

High Country

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Environmental Bi-Weekly

News

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Photo by Finis Mitchell

Wyoming's highest peak, Gannett (13,785 ft.), as it is seen from above the Ink Wells Lakes. This beautiful area of rugged peaks and great glaciers in the Wind River Moun-

tains is proposed for wilderness designation. Hearings will be held June 28 at Riverton, Wyoming, on the classification of the Glacier Primitive Area.

Teton River Dam Stirs Controversy

Teton Creek and a myriad other small streams draining the west slope of the Teton Range gather to form the Teton River in eastern Idaho. Once out of the highlands, the river enters farming and ranching country.

Recently, the Teton River and a proposed dam which would inundate 17 miles of its upper reaches has provoked considerable controversy. At the center of the swirling storm is the growing conviction that values forsaken in a drowned river may be greater than those gained from irrigation of marginal agricultural land.

The proposed Lower Teton Reservoir, a Bureau of Reclamation project, would flood 17 miles of blue-ribbon trout stream. The Idaho Fish and Game Department and the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife are highly critical of the project. The stream is described as one of the best, self-sustaining cutthroat trout fisheries in the state.

Assistant director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries' Portland office, Jack Hemphill, wrote (Please turn to page 10)

Glaciers are unique . . .

Primitive Area Reviewed

The Glacier Primitive Area in the Wind River Mountains near Dubois, Wyoming, comes up for review on June 28. A public hearing on the reclassification of the area will be held at the Eagles Hall in Riverton, Wyoming.

The hearing is part of the review and reclassification process called for in the Wilderness Act. Each primitive area on the national forests has to be reviewed before Congress will act on its inclusion into the wilderness system.

The Glacier Primitive Area is one of the more unique areas in the United States. It comes by its name naturally because of the 44 active glaciers within its confines. The glaciers range in size from 20 acres to 1,120 acres.

The Sierra Club report on the area says, "Sperry Glacier in Glacier National Park was long considered the largest in the American Rocky Mountains. Recent size surveys, however, indicate that seven glaciers in the Wind Rivers are larger than Sperry Glacier. These seven (Gannett, Dinwoody, Mammoth, Helen,

Sacajawea, Fremont, and Knife Point Glaciers) range in size from 393 acres to 1,130 acres. There are seven other glaciers between 46 and 214 acres. Wind River glaciers cover an area larger than all other Rocky Mountain glaciers put together . . .

"Gannett Glacier, on the northeastern slope of Gannett Peak, is the largest in the range. From measurements made in the 1950's, it has an area of 1,130 acres, or 1.77 square miles. (Forest Service figures now show the size to be 1,120 acres.) Dinwoody Glacier, on the southeast side of Gannett Peak, is perhaps the most frequently visited. It is approximately the fifth largest in the group, 1.34 square miles.

"The surface of Dinwoody Glacier is flat, and, in the short summer of the summit region, often displays swampy areas on the ice. The surface is covered with coarse angular rock debris from abundant avalanches and from moraines of small coalescing tributary glaciers. The moraines occur at various places in the main (Please turn to page 7)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Jane Bell

Wyoming's Red Desert is one of the last remaining chunks of vast open-space in the lower 48 states. North of the so-called checkerboard area along the Union Pacific Railroad, the area is about 98 percent state and public land.

Recently, the Wyoming Division of the Izaak Walton League and the Bureau of Land Management sponsored a tour into and across the Red Desert. Its purpose was to acquaint more people with this great natural resource. One hundred people showed up for the tour the first morning. They came from Cheyenne, Laramie and Casper mostly, but Keith Becker, newly appointed executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, and his son, Monte, came from Jackson.

The tour began at Lamont which is no more than a filling station, bar and cafe along Highway 287 between Rawlins and Lander. There, we gathered for a briefing and head count by the BLM fellows who were to lead the tour.

We headed out into the desert though cattle and sheep grazing allotments. Once off the highway, there are no fences for many miles. It is just as well for the area is heavily used by antelope in winter. Sheep-tight fences could well eliminate them from these ancestral ranges.

The eastern and southeastern part of the desert is almost blanketed with uranium mining claims. Along with these are numbers of oil and gas wells. Together with appurtenant roads, seismograph trails, gas lines, etc., the countryside is well cut up.

At 17 miles out, we topped a divide and looked across miles of green and grey desert. There we looked into the very heart of the Great Divide Basin. This unique area is a great inland basin of several million acres. Water going into it does not come out. It is literally surrounded by the Continental Divide.

We entered the checkerboard area at 33 miles out, after going west for many miles before turning south. The checkerboard area is one of those historical mistakes which land managers wish had never happened. Every other section of land for twenty miles on either side of the railroad was given to the Union Pacific for inducement to build across the wilderness which was the West in the 1860's.

Every other section remains public land. But because of the ownership pattern, it is virtually unmanageable for many public values. Fences are put around private and public lands alike. No one but an expert can tell whether he is on private land or public.

To compound the problem, California land developers have bought up alternate sections over an 80 square mile area. These sections have been, or are being, sold as "mini-ranches" of 160 acres - one mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. There are going to be some awfully unhappy people when they see the greasewood flats, miles from any paved roads, which they have bought. There are no land-use plans and no zoning so this area could be a catastrophe in a few years.

We saw one herd of wild horses before we entered the checkerboard area. They had evidently been in to get water at an artesian well. Several of these artesian wells have been developed through the efforts of companies drilling for uranium or oil, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The wells and other water developments have helped the wild horses, game animals, and birds both large and small by making water available where it has never been before.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has purchased the private land in one large area of the checkerboard which is vital for antelope winter range. Here, the animals concentrate where there is very little snow, coming across the desert for a distance of 50 or more miles.

The desert is now being studied for the various uses which are being made of it. Antelope have used the area for eons of time. It is probable that wild horses have roamed the area for 150 to 200 years. Sheep grazing was one of the earliest uses by white men. Later, came the oil and gas exploration, and now uranium mining. Vast deposits of coal and oil shale may herald drastic changes in some parts of the desert.

All of these uses may have to be accommodated in some way. But planning must be carefully done. Hopefully, we can foresee a large area set aside where wild horses can roam free, antelope may continue to migrate across the desert, and buffalo could be re-introduced to the vast open range. Many people are also hoping that some small part of the desert can be set aside as wilderness.

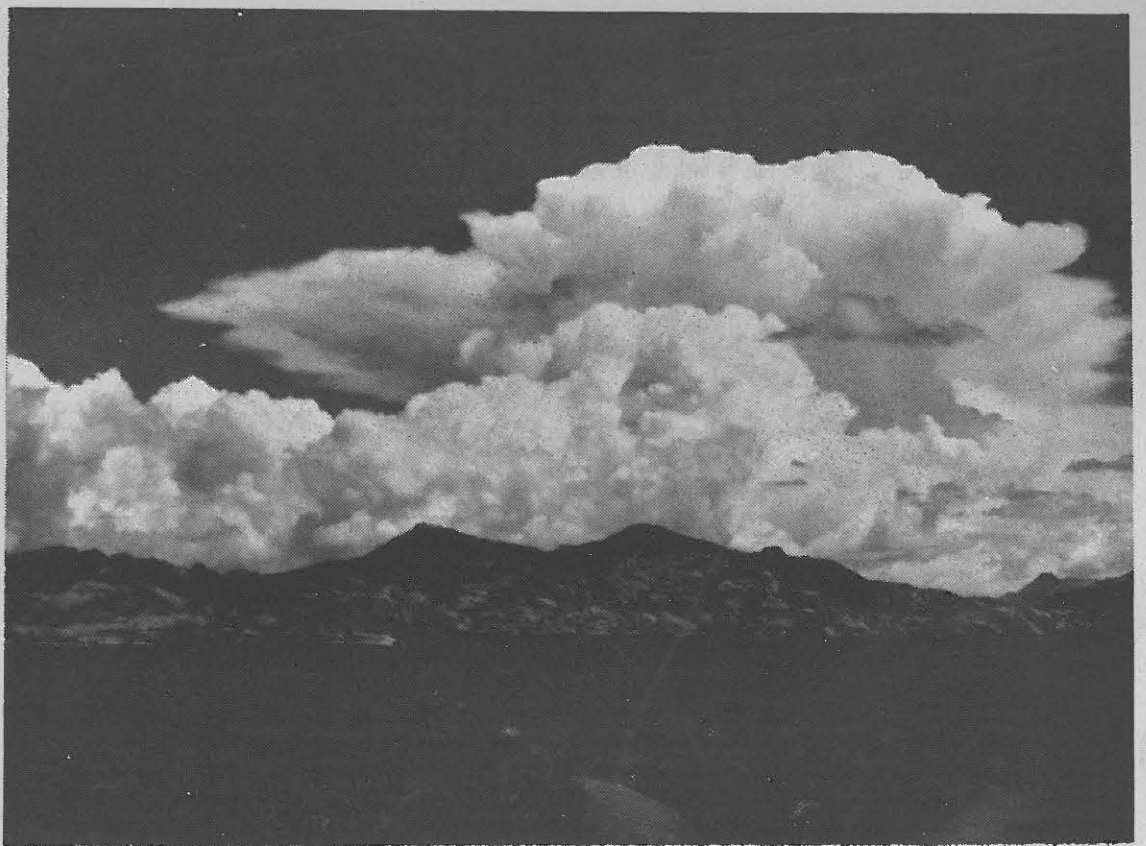


Photo by Chas. E. Higley

Thunderheads roll above the Sweetwater Rocks along Wyoming's Sweetwater River. These granite monoliths in their desert setting appear as they did to the Oregon Trail pioneers who saw them almost a century and a half ago.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Enjoy High Country News and your articles concerning the protection of the environment. Keep it up.

All the best,
James J. Richards, Judge
Lake Superior Court
Hammond, Ind.

Editor:

I'm belatedly updating my subscription.

It would be unfortunate if you could not continue your excellent work.

Best of luck,
Richard E. Common
State Representative of Illinois
Peoria, Illinois

Editor:

My subscription was already entered at \$5.00 when your rates were raised. So in accordance with my understanding of your processing of such subscriptions, I sent another \$3.00 as a "contribution." I am now enclosing an additional \$2.00 which will make me feel better about receiving such an outstanding paper covering the high country. I am appalled at the

plight of the animals all over the world. - a cause with which I have long been identified. But by reading such papers as High Country News I am better able to be sure that sentiment is tempered with realism. I am trying to understand the many facets of ecology, and the stand you take on the issues of the day seems to embrace justice for man and animals alike.

I hope to visit the Teton area this summer.

Best wishes for your continued success as an outstanding environmental publication.

Yours very truly,
Miss Marion Byrne
Liverpool, N.Y.

Editor:

I have been in Wyoming a dozen or more times in the last 20 years and like it more every time. Keep up your goodwork to preserve the land and the wildlife and flora for the enjoyment of this generation, as well as for those who follow us.

W. L. Johnson
Columbus, Nebraska

Editor:

Your exposing of the poisoning epidemic is great. Tired of sending clippings to my son-in-law so am subscribing for him.

E. H. Gates
Sun Valley, Idaho

Editor:

I am sorry that so much time has elapsed since your good letter of February 19th regarding the continuation of our subscription to High Country News. Dr. Steele and I deeply appreciate your conservationist policies and enclose \$25.00 for our subscription for the next three years, which, we hope, will encourage you in a difficult, but worthwhile, fight.

Sincerely,
Eleanor A. Steele, M. D.
Denver, Colorado

Editor:

Here is my renewal subscription for High Country News. You are doing a wonderful job - keep up the good work. I enjoy reading High Country News very much.

Have visited your wonderful state many times and have hunted at Lander. Sure, is friendly town and state you have out there.

Paul Stagg
Rushville, Indiana

Editor's Note: Our thanks here at High Country News for all of our reader's continued support and their expressions of confidence. Letters such as that from Dr. John Omohundro of Sheridan, Wyoming, in the May 28 issue, and those appearing here let us know we are on the right track. We only wish it were possible to provide even more information. But we will look to the future for that. At any rate, we greatly appreciate you, our readers, and your mutual concern for all the environmental problems.

Game Killed

Rewards totaling \$500 have been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who shot and left 14 antelope along U. S. Highway 187 south of Pinedale, Wyoming.

Game and Fish Commissioner James B. White today offered a \$300 reward under provision of a Wyoming law intended to protect the wildlife of the state from wanton and ruthless destruction or mutilation. In addition, Rock Springs businessman John Anselmi has offered a \$200 reward.

The 14 antelope were shot May 23 along a 20-mile stretch of the highway beginning about 20 miles south of Pinedale.

Guest Editorial



A warning to all who love the West . . .

They're Closing In on the Great Open Spaces

by Eric Sevareid

The following is reprinted from Reader's Digest, Feb., 1963, and is a condensation of a copyrighted article by Saturday Review, Oct. 20, 1962. It is of such timely interest nine years later that we thought our readers would enjoy sharing the views of nationally known commentator, Eric Sevareid, as we did.

The editor.

The road around Colorado's Red Mountain to the trout stretches in Hunter Creek is "jeepable" and barely that. Robert Anderson, New Mexico rancher and banker, in blue jeans and Stetson, had the bucking jeep under control. But it was rough on the rib joints, and Mrs. Ethel Kennedy probably spoke the natural sentiment of a New Frontier woman when she gasped from her precarious perch in the back, "Don't you think the government ought to come in here and make a good road?"

