordinary marketable food." Herdman testified during subcommittee hearings on proposed fish inspection regulations designed to keep off the market fish with excessively high levels of mercury.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality call air pollution "Our most immediate health hazard" and say environmental programs deserve a bigger cut of the federal budget. The committee said Administration efforts to increase water pollution control funding was a step in the right direction but more steps were needed. The committee also suggested the adoption of a national land-use program for urban areas. The group also called for more research on new power sources.

The Associated Press has announced that Federal Officials have decided to permit an indefinite delay in the reporting of 51 types of industrial waste discharged into waterways. The delay was approved following a meeting in which industry spokesmen told representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and Office of Management and Budget that they could not meet the July 1 deadline for most of the reporting requirements. The delayed reports include: radioactivity, sulfur compounds, chlorides, cyanide, arsenic, lead and other heavy metals, mercury, oil and grease, phenols, chlorinated hydrocarbon, the chemical family of DDT and pesticides, and bacteria.

The American Can Co., National Can Corp., Continental Can Co., and Heekin Can Co., of Cincinnati have announced a nationwide can reclamation program, that is designed to help ease the litter and solid waste disposal problems. Can collectors aren't going to be paid directly. The more than 200 collection centers the new group expects to have operating around the country by mid-June will collect the cans from individuals and civic groups and pay selected local government agencies. The aluminum association recently reported total aluminum can collections of 73 million for the first quarter of 1971 and 115 million cans collected in all of 1970.

Cougar Now Game Animal

The cougar is now an official game animal in ten western states, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Arizona and Idaho recently reclassified the big cats to game status and joined California, Colorado, Mon-

tana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington in giving cougars much needed protection. California is considering a closed season to increase its cougar population.

Guest Editorial . . .

ponent manufacturing and delays in delivery have risen dramatically. New oil, gas and coal sources have been discovered with potential use for the Northwest. I question the commitment to nuclear power as a former Budget Director as much as I do as a former head of the Sanitary Authority.

Since more power plants will be built, I am sure you also will continue to be concerned with the problems of site location and transmission corridors which bring you into direct confrontation with environmentalists in almost every case. Utilities are going to be in trouble as long as they pick the sites and then commence the studies as to the environmental consequences at the same time they are proceeding to let contracts for site development, reactors and so on. What is clearly needed to avoid the costly delays which such confrontations bring and the complete losses that result when sites have to be abandoned is much better over-all planning and advance study of sites by someone other than the developer.

What I am suggesting is the need for broad ecological studies in the Northwest to determine the best locations for power development, for various kinds of heavy industry with above average pollution problems, for related transmission and transportation and, also, to identify clearly those sites which are unacceptable for any of these uses.

These studies should be conducted under general government supervision by university specialists and independent consultants in ecology, botany, biology, geology, oceanography, meteorology, hydrology and with industries and the general public on goals.

Here in the Northwest we have been blessed with the leadership of Bonneville and the cooperation of all other electric utilities, both private and public, in arriving at a program for unified development of power sources and for maximizing the usefulness of existing transmission corridors. Certainly this type of approach deserves applause from those who are interested in the environment for it avoids waste, and fragmentation of effort and poor utilization of resources.

What is now needed is further leadership in securing the type of broad ecological studies to which I have alluded. In the past, utilities have frequently been the leaders in identifying and developing sites for heavy industry. Today I do not recommend that industry undertake the type of studies I am talking about on its own. I think to achieve broad public acceptance of them, nothing less than a completely independent study by a broadly based planning agency will bring peace from those who put environmental quality first.

I think timing is important in this matter since there are only so many ecologists in the country and those who first get off the ground with their studies will have the cream of the available manpower. Fortunately for us, many good people are located at the universities in the Northwest. Today we could attract manpower nationwide. Soon, perhaps as soon as the President's State of the Union message, there will be clamor everywhere for such studies. Those who delay will have a long wait for quality results.

I urge the Bonneville Administration and its advisory committee to seriously consider the using of Bonneville revenues to fund the broad studies which I have outlined under the auspices of the state governments in the Northwest. It seems to me that such costs could then properly be charged back as part of the development cost of each site to be developed in the future. What it would insure is a stockpile of on-the-shelf sites which were known to have minimum opposition so that substantial savings in time and money could be achieved at the time of development. The states, of course, stand to gain much valuable information for other programs in the course of such studies.

Certainly this cannot be done by a mere snap of the fingers or nod on the part of Bonneville Power Administration. It would have to overcome any political reluctance of the states to get involved in specifying such sites either positively or negatively and, also, must secure approval of budgetary sources in Washington before committing the funds.

The time to start was yesterday.

