

High Country

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Friday, July 23, 1971



Bob Turner (right), western regional representative of the National Audubon Society from Boulder, Colorado, and John Dobos, a member of the Murie Audubon Society from Casper, Wyoming, inspect one of the poisoned bald eagles

Photo by Bayard D. Rea

found near Casper on May 1. Three more golden eagles were found July 18 to bring the total to 24 eagles which have been found dead on Casper Mountain, south of the city.

Eagles' Deaths NOT Vindicated

by Tom Bell

The case of Wyoming's poisoned eagles took what could almost be called a bizarre turn on July 12. Van Irvine, the sheep rancher from Casper charged on 29 counts of game violations, asked for a no contest plea and was fined the absolute minimum on all charges. He paid \$675 in fines and \$4 court costs.

Circumstances surrounding the secret hearing on the no contest plea have elicited comments from across the state. Dr. Oliver K. Scott, president of the Murie Audubon Society in Casper, said the fines "seem very light when compared with the \$6,800 fines paid a short time ago for the kidnapping of four moose in northwestern Wyoming." (See Environotes.)

Keith Becker, newly appointed executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council at Lander, said he believed the case was "either inadequately handled, or a whitewash," and that he thought "handling the whole thing in a shroud of secrecy" didn't do much for public confidence in the judicial system.

State Rep. John Turner of Moose, an ecologist and eagle authority, said, "I feel the eagle deaths were vindicated with token justice. There are a number of things I am very upset about."

A hearing on the charges against Irvine, his son, Lee, federal game trapper Michael Ryan, and Irvine's ranch employee, Carlie Wells, had been set for Tuesday, July 13. A fifth man charged in the case was out-of-state. All were charged with Wyoming game violations stemming from two alleged incidents involving illegal killing of antelope and using the carcasses as poison baits.

No federal charges were brought against any of the men in connection with the eagle deaths. Intent to kill eagles with the poisoned antelope carcasses could not be proved, hence no case could be made. Federal authorities turned over all of their evidence to state authorities.

Monday afternoon, July 12, Van Irvine and his attorney, William H. Brown, asked to plead nolo contendere (no contest) to charges against him, and further asked that charges be dropped against the other men. (See Irvine statement,

page 10.)

Irvine, his two attorneys, Deputy Attorney Jerry Yaap, and Justice of the Peace Robert McCrary met in McCrary's chambers in Casper later Monday afternoon. The pleading was made and the fines levied at that time. The complaining officer from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Jim Bradley, was present in an outer office but was not allowed to attend the meeting. Neither were federal game agents who were on hand to testify or give evidence as needed.

Irvine's attorney asked the prosecuting attorney's office not to release any information on the case until the following day. When asked about the matter the following day, County Attorney John Burk said it was requested as a courtesy from one attorney to another and "I gave it as a courtesy."

Burk, in a press conference on Tuesday, presented his justification for the handling of the case. He said he thought it was a fair and just settlement and that the federal game officers

(Please turn to page 10)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

A wise man once said, absolute power corrupts and power corrupts absolutely. Here in Wyoming there have been several manifestations of this kind of power in recent days. The effect is sickening.

Some of the first emigrants to the shores of a vast wilderness called America came because they fervently hated the power and corruption of large landholders. Even kings had trouble with the power and influence of the landed "noblemen."

When such power and corruption rears its ugly head in your own backyard, you don't like it. And that seems to be the reaction of people when they learned of the closed-door justice session with a powerful and influential stockman accused of killing game animals. Not so widely publicized but just as bad in principle is the influence peddling of wealthy landowners in order to acquire state and public lands and get a tighter hold on their leased lands.

It is not unique to Wyoming. I just finished reading "Cloud in the Big Sky," an article about access roads to public lands being closed and padlocked. The article, appearing in the July, 1971, issue of Outdoor Life, is by the mayor of Three Forks, Montana.

There, county commissioners and county attorneys are buffaloes by the power and influence of large landowners. They will not act in the public interest to see that justice is done.

Van Irvine, the rancher who got his wrist slapped for killing antelope and loading them with poison, is well versed in using influence. As head of the powerful and prestigious Wyoming Stockgrowers Association for two years, he used his office to further his own ends.

Even before that, he involved the Stockgrowers in some embarrassing situations. It was the Diamond Ring Ranch, owned by Irvine and his father-in-law, Herman Werner, which got national attention for illegal fence building on public lands. Not only did they fence the public lands without authorization but they also prominently posted the fences against trespass. Irvine got both the Stockgrowers and the Woolgrowers to come to the defense. As a result, nothing was done about the fences. Because of the political power of both groups, both in Cheyenne and in Washington, the Bureau of Land Management was in a position to do nothing but authorize the fences. They made them legal with a stroke of the pen.

As president of the Stockgrowers, Irvine consistently plugged for a pet project of his own — payment to ranchers for game animals grazing on their private lands. He even had two bills drafted for introduction into the State Legislature. The Stockgrowers' board of directors finally squelched that one at a meeting shortly before the Legislature was to meet.

In another area of the State, John Christmann, a wealthy Texan who has bought a large ranch near Pinedale, is using his influence. First, he tried to force the sale of public lands which have a number of public values. Conservationists in Wyoming were able to thwart that attempt. Now, he is trying to obtain state lands which adjoin the public lands so eventually he can own both. He doesn't beat around the bush — he goes directly to the State Land Board — the Governor and the other State officials.

Christmann's lands adjoin lands owned by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, used for elk management and for fishing access. He has already made elk management difficult by refusing use or access to a state school section which is adjacent to the national forest.

He has completely buffaloes the Wyoming Game and Fish administration. This really isn't difficult to do when he has direct access to the Governor.

What it all adds up to is an erosion of public confidence in "the system." How can you make the system work when power and prestige get preferential treatment from elected officials and government servants?