Instantly and instinctively, both Anderson and I said, "No!"

Improve that road and that's the end of the trout fishing in Hunter Creek, the end of one more secret joy in life, of one more dream for winter nights in the cities, the finish of one more jeweled valley where the mule deer come out to drink and the ruffed grouse make the hollow logs boom on spring mornings.

Maybe it will soon be finished, anyway. A private combine from the West Coast is trying to buy the valley and raze the aspen and the pine for rows of little houses. This is happening in the high, narrow valleys all through the Rockies, our last frontier of serenity and space, the ultimate Holy Grail, the spirit of the West. The Rockies will be the burial place of this spirit unless we learn, as the English have, that "progress" means preserving and cherishing as well as changing and "improving." I hope I'm dead and buried, too, when the West is gone.

What is the American West, after all? It is space. And if the spaciousness goes, something goes out of the American tradition and dream, out of our "image" of ourselves, that can never come again. We will become a different people, a diminished people.

I know I will be told that there is no such thing as the "spirit of the West," that Westerners are no more or less American than people in Boston or New York. I've been told this before, by historians and sociologists. They make a case, all right, but if they had seen what I saw in my childhood - years and years of Dakota farmers fighting drought and locusts and dust storms and blizzards with damn little help from anybody but neighbors, just to hang on to the free lands they'd homesteaded - maybe the experts would debunk a little more cautiously. I don't claim it was tougher than growing up on New York's Lower East Side, but it was different, and in that difference lies the whole point.

You grew up in the West with a sense of change, of growth and improvement that even a kid could see and feel. You had a sense of anticipation as your town developed, as the new bank went up, the little college began upstairs in the opera house, the new shipment of books arrived for the town library in the back room of the bank. The future seemed as wide as the horizon.

Historian Frederick Jackson Turner described the frontier community as developing from scratch, from birchbark canoe and moccasins or from sod hut and hand plow. That's the way it happened in my town from the time when August Petterson came overland from the Devil's Lake region and built his shack among the oaks in our little river valley. No prefabricated shipment of European or Eastern culture, institutions and amenities could be brought or sent for. It all came later, bit by bit, and a Westerner grew up as his own culture grew up. I don't see how anyone growing to manhood in an old and settled community, just inheriting what others had created long before, can have the same sensations of participation, the same keen sense of shortcomings, and also the same keen sense of accomplishment and pride. In the West you grew up not only with an electric feeling about the future, but with a sober sense of the past, because both past and future seemed so close at

hand.

I suspect that much of the built-in nature of our people that foreigners, at least, regard as "typically American" - inventiveness, respect for the practical man who could get things done, neighborliness, and implicit belief in progress and the solvability of problems - must have come out of that whole process, and I still feel this spirit the moment I get back to the mountains and the great plains.

I know the West is changing. Developers are adding mass housing or buying up farms and ranches for amalgamation and corporate operation. In the mountains, uncounted valleys like Hunter Creek are going to housing developments or resorts or corporate farming.

The spaciousness of the West will remain, as seen from a plane or a peak, but will it feel spacious when you're on the ground? Federal legislation can't save it all, and the efforts of citizens of nearby Aspen to encourage, by tax-

deductible trust arrangements, the withholding of Hunter Creek Valley land for campsites and fishing and hunting grounds ought to be a pattern for a thousand potential Shangri-Las in the Great West.

I'm a displaced person, and a sentimental fool perhaps, but I have a notion that I have a lot of company. There must be millions of us who can't sit still for an hour in the city, even on a holiday, even in the park, without getting jumpy, but who can sit beside a Hunter Creek unaware of minutes or hours until the evening chill catches us by surprise.

When I dream of spaciousness, I dream of the West, the final chalice hoarding that spirit that made this country something different, unmatched and unreplaceable.

Dear God, dear Congressman, dear people, don't let the West be destroyed!



Roads now penetrate many areas once inaccessible except to foot travelers or on horseback. Timber roads such as this one on Wyoming's Shoshone Forest have been responsible for much of the increase in back country travel. Chambers of Commerce and state highway commissions also zealously pursue the mileage into previously remote areas. Once penetrated by roads, there seems to be no turning back.

Mining Threat Averted

A threat to a nationally recognized recreational area in Wyoming has been temporarily averted. The area lies between Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks.

Placer mining claims for gold have been filed on the Snake River in the narrow corridor of national forest land between the two parks. Under the 1872 Mining Act, owners of the 33 claims could lawfully enter upon the public lands and work their claims. The owners and operators announced that they intended to do just that.

Conservationists in the Jackson Hole, including the organized ENACT group, immediately reacted. So did Senator Clifford P. Hansen whose home is located downstream along the Snake River. Senator Hansen asked the federal Departments of Agriculture and Interior to explore every possibility of withdrawing the land from mineral exploration until a decision was made on the future of the lands.

Senator Hansen also requested the Forest Service to place a closure on further validation work of the claims. This the Forest Service did by placing a ban on the use of crawler tractors or other earth moving equipment within the corridor zone. The ban was effective June 2 and will remain in effect until further notice.

Teton Forest Supervisor Bob Safran said in his announcement of the closure that the area contains a wide variety of important resources and that the scenery is of exceptionally high quality.

He said that in accordance with the National Environmental Quality Act of 1969, the Forest Service was obligated to use all protective means to prevent, eliminate or minimize damages to the environment of the public lands in the corridor.

The Forest Service will have mineral examiners on the ground during the coming months to check on the claims and possibly challenge their validity.

Senator Hansen said, "To allow a large gold dredging operation along the Snake River would, in my view, be a real tragedy."

The Jackson Hole ENACT group called a public forum to discuss the problem. Representatives of the mining company did not appear.

Legislation has been introduced in Congress which would serve to correct such abuses of public lands as that occurring in the Jackson Hole. Senator Henry Jackson of Washington, chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, has introduced S 921, the Public Domain Lands Organic Act of 1971. Under Title II of the act, so-called "hardrock" minerals would be placed on a lease basis rather than under claim.

Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona has introduced the Mineral Leasing Revision Act of 1971, H. R. 6253. This proposal would make basic changes in the present system of hardrock mineral prospecting and development by applying a leasing system.

Strip Mining - Coast to Coast

by Harry M. Caudill

Editor's Note: This ECO-ALERT is reprinted courtesy of the Sierra Club. Mr. Caudill, author of *Night Comes to the Cumberlands*, is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the history, problems and potential of his native Appalachian mountains.

Some developments in recent weeks inspire a faint hope that at last—at the eleventh hour—this mineral-rich country may save itself from virtual ruin at the hands of strip miners. America is so abundantly endowed with ores and fuels, world demand for them is so great, and earth-moving technology is so efficient that stripmining—until recently associated primarily with coal and Appalachia—has become a reality or an imminent prospect for every state and nearly all counties. An ecological nightmare of unimaginable dimensions suddenly looms everywhere.

Since 1950, according to Census Bureau figures, the nation's population has swollen by more than one-third. During that time the land area has not grown by a single inch. On the contrary, the amount of land available for crops, forests, recreation, and other uses has been effectively and permanently diminished. Highways, housing, developments, shopping centers and man-made lakes are insatiable consumers of land, but they have the virtue of being continuously useful to large numbers of people. However, strip mining is a land use that threatens to devour the continent in a single-benefit operation. Before most urbanized Americans are aware of what is happening, the land on which they depend may have been ruined past technology's capacity to restore it.

From coast to coast the United States is marvelously blessed—or cursed—with valuable stones, clays, ores and solid fuels. Beneath the ancient and varied forests of Appalachia are gigantic coal beds, vast ledges of limestone and silica sand, iron ore, clays, marble, granite and such seldom mentioned substances as gneiss, grahamite and glibbsite. In Florida there are huge beds of phosphate. Georgia has kaolin and Texas and Wisconsin have iron fields. Coal is abundant across the Great Plains in West Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Iowa and Kansas. It striates the hills of Colorado, alongside immense deposits of oil shale. Low grade coal and lignite are found under hundreds of thousands of acres in Arizona, Utah and the Dakotas. California and Nevada boast of gold and silver; Arizona has copper. And nearly everywhere, sand and gravel can be scooped up for an endless variety of construction projects.

In short, something mineable can be found practically anywhere, and the pressure on natural resources is so great in our highly industrialized society that all of them are practically certain to be mined. These facts are of the gravest consequence to the nation.

The word that best fits the climate of West Virginia is "benign". Its mixed mesophytic forests have embraced and sheltered nearly all plant forms that the ancient ice shields pushed down from the north. Its 2,000 varieties of flowering plants make it a botanical wonderland without parallel anywhere outside the tropics. But all this profuse, interwoven and indescribably old web of life has been for twenty years under a brutal assault by corporations digging fuel for domestic and foreign electric power plants and steel mills, and for hundreds of chemical byproducts. The very life of the state is threatened by industrial processes that leave its splendid land as dead and piteous as the bloody carcass of a flayed lion.

West Virginia is fortunate, though, in that it has been adopted by two remarkable men whom voters have had the good sense to elect to public office. John D. Rockefeller IV—"Jay" to West Virginians—came to the state as a VISTA worker when Lyndon Johnson was building the Great Society. He stayed to serve a term in the state legislature and is now Secretary of State in the dingy capitol at Charleston. Unless his latest undertaking brings him to grief, this scion of New York's wealthiest family is likely to be elected governor as a Democrat in next year's election.

What he is attempting requires a breathtaking boldness. He has endorsed Sen. Si Galperin's bill to outlaw strip mining in the state "completely and forever", and has set off a political earthquake in the process. The bill challenges the state's vast absentee mining interests head-on in an "us-or-them" battle. Most West Virginians undoubtedly support the Rockefeller faction, but they are divided and

generally inexperienced, whereas their opponents are tightly organized, unbelievably well heeled, ruthless and resourceful.

The first tactic of the mining cabal was to flood Charleston with lobbyists toting heavy satchels, and with hundreds of people who claim to make their living by strip mining. The strippers said that their activities employ 6,700 persons. As the "abolitionists" promptly pointed out, these figures show the tiny stake West Virginians have in the industry that is wrecking their state. Even if the statistics are correct, only 1 percent of the people derive economic benefits from stripping. Actually, if Galperin's bill becomes law, new deep mines will promptly provide employment for many times as many men—men now on welfare and food-stamp rolls. For another generation or so, Appalachian coal is an economic imperative which will have to be mined by other means if strip mining is banned as ecologically unacceptable.

The state's other good angel is its Congressman from the Fourth District, Ken Hechler, another New Yorker and a one-time college professor turned politician. Hechler brings a formidable background of achievement to the service of his constituency. In 1969 he fought through a reluctant Congress a stringent—but as yet unenforced—new federal mine safety bill. On February 18 he dropped into the legislative hopper a bill bearing the names of twenty-nine co-sponsors and designed to outlaw strip mining for coal totally and everywhere in the United States.

These bills will probably be crushed between the wheels of public apathy and industry alarm. In fact these two able and dedicated men may find themselves driven from public life by sustained, lavishly financed campaigns. In any event, their efforts provide some measure of the despair that grips intelligent people when they comprehend the immensity of the destruction being visited on their native soil.

The Nixon Administration has made some gestures toward control over this runaway industry, but they are so gutless as to inspire no fear among strippers and little support from conservationists. Amid an almost limitless outpouring of rhetoric concerning our deteriorating environment, the most serious of all such problems has been largely ignored. Now the true scope of our national peril is recognized by growing numbers of people in and out of office who are willing to lay everything on the line in a struggle for survival. They see, clearly and with horror, that our present methods of obtaining minerals is incompatible with timber growing, wildlife, farming, potable water, natural beauty and continued human occupancy of mined areas.

That a third of our coal, to name but one mineral, is extracted by this ruinous practice outlines the magnitude of our reliance upon it. But does a high standard of living built by such means represent progress in any real sense?

Ken Hechler's colleague, freshman Ohio Rep.

John Seiberling answered the question this way: "The Romans created a desert and called it peace. We create a desert and call it progress." The desert Mr. Seiberling referred to is the only land Americans will ever have.



The Sierra Club National Board of Directors at a meeting on May 1 adopted the following resolution: In view of the irreversible environmental damage caused by surface mining and the ineffectiveness of regulation to mitigate the environmental impact of surface mining, the Sierra Club advocates a total and immediate ban on all surface mining of coal, in conjunction with appropriate steps to prevent any compensating increase in other environmentally disastrous methods of obtaining or transporting fuel.

The Sierra Club has also provided the following information and call to action.

The editor

There are now 82 members of the House of Representatives from 24 states co-sponsoring legislation to abolish strip mining. Rep. Hechler's bill, H. R. 4556, and its companion bills, H. R. 4557 and H. R. 6484, have also received the support of Senators Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) and George McGovern (D-S.D.), co-sponsors of S. 1498.

And each day there is growing public support to ban the strip mining of coal. Two counties in Kentucky have outlawed strip mining. In West Virginia, the state legislature has enacted a two-year ban on strip mines in 22 counties so far untouched by them. Ohio conservationists are supporting a tough bill that virtually advocates abolition. And in the Four Corners region of the Southwest a coalition of conservationists and leaders of the Navajo and Hopi nations are struggling to halt the ripping apart of Black Mesa, Arizona.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense Fund and Sierra Club have also initiated a legal challenge to the Tennessee Valley Authority's massive purchases of strip-mined coal.