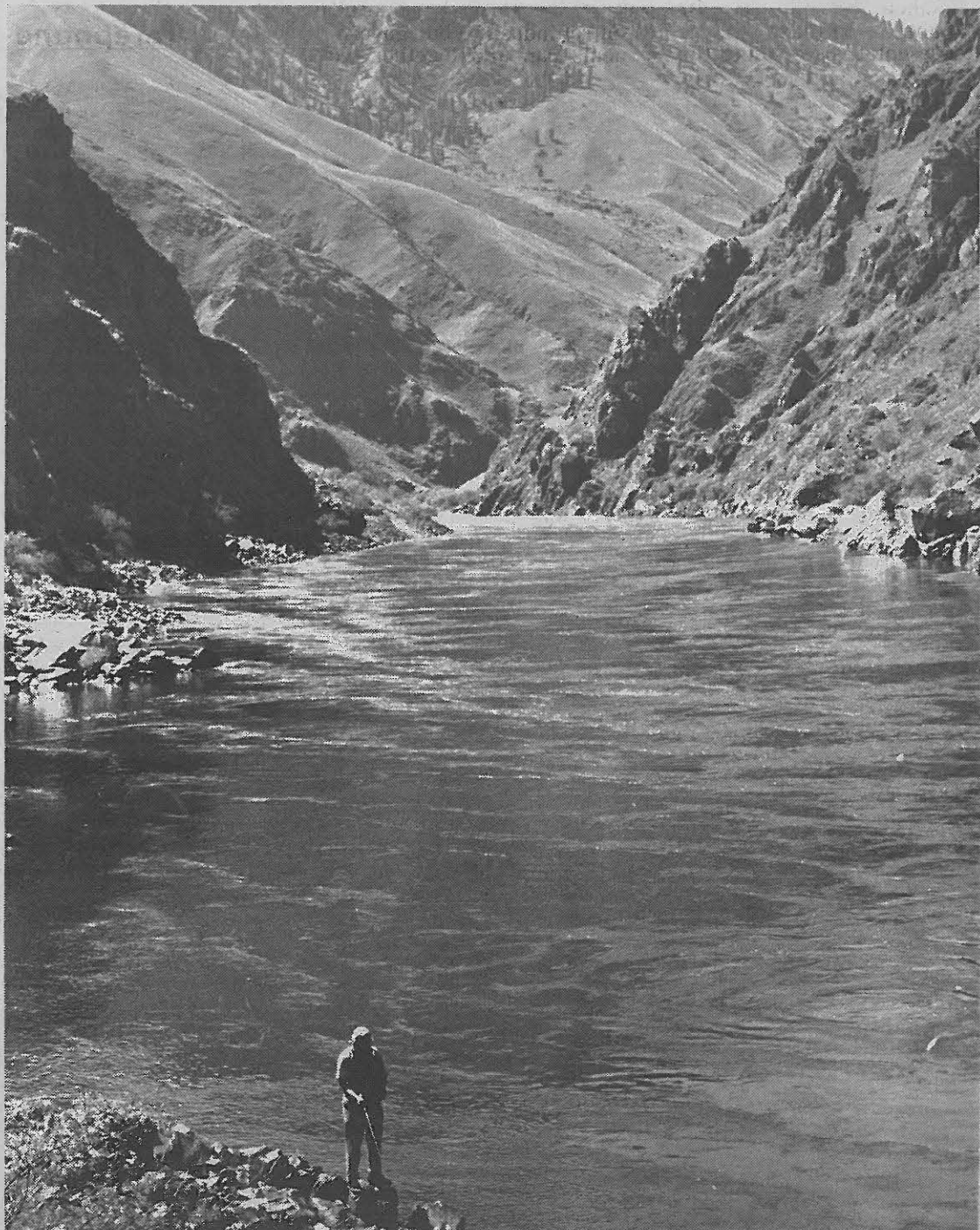
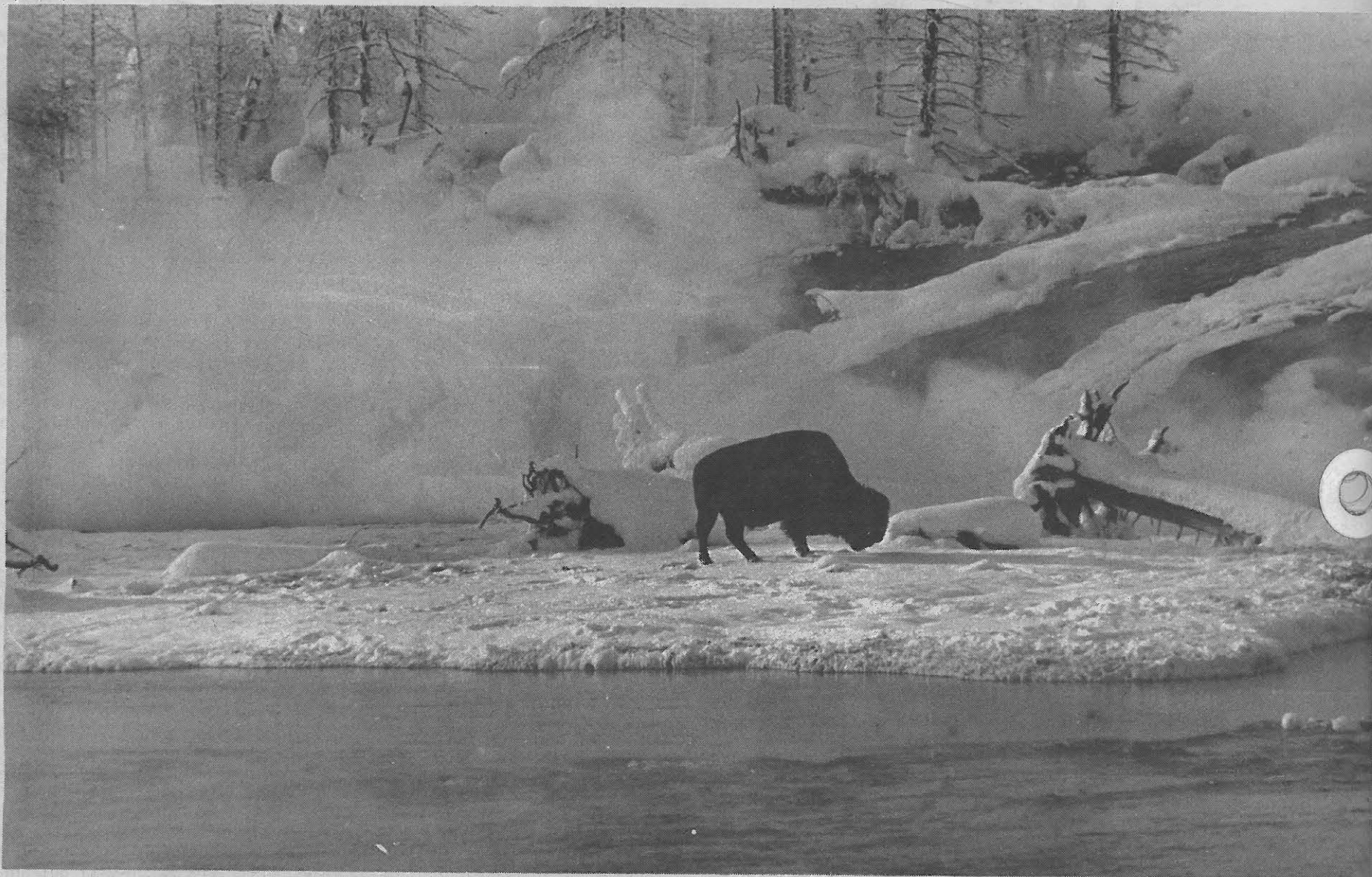