An Open Letter

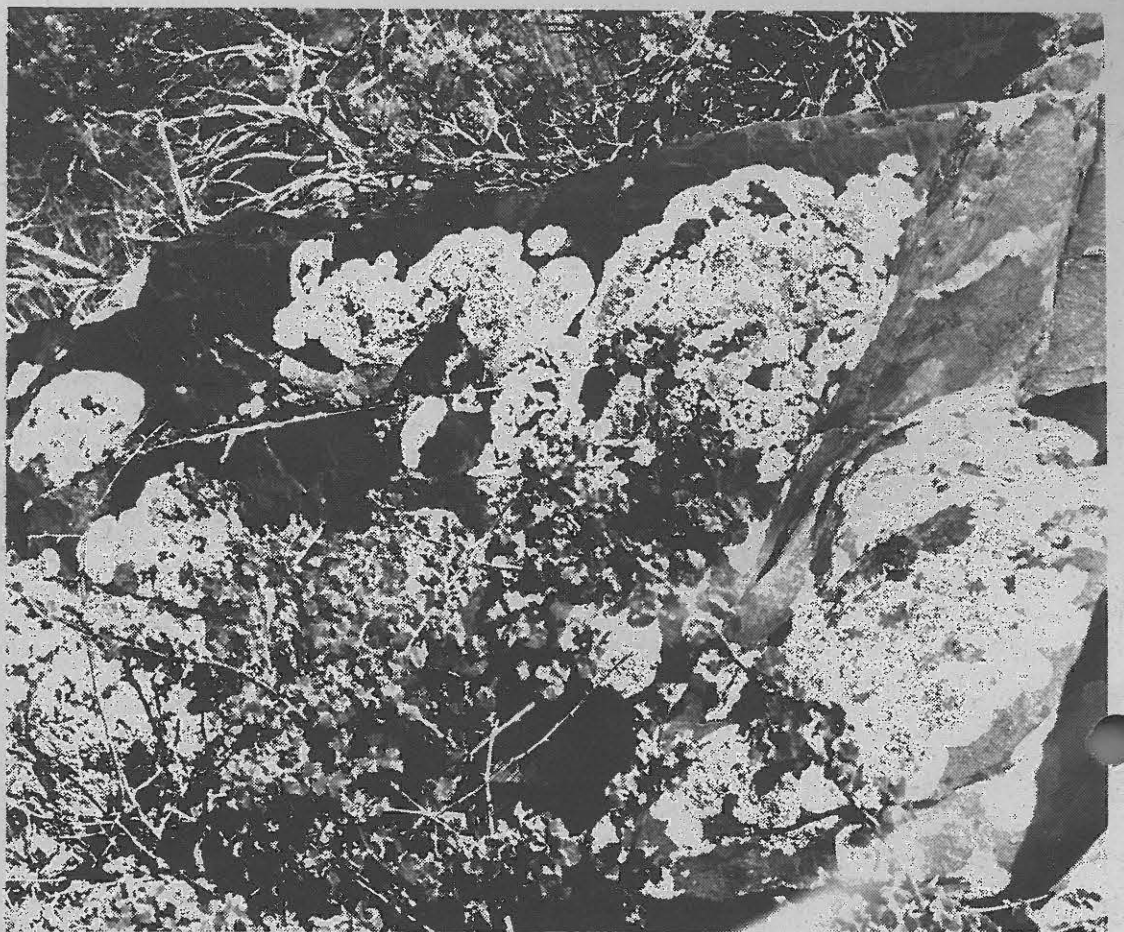
The following letter was written to Mr. A. E. Bert King, Wyoming's State Land Commissioner. Under Wyoming law, the Land Commissioner is appointed by the Governor and serves at his pleasure. This means that the policies of land disposal and land management carried out by the Commissioner are an expression of the will of the Governor. Citizens who do not approve of what they read here should address themselves to the Governor.

Copies of this letter went to the Governor, the other elected state officials who compose the State Land Board, and the congressional delegation.

The editor.

Dear Bert:

This is to follow up on our telephone conversation of Friday, July 16, 1971. I write this as an open letter to you and the State Land Board, (Please turn to page 11.)



Not all beautiful plants have to have flowers to be showy. These lichens of vivid, chartreuse color are growing on rocks along Wyoming's Sweetwater River.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Just received the High Country News today. First, I am very happy to know they found the so and so who killed the eagles and the antelope. I suppose they will wind up giving him a medal — he ought to get 10 years as far as I'm concerned.

Please answer this question: how can Van Irvine (even with all his prestige and power) get away with fencing public land? And not be made to take it down? Is he required to post this land to let people know it is public land and if not, why isn't he?

Will you please let people know what his fine or sentence is when he gets it? I'm sure these questions are in the minds of all your readers.

Sincerely,
Harry F. Bagby
San Diego, Calif.

P.S. Keep up the good work. Your High Country News is the greatest. Your paper and the Outdoorsman from Idaho are doing a wonderful job of

letting the public know some of the things that are very important to all.

Editor's note: Mr. Bagby wrote again on July 15 and enclosed a clipping of the San Diego Evening Tribune. It told him the story of the fine (see front page) and aroused his ire. He writes:

This makes me sick to think some people can break every law in the book and get by with it, just because he is a big sheep man and knows a lot of people in the right places.

I am almost to go along with long haired boys or hippie groups. There's some real wrong with our laws, etc., etc.

By the way, why don't someone make Mr. Van Irvine take the fences down off public property? I suppose it all has Keep Out, Private Property, No Hunting signs, etc., all over.

If someone shot an antelope or an eagle other than Mr. Van Irvine out of season, they would get the book thrown at them.

I better stop before I really get mad!

Harry F. Bagby

Now, to answer his questions. As president of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation in 1966, I was the one who exposed the illegal fencing done by the Diamond Ring Ranch on public lands leased for grazing west of Casper. I was also one of three citizens who signed a complaint and filed it with the U.S. Commissioner in Cheyenne. That official merely turned our complaint over to the Bureau of Land Management who was supposed to have been keeping better tabs on the public lands in the first place. Because of the political pull of Van Irvine and his father-in-law, Herman Werner, they were not required to remove any of the unauthorized and illegal fencing. Instead, the

Bureau of Land Management made the whole thing legal by issuing authorization for the fence. And that is where it rests today. Frankly, Mr. Bagby, I am as sick as you are of the type of justice which seems to come to some individuals just because they have money and influence.

Thanks for your comments and your very nice compliments on the paper. You bet we will keep up our work!

Editor:

Your paper continually discusses the problems of conservation without really getting anywhere.

Population pressures have reached the place where using second-grade coal and ores will pay. This causes extensive destruction. At the same time, everyone is becoming more conscious of maintaining the environment. This head-on confrontation seemingly has no solutions.

Your June 25th headline says, "Eagle Deaths are Vindicated!" Does that mean the eagles have been returned to magnificent life? The article continues, "the agency is powerless to stop use of poisons," also "has not required to remove of the illegal fencing." Why? And, why?

Also, your paper says, "No reclamation of wounded land is required — hence none is done." — "Wherever damage to the land occurs, its protection — should be considered — a cost of doing business." This in reference to oil production. Earlier pictures this year of "clearcutting" shows destruction of fragile surface soil which should control water run-off and future forest growth. Strip mining causes the same type of destruction.

Common sense dictates (Continued on page 5)

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Guest Editorials

Reprinted from SCIENCE,
February 12, 1971.

Nobody Ever Dies Of Overpopulation

by Garrett Hardin,
University of California,
Santa Barbara

Those of us who are deeply concerned about population and the environment—"econuts," we're called—are accused of seeing herbicides in trees, pollution in running brooks, radiation in rocks, and overpopulation everywhere. There is merit in the accusation.

I was in Calcutta when the cyclone struck East Bengal in November 1970. Early dispatches spoke of 15,000 dead, but the estimates rapidly escalated to 2,000,000 and then dropped back to 500,000. A nice round number: it will do as well as any, for we will never know. The nameless ones who died, "unimportant" people far beyond the fringes of the social power structure, left no trace of their existence. Pakistani parents repaired the population loss in just 40 days, and the world turned its attention to other matters.