At the same time well-financed lobbying and advertising campaigns have been launched by the National Coal Association and its allies to stave off this legislation long enough to enable strippers to make some quick killings. Although coal can and must be obtained from the billions of tons available through deep mining, industry remains wedded to the high profit margin of strip mining while millions of Americans pay the cost of this outrageous practice.

(Continued on page 5.)



Senator Gale McGee and federal officials examine stuffed museum exhibits of Bald and Golden Eagles during hearings conducted by the Senator's Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection. McGee held the hearings to investigate the deaths of 23 eagles found near Casper, Wyo. Pictured with the Wyoming Democrat are Nathaniel Reed (center), Assistant Secretary of Interior, and William D. Ruckelshaus (right), Director of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Forest Service Under Continuing Fire

High Country News—5
Friday, June 11, 1971

The U. S. Forest Service continues to be called to task in the wake of Senate Interior Committee hearings in April. Rep. John Culver of Iowa has asked the General Accounting Office to make a full-scale investigation of management of the national forests.

The Iowa Democrat wrote U. S. Comptroller General Elmer Staats, who is head of the GAO, that, "Recent newspaper articles, reports and congressional hearings have raised such serious questions about conservation methods, sales procedures and priorities of forest use that a full inquiry should be made into public timber lands." The Des Moines, Iowa, Register has carried a series of articles on the problem of clearcutting and forest management.

Culver has also asked Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin what he has done to correct the Forest Service's "antiquated" system for measuring timber and assessing buyers, misunderstandings among Forest Service employees about timber appraisal concepts, and "collusive and tailored bidding" practices among timber purchasers. These were all pointed to in a recent study by the Agriculture Department's inspector general and earlier by a Forest Service study in Montana.

Culver asked Hardin for a list of all forest product bids in the past five years on which the department took action because of improper bidding practices, and a list of all national forest timber sales in the last five years in which only one or two prospective buyers submitted bids, along with a listing of the appraisal price and bids.

Rep. John Dingell of Mich. has also written Chief of the Forest Service Ed Cliff asking what he has done to correct the improper practices reported by the Ag Department inspector general. Dingell is author of a bill (H. R. 7383), the Forest Lands Restoration and Protection Act of 1971, which would seek to correct some of the improper practices and mismanagement charged against the Forest Service.



Richard Schloemer of Victor, Montana, testified in Washington that he had been a timber company forester for five years but had quit to go to the clearcut hearings because he felt there was much that was wrong.



Strip Mining . . .

If you would like to help stop strip mining and work toward a sensible national energy policy, please contact your Congressman and Senators and urge them to co-sponsor Rep. Ken Hechler's bill. Write also to the chairman of the House and Senate Interior Committees and urge that this bill be moved as soon as possible. You may write to:

Hon. Wayne Aspinall, Chairman, House Interior Committee, House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515.

Hon. Henry Jackson, Chairman, Senate Interior Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510.

Your correspondence will help to convince many legislators who have already expressed interest in acting on the problem that there is broad public support for such action.

You may also help by informing your local newspapers and periodicals about this most critical national problem.

Damning testimony was given in the Washington hearings early in April by a former forester for companies operating on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. Richard Schloemer of Victor, Montana, told Senator Frank Church's Subcommittee on Public Lands, "Briefly, my background has been in forestry throughout my adult life. I was employed by Conner Lumber Company as their forester until April 1 of this year. Before that, I worked three years for the Intermountain Lumber Company in Missoula and Darby . . . Timber sales are laid out for certain mills. The type of timber a mill needs, be it of large or small diameter, is always available. This also may be beneficial, but my concern rose when I realized that if the mills wanted to increase their capacity, it appeared that the timber just happened to increase its growth at the same rate. On the Bitterroot National Forest, the Intermountain Lumber Company increased its capacity from 130,000 board feet of lumber per day to 200,000. The Conner Lumber Company went from 75,000 to 200,000 board feet per day in a two year period . . . Another subject is that of collusion in the industry. A subject such as this can lead to many implications. Let me say that it has probably taken place in the past and a close look at the timber sale bidding would bear this out. Whether the mills decide beforehand who gets what, or if the sales are tailored to a certain mill cannot be proven. However, a detailed examination of sales and the reasons for those sales should provide some answers."

G. M. Brandborg of Hamilton, Montana, charged that the Forest Service was grossly overcutting the Bitterroot National Forest. His statements were substantiated by Schloemer's testimony. Brandborg is a 40-year veteran of the Forest Service, including 20 years as supervisor of the Bitterroot.

Brandborg told the Senate subcommittee at the Washington hearings, "The Forest Service is obviously condoning short-sighted timber management practices on the Bitterroot and on other western forests. Sound, wellfinanced regulatory forestry programs followed for years by the Service have given way to the pressures of special interests. Continuation of these practices will not only destroy the forests but will also impair the agricultural economy in the Valley that is dependent upon the green timbered mountain slopes for irrigation water supplies. Denuding the slopes is already increasing erosion and endangering fisheries, wildlife, recreation and other assets that are dependent upon a sustained water supply produced by these forested lands."

The inspector general's report took 18 months to complete and was handed over to the Forest Service shortly after the first of this year.

Photos by Dale Burke, The Missoulian



G. M. Brandborg, retired forester from Hamilton, Montana, testified at the Senate Interior Committee hearings on clearcutting. Brandborg retired as supervisor on the Bitterroot National Forest.



Conservationists were not aware of the report when they testified at the April hearings in Washington. The report is highly critical of the Forest Service but also pointed to political pressures brought by the timber industry.

Among other things, the report says that Forest Service timber sale procedures "do not adequately protect" the public interest, and discriminate against smaller timber companies.

A loss of revenue amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars was reported because of "Forest Service practice of charging the price in effect at the time the logs are scaled at the mill after storage, rather than when they are cut and removed from the national forests."

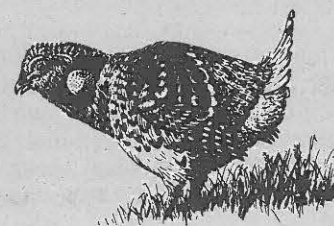


Photo by Ernst Peterson



The slash (tree tops, branches, old trees, small trees, etc.) resulting from clearcutting operations constitutes a considerable amount of woody material which is completely wasted. Those who defend clearcutting as it has been practiced on many sites deplore the waste of timber when it is not cut. The public is not told how much waste results from clearcutting. Here, slash is burned on the Bitterroot National Forest of Montana.

Floating Western Rivers

by Verne Huser

Part One: Man's Impact upon the Wilderness Quality of the Snake River in Jackson Hole.

Man has participated for thousands of years in the evolution of the wilderness character of what is now Grand Teton National Park as meat-hunting Indians, fur-trapping mountain men, cattle-raising ranchers and—more recently—as sight-seeing tourists. The recreational orientation of the past few decades has profoundly affected the park as wild lands became campgrounds and parking lots, as power boats churned the waters of Jackson Lake, as more roads were built and more trails were cut, but in few areas has the sheer weight of tourist numbers been so heavily felt as on the Snake River where traffic has increased more than fifteen-fold in the past ten years.

Numerous commercial float trips take tens of thousands of park visitors down the more than 25 miles of the Snake every summer. Jackson Hole is an obtuse triangular valley at the foot of the Teton Range; it is filled to a depth of several hundred feet with glacial outwash so porous that it retains little moisture. Most of the valley floor is covered with sagebrush, but the Snake River, which has carved its own channel through the glacial gravels of Jackson Hole during the past several thousand years, has created a sharply-contrasting biome: climax forests of blue spruce, stately stands of aging cottonwoods giving way to younger conifers, willow flats where narrow-leaf cottonwoods are taking over, marshes maintained by beaver and shallow backwaters where moose feed and where ducks and geese nest. The Snake River marge, closely related to the other biomes of the park, offers much to the casual visitor who experiences it from a rubber boat floating down the free-flowing, snow-melt stream.

The valley floor of Jackson Hole and the Snake River marge became part of Grand Teton National Park just twenty years ago. Much of the prior development was removed by the Park Service and/or the Grand Teton Lodge Company, a Rockefeller-controlled concessionaire. But new development followed quickly with the building of Jackson Lake Lodge and its surrounding complement (including a swimming pool) and the creation of the Colter Bay facility under Mission '66 funds. With the increased facilities came more tourists and greater demand for things to do, which generally meant more development, even though nature herself offered plenty for any imaginative person to do.

The Grand Teton Lodge Company in 1956 initiated scenic float trips on the Snake River, using military surplus black rubber rafts that drifted quietly down the current. Development was minimal, and park visitors could enjoy the scenic beauty and natural fauna and flora of a relatively wild area with minimal disturbance. Only 750 people floated the Snake that first year, but each year the number increased. More boats were brought into use until by 1961 four of the big pontoons a day were hauling park visitors down the river. Still, in the first five years, fewer than seven thousand people floated the river in the park.

What was it like in those days? Even when there were four boats a day, the pontoons were so spaced that you rarely caught sight of another except at the lunch stop. You'd be driven to the river bank, perhaps given a short wildflower walk while the rafts were being readied (or to allow the spacing between boats), then—as a kingfisher rattled away across the river—you'd board the craft and ease out into the current. You'd see beaver lodges and osprey nests, a herd of elk crossing the river, moose browsing willows on a mid-stream island, a family of Canada geese, and almost always, a bald eagle perched on a dead branch high above the river. A coyote-sunning himself after a dip in the river—might suddenly become aware of the raft and dart away over the ridge, or a family of otter playing along the shore might slip noiselessly into the water. You seldom saw another human being besides those on your own raft—except for an occasional fisherman—and wildlife was plentiful.

Several things happened during the next few years. The East Side Highway (U. S. 89, 187, 26) had been completed in 1957 bringing more and more people through Jackson Hole. The Yellowstone Earthquake of 1959 shook people so badly that visitor numbers dropped in Yellowstone (visitors to Grand Teton National Park have out-numbered those to Yellowstone every year since 1960). The park became known in its own right, and the floattrip became popular



Photo by Dick Barker, Courtesy Barker-Ewing Float Trips.

A boatload of park visitors view and photograph three bull moose browsing along the Snake River. Notice how disturbed the moose are.

Numbers of People Floating Snake River

Year	Lodge Company	Other Commercial	Private	Total
1965	10,659	2,802	1,021	14,482
1966	12,000	4,610	1,564	18,174
1967	11,900	11,755	2,476	26,131
1968	10,975	10,800	7,848	29,623
1969	10,477	22,162	7,950	40,589
1970	13,171	34,418	3,808	51,297

as more and more people took home stories of their wilderness adventure. Too, more and more magazines and newspapers featured the Snake River Float Trip in articles and stories.

And float trip business began to boom. The Lodge Company carried more and more people: 1961-3341, 1962-4861, 1963-5994, 1964-6888. About this time a number of independent commercial float trips began to appear on the Snake River, but they hardly matched the Lodge Company's operation. Nevertheless, a dispute arose as to whether or not these various private enterprises had the right to float the river commercially since the Lodge Company was the concessionaire for the park. Various Wyoming political figures—always opposed to any kind of Federal control—pushed for free use of the river by any commercial operator. In a letter received by Grand Teton National Park Feb. 20, 1964, Assistant Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver said, "The National Park Service will not be arbitrary or capricious in denying the use of customary shore facilities for launching and beaching boats." This interpretation left the Snake River wide open to commercial exploitation within Grand Teton National Park. In 1965 the Lodge Company carried 10,659 passengers (an increase of more than 50% over 1964), while other commercial operators took 2,802, and more than a thousand private floaters used the river. But the dam had been broken, and a grand total of 14,482 people floated the Snake River in 1965, more than twice the number that had done so the previous year.

As the float trips began to proliferate (the number rose to nearly 30 commercial operators in the late '60's), the Park Service began to take steps to protect the natural aspects of the river. They first required special use permits for all commercial operators, but that requirement was a mere formality; there was no real control. Next the Park Service closed the eagles' nest area to man, posting signs along the river as well as on the primitive road along the old river terrace (too many people were visiting the nest site, and the Park Service feared that the eagles might leave). River rangers began floating the

river, but at first they had little knowledge of the river and no real authority.

Toward the end of the 1968 season, however, Superintendent Howard Chapman sent out a letter to all commercial float trip operators suggesting the need for regulations to insure the quality of the float trip experience to park visitors. In the spring of 1969 the operators met with Park Service personnel to discuss the new regulations, and revised regulations were put into effect for the 1969 season. These regulations covered the craft itself (inspection by the Park Service, minimum number of air chambers, maximum passenger load for each craft), equipment (life preservers or vests, wet-weather gear, first aid kit, litter containers), boatmen (Park Service Seminar, Red Cross First Aid Certificate, experience on the river and knowledge of the area), insurance, charge rates, and advertising.

At the same time the Park Service imposed the following conditions upon all Special Use Permittees: 1) no stopping along the river except for emergencies (except at three designated sites), 2) no fires except at designated sites, 3) no launching until the craft ahead is out of sight, 4) all litter must be carried out, 5) fishermen must have valid Wyoming licenses, 6) operators must submit monthly reports to the Park Service, 7) all accidents must be reported to the Park Service, and 8) operators must comply with all Park rules and regulations, particularly those dealing with the protection of the flora and fauna "and will assume full responsibility for the conduct of employees and guests."