Photo by Ernie Day

A fisherman tries his luck in the deep, dark pools of the Middle Snake River in North America's deepest canyon. Hells Canyon remains free-flowing and undammed but developers seek to still its beautiful waters.



The dark hulk of a buffalo bull looms through the dense blanket of fog surrounding the geysers and steam vents in Yellowstone National Park. In winter, the thermal basins take on an eerie look as fog coats the trees with hoar-frost and wild animals - mainly buffalo and elk - plod through the mists seeking tender shoots of

grass that grow around the warm areas. The animals remain here until May when foraging grizzlies take the weakest. Early visitors to the park may see all of these species as well as others at a time of the year when there is more wildlife than people. For more on Yellowstone in the spring, see Verne Huser's column, Page 11.

Eagle Death Toll...

no control exists. Private buyers can purchase either thallium or 1080 in other states without restriction and without revealing to any agency or political subdivision the fact that they possess the material or intend to use it.

No restriction

Governor Stanley K. Hathaway has chided the public for not supporting Senate File 75, introduced in Wyoming's last legislature, to provide for registering and using pesticides. What the governor did not tell the public was the fact that the bill was so loosely written it would not have prevented the eagle deaths if it had been passed two years ago. Furthermore, it was introduced mainly by stockmen into a stockman-dominated legislature and didn't have a chance of accomplishing protection for the public.