What killed those unfortunate people? The cyclone, newspapers said. But one can just as logically say that overpopulation killed them. The Gangetic delta is barely above sea level. Every year several thousand people are killed in quite ordinary storms. If Pakistan were not overcrowded, no sane man would bring his family to such a place. Ecologically speaking, a delta belongs to the river and the sea; man obtrudes there at his peril.

In the web of life every event has many antecedents. Only by an arbitrary decision can we designate a single antecedent as "cause." Our choice is biased—biased to protect our egos against the onslaught of unwelcome truths. As T. S. Eliot put it in *Burnt Norton*:

Go, go, go, said the bird: human kind
Cannot bear very much reality.

Were we to identify overpopulation as the cause of a half-million deaths, we would threaten ourselves with a question to which we do not know the answer: How can we control population without recourse to repugnant measures? Fearfully we close our minds to an inventory of possibilities. Instead, we say that a cyclone caused the deaths, thus relieving ourselves of responsibility for this and future catastrophes. "Fate" is so comforting.

Every year we list tuberculosis, leprosy, enteric diseases, or animal parasites as the "cause of death" of millions of people. It is well known that malnutrition is an important antecedent of death in all these categories; and that malnutrition is connected with overpopulation. But overpopulation is not called the cause of death. We cannot bear the thought.

People are dying now of respiratory diseases in Tokyo, Birmingham, and Gary, because of the "need" for more industry. The "need" for more food justifies overfertilization of the land, leading to eutrophication of the waters, and lessened fish production—which leads to more "need" for food.

What will we say when the power shuts down some fine summer on our eastern seaboard and several thousand people die of heat prostration? Will we blame the weather? Or the power companies for not building enough generators? Or the econuts for insisting on pollution controls?

One thing is certain: we won't blame the deaths on overpopulation. No one ever dies of overpopulation. It is unthinkable.



Save the Wilderness Act

The following guest editorial is reprinted from the ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, June 29, 1971. All those concerned with the wilderness resource are urged to write President Nixon, asking him to sign an executive order which will protect those remaining areas still to be studied and reviewed for inclusion into the wilderness system.

The editor.

When the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, it allowed 10 years for the Forest Service, Park

Service and other federal agencies to fulfill the requirements of the law.

The law requires those agencies to "review" 55 million acres of wild public lands in their jurisdiction, hold public hearings and advise the President on what parts of those lands should be incorporated into a national wilderness preservation system. The President, in turn, was to make recommendations to Congress, which either would veto or uphold them.

Nearly seven years have passed and 10 million acres have become part of the wilderness system. A much greater proportion of the 55 million acres has not been designated because the federal agencies doing the studies have dragged their feet.

It would be wise, therefore, if President Nixon adopted an idea urged on him by Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton. Under that proposal, Nixon would issue an executive order assuring that all lands "to be reviewed for possible inclusion within the national wilderness preservation system will not be subject to impairment . . . until their suitability for designation as wilderness areas has been reviewed" by the President and Congress.

In short, more than 40 million acres of wild lands would be placed "in escrow," where lumbermen, miners and road-builders could not tamper with them until Congress reached a decision on the lands' future. If this is not done, it is likely the Wilderness Act's 1974 deadline will arrive without the law's purpose anywhere near accomplished.



Executive Order Needed

by Clifton R. Merritt

The White House staff has prepared an executive order for the President which is badly needed at this place in time. It has to do with America's remaining wilderness areas.

When the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, it placed 9.1 million acres of national forest lands in a wilderness preservation system.

The act also directed the Forest Service, Park Service, and Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to study and recommend within 10 years other primitive and roadless areas for additions to the wilderness system.

Seven of those years have already elapsed, and the results are meager. Although conservationists considered that as much as 40 million acres might be added during this period, the actual amount included to date is only about one million acres.

Some of the remaining acreage in the parks and forests and wildlife areas is threatened with development. Besides the primitive areas which are in a pending status for study, the Forest Service administers several million acres of "de facto" wilderness that is disappearing with the continuing advance of the bulldozer and the chainsaw.

The slow pace of the federal wilderness resource agencies in completing their studies and recommendations is jeopardizing these irreplaceable wildlands, and citizens across the Nation are becoming concerned.

The proposed Executive Order would assure that such lands would not be subjected to impairment until their suitability for designation as wilderness areas has been reviewed by the President and Congress.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton supports the idea.

President Nixon would be wise to issue the Executive Order.

Can you let him know how you feel?



Northwest Quickies

by Harvey Manning

from Pacific Northwest News, Copyright
1971 - Friends of the Earth.

The Washington Post recently assembled a panel of environmental experts and asked them the question, "Where's the best place to live in the United States?" After considerable discussion, and some wrangling, the panel concurred on seven areas. Three are within the jurisdiction of this column: the Sawtooth Range of Idaho, the Willamette Valley of Oregon, and the San Juan Islands of Washington. —But please do not begin a Westward Rush; the panel agreed a major reason all three are so pleasant is that so few people are currently there, busily mucking up the air and water.

Forest?

Battelle Northwest, a private "think tank," has proposed that waters from the hellfires of the Hanford Atomic Energy Reservation be used to grow a 100,000-acre hardwood forest in the semi-desert of the Columbia Plateau. The forest would cost \$16.5 million to develop, and would substitute for a number of cooling towers that cost \$10 million each. Cottonwood or sycamore trees could be harvested every 5 years to provide a continuous supply of wood to an adjacent (proposed) pulp mill "as large as any in operation."

Poison in the Air

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has stated that children in Helena, Montana, have unusually high concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, and lead in their hair, and that "American Smelting and Refining Company lead smelting and Anaconda Company zinc recovery are the responsible sources." The air, water, land, and vegetation are potentially hazardous to animals and people.

Communist Influence

Governor Dan Evans of Washington recently toured the Soviet Union. Among his comments on Leningrad: "The most striking surprise is the lack of private automobiles. The streets by American standards are practically bare of cars. I'm told this is compensated by a rather good public-transport system. Another thing is the absence of advertising signs and billboards. . . . Another is the remarkable number of parks and trees and greenery in the downtown area. American cities could do, or could have done, the same thing."

Staking a Claim

At the request of Governor Cecil D. Andrus, the Idaho State Land Board has moved to acquire 3,000 acres of land in the White Clouds, at a site 5 miles downstream from the molybdenum claims of American Smelting and Refining (the poisoner of Helena). Said Andrus, "This gives us a gate across the mouth of Little Boulder so we can control what happens upstream."

Coalition

Friends of the Earth has joined with other Northwest and nationwide conservation organizations (some 36 in all) in the Coalition to Save the Snake River, chaired by Jack Hemingway of Sun Valley, Idaho. The primary goal of the group is a Hells Canyon-Snake National River protected from dams and development. Senator Packwood of Oregon has introduced such a measure, S. 717, and a companion bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Saylor of Pennsylvania. Another bill is before Congress calling for a 7-year moratorium on new power dams along a 100-mile stretch of the Middle Snake; sponsors are Senators Church and Jordan of Idaho and Hatfield of Oregon. At this writing, the latter bill has been passed by the Senate and transmitted to the House. Senator Packwood doesn't see why another 7 years of study are required, and wants to ban the dams immediately and permanently. His opinion is shared by Governor Andrus of Idaho, McCall of Oregon, and Evans of Washington, as well as former Interior Secretaries Stewart Udall and Walter Hickel.