The season these regulations went into effect saw a 37% increase in float trip traffic; the following season the increase was 26.3%. Obviously the regulations did nothing to cut down the number of passengers—nor were they intended to do so—or the number of boats on the river or, for that matter, the number of commercial operators. (Grand Canyon National Park last summer put a ceiling on the number of commercial operators running the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon at 19).

(Continued on page 7)

Floating Rivers...

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Friday, June 11, 1971

Congestion on the river increased, but the visitor impact upon the shore decreased as fewer people went ashore and fewer cook-outs were conducted along the river. The litter problems improved, but the impact upon the wildlife is more difficult to determine.

Dick Barker, one of the float trip operators (Barker-Ewing Float Trips) who has been on the river for most of the years that commercial float trips have been operating on the Snake, has kept meticulous records of wildlife observations for several years that show unexplained fluctuations not necessarily consistent with increased river traffic. A trio of charts may give the reader a better understanding of the situation:

% success in sightings % of trips on which animals were sighted			
animal	1966	1967	1968
deer	10%	15%	12%
elk	4%	10%	5%
moose	73%	78%	76%
beaver	33%	30%	32%

Average number seen (per trip)			
animal	1966	1967	1968
deer	.19	.30	.22
elk	.09	.45	.19
moose	2.33	3.49	2.49
beaver	1.38	1.20	1.06

Average number seen (per total sighting)			
animal	1966	1967	1968
deer	1.81	2.00	1.78
elk	2.25	4.50	3.84
moose	3.19	4.05	3.50
beaver	4.16	4.06	3.30

The summer of 1967 seems to have been an especially good one for wildlife; in general 1968 was better than 1966 but not as good as 1967. My own records indicate that from 1968 through 1970 I saw fewer moose each year (3.7 per trip in 1968, 3.3 in 1969, and only 2.2 in 1970), but the summer of 1970 was exceptionally hot and dry, not a good one for seeing moose on the river. I saw more eagles in 1968 than in 1969 and more in 1970 than in 1968. Why? The perpetually nesting pair of bald eagles on the river raised a single eaglet in 1969 but two in 1968 and three in 1970. (During the 15 years that float trips have drifted by that same nest, the eagles have raised 28 youngsters including the trio last summer when traffic was heavier than ever).

The elk may not be typical of the wildlife seen on the river, but he represents an interesting reaction to man's continuing use of the Snake River. In the late '50's and early '60's when for all practical purposes the Grand Teton Lodge Company was the only scenic float trip operator, passengers might expect to see elk occasionally for most of the summer, especially early in the summer. Once the elk got the boat's schedule down, however, few elk were seen unless the boat ran off schedule or unless a second or third boat was added (and elk could obviously count as high as three). When the boats were on the river, the elk weren't—but the elk still had plenty of time to use the river since there were rarely more than four boats a day on the river.

Today, with an almost steady stream of float trip traffic on the river, there is simply no time between floats for the elk to use the river marge. Consequently, the elk stay up in the heavy timber during the daylight hours when the float trips run, and move down to the river in the soft light of dusk to feed and water along the river during the evening hours. Early the next morning—the hour depending upon the float trip schedules—they move back into the timber to spend the heat of the day away from the heavy traffic. The only elk I've seen from a float trip during the past three years have been either early or late in the season when float trip traffic is light and sporadic or on unprecedented early-morning trips (last summer I saw 47 elk on a 5 A.M. trip).

My records of wildlife observation indicate a greater variety of wildlife in recent years, but in some cases (as with the moose) numbers are down. Abundance of wildlife seems to vary more with the general weather patterns than with visitor numbers. For example, the early and steady spring of 1969 brought an early flood-stage to the river, before ducks and geese nested. Usually the artificially-enlarged Jackson Lake,

which holds a great deal of spring snow-melt runoff, delays the flood stage just long enough to drown out numerous nest sites. In 1969 with the exceptionally early high water, more ducks and geese than usual nested successfully, and consequently there were more water fowl on the river that summer.

The wildlife is still there—moose and mergansers, elk and eagles, beaver and buffalo—though a few basic patterns have been changed by man's quiet intrusion into the domain of the animals and birds. Most of the creatures have adjusted to man. Of course, the disturbance of the wildlife varies with different float trips, but conscientious guides discourage their passengers from whistling or hand-clapping or shouting at the wildlife. They discourage wildflower picking and rock collecting and littering. They actually teach the general public how to act in the relative wilderness of the Snake River. The Park Service considers the float trips

and extension of their naturalist program (which has been severely cut back due to budget shortages in recent years). With a well-informed guide, the park visitor can learn much about the ecological patterns of the park, can actually see some of the delicate inter-relations functioning.

Perhaps the greatest threat from the float trips comes from the aesthetic destruction created by too many boats on the river at one time. Seeing another boat may destroy the illusion of wilderness that is so easily developed on the float trip. But the roar of a diesel engine on the East Side Highway that hugs the ridge above the river can do it, too—or the sonic boom or twenty canoes full of yelling Boy Scouts. Is the Snake River being over used? From some points of view, it obviously is during the crowded summer months, and yet what better way to see, to enjoy without destroying, to experience the wilderness quality of the park, especially if your time—and your knowledge—is limited?



Photo by Dick Barker

A quartet of trumpeter swans make the ice-free channels of the Snake River their home during the winter months. A snowmobile has just frightened two of the huge birds into flight, and a third seems ready to move.

Primitive Area Reviewed...

body of the larger coalesced glacier giving it a striped appearance...

"The remains of grasshoppers have frequently been reported in the Wind River glaciers. At present they are found in quantities only on the west side of the range. There is no substantiated explanation for their presence. However, it is possible that, as in the case of the famous Grasshopper Glacier in the Beartooth Primitive Area in Montana, they were caught in a storm and fell into the ice.

"Among the thirty-odd additional glaciers in the vicinity, one just north of Gannett Glacier is unique among glaciers south of Canada: it does not lie in a cirque or other protected area. Rather, it lies on a broad upland extending for two and one-half miles in a north-south direction."

Within the Glacier Primitive Area there are about 530 lakes, one of which is 510 acres in size. There are 37 miles of fishing stream. In these various waters are found cutthroat, rainbow, California golden trout, brook trout and mackinaw.

Gannett Peak, 13,785 ft., is the highest point in Wyoming. Clustered around and near it are some of the other highest peaks in the state.

The Glacier Primitive Area is also known for its large bighorn sheep herd. Around 1,000 head of the relatively rare big game animals use the area. The herd is considered to be one of the largest single concentrations of the species in the world.

The U. S. Forest Service is recommending several alternatives to be considered. The largest of these would add the Jakeys Fork Basin on the north to the existing primitive area. The combined acreage would total 190,720 acres.

Conservation groups are recommending the addition of the Simpson Lake area which add approximately 4,200 acres. This would make a total area of approximately 195,000 acres.

Conservationists are also recommending that the Seven Lakes area, contiguous to the Glacier

Primitive Area on the west and the Bridger Wilderness Area on the north, be considered for possible wilderness designation. The Glacier Primitive Area is on the Shoshone National Forest. The Seven Lakes area is across the Continental Divide on the Teton National Forest. This area could be added later, by amendment, to the Bridger Wilderness Area.

Individuals or organizations may express their views on the area by appearing at the hearing, or they may submit written comments for inclusion in the official record. Written statements should be sent to the Regional Forester, Building 85, Denver, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225, by July 29, 1971.

Pesticides

Both the Senate and House have completed hearings on proposed legislation which would place tighter controls on the use of pesticides, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. The Senate Subcommittee on Agricultural Research and General Legislation and the House Committee on Agriculture now are pondering the future of S. 660 and S. 745 and H.R. 4157 respectively.

In a statement before the Senate subcommittee, Dr. Charles T. Black of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources stated that the present Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act is not adequately protecting the environment and wildlife, and perhaps not even man. He stressed that S. 660 or S. 745 would afford better methods of diagnosing the effects of pesticides and protecting the environment. Such action is essential, he said, to putting our pesticide house in order.

Russell E. Train, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality gave a strong statement before the House Committee in which he concentrated mainly on the effects of pesticides on human health.

SPRING COMES

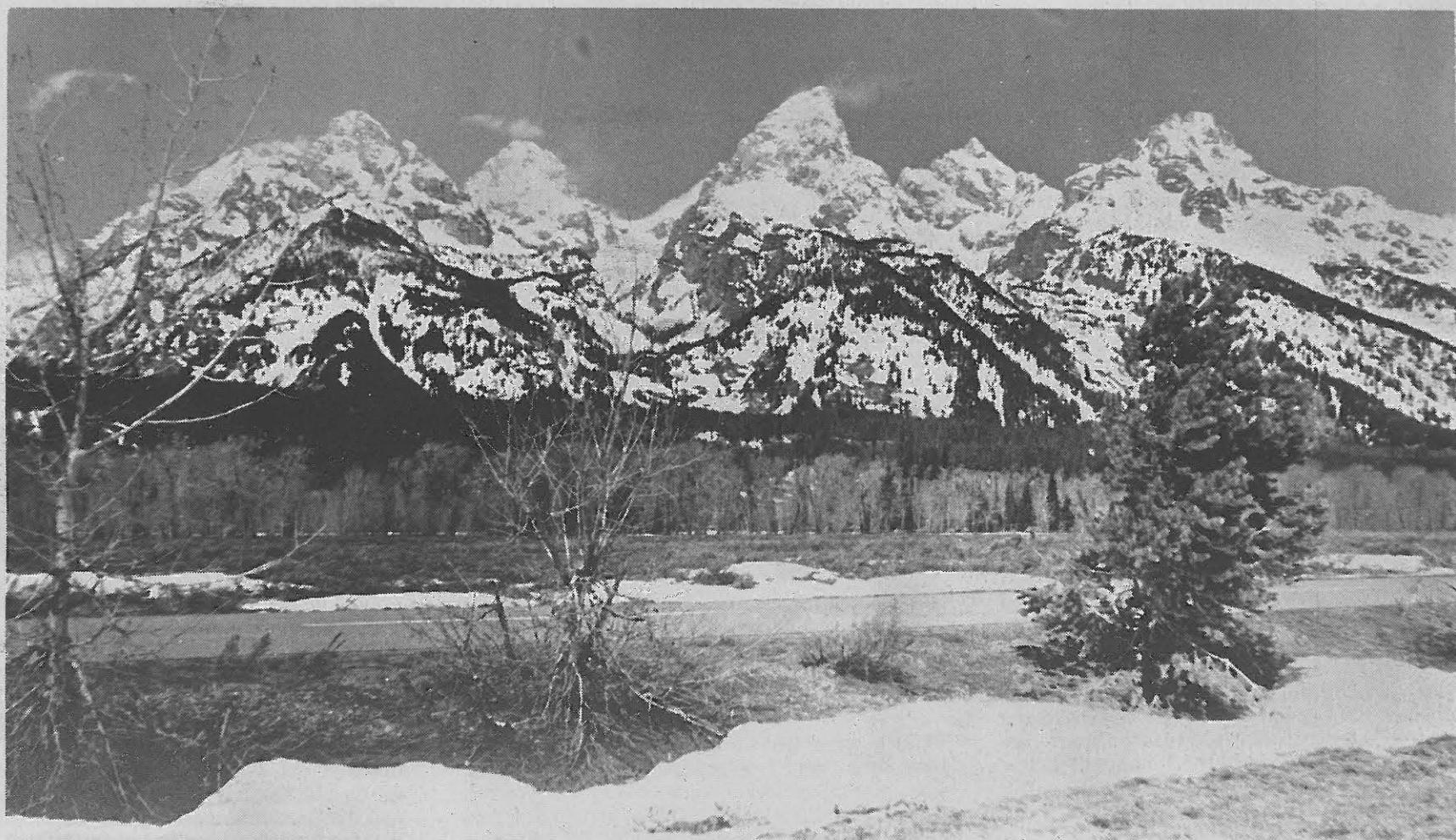


Photos

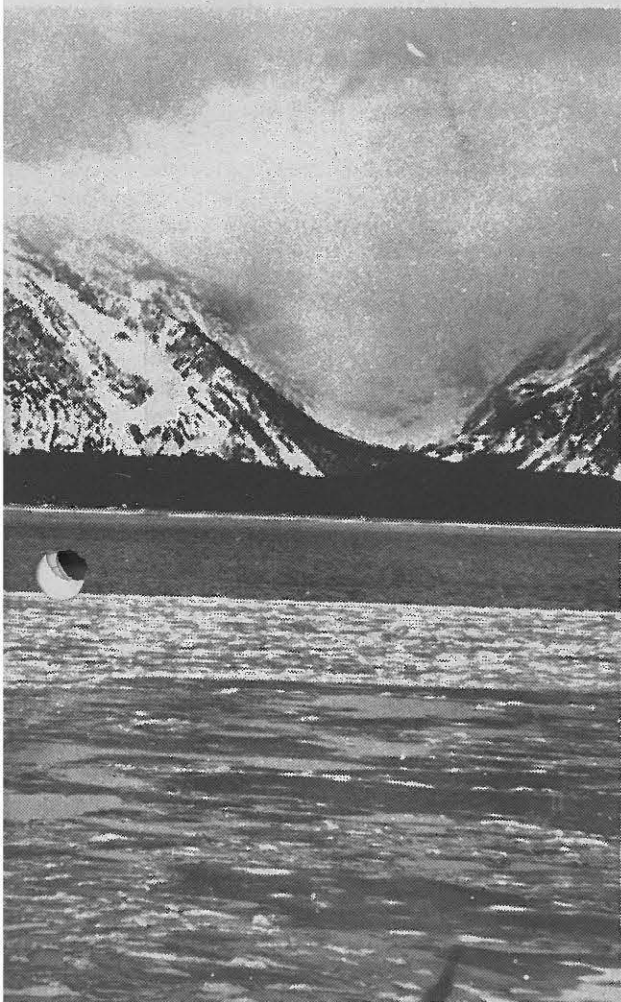


THE TRENS

High Country News—9
Friday, June 11, 1971



by Marjorie Higley



THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

Hell's Canyon is the deepest gorge in North America. Carved by the Snake River, it lies along the Idaho-Oregon border between the Wallawas and the Seven Devils Mountains. A trio of dams chokes the free flow of the Snake River through Hell's Canyon, and the power-mad engineers have several more dams on the drawing boards even now.