SF 75 passed the Senate, riddled by amendments and escape clauses. It was defeated in the House where even those who wanted a tough pesticide law were forced to vote against it. At no time did Governor Hathaway publicly ask for support of the bill while it was being considered. Lawrence said the American Smelting & Refining Co. at Pueblo, Colo., has informed him it is stopping production of thallium. The company also says it will try to buy back as much of the poison as it can from buyers of record.

Hathaway says he has asked the State Agriculture Board to remove thallium from a list of registered pesticides. His action still does not preclude unauthorized persons from buying the poison in another state, bringing it in, and using it at will.

State Representative John Turner of Teton County, a Ph. D. candidate in ecology at Michigan and an authority on eagles, says he favors federal legislation. He said he will ask Wyoming's Congressional delegation to introduce a bill which would make it illegal for any unauthorized agent or person to possess, transport, or use thallium, 1080, strychnine, cyanide, parathion or other toxic substances.

The Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council has petitioned Governor Hathaway for a full investigation. The petition said: "Believing the recent discoveries of eagles found dead of man's poisons to constitute a disgrace to the State of Wyoming and the nation, and believing that the people of Wyoming have a right to be informed of the true facts surrounding the poisoning so that the proper corrective and preventive measures can be undertaken, we do hereby resolve and petition that you, as

Governor of the State of Wyoming, immediately initiate and complete an executive investigation of the importation, possession, sale, transfer, use and other disposition of all poisonous substances used, usable or forbidden within Wyoming for the control of all predatory animals or rodents. We further resolve and petition that the full and complete record of such investigation be made available to the Wyoming public as such investigation progresses and be published when completed." The Outdoor Council represents many different conservation and citizen groups.

Shooting from air

Lawrence says he thinks the killing of eagles by shooting from the air is more serious for the eagles than the poisoning. That action is specifically forbidden by law unless special provision is made through the Secretary of the Interior.

Lawrence has earlier pointed out that it would be difficult to prove wilful intent to kill eagles with the poison, although the users surely know that thallium is deadly for all animals and birds. Killing from an aircraft is a deliberate act.

Last year, Governor Hathaway called on then Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel to allow Wyoming sheep ranchers to kill eagles from the air. Hickel rejected the request.

As recently as March of this year, representatives of Wyoming's sheep industry testified in Washington on H. R. 5060, to prohibit the shooting of wildlife from aircraft. They asked for a special exemption from the act for sheep ranchers. The bill passed the House May 17 on a vote of 307-8. The sheep ranchers did not get their exemption.

The sheep industry consistently maintains that eagles kill sheep and lambs. Federal-State Agriculture Crop Reporting Service reported in April that Wyoming ranchers claimed the loss of 8,400 lambs and 200 sheep to eagles during 1970. Knowledgeable biologists and conservationists have challenged the figures as being highly exaggerated.

So, far, no arrests or imminent prosecutions have been announced in connection with recent eagle deaths. However, Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton told the annual convention of the National Audubon Society meeting in Milwaukee that criminal prosecutions will be sought. Morton said federal officials are trying to determine "whether we can prosecute and make a criminal violation stick."

Wyoming Epitaph

by J. D. Pedry

A thousand feet above pine crested ridge, rugged canyons channeling ribbons of liquid chisel, a pair of fierce eyes prey. A powerful glider, more swift than the winds it rides, circles patiently, confident in the order of nature from and into which it was born. Eagle eyes lock in, flesh and blood and unerring instinct dive to kill, to satisfy life.

But on the ground carrion meat lies, inviting. And a proud bird eats, hungrily, greedily.

To soar again on content, which only lasts a little while... Suddenly! something very wrong is happening, inside. Flesh erupting in chemical chaos, dying in agony. Innocent majesty struggling against fear, an enemy unknown, crying for the right to challenge. Sickness stabbing repeatedly, unmercifully sinks him. Crashing, ungracefully defeated, to the earth, to suffer finally.

Glory of the sun, pride of the wind, symbol of a nation lies in a canyon tomb, broken. And the wind whines through the trees, moans across the darkening sky--

The foregoing was written by a young man from Casper, Wyoming, locale of the death scene for numbers of eagles.

The editor

Politicians Accused of Running Game & Fish Department

The president of the Sweetwater County Wildlife Association has charged that politicians appointed by the governor run the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Lou Cicco of Rock Springs said in a prepared news release, "It is the feeling of everyone I have talked with on this matter that the time has come when the sportsmen's organizations should have representatives on the Commission instead of politicians appointed by the Governor."

Cicco said his organization will press for legislation that will change the present method of appointing game and fish commissioners. He said their efforts will be based on the fact that it is sportsmen's dollars that support the entire operation of the department.

Cicco said his group's efforts are being supported by the Jackson Hole Outfitters, the Wyoming Outfitters and the Wyoming Wildlife Federation.