A Great Creation



South Pass! It was almost a narrowed spot for pioneers who crossed this low saddle amongst the hills of Wyoming. They could scarcely believe this was the Continental Divide and that it was so easily breached. Marked only with two simple monuments (at right in photo), the area is designated a national historic site.

Archer Butler Hulbert collated and organized the diaries of hundreds of pioneers to compile a book, *Forty-Niners, The Chronicle of the California Trail*. The book follows the journey of travelers along the trail which gold-seekers took in 1848-1853. Today, the trail is more commonly known as the Oregon Trail for the thousands who slowly wended their way across an untamed continent to find a new home in the West.

Hulbert speaks through the words of a fictitious character. But what is said and the incidents recounted are taken from the diaries of actual people who were there.

As they approached South Pass, the speaker tells of the passage across the backbone of the continent: "The world-famous Pass now began to be distinguishable, widely differing from what we had pictured in our glowing fancies. The names Rocky Mountains and South Pass awaken a chain of mental associations that foreshadow stupendous crags and beetling cliffs on the peaked summits of which the fleecy clouds perpetually nestled on spotless beds of everlasting snow, as well as narrow chinks and black chasms through which the trembling traveler hurries, fearing to pause and contemplate the sublime creations of Nature lest the dripping crags should close and shunt him into eternity. How widely was the reality! A range of rounded mountains, without cone or peak, with a sloping gap some thirty miles wide, was approached so gradually that only by the temperature at night could you conceive that you were on the summit of one of the ranges which, in our geographical lessons, we were accustomed to consider one of the great marvels of creation."

In a sense this area is one of the great creations. Few look upon it as anything more than dry, God-forsaken desert. But the area from the Wind River Mountains and the Sweetwater River on the north to the Union Pacific Railroad on the south is a storehouse of natural wonders. It is also a storehouse of natural resources,

mostly beneath the surface.

Ancient man used this area. Their writings and petroglyphs, arrowheads and carvings can be found everywhere across this vast area. A top Steamboat Butte is a man-made wall of rock. Here the ancients drove herds of bison up, around the end, and over a cliff.

Old diaries and other sources indicate a wealth of game in earliest historic times. Undoubtedly, the bighorn sheep, buffalo, elk, antelope and mule deer abounded along the Sweetwater River and around the Oregon Buttes and on into the desert. Today, the elk, deer and antelope still inhabit these ancestral ranges. The buffalo could be brought back. Thousands of sage grouse flock along the Sweetwater River and its tributaries.

Spanish horses probably made their way to this vast desert several hundred years ago. Some of that Spanish blood may still be circulating in the wild horses that roam the Red Desert and its environs today.

A major part of the Red Desert is composed of a great geographical feature called the Great Divide Basin. The Continental Divide splits at the Oregon Buttes with one divide going east and the other going south. Eventually, the two come together again south of Rawlins, Wyoming. The circle encloses a vast basin out of which no water can run. Within the basin are natural springs and lakes, but great chunks of the desert are dry.

This detriment to wild creatures is being overcome as artesian wells are developed from the exploratory drilling for oil, gas and uranium. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department also has installed "guzzlers" in the desert. These catch natural precipitation and store it in underground tanks, with a small opening where birds and animals may drink.

Most of the basin was once a part of the inland sea, and later the great Lake Bonneville. Fossils and petrified wood are found in almost every quarter of the Red Desert. Because it is a true desert, great sand dunes are found in the



The Red Desert

by William H. Roe

The Red Desert—a land of many moods
Changing colors each hour of the day,
With hills that seem so near to you
When they're many miles away.
You search the depth of your heart for words
To picture your thoughts of this desert land,
With its fragrant sage and restless winds,
That sweep the whispering sand.
In the distance, stands Steamboat Butte
Like a ship on a wind-swept sea;
At times it seems to ride deep in the surf,
At times, it rides high and free.
You stand in awe at the evening-tide
As day draws on to its close,
While angels paint the western sky
With bright crimson, purple and rose.
You feel that here is pure treasure—
A treasure more precious than gold;
One you can't buy at any price,
The treasure of peace in your soul.
And, as darkness comes up from the earth
Ushering in the cool desert night,
You make your bed on the desert floor,
With millions of stars for your light.
You go to sleep in some out-of-way place
Where perhaps other feet have trod
In search of things like silver and gold—
Where I found peace with God.

Editor's Note: Bill Roe shepherded flocks of sheep across the Red Desert for many years. He lived close to the land and came to know the Desert as few men do. His words come from the heart.



southwest area but some dunes are found in almost every part.

Gold was found near South Pass giving rise to the historic old gold mining towns of South Pass City, Atlantic City and Miners Delight. Ironically, the discovery of gold here came almost 20 years after the great gold rush to California. Thousands of gold seekers passed this area. They could have panned gold from the Sweetwater River which they crossed so many times getting to South Pass.

South Pass City has a historic significance all its own. Here, woman's suffrage was literally born. Esther Hobart Morris exacted a promise from two territorial legislative candidates that the successful one would introduce legislation permitting women to vote in Wyoming territory. He did! Mrs. Morris later became the world's first woman justice of the peace.

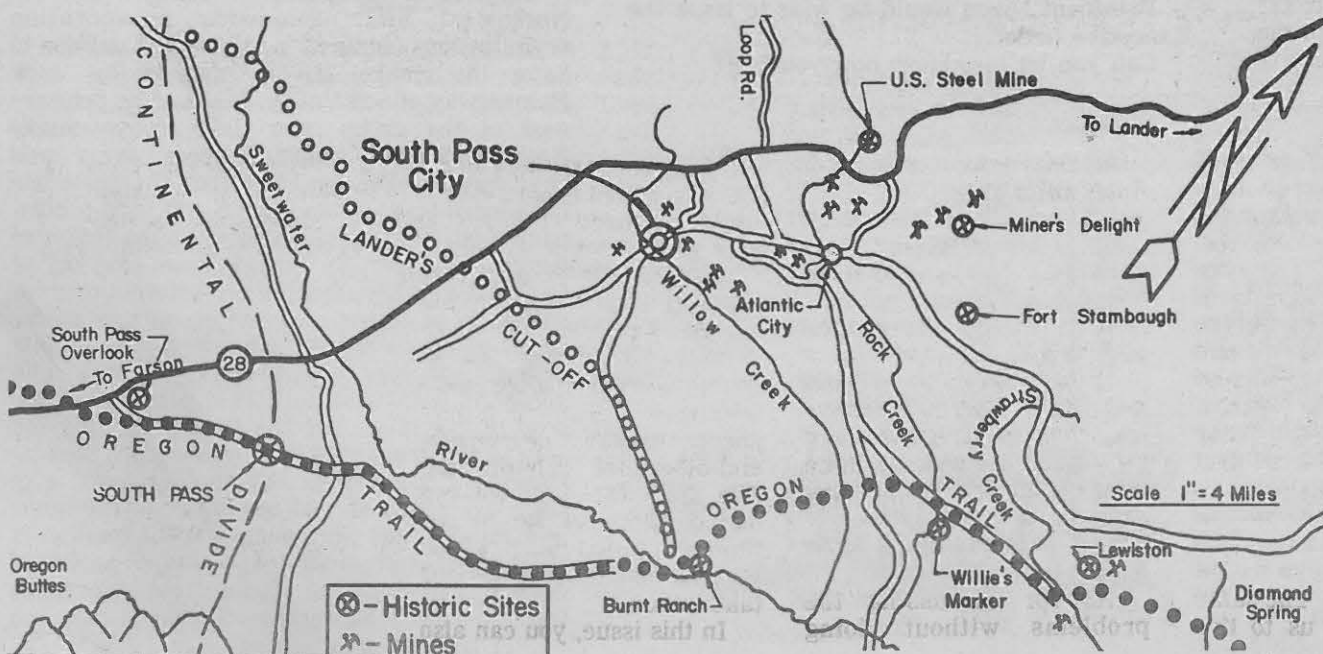
Today, the Red Desert is caught up in the march of progress. Much of the vast area is underlain with deep beds of coal amenable to stripping. Uranium has been found extensively across the eastern half and along the northwestern border. Oil shale is found beneath much of the southwestern quarter.