A few weeks ago I floated the wildest portion of the remaining hundred and twenty miles of undammed river—and during the latter part of May I'm going down that stretch twice more, once with a Wilderness Society group and again with a group of high government officials and a CBS news team. Hell's Canyon must be saved.

Spring had hit western Idaho when we approached Hell's Canyon on Idaho Highway 71. Balsam roots were in bloom, and the streams ran brim full. Dropping down toward the river, we first spotted Brownlee Reservoir, a life-sized topographic map with dozens of waterlines indicating the nearly hundred-foot draw-down. The water was muddy.

Less than two miles below Brownlee Dam, we crossed to the Oregon side of the river and the waters backed up behind Ox-Bow Dam. We crossed the river again to the Idaho side below Ox-Bow Dam and headed north along the swiftly flowing muddy water that soon became still another lake.

It is lovely country but for the muddy lake water, steep and green with waterfalls and wildflowers, bighorn sheep and mule deer, marmots and eagles. Soft, contrasting country of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine, elderberry and service berry (in bloom), balsam root and larkspur, turkey vultures and Stellar's jays, crows and loons, destructive dams and distant snow peaks, grassy slopes to muddy reservoir, clear side streams and back-lighted, pale, spring green, yellow monkey flowers on seepy rock walls, clear green pools where side streams cascade into lakes of muddy water—my impressions.

We rigged the boats, two military surplus bridge pontoons—one 25-feet long the other, 27—and watched the bighorn sheep recently planted on the Oregon side just below Hell's Canyon Dam. Water pouring out of the dam at 53,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) exploded in billows twenty, thirty, even forty feet high just below the dam, but when we launched the next day the flow was only 30,000 cfs (compare that to the full-flood stage of the Snake in Jackson Hole running 6,000 cfs).

Why the cut back from 53,000 to 30,000? A fish plant was planned, and with the tremendous flow, too much nitrogen is picked up by the water, poisoning the fish (they die of the bends). As Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus, who will be one of those "high government officials" on the late-May trip down Hell's Canyon, said recently: A few more years of this nitrogen poisoning of the steelhead and salmon, and we're out of business.

Nitrogen poisoning is only one of the detrimental effects of the dams. Consider, if all the hydroelectric potential of the United States were developed right now, it would supply only 5% of our existing needs. Can we afford to destroy all of our rivers and our freshwater fisheries for power production?

Shortly after we launched Monday we saw bighorn sheep on the left (Oregon) bank, no doubt part of the April 4 plant, and before we reached the first major rapid—Wild Sheep—we spotted one on the Idaho side (later we found a curl-and-a-quarter bighorn skull a mile up Granite Creek where we camped for the night).

We stopped to study Wild Sheep Rapid, rated as a 9 (dangerous and hazardous) by Leslie Jones, who ran it at 10,000 cfs, a third of what we had to run it on. Much of the danger was no doubt drowned out by the volumn of water, but the river was fast, and the tail waves were gigantic. We ran it near the right (Idaho) shore, just as we planned it, and our plan was right—a perfect run. A mile downstream we pulled in for the night at Granite Creek, where we found miners' lettuce to add to our salad, part of a steak dinner cooked over charcoal we carried along so as not to deplete the wood supply.

Tuesday we studied Cache Creek Rapid, an 8 on Jones' map, and ran it near the Idaho shore,



Photo by Verne Huser

The eagles' nest area has been closed to man to protect the nest site from invasion of privacy. Fearful that the prolific pair of bald eagles using the nest (in the dead cottonwood to the left of the lone living cottonwood just left of the sign) might leave, the Park Service put an end to float trip passengers disembarking here. The sign says "Eagles Nest Closed: No Stopping on This Side of River".

today beginning at 4 pm at the rate of 1700 cfs per hour until it was flowing 70,000 cfs, big water, but the two major rapids were behind us. We ran Bernard and Waterspout, Bills and Sluice and Rush, then pulled in for the night at Johnson's Bar and a sheep camp where a government trapper was busy setting out coyote getters (we kept the dog in our party leashed).

Wednesday morning, and the 200-yard-wide river had risen five feet. Most rapids were drowned out, but now we had to worry about whirlpools and back eddies, often swirling from bank to bank, but it was a fast ride past dam sites—Pleasant Valley, Low Mountain Sheep, High Mountain Sheep, China Gardens—and river

mouths—the Imnaha, the Salmon (all but drowned out, yet flowing 18,500 cfs itself so that we now had nearly 90,000 cfs pushing us along), and the Grande Ronde. Friday we landed on the Washington shore, unloaded the boats, deflated them, packed up and headed for home, convinced that none of the dams below Hell's Canyon Dam should ever be built.

(This is just a taste of floating. In this issue a new series on floating western rivers begins. It will include float trips on the Colorado, the Snake, the Salmon, and others plus an account of current attempts to control floating when and where it seems necessary to preserve environment.)

Dam Stirs Controversy . . .

the Bureau of Reclamation that, "The supply of reservoir-type recreation opportunities in Eastern Idaho far exceeds the demand, whereas the demand for good stream fisheries is increasing.

"This is a reflection of need for quality recreation, and the need to sustain quality to meet future needs. Good streams cannot be created; but good streams can be destroyed, and once destroyed, quality recreation is reduced.

"The demand then becomes transferred to remaining, uncontrolled streams. This creates crowding and over-use on remaining stream fisheries and further reduces the quality of the environment.

"The recreational demand on the Teton River has doubled in the last 10 years and will continue to escalate in the future at an increasing rate. The conversion of 17 miles of Teton River to a reservoir environment with extreme fluctuations and hot, barren, treeless shorelines, will throw additional pressures on the few remaining uncontrolled streams."

Hemphill also wrote that the loss of wintering habitat for game with the project approaches 90 per cent in the Teton Canyon.

"We have had discussions in depth with members of your staff, and have had the opinion of authoritative wildlife biologists, regarding the adverse impact of losing one-third of the remaining big-game winter forage below Teton Dam. The consensus of the biologists has been that in a severe winter this habitat would be of vital importance in sustaining the deer and elk herds that winter in the canyon."

He referred to plans to take rock from the first mile of the three miles of valley floor below the damsite.

The Environmental Protection Agency has entered the fray. Hurlon C. Ray, director of state and federal assistance programs, Water Quality Office, EPA, Portland, says the proposed dam will produce "the most serious form of pollution, that of irreversibly altering the natural features of the landscape by the works of

Kay also told H. T. Nelson, regional director of the Bureau of Reclamation that, "The total impact of this project would far exceed the area inundated by the reservoir. The various ecosystems which extend over a broad area are either directly or indirectly dependent on the canyon area for survival."

Governor Cecil Andrus questions the feasibility and need for the dam. So does the prestigious Boise IDAHO STATESMAN in a long editorial (June 6, 1971). The editorial says the problem deserves more study in view of today's concern for the environment.

The STATESMAN points to figures supplied by Idaho's Director of Water Administration Keith Higginson that additional water for irrigation of 35,000 to 40,000 acres of land is unjustified. Other figures show that about 20,000 acres of land which would get water from the project are now pump irrigated and don't need the water. Another 87,000 acres could also be pump irrigated.

Higginson says the amount of water used per acre in the area, 8.5 to 13 acre feet, isn't justified in view of state policy to conserve water, and competing water demands on the Snake River.

The Idaho Environmental Council went on record early in May in opposition to the dam. They and other conservationists contend that the loss of the stream would create a negative benefit which should be weighed when considering feasibility of the project.

Basic to much of the controversy generated by development of the few remaining free-flowing streams of the West is a question of comparable values. What is needed is a comprehensive water policy. The actual need for development of more irrigation projects should be weighed against other values in the national interest.

The best reclamation projects have long since been developed. What remain are marginal and questionable in value. When other factors involving environmental issues are considered, the wasteful uses of water for irrigation are in-

Comment on Dam Building

High Country News—11
Friday, June 11, 1971

The following open letter was written to Dr. Robert R. Lee, Director, Idaho Water Resource Board, by Gerald A. Jayne, President of the Idaho Environmental Council. The subject concerns proposals by the State of Idaho to build dams at Swan Falls and the Guffey site on the Snake River. The situation in Idaho is somewhat corollary to the proposals of the State of Wyoming to dam the Green River.

I am disturbed by the action of the Idaho Water Resource Board meeting at Idaho Falls where they passed a resolution favoring the construction of dams at the Swan Falls and Guffey sites, and by the summary report of the public hearings on this same subject. I realize that the Idaho legislature recently authorized the Water Resource Board to enter into negotiations with power companies to build these dams. But the decision of the legislature seems premature, and I doubt that Senator J. Marsden Williams, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources and Environment, and one of the proponents of the project, has convinced many Idahoans that this is a good example of "environmental legislation", as he claims.

Regarding the summary of the public hearings held in Boise, Nampa, and Caldwell, there seems to be some inaccuracy, and I would like to request that you set the record straight. At the Boise hearing, there were some oral statements given which were omitted from the IWRB summary; one was by a representative of the Idaho Cattle Feeder's Association in favor of the project, three were by persons opposed to the project (Franklin Jones, then President of the Idaho Wildlife Federation; Jack Warwick, with the local Boise Sierra Club group; and Richard Nadeau, representing the Boise State College IEC Committee), and there were two or three other statements given by individuals whose positions were not clear, at least not to me. However, the most serious error I noticed in the summary was that of placing the Idaho Fish & Game Department among the supporters of the project. Director John Woodworth made it quite clear, I thought, at the Boise hearing and in subsequent news releases, that the Fish & Game Department opposed the project until such time as the mitigation of fish and wildlife losses would be assured from the receipt of power revenues. Since mitigation is normally tied to reclamation benefits, and since no reclamation is associated with present plans for the project, this would be necessary if there is going to be any money available for mitigation. According to my notes, the proponents of the two dams who entered statements into the public hearing record (10 in number) include representatives of the Water Resource Board, the Mountain Home Well Drillers, the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce, the Idaho State Reclamation Association, the Southwest Idaho Development Association, Intermountain Gas Company, and the Amalgamated Sugar Company. Those opposing the project (14 statements in the record) include the Idaho Environmental Council, the Boise Branch of the AAUW, the BSC Anthropology Club, the Idaho Fish & Game Department, and Dr. Earl Swanson, anthropologist.

You probably recall the proposal the IEC made last July, that a comprehensive study of the ecological, economic, and sociological effects of existing dams on the Snake be made before any more dams are built. I think recent events have reinforced the need for such a study, and a halt in new dam construction until more of the environmental questions are answered. For example, I have in mind the mercury poisoning found in the fish, and in higher concentrations in the reservoirs. Also the increasing difficulty anadromous fish are having in completing their spawning cycle in our Idaho streams.

Some of us seem to be operating under the assumption that since dams in Idaho have produced benefits, therefore more dams will produce more benefits. But we have reached a point now where the benefits accrue to a few individuals, and the costs are passed on to the public in the form of environmental degradation.

We must realize that every new dam would result in the loss of a stretch of free-flowing rivers, loss of increasingly scarce fish and wildlife habitat, and in some cases, loss of farmland, historic sites, archaeological sites, and scenic canyon country.

I am sure you will agree that a river is a complicated entity, far more than a simple hydrologic system where water runs downhill over rocks on its way to the ocean. Dams, especially the ones impounding large volumes of water, alter the water chemically and biologically. Increased heating of the surface water of a large reservoir stimulates the growth

of algae, especially when the water is rich in nutrients, as our Snake River is from food processing plants, fertilizer plants, irrigation run-off, feedlot operations, etc. The algal blooms are broken down by organisms which consume large quantities of the dissolved oxygen in so doing. There are other changes in the ecology of the Snake River resulting from its 22 dams which I am sure a fresh water biologist could describe to you far better than I can. But my point is that dams do far more to a river than merely delay the water, and the effects are often adverse. We must reduce the impact of these adverse effects on the Snake, as well as clean up some of the pollution going into the River. Until we do, any new dams can only aggravate the problems.

The Swan Falls-Guffey project proposal can be characterized by its obvious lack of integration into a comprehensive plan, and by the lack of environmental considerations which have been made. The latter is also true of the Mountain Home Division of the Southwest Idaho reclamation project, of which the Swan Falls-Guffey project would be a part, if it were planned as a part of anything. Last year, three ecologists at the University of Idaho wrote a critique entitled "Ecological Evaluation of the Mountain Home Division, Southwest Idaho Water

Development Project", in which they stated of the report on the reclamation proposed "We feel that ecological evaluation of the Division plan should dominate the report but in actuality it has received fragmented or no attention in the report."