Oil and gas fields pock the north face of Crooks Mountain and some of the area around it. A huge gaping pit in Crooks Gap remains from a uranium mining operation.

Jade is found on Crooks Mountain also, and to the west toward Bison Basin. Jade miners plow the surface of the desert and use bulldozers to scrape away the surface and accelerate erosion. Jade is found as placer rocks, continually exposed by the elements. If the erosive process can be speeded, more jade can be found sooner.

Most of the Red Desert area is public land, north of the checkerboard area which extends 20 miles from the rail bed of the Union Pacific Railroad. It is administered by the Bureau of Land Management which is now developing plans for management of the great area far into the future.

As these plans are developed, HIGH COUNTRY NEWS will inform its readers so that you may comment to the proper authorities. Elsewhere in this issue is a news release from the BLM.



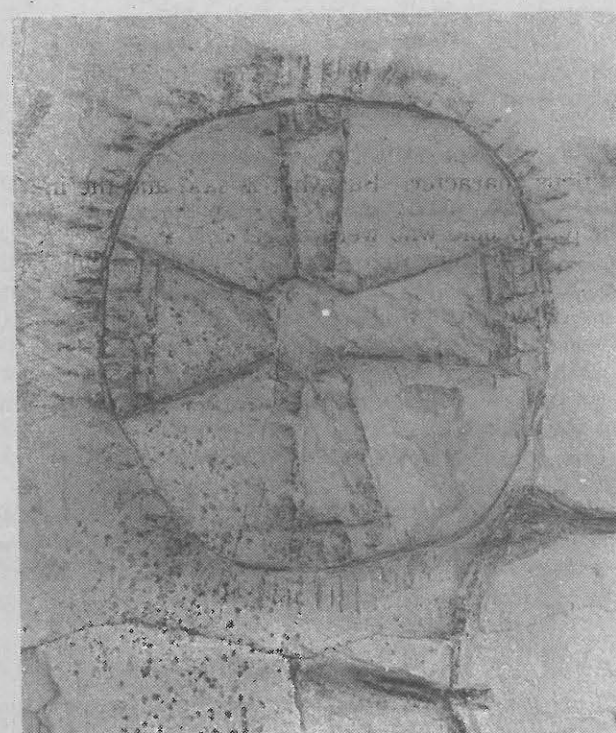
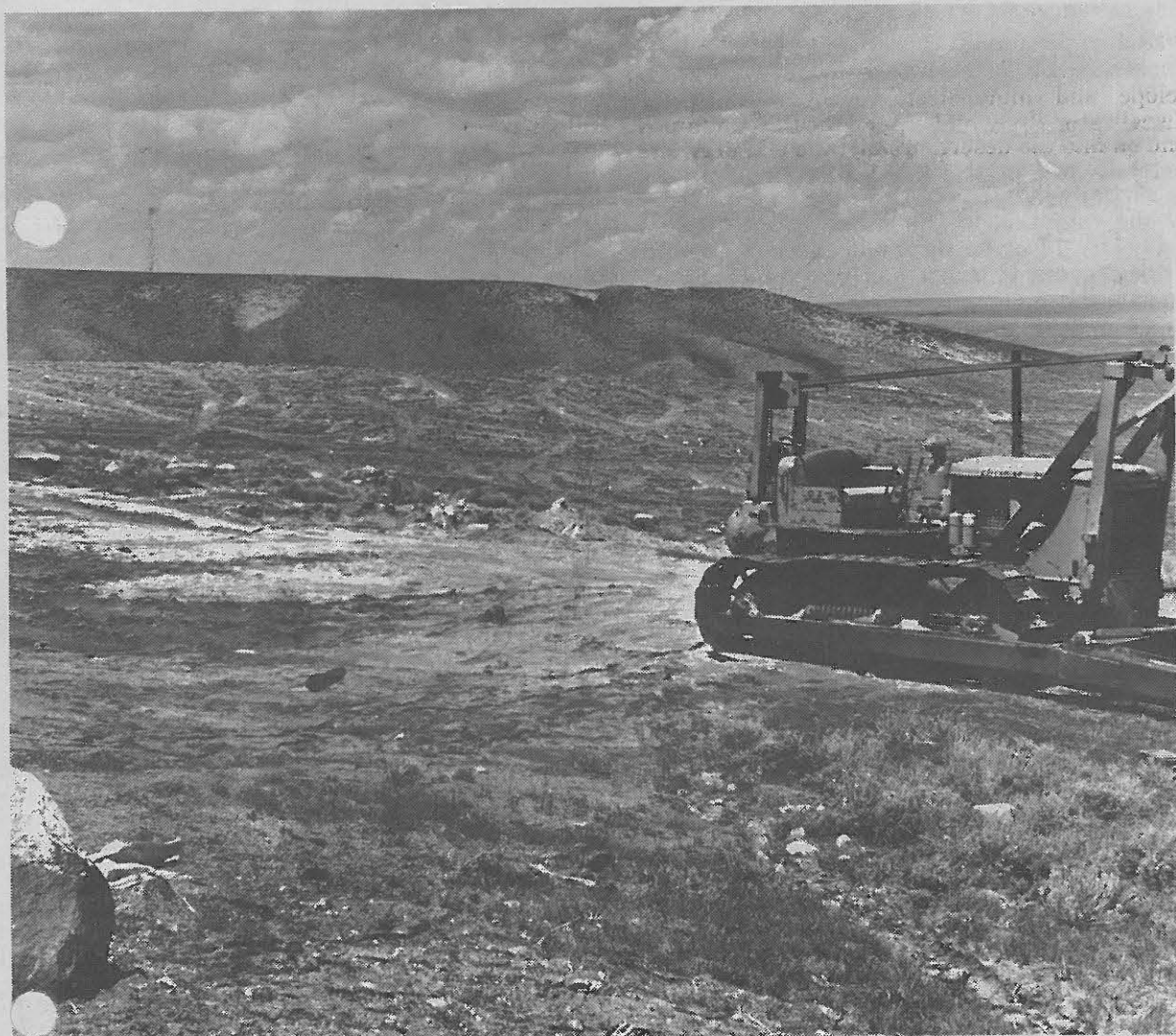
Bulldozers scraping a path across the Antelope Hills on the northern edge of the Red Desert (right). The right-of-way was constructed for the buried transcontinental telephone cable of AT&T. Vehicles parked at upper right are along the old Oregon Trail. The bulldozed right-of-way desecrated and obliterated the Oregon Trail in a number of places. Now, the right-of-way is marked at close intervals with 11-foot poles which intrude into the landscape.



Some areas along the northern edge of the Red Desert have been deliberately plowed with a farm plow to expose the surface to erosion. Such erosion, it is hoped, will uncover chunks of jade. The plowing is done on jade mineral claims by virtue of the 1872 Mining Law.



Mute evidence of man's disregard for the land is shown on these mining claims on the north side of Green Mountain along the northern edge of the Red Desert. The bulldozer is used to scrape away the surface of the hills in order to expose them to erosion and thereby uncover chunks of jade.



Indian petroglyphs are found on rock faces in the southwestern part of the Red Desert. At least one known buffalo jump, where prehistoric man ran the big animals over a steep cliff, is found in the desert.



Letters to the editor...

returning the surface to as near as possible original condition. Even then scars will remain until nature can really reclaim the land.

Predator control is another farce. Evidently, everyone knows that stock loss reports are lies, yet everyone goes along with using taxpayers money to repay these fictitious losses. Also, everyone still allows these same ranchers the "fun" of killing predators by poison and hunting.

If scientists can figure formulas to make moon

landings and get the men back to earth, how about a nice, simple formula for the number of people, coyotes, eagles, sheep, etc., per 1,000 square miles? The number of visitors to park areas that the grizzly bears can stand could be figured out also and permits issued for certain days of the summer. After all, the bears were there first as were the eagles and coyotes. Just because we can manufacture rifles and poisons does not give us the right to use them. The same brains could help us to live

with the environment if we think differently.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Cooper
Westport, Mass.

Editor's note: I can sympathize with the frustration of readers such as Miss Cooper and Harry Bagby. Believe me, when you have lived here all of your life and see these things going on without being able to do much about it except publicize it, it hurts worse.

As for discussing the problems without doing

anything about them, I would like to point out to our readers that High Country News is the only newspaper in Wyoming which can and does frankly discuss all of the sorry issues which can make you so mad.

It does so because it does not have to answer to advertisers who also depend upon ranchers, miners, developers, and others for their profits. The mere fact that we can and do publicize issues has made politicians and bureaucrats alike sit up and take notice.

In this issue, you can also

see that as editor I am involved in more than just putting a paper together. I wouldn't have it any other way.



Floating Western Rivers

Part Four: The River of No Return

by Verne Huser

Photos by Verne Huser

The Salmon River—called Tom-Agit-Pah (Big Fish Waters) by the Shoshoni Indians who lived along its shores, and the River of No Return by early white men in the area—flows for more than four hundred miles through central Idaho from headwaters in the Sawtooth, Bitterroot, Clearwater, and Salmon River mountains. Fed by an East Fork that drains the snowy basin above Sun Valley, the Salmon River is augmented by a North Fork and the Lemhi River (Lewis and Clark Route) before it turns westward to flow more than a hundred miles through the second deepest river-cut gorge in North America. It is a quarter mile deeper than the Grand Canyon.

Draining a total of more than 14,000 square miles, the River of No Return gathers snow-melt waters from most of Idaho's highest mountains. This spring—in a heavy snow-melt year—it flowed very nearly a hundred thousand cubic feet per second. For 80 miles of roadless river between Corn Creek and Chittam, the river drops an average of twelve feet to the mile—greater than either the Colorado in Grand Canyon or the Snake in Hell's Canyon. It is one of the few rivers in North America that has no dams on any of its major tributaries, several of which are roadless. Big power boats run up and down its churning waters daily, ferrying fishermen and sightseers into the relative wilderness along the River of No Return.

Last summer I was invited to float nearly 80 miles of the main Salmon River with Rod Nash and Bob Collins. Both are history professors at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and companions on a 1968 float trip down the Colorado through Grand Canyon. The party would run the Middle Fork in three boats led by veteran river guide Dee Holiday (Holiday River Expeditions, 519 Malibu Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84107). I would join the party near the confluence of the Middle Fork with the main Salmon with fresh supplies and run down to Chittam Creek with them. Part of the party would leave the river at Cache Creek where I joined them; we'd be in two boats from there on down, ten men and boys on the River of No Return.

Leaving Jackson Hole at 2 A.M. for the six-hour drive to Cache Creek Campground where I'd meet the party, I drove up and over Teton Pass and down into Idaho, up Birch Creek and down the Lemhi along the Lewis-and-Clark Route to Salmon and on to North Fork, then down the Salmon River by dusty gravel road along the route followed by William Clark in 1805 when he investigated the navigability of the Salmon. (The Indians said it couldn't be done, and after Clark explored about 15 miles of it, he decided it would be folly to attempt to follow the river, either by boat or by horse.)

Salmon River country in early morning—no one else stirring in a world of rushing water and steep pine-clad slopes and sun-lit mountain peaks. Nothing open at North Fork. Running out of gas as I head down the raging river with only a roadmap I note that there is a gas station at a place called Shoup nearly 20 miles down the bumpy road. Orchards and grazing cattle and no sign of human life, but plenty of signs of man's mark on the landscape, not all of it bad. Wildflowers and birds in the early morning sunlight. The dusty road all to myself. Finally the half-dozen buildings that constitute Shoup and nothing open. But I'm so low on gas I can't go on—I wait in the cool, early morning shadows, looking at the river, studying the map, watching the birds (Lewis woodpeckers dominate the scene), and wait for man to stir.

Finally, someone steps outside, heading for the cafe and a cup of early-morning coffee, and I fill the gas tank and roll on downstream, studying rapids I won't be running on this trip but might at a later date. I've been following the right (north) bank of the river from North Fork, but now at Pine Creek, the road crosses to the left (south) side of the river, and the mountain walls rise even steeper. At Cove Creek bridge, it's back to the north side. The sun is higher, and a few people are stirring at campgrounds along the way—I no longer have the world of the Salmon River to myself.