I also object to your attempt to sell the Swan Falls-Guffey project on the basis of "Recreational Enhancement"; a somewhat scarce recreational resource - a stretch of free-flowing river - would be destroyed to create a common type of recreational resource - a reservoir. By similar logic, one could probably justify "enhancing" the recreational and cultural values of a museum by removing its contents and installing a roller skating rink. The Swan Falls portion of the Snake is one of the few natural areas left in Southwest Idaho, and the people of the urban areas there will desperately need all these areas for future recreational and educational purposes.

Public attitudes toward our priceless Idaho environment are changing, and Idahoans are coming to treasure their outstanding streams. A sign of this change is the recent formation of the Coalition to Save the Snake, which I understand intends to fight for the preservation of the remaining free-flowing Snake River.

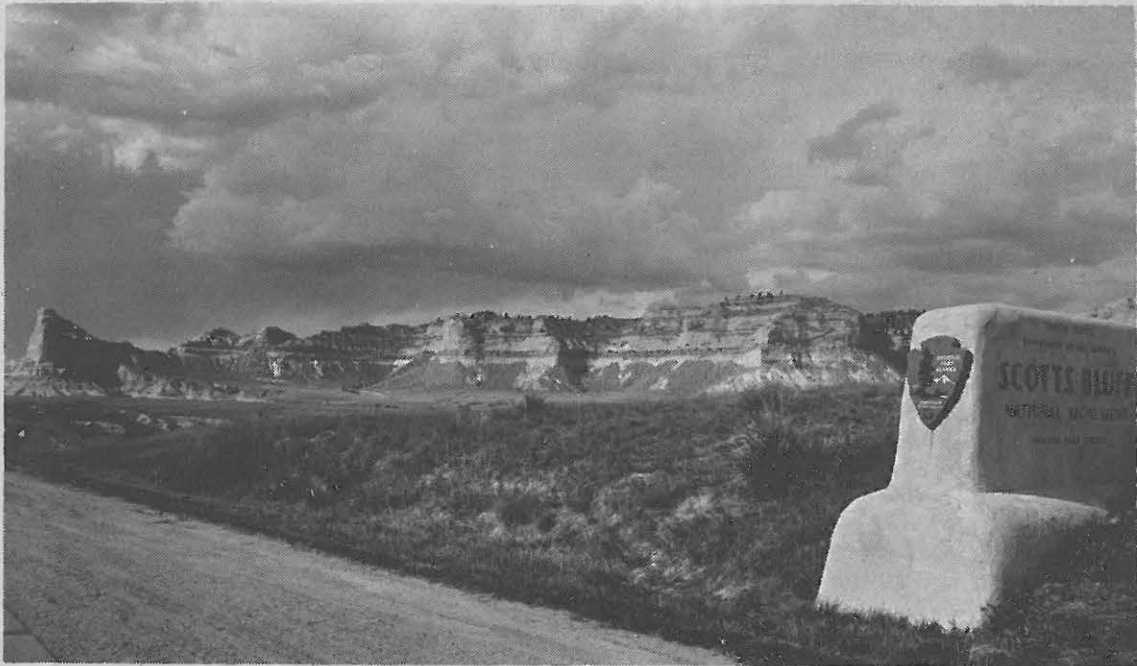


Photo by Leonard C. Hysell

Covered wagons are once again rolling across the plains of Wyoming. The Jim Bridger Trek is an annual event reminiscent of the old days. Final plans are being made for the 5th annual trek, July 2,3,4,&5, starting at Fort Bridger and arriving in Evanston. Last year the trek consisted of 20 wagons, 30 out-riders, and 149 people. This year's trek is hoped to be even more successful. Roy Matthews, Scribe and Interpreter, says, "It is something to remind us of the winning of the west and the freedom which has become our heritage." That is the main idea of the trek, with old time covered wagons over old trails and backroads across Uinta County. Write Roy Matthews, Box 424, Evanston, Wyoming 82930.

Another covered wagon trip will start on July 7 at South Pass City, Wyoming. The wagons will travel along the Lander Cut-off and part of the Oregon Trail. The trip will end in Pinedale on July 11 in time for the famous Green River Rendezvous. Additional trips will be taken at various times during the summer. If you would care to try your hand at being a modern-day pioneer, or if you would like to take a different vacation, write: Wagons West, Inc., Box 30, Lander, Wyoming 82520.





Scotts Bluff National Monument, like many others across the country, felt the impact of the Boy Scout SOAR project this Spring.

SOAR Sweeps Country

SOAR (Save Our American Resources), the Boy Scouts of America's 1971 Conservation Good Turn program, was kicked off at Scotts Bluff and Agate Fossil Beds National Monuments when local troops attacked some old environmental wounds. As a part of the cooperative agreement between the National Park Service and the Boy Scouts of America, two clean-up projects were accomplished in the two areas during April.

The BOY POWER went into action soon after the Park Service provided the boys with the problem areas. On April 3, Management Assistant, Roy Weaver, at Agate Fossil Beds coordinated the actions of Troop 18 from Gering, Nebraska. The boys cleaned out two old garbage dumps from the banks of the Niobrara River. Five pickup loads of old cans and junk were hauled away to an approved county dump.

One week later Troop 29 of Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, moved in on the environmental problem at Scotts Bluff National Monument. Superintendent Homer Rouse coordinated this project which entailed cleaning up a junk-strewn river flood plain area on newly acquired land. Two large dump truckloads of junk were collected and hauled away to the county dump.

The projects were organized and planned with the local BSA Executive as joint SOAR and Johnny Horizon programs. The main thrust of SOAR was on June 5 and 6 million Boy Scouts all over America did their good turn for the environment. Troops 18 and 29 got out early to avoid hazards of snakes and poison ivy. However, similar projects were planned for the kick-off day last June 5.

The BOY POWER expended on these two projects in Nebraska equaled approximately 200 man hours of conservation work. They turned two eyesores into eye-catchers with the guidance of NPS employees, and the leadership of the Scoutmasters. The Scouts meant business when they launched a program to Save Our American Resources.



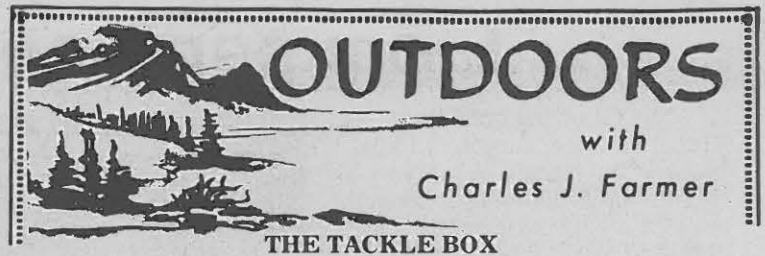
Members of Boy Scout Troop 29 of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, clean up the grounds at Scotts Bluff National Monument. Scout troops across the country joined the National Park Service and other government agencies in picking up litter and cleaning the countryside.

Reuss Acts To Protect Streams

Congressman Henry S. Reuss (Wis.) has announced that he will offer an amendment to the 1972 Agriculture Appropriations Act providing that no funds appropriated under that act shall be used for stream channelization, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The resulting one-year moratorium would be used to study and reorient channelization and make its application more compatible with the overall environmental goals of federally assisted projects.

It was pointed out during recent hearings before Reuss' Subcommittee that several federal agencies had misused channelization extensively. SCS's Small Watershed Program and many Corps of Engineers drainage projects were implicated. The consensus of those testifying at the hearings was that a moratorium be established immediately on channel construction and other drainage measures because many projects have been evaluated and planned without benefit of adequate ecological, hydrological, and benefit: cost considerations.

Reuss' intended move to withhold funds indicates he is in agreement with the moratorium idea. He said that tremendous opposition to his proposal can be expected. The only hope for success in this effort, he stated, is for the millions of people across the nation who oppose the environmental destructiveness of channelization projects at public expense to let their positions be known.



For the past year, I have collected an assortment of interesting, short items that were saved so that I might pass them on to you in a column. Since there is such a variety of material, coming in all sorts of sizes, shapes and colors, the contents resemble that of a fisherman's TACKLE BOX.

A 10-point Code of Courteous Camping Conduct is available from Wheels Afield, Conservation Code WAAC, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, California, 90069. The codes, along with a "Courteous Camper" sticker, are available to individuals or camping groups free of charge. Ken Fermoye, Editor of Wheels Afield Magazine says "The rules are not exotic or pretentious—but rather a basic, commonsense listing of good manners that every camper should practice as a matter of course."

An Environmental Quality (EQ) Index may be obtained free to individuals by writing to Educational Servicing, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St. N. W., Washington D. C. 20036. The full color index, pictorially and graphically illustrates the quality of air, water, wildlife, timber, soil, minerals and living space. The 1970 EQ TREND Level shows the total environmental quality deteriorating at an accelerating rate. A section on "What you can do about our EQ" lists 27 things that an individual can do to improve the environment.

The Coleman Company, Wichita, Kansas has introduced a new line of backpack equipment in their 1971 "Outing Products" catalogue. Among the new products are day packs; backpack sleeping bags filled with goose down and weighing around four pounds; Small to extra large backpack frames of aluminum and two models of sacks; and a new backpack tent made of nylon taffeta with a spring-bar frame that can be rolled into a package five inches in diameter and 27 inches long. The whole works weighs 5 1/4 pounds.

The September, 1970 issue of Pennsylvania Angler Magazine featured an article that should be of particular interest to Rocky Mountain trout fishermen. The how-to article includes simple steps for carpeting the soles of wading gear to prevent slipping. The scrap pieces of nylon carpeting are available as samples or throw-aways from rug merchants. Nylon is definitely best to use and far outlasts felt soles used by some anglers.

Trace the outline of the sole on the carpet. Cut out with sharp knife or scissor. Use contact cement (the kind used for laminating furniture or applying wood panelling) and apply to both the sole and the carpet. Attach the carpet to the sole and trim to size. It's great for sure foot wading.

Pronghorns Popular

Archie L. Child of Cheyenne has been selected to judge the 1971 nonresident antelope permit drawing.

The public drawing will be conducted in the Cheyenne headquarters of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department beginning at 9:00 a.m., June 11. A second judge will be named later to assist in the drawing.

Some 10,000 envelopes containing up to 28,000 nonresident antelope applications and nearly a million dollars are expected

to be received for the drawing.

Successful applicants will be notified by mail and their permits will be issued as soon as the licenses can be typed. Unsuccessful applications will be returned unopened immediately following the drawing.

Resident antelope hunting permits will be offered for purchase August 14, 1971 in various areas of Wyoming and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Environmental Spokesman for the Mountain West

High Country News

Box K Lander, Wyoming 82520

Name _____

1 Year...\$10.00

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

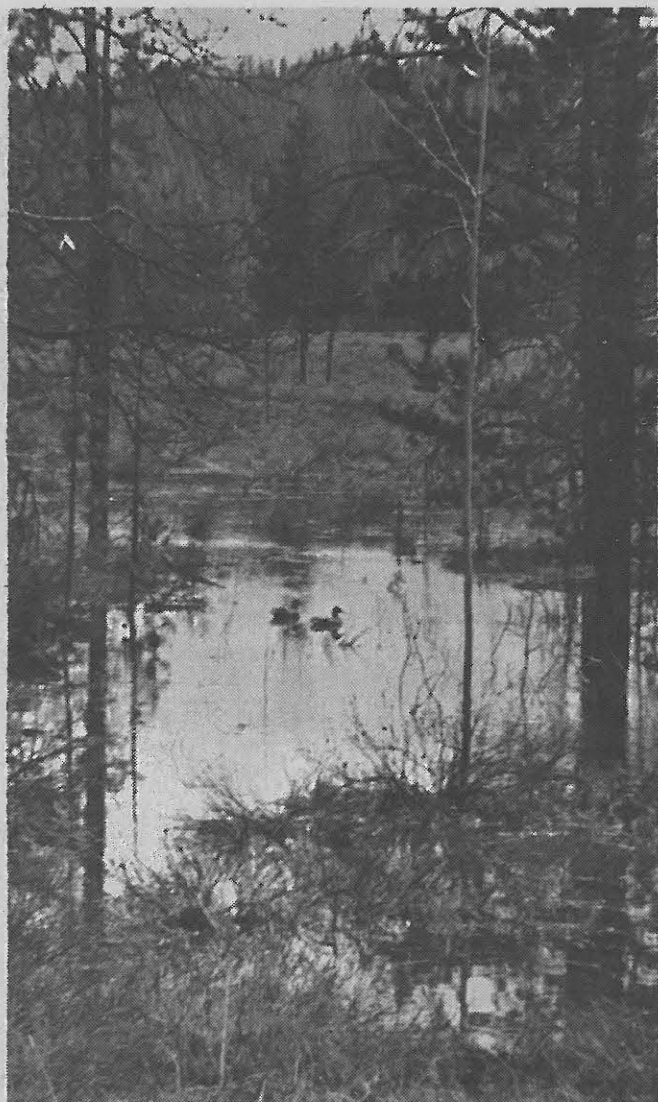


Interested In Outings?

For those who are interested in back country and wilderness outings during the summer months, openings are still available for trips sponsored by both The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club.

The Wilderness Society is sponsoring trips by canoe, walking with packstock, and horseback into wilderness areas in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. For information you may write The Wilderness Society, Western Regional Office, 5850 East Jewell Ave., Denver, Colorado 80222, Attn: Patricia A. Enwall, Trip Manager.

The Sierra Club has a Mexican canoe trip along the Pacific Ocean, a Grand Canyon raft trip, and various outing trips into all parts of our country, as well as East Africa. For further information write the Outing Department, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, Calif. 94104.



A pair of wild ducks rests on a beaver pond in a secluded national forest setting.

Ospreys To Be Protected

The U.S. Forest Service has prepared a habitat management plan designed to protect ospreys on the Lassen National Forest in northern California, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. In 1969, USFS created the 10,600-acre Crane Prairie Osprey Management Area in the Schutes National Forest, Oregon.

Although fairly common in

regions of the West, the American osprey is declining rapidly in other parts of the country. The Lassen National Forest is unique in that it contains one of the nation's largest known breeding populations of ospreys. The USFS plan calls for protecting existing nest trees and snags and for cultivating suitable trees for replacements. Snags for additional nest sites will be

created along shoreline areas by girdling appropriate live trees and removing tops to provide a nest foundation. Artificial nest structures will also be constructed to augment natural sites. Chemical control of rough fish populations, which serve as the major food source for ospreys, will not be permitted near the area. Pesticides have been implicated as a cause of the osprey's decline.

"Why the Sierra Club?"

"...not blind opposition to progress
but opposition to blind progress..."



The Sierra Club was founded in 1892
—to help people explore, enjoy, and
protect wildlands and wildlife;

—to preserve and restore the quality
of man's environment and the integ-
rity of the earth's ecosystems.

Life membership, \$400^{1,2}
Patron membership, \$1000.
Benefactor, \$10,000.

Admission fee and annual dues:

Regular (age 15 and over)	\$15.00
Spouse	7.50
Junior (through age 14)	5.00
Student (full-time, age	
15 through 23)	5.00
Spouse of Student	5.00
Senior (60 and over) ¹	10.00
Spouse of Senior	5.00
Supporting ²	25.00
Contributing ²	50.00
Admission fee ¹	5.00
Total	\$ _____

¹if desired. ²per person.

³One \$5.00 admission fee covers all members of an immediate family joining at the same time. Admission fee is waived for junior members, full-time students through age 23, and life members.

Sierra Club, 220 Bush St., San Francisco, Calif. 94104 Date _____

I have informed myself about the purposes of the Sierra Club and wish to support them. I hereby apply for membership and enclose \$ _____ as total payment. (See schedule on reverse for applicable fees.)

Print Name(s) _____
Mr. Mrs. Miss Mr. & Mrs.

Print Mailing Address _____

_____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Birthdate _____

Signature of Applicant _____

When applying for family members other than spouse, please supply the above information on separate forms or letter.

Please allow four to six weeks for processing.

If you are a full-time student, please provide the following information:

School Name and Location _____

Dues include subscription to the Sierra Club Bulletin.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

by Denise Coates

A SILENT SUNRISE

Denise Coates was an eighth grader in the Lander Junior High School when she submitted the foregoing essay for the National Wildlife Week essay contest. Her paper was one of the best in Wyoming but did not win first place. Nevertheless, we felt it was good enough to give it a place here.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The gold-orange sun rises on a cloudless sky, scorching the barren ground and bleaching the chalk-white bones to an even whiter shade. The air is still; the quiet is heart-breaking. There is only evidence of death and destruction. Everywhere there are grim reminders of life that once existed, but exists no more.

Is this the truth we'll have to face? Is this the world we are creating? Haven't we come to the end of our "time to kill"? The answer to all of these questions is, YES! It's time to face the ecological facts of life to prevent that silent sunrise on a world too easily destroyed.

Every man, woman, and child should understand the interdependence of all living organisms. If we completely destroy the leopard coats, the ivory tusks, and the bald eagle, then the organisms that prey upon these creatures will be destroyed and so on and so on until man also is destroyed. It should be simple to understand then, that the preservation of wildlife is essential to the preservation of every living organism.

Wildlife has been on this earth since the birth of Man. It was put here for a purpose. Man has tamed and used wild animals for clothing, food, beasts of burden, and for companionship. He depends upon the wild animals for many things.

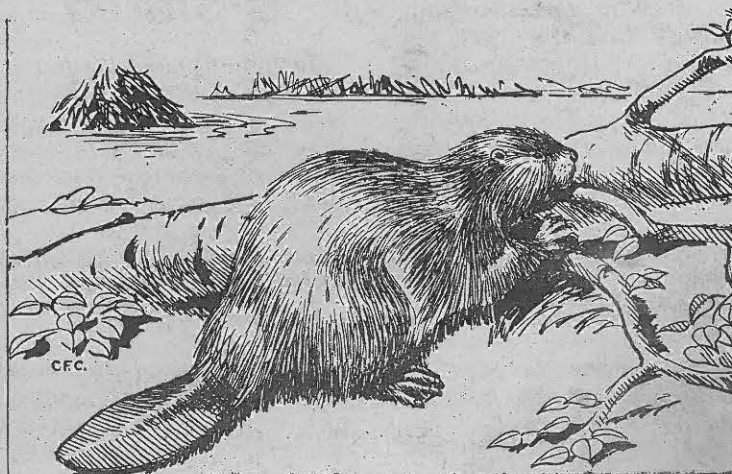
The industrious beaver spends many hours working on his home which prevents flooding in lower rivers and streams. The bees pollinate the farmer's crops, the orchards, the vegetable gardens, the flowers and trees and grasses of the wild. Birds pollinate as do the bees; they carry seeds which produce new crops of vegetation in each new growing cycle. They enchant us with their morning melodies and lull us with their evening chorus. Yet we take these forms of wildlife for granted and turn our back when one of these species become endangered.

We, who should be most concerned, pay little attention to the hunting rules of our state, nation, world; we fail to cry out when we know these laws are being abused.

There are many people for whom hunting makes a very good sport. These are the careful, considerate, law-abiding sportsmen. However, there are others who abuse the laws by killing wildlife for fun and who leave the bodies to decay or the wounded animal to suffer. These same people abuse the habitats of all wildlife. They are guilty of littering the forests, creeks, river, and streams with their filthy trash. Their fires are left unattended, cigarettes are not crushed out, animals are killed needlessly; more plant life is destroyed. Theirs has been a time to kill, to tear down. They deserve silent sunrises.

There are many people in this world who love wildlife and respect these creatures for what they are. They love them for the beauty they lend to our surroundings. They hunt them knowing that they prevent some deaths by starvation. These are the people who know that the beauty of the earth and its creatures are as important to Man as air, food, and water.

We are given a "time to heal" and a "time to build" during Wildlife Week, but is this enough? I think not! We must teach all children and adults how very important the wildlife is to all of them. We must demand stronger laws and law enforcement to protect our wildlife and wilderness. We must each be responsible for the carelessness of other men so the earth does not finally come to that silent sunrise.



Conservation Grows

The growth of conservation and environmental organizations has been phenomenal in the past few years. If membership is indicative of interest, Americans are concerned as they have never been before in citizen efforts to maintain or restore their environment.

The Sierra Club, known as an action-oriented, sometimes-militant organization, is now at the 125,000-member mark. At a February Board of Directors meeting, it was reported that the Club was an intervenor (or friend of the court) in 55 lawsuits and had over 200 cases in the active legal files.

Recently, the membership voted more than 2-to-1 to raise annual dues by \$3.00, from \$12.00 per year to \$15.00.

The Sierra Club Foundation raised \$107,000 in 1968; \$329,000 in 1969; \$710,000 in 1970; and \$340,000 during the first four months of 1971. Such figures should attest to the concern of many people and their willingness to help pay to get action on the problems.

The Audubon Society, once

known as innocuous bird-watchers, has joined in the action across a broad environmental front. Membership jumped from 78,061 on June 30, 1969 to 104,676 on June 30, 1970, and it continues to grow in spectacular fashion. Regular memberships are \$10.00 per year.

The Society has been outstanding in educational efforts. Among other things, it operates four Audubon Camps - summer ecology workshops in Connecticut, Maine, Wisconsin and Wyoming - with 95 per cent enrollment.

Audubon Magazine is considered tops in its field on environmental issues. Nature photography and wildlife art is the best.

In addition, the Society conducts a number of research projects. Included has been a first-phase study of golden eagle predation on lambs and sheep done in cooperation with the National Wool Growers Association. The study has disclosed no serious damage to lambs or other livestock.



The Oregon Buttes stand guard over the northern reaches of Wyoming's Red Desert (seen in the foreground). This vast public land area is the home of thousands of antelope, a few elk and several hundred wild horses. Public hearings will soon be held to obtain citizen comment on how this great area is to be managed.

Strip Mine Ban Sought

Legislation to ban strip mining of coal has been introduced in both houses of Congress, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. Congressman Ken Hechler (W. Va.) authored the House bill, H.R. 4556, and Senators Gaylord Nelson (Wis.) and George McGovern (S. D.) introduced a like bill, S. 1498, in the Senate.

The measure so far has attracted more than 65 co-sponsors from 23 states. "I am receiving letters of strong support from all over the nation," Hechler said, "particularly from those areas where the bulldozers, jackhammers, and end loaders have been most active in scalping off the valuable top soil and polluting streams with sediment and acid."

Bureau of Mines estimates show that over 1.8 million acres have been disturbed by strip mining in this country. At the present accelerating rates, the figure will reach 5 million acres by 1980, an area about the size of New

Jersey. Only 56,000 acres have thus far received any reclamation treatment.

The measure applies to all surface coal mining located in the U.S., including that on federal and Indian lands. Provisions of the bills would be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Rock Show Is Slated

June 25-27 have been announced as the dates for the South Dakota Gem and Mineral Show by Scott Moses, Deadwood, chairman of the event.

The 1971 show will open at 10 a.m. on June 25 at the 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds in Rapid City and run through June 27.

Included in the show will be displays by dealers, special exhibits, competition displays, guided collecting trips, demonstrations, slide shows, lectures and movies.

ENVIRONOTES

Oregon Bans Cans

The Oregon Legislature has banned the sale of all non-returnable beverage bottles and cans in that state. Gov. Tom McCall had asked for the legislation so it is expected he will sign the new law which will go into effect on Oct. 1, 1972. The law requires a five cent deposit on all cans and prohibits the sale of lift-tab cans for beer or softdrinks. There is a five cent deposit required on all bottles except those of uniform size and shape that can be reused interchangeably by different manufacturers. The deposit on those will be two cents.

"Fishing for keeps" Ends

Idaho fishery biologists say that increasing pressure on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River may end "fishing for keeps". Fishing for fun is being proposed to begin in 1972 to relieve pressure and possibly save the cutthroat and rainbow fisheries. The proposal also covers the young steelhead. Salmon and mature steelhead could still be kept after they were caught.

Antlers Serve All Purposes

Boy Scouts of Jackson, Wyoming, sold around 2 1/2 tons of elk antlers for \$3,397.31. The antlers are bought mostly by Orientals for manufacturer into novelties or aphrodisiacs. Bull elk drop their antlers while on or around the Jackson Hole National Elk Refuge. The Boy Scouts gather the antlers after the elk leave the refuge for summer range.

Governor Wants Wild Rivers

Gov. Cecil Andrus of Idaho has reversed a decision made by former Gov. Don Samuelson. Andrus asked the Forest Service and Federal Power Commission to reconsider the environmental protection of two of Idaho's rivers. Specifically, he asked for wild and scenic river designation for the Hells Canyon section of the Middle Snake, and a section of the Henry's Fork River. Samuelson had objected to the inclusion of the two rivers. Andrus also told the FPC that dams in Hells Canyon were not in the best "interest of the state or nation."

Ecology Department Proposed

A Wyoming Democratic party official says the state should create a state department of ecology. A member of the party's state central committee from Albany County, Ed Dover, said there was "no use pretending environmental problems will solve themselves. It will take a massive effort by the people, the news media, and local, state and federal governments." He said the legislature should take the initiative in creating such a department.

Strip Mine Hearing Planned

Montana Land Commissioner Ted Schwinden says he will hold a public hearing on proposed strip mining operations for coal in the Bull Mountains between Billings and Roundup. The hearing is a result of a request from a rancher and president of the Bull Mountain Landowners Association, Robert Tully. Schwinden said the hearing would concern the state's obligations and limitations under the 1971 Surface Mining Act.

Waste in Planning Studies Charged

A director of the U. S. Water Resources Council, W. Don Maughan, has charged that "a quarter of a billion dollars" has been spent on water planning studies in the 11 western states from 1965 to 1971 with questionable results. Maughan said the Bureau of Reclamation should invest a major portion of its time and funding filling in gaps in existing information. He said these would include environmental factors, population growth, accelerated rural development, and possible reallocation of existing water supplies in the West. The Westwide study is the biggest water study ever undertaken by any agency in history. It will determine the amount of water supplies available and the long-range water requirements of the 11 states lying wholly or partially west of the Continental Divide. It is estimated to cost \$16-\$25 million.

Idaho Governor Praised

The Environmental Protection Agency has praised Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus for his ordering of a management analysis of the State Department of Public Health. The department administers all of the air, water, solid waste, and radiation anti-pollution programs. Hurlon C. Ray, director of the state and federal assistance programs for the EPA's northwest region at Portland, said he has "nothing but praise for Gov. Cecil Andrus and what he is trying to do."