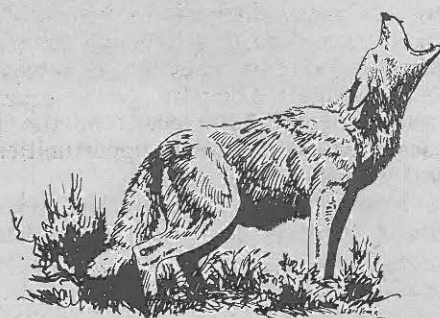
I pause at the mouth of the Middle Fork, silent except for the rush of water and the bird songs. One wall is dazzling in sunlight; the other still broods in deep shadow. I drive on and find Cache Bar Campground where twenty cars crowd the parking areas and no one is around. I eat a bite of breakfast and sack out—it's been a long drive, and I'm plenty early. Rod said mid-morning. I had half expected the group to be camped here, but since they weren't, I figured they'd spent a last night on the Middle Fork within easy striking distance of Cache Bar—they'd be along shortly.

Too hot. Even in the shade of the ponderosa pines the sunlight penetrates, and the heat is too much to sleep through. I get up and explore the sandy beach and the big black rubber raft tied to the shore, its sweeps resting on the plywood floor of the partially-inflated craft. I hike up the hill above the campground and watch for the expected boats. I look for birds and check out the wild flowers, but it is hot and dry—full-blown summer in this Salmon River country. Finally the boats appear around the bend, and I rush down to photograph them as they float by.

I see old friends and meet new ones. We unload and re-rig Dee's boat—he's pulling out here with several others of the Middle Fork party. We break out the lunch items and have sandwiches and beer, talking about other rivers

and other float trips and the just-completed run down the Middle Fork (ripped out the bottom of one boat but repaired that, broke an oar, punctured one air chamber). We reload the two other boats with new gear and food and ice and beer, wave our goodbyes, and launch into the clear green waters of the Salmon, still running high in late July.

Our elevation is just about 3,000 feet. We feel the strong surge of the river as we pass a lovely waterfall on Fountain Creek. The road runs along the river for a few more miles as we run a series of riffles with good waves. Then at Corn Creek we leave the road behind with its milling mob of fishermen and power boats—46 miles west of North Fork and the main (paved) road. It is interesting to contrast the heavy use of the Salmon River, served by rough, dusty gravel road, with the man-made reservoirs of upper Hell's Canyon, served by good paved roads. Apparently free-flowing rivers have an attraction lacking in the dead lakes.



We run a series of minor rapids: Gunbarrel (4), Rainier (5), Devils Teeth (4), and camp at Elkhorn Creek, a delightful campsite but a lousy landing. Just below a minor rapid with the current roaring like a freight train, we stop on the right bank where the current is pulling violently to the left, and as the current continues to tug at the flimsy crafts tied to the alders, the boats take a beating even as we unload our gear. This will never do. The boats will be in shreds by morning. We line them upstream to smoother rocks, then haul them out of the river, a poor anchorage but a great camp.

The level terrace has obviously been farmed con at one time years ago, and fruit trees as well as domestic grapes and flowers grow in semi-formal patterns altered by nature's mood. Huge Douglas firs tower over the camp where storms have blown down plenty of dead wood for our campfire. A clear creek flows out of the canyon north of camp, and an ancient sluice still carries water through a long-forgotten irrigation system. Some relax in camp while others prepare the evening meal of steak and baked potatoes. Several of us climb the hill behind camp and find a few spring wildflowers still blooming. And there, bright pink in the falling afternoon sunlight, the clarkia appears among the ponderosa pine needles that make the footing treacherous on the steep slope. We look far up the river to the east where we've just floated—and where the end of the road is far away. Turning toward the setting sun, we look into the future, the run we'll make tomorrow: Salmon Falls, Big Mallard, Elkhorn, Growler.

Back down to camp and a scotch and water before dinner, unroll and fluff the sleeping bag, then join the campfire set to start washing dishes used in preparing the meal. Finally, soup's on, literally—hot rich broth with tiny noodles swimming in it, then a well-dressed salad and finally the steak and baked potatoes with sour cream. The bad jokes make their rounds, and the conversation turns to the river and power boats versus oar-propelled boats and to the wilderness values of floating and of any wilderness experience. Can a jet-boat trip on the Salmon, up or down, match the pure pleasure of pitting one's mind and insignificant might against the river and the wild country it embraces? Should anyone with enough dollars to pay for a boat trip and a few nights lodging in the river-band shanties experience the river, or is it more meaningful to those who share expenses and experience to float the river? Should everyone see this country? It is public land. Or will too many people spoil it? The motors spoil it for some, at least part of the time, and yet we see the envy in the eyes of those who ride the motor-driven rigs, the power boats. Floaters are a breed apart, especially those who go with oars. We munch our lemon cake, baked over the open fire, and drift away to our sleep bags.

To be continued next issue.



A quintet of students, professors, and vice-chancellors from the University of California at Santa Barbara float and fish a placid stretch of the main Salmon River, which flows westward across central Idaho. The group started at Dagger Falls on the Middle Fork and spent nine days in Salmon River country before pulling out near Riggins.

Cut-throats of the Lower Teton

High Country News—7
Friday, July 23, 1971

Reprinted courtesy INTERMOUNTAIN OBSERVER, Boise, Idaho, June 19, 1971

by Kenneth Cameron

A PICTURESQUE canyon and excellent sport fishery is scheduled for inundation by dam construction. The Lower Teton River in Eastern Idaho soon will be straddled with a dam unless appropriations for completion of the project are stopped.

The dam, proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation and authorized by Congress in 1964, will inundate 17 miles of a prime self-sustaining cutthroat trout stream.

The river is considered to be among the finest sport fishing streams in the nation.

The canyon which borders the river shelters a variety of scrubs and trees which provide important food and cover for a sizable wildlife population. Deer and elk winter in the area and many other species of wildlife - ranging from beavers to morning doves - depend on the canyon for their survival. The river has been for a number of years a limited access area and this could be a contributing factor to the fine fishery. The canyon is narrow and its sides precipitous. Except for the upper rim, which is farmed to the edge, the canyon has been largely untouched. Fishing and recreational activities have been limited to river float trips through the canyon.

Authorization of the project was achieved on the basis of irrigation benefits, power generation and, as incidental by-products of the prime purposes, new recreational opportunities and fish and wildlife conservation.

Now also being heralded by the proponents are flood protection benefits. Idaho's congressional delegation favored this project in 1964 and continues to endorse it in 1971. The support was given before the National Environmental Policy Act was in effect and before it was necessary to include in any project justification a factor for environmental impact. A re-evaluation of the senators' and representatives' position is imperative in light of the present controversy surrounding the Teton River.

While our congressmen continue their support, the National Environmental Protection Agency has announced its opposition. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Idaho Fish and Game Department also have announced opposition. Several Idaho conservation and fishing organizations have come out strongly opposed. Among them are the Idaho Environmental Council, Trout Unlimited and the Fly Fisherman's Federation. The State Department of Water Administration has reported it may not approve the irrigation use proposed for the water. These groups have raised serious questions which must be considered.