Wyoming Governor Rapped

Colorado Magazine has again taken after Wyoming Governor Stanley K. Hathaway for his stand on an environmental issue. Merrill Hastings, publisher of the regional magazine, said editorially in the May issue, "under the misguided leadership of Gov. Hathaway, the timbering industry is devastating the national forest lands, and lumber lobbyists in Washington are now seeking a 60 percent increase in the number of trees to be cut." The editorial also said, "despite the fact that in the high, semi-arid Rockies it takes over 120 years to regrow mature trees, Gov. Hathaway has repeatedly endorsed the timbering industry's practice of clearcutting virtually entire forests and has supported demands by the logging companies to greatly increase their annual timber harvest."



Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Poor Rover! I'm sorry to state
He got into some coyote bait --
The vet shook his head
And sadly said
"It must have been something he ate!"

Aerial spraying of mirex, a dangerous pesticide used to control fire ants, is being banned by Louisiana officials. Legal action is threatened against any flying firm applying mirex. A program of ant eradication is being conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

California Congressman Jerome Waldie has introduced legislation to designate the Eel, Klamath and Trinity Rivers as wild and scenic rivers. The three are the last remaining, free-flowing rivers in California. The California Committee of Two Million is supporting the move.

Development of fast breeder reactors as energy sources for the future has been set as a goal by President Nixon. In the first presidential message to Congress on national energy policies, the President set 1980 as a deadline. He also said that to conserve fuel, the Federal Housing Administration will issue standards requiring better insulation in homes built with federally insured financing.

American business firms plan to spend \$3.64 billion for air and water pollution control, but by their own estimates should spend \$18.2 to do the job. McGraw-Hill Publications Co. disclosed the figures in the first annual report on investment for pollution control.

A fuel cell that generates electric power without causing pollution has been developed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co. for 32 gas companies that chipped in \$50 million, for the research. The fuel cell converts natural gas to electricity and emits "a clean exhaust of air, carbon dioxide and water." There is no burning and the electricity can be used where it is generated thereby eliminating the need for transmission lines. The model installation will be in an apartment house in Hartford, Conn.

Georgia-Pacific Co. is going to produce synthetic vanilla extract, cosmetics, medicine, soil conditioners, and tough building products from the leftovers of pulp and paper production. A new \$2.5-million plant will convert spent sulfite liquors into such products as L-dopa for treatment of Parkinson's disease and aldiment for heart disease. The waste products formerly went into waterways.

President Nixon announced a plan to open up 17,000 square miles of public land in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming for oil shale exploration and development. The plan had previously been shelved by former Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel for environmental reasons. Meanwhile, the Oil Shale Corp. (TOSCO) announced startup of the oil shale plant at Parachute, Colorado, in a final phase of process evaluation. The 1,000-ton per day pilot plant is a model of the 11,000-ton per day retorting units to be used in commercial production.



The irresponsible use of snowmobiles has sparked growing controversy over the use of these machines on many of the public land areas of the West.

The following editorial is reprinted from The Billings Gazette, June 7, 1971.

Too much boom

There's too much boom in the recreation boom.

Also too much whirl, whine and rattle.

Where once you could hear the chattering of the chipmunk, the warble of a bird, the rustle of leaves, you now get the har-ummmmm of the motorbike and the ear-assaulting snowmobile.

Instead of tracks of elk, deer and even bear, you now are treated to the criss-cross tire marks of the trailbike and the gouged out holes left by spinning tires.

The nickering of the horse is replaced by the put-put-put of a chrome decorated steed.

Exhaust fumes smother the forest's fragrance and wrinkle the nose in otherwise frosty air.

Nobody wants to keep people from enjoying recreation but the Department of the Interior feels that some controls are needed on

public lands or irreparable harm may be done.

Interior claims a million motorcycles, 700,000 pickup trucks, 600,000 four-wheel drives, 80,000 snowmobiles and 50,000 dune buggies are roaming over Bureau of Land Management public domain in the west.

The numbers are fantastic by any yardstick. And there'll be more next year as more and more recreation-minded people hit the boondocks in quest of pleasure.

With these numbers involved, there's little doubt that regulations are inevitable to stop destruction.

We don't look forward to the day when there will be traffic lights, one-way grids and four-lanes in the Land of the Pink Snow.

The wheeled vehicles are hastening the day.

Roncalio Laments Action

Wyoming Representative Teno Roncalio recently wrote his constituents the following message. His thoughts appropriately parallel the message which High Country News is trying to convey in reference to energy needs and demands, the siting of power plants, and the enormous implications of strip mining and power generation on the western states. We agree wholeheartedly with Congressman Roncalio.

The editor.

The House of Representatives, in my judgment, committed a grave error in its May 26 rejection of a resolution to create a select Committee on Energy Resources.

By a 128-218 vote, the House refused an opportunity to give priority status to power problems and I think the consumer will have to pay for this neglect.

The Resolution would have authorized the Speaker to name seven House Members to a temporary committee to conduct a thorough investigation.

The study would have covered the availability of oil, gas, coal and nuclear reserves, identification of ownership, delays in starting fossil fuel power plants, pricing practices, the gap between supply and demand, and environmental effects.

A major factor in the defeat was the reluctance of committee chairman to surrender their jurisdiction in these matters. I think this is a

lamentable, narrow-minded attitude and entirely contrary to the public interest.

I fear another aspect in the defeat was an exaggerated respect for wealth and for the economic power represented in the energy industry. I regret this and share the attitude of the late Joe O'Mahoney that the highest respect is associated with service to the public.

In my support for this resolution, I inserted into the Congressional Record an excellent interview featuring E. J. Hoffman, associate professor at the University of Wyoming and research engineer with the Natural Resources Research Institute.

In his May 16 article, which first appeared in the Laramie Boomerang, Professor Hoffman reviewed demands for power and the status of the coal, oil, and uranium industry, concluding with this evaluation: "The way it boils down is that a crisis or emergency has to actually occur before anything will be done. This always seems to be the case in any matter. But, there may come a day when we will be satisfied just to keep warm."

Democratic governments, by nature, operate on a crisis pattern, progressing from one issue to another only after the problem has reached emergency proportions.

With black-outs in the East Coast and rising prices in many sections of the nation, the first warning signals of the energy crisis are being sounded.

By defeating House Resolution 155 the House faces the very real prospect of sharing responsibility for leaving the consumer - literally - out in the cold.



Bakers Peak, named for famous mountain man Jim Baker, looms over this Spring scene along the Colorado-Wyoming border.

Nitrogen Threatens Fish Runs

by Annette Tussing

The coming of spring here heralds both triumph and tragedy for our rivers.

Triumph -- because anadromous fish, following an instinct that man cannot yet translate, migrate up from the ocean to their birth waters, despite enormous handicaps of seven dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Tragedy -- because an invisible killer at the dams spells death for hundreds of thousands of fish each spring.

As high as 70 percent of the total runs of steelhead may have been lost last year, according to the fish-recovery data compiled by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at McNary Dam.

"We figure there was a loss of 50 per cent of summer-run chinook salmon in 1970," said Terry Holubetz, Lewiston, regional fisheries biologist for the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

The killer hits juvenile fish, too. Nearly two and one-half million steelhead smolts and about 85 per cent of chinook salmon migrating down to the sea were hit by the gas-bubble disease, reports Wes Ebel of the NMFS.

The unseen destroyer of fish below the dams is nitrogen gas, trapped in the long fall of water over spillways. Picking up the gas from the air, the great force of the water plunges it deep into the pool below. Under the extreme pressure, it is dissolved much as carbon dioxide is dissolved in a bottle of pop.

A rate of 125 per cent of normal saturation of the nitrogen gas is lethal to fish. Lower percentages make the fish sluggish and they often lose their sense of direction and die for other reasons.

This year a crisis arose early at Little Goose Dam, where nitrogen levels were found to be 127 per cent by February 1. Normally, the nitrogen problem does not become crucial until April or May, with the coming of warmer weather.

"A forty per cent greater snow pack in the Snake River drainage this year will mean a much greater run off down the rivers, and greatly increase the severity of the nitrogen buildup," says Arthur Solomon, Jr., Spokane, President of the Inland Chapter of Association of Northwest Steelheaders. Solomon's group spearheads a legal suit against the Corps of Engineers in their construction of Lower Granite Dam, seeking a moratorium until the project can be further evaluated in the light of current environmental standards. Studies under which the dam is being built were conducted between 1929 and 1937 and the dam was authorized by Congress in 1945.

Late last month (March) nearly one and one-half million steelhead juveniles were released from Dworshak Fish Hatchery, at the mouth of the North Fork of the Clearwater.

An estimated ninety per cent of last year's downstream migrants released from the hatchery were lost -- mostly due to the bubble disease. In an effort to preserve as many fish as possible, Idaho closed its fishing season in the

Clearwater last month.

When a fish of any age or species breathes in the nitrogen-supersaturated water through its gill, the gas goes into its bloodstream.

Then, when the fish rises near the surface, the gas bubbles out, erupting into blisters beneath its skin, blinding or pushing the eyes from their sockets. The effects either kill the fish within a matter of hours, or scar and weaken it, so that it usually dies before it can spawn or reach the ocean, reports Holubetz.

Faced with possible loss of the valuable fish runs, the governors of the three Northwest states met March 23 in Portland. Conferring with representatives of state and federal outdoor agencies, sportsmen and the Corps, the governors drafted a petition.

The emergency resolution asked the President and Congress for immediate funds, estimated at \$8 million to prevent "extinction of salmon and steelhead runs" through nitrogen saturation at dams.

The funds would finance installation of slotted gates, or bulkheads, in the empty turbine bays at dams. Designed somewhat like Venetian blinds, these devices can divide and route the large volume of excess water through tops and bottoms of the unused generator bays.

"Although the bulkheads cost \$900,000 per bay, we don't know yet whether they will harm the fish," said Col. Richard M. Connell, district engineer for the Corps' Walla Walla District.

"Our immediate short-range concern," said Governor Cecil Andrus of Idaho at the Portland meeting, "is to prevent loss of the 1971 and 1972 fish runs by prompt funding of this work. Otherwise, we may lose this valuable commercial and sports fishing resource!"

Although no action has yet been taken on the governors' request, the Corps, on March 27, granted two contracts for building the slotted gates in one turbine bay at Little Goose Dam.

On April 13, the Corps announced installation of an experimental gate at Little Goose to be in place by April 26. A short time later, their press agency expressed regret that it would have to postpone this installation, until early May -- due to the finding of rock and gravel down in turbine holes of the dam.

"It's going to be a real catastrophe," said Terry Holubetz, early in May. "The Corps has stalled around and has yet no facilities to even attempt to reduce the nitrogen supersaturation at the dams on the Lower Snake!"

Claims and counter claims continue to swirl along the Snake.

While the fish are being seriously decimated by nitrogen, the Corps spends up to \$500,000 in expansion improvements at Dworshak Hatchery, to put more young steelhead smolts into the water where the majority will undoubtedly die.

Nitrogen levels, by early May, were running as high as 146 per cent at Little Goose Dam, 69

miles below Lewiston -- while a mere 116 per cent has been observed to kill many fish!

"The future of Idaho chinook salmon and steelhead may be darker than sportsmen believe," wrote John R. Woodworth, retiring director of the Idaho Fish and Game Department, in a letter to the state's governor, Cecil D. Andrus, late in April.

"Rosy statements by the Corps and others, about the future value of traveling screens to steer young fish into trucks above the dam, rapid transit around nitrogen-laden water, dam modifications to prevent the nitrogen problem, are misleading," said Woodworth in a letter.

"Predicted high flows of water this early summer will give the fish the full brunt of the high-nitrogen levels this year, and will also handicap the fish transportation efforts being initiated by the NMFS whose screens are failing to trap many fish," continued the letter, which was partly drafted by Fish and Game personnel at Lewiston, in response to Governor Andrus' request for information.

Meanwhile, the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, a spunky group of fishermen in the three Northwest states, in March 1970, filed a suit against continued construction of Lower Granite Dam, 33 miles below Lewiston. The suit also asks deauthorization of Asotin Dam, five miles up the Snake from Clarkston.

The plaintiffs in the original suit were all citizen-conservation groups -- the first co-signer being the Hells Canyon Preservation Council, then Trout Unlimited. Later the Washington State Departments of Game and Fisheries and some seven other conservation groups joined in the suit.

Because the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that organizations do not have standing to sue in a case similar to that against the dam, ten individuals have now signed the suit. They are identified as persons with personal pecuniary interests who would suffer losses from the dam construction.

The federal government quickly filed a counter-claim, asking that the Steelheaders' amended suit be denied, on the grounds that it is too verbose, and that leave-of-the-court was not asked before adding the ten individual names.

"The government (Corps of Engineers) made the same attempt to have our suit thrown out of court, when we filed the original suit, last year," said the Steelheaders' primary counsel, Lawrence C. Smith, Spokane.

"The court said our first suit was too skimpy, so we increased it to 47 pages, this time -- and think it will not be denied," Smith said.

The Steelheaders have spearheaded action for almost two years against destruction of the ecology of the remaining Lower Snake and join in spirit with all efforts to save the remaining free-flowing 150 miles of the Snake.