The project was authorized in two phases with the second phase being restricted to further study and submission of a feasibility report by the Secretary of the Interior. The first phase is due for initial appropriation by the new fiscal year beginning July 1st. The financial aspect of the project does not warrant approval of that appropriation.

The first phase was authorized with a marginal "cost-benefit ratio" of 1.23 to 1. That means that the Bureau of Reclamation anticipates that every dollar spent on phase one would bring a return of \$1.23. The ratio was calculated using the 1961 federal interest rate of 2.88 per cent. The rate has been raised to 5.125 per cent. The higher rate will make the long-term benefits of the project significantly smaller.

Irrigation benefits of the project, the main selling point, can be seriously questioned. The State Department of Water Administration has announced that the first phase supplemental water areas already are using double or more water than the accepted amount allowed by state law. This amount at present is five acre feet of water per acre. The first phase includes only supplemental water areas - no new lands. This supplemental water area has had very little water shortage, with the possible exception of 1961, since 1937, according to the Bureau of Reclamation's records. However, during 1961 the irrigators still were able to run what appears to be sufficient amounts of water.

The flood control benefits are equally questionable and were not mentioned in the authorizing document. Descriptions of the 1962 flood mention that "unseasonably warm weather and rain rapidly melted snowpack on the valley floor and foothills" and increased runoff from Moody Creek and other tributaries. Those spots are below the damsite. If the Bureau has accurately reported the situation its data inflicts further discredit on the cost-benefit ration.

There is some yearly damage from high

water, but it could be greatly reduced by initiating measures to improve the delivery systems now available and by honoring the natural flood plain by controlled use of these areas.

The supposed benefits can essentially be ignored due to the small amount of energy volume that would be contributed to the total power picture. The bulk of the energy produced would be used to operate the pumping facilities.

Recreational enhancements to the area simply are nonexistent. A scenic canyon would be changed to an ordinary reservoir of which the area already has an overabundance. A cold water fishery would be transformed into a still, warm-water lake containing no more than rough or trash fish. This has happened time and time again.

A Fish and Game Department survey of fishermen indicates a 60 per cent preference for stream fishing and 25 per cent for lake or reservoir. Thus the loss of this stream means not only its demise but the overburdening of the dwindling few remaining streams by fishermen engaged in their favorite pastime.

The lake fishery which would replace the stream would be inaccessible during much of the fishing season, according to the National Park Service.

Greater Loss

Probably the greatest ecological loss of the project will be the fishery and wildlife habitat. The project was authorized with an incomplete reconnaissance study and without completion of the fish and wildlife studies. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Idaho Fish and Game Department both have pointed to this fact and both have asked delays in the project in order to complete their studies.

Besides the inundation of 17 miles of blue ribbon cutthroat trout stream the project calls for an area below the damsite extending 6,000 feet to be used for fill in the dam construction. This ecological ravage is an unnecessary alternative to available sources of gravel. The fish and wildlife agencies were not consulted on this plan. Bureau of Reclamation hopes to restore the borrow area are not realistic, according to Fish and Game reports.

Of most immediate concern is the road that was constructed in the area last winter. It has produced channel changes, obliteration of

stream bed areas and complete elimination of numerous areas downstream from the damsite. The environmental impact statement now required by law on all projects was not approved at that time, nor has it yet been approved. New construction was not to have been done without that approval. Again, the fish and wildlife agencies were not consulted on this construction.

The minimum flow of 150 cubic feet per second allowed in the project is exactly half that amount considered necessary for fish propagation by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Based on present knowledge, flows of this magnitude are unacceptable from a fishery standpoint.

No evidence has been presented that mitigation measures taken to replace or relocate the wildlife habitat and wildlife of the canyon will be successful. Reports from the concerned agencies indicate that as with the fisheries the wildlife would be an irreversible loss.

Fewer Ducks

LINCOLN, Nebr. -- Spring breeding populations of ducks in Nebraska were down this year by about 13 percent, according to aerial surveys conducted during May by the Game and Parks Commission in the Sand Hills and the rainwater-basin area of south-central Nebraska.

In the Sand Hills, the most important duck breeding area in the state, duck numbers were down by about 15 percent despite an increase of nearly 27 percent in the amount of surface water that the birds require for suitable nesting habitat. A 39 percent increase in the rainwater basin, which supports considerably fewer ducks, improved the overall index by only 2 points.

Blue-winged teal were the most numerous, comprising 30 percent of the total spotted in the Sand Hills and 43 percent of the ducks in the rainwater basins. Mallards were the next most numerous, accounting for 23 percent of the Sand Hills total and 38 percent in the basins. Other species observed during the survey included pintail, gadwall, shoveler, green-winged teal, and redheads.

In all, game technicians flying the survey routes spotted 95,953 ducks in the Sand Hills and 10,639 in the rainwater basins.

Photo by Verne Huser



Looking upstream from our docking spot to examine Salmon Falls, we see typical view of the Salmon River with forested slopes coming right down to the water's edge in many places, and plenty of rock outcroppings. Rocks falling off the canyon walls or brought down by the side streams choke the river in many places, causing rapids.

WYOMING'S FAM



The Oregon Buttes straddle the Continental Divide along the northwestern edge of the Red Desert. This scene is looking northwest, across the desert and beyond to the

towering Wind River Mountains. Pioneers on the Oregon Trail, as well as Pony Express riders, crossed South Pass to the north of this great landmark.



Wild horse herds roam the unfenced desert and hills to the north. This small bunch was photographed just north of the Sweetwater River (see photo at right) along the northern edge of the Red Desert. Some 800 to 1,000 wild horses live in the desert area.



ED RED DESERT

High Country News—9
Friday, July 23, 1971



Photo by Charles W. Smith

Extensive sand dunes are another phenomenon found throughout the Red Desert area. These are south of Green Mountain along the northeastern edge of the desert. Large

sand dunes are found in the western part of the desert, north of Rock Springs.



The famous Sweetwater River wends its way through the rugged hills along the northern reaches of the Red Desert. This stretch of river, all on public land, should be designated a wild and scenic river.



The ubiquitous coyote is blamed for much of the sheepman's trouble. Though undoubtedly causing some losses of sheep and lambs, the crafty predator gets blamed for many losses which should be credited to disease, parasites, storms, and poor management. Wyoming sheepmen reported a loss of 100,000 sheep and lambs to coyotes in 1970.

Eagles NOT Vindicated...

also approved.

In relation to Irvine, Burk said, "I find it difficult not to respect and admire him for insisting on accepting sole responsibility in this matter."

Speaking of the case, Burk said he had anticipated problems in proving some of the charges. For instance, he said it might have been difficult to prove the charge of using game animals for bait because state law implies that it must be a use in relation to "mechanical" trapping. (See wording of law, page 10.)

He also said there was real possibility of the defense being able to prove there was no waste of game. His words on the subject were, "The defense could be expected to argue - we did expect them to argue - that if you are using antelope in a systematic predator control program - clearly are you wasting it? You are not really abandoning it nor allowing it to go to no use, and waste is no use - and there were problems there."

Burk was asked by reporters and others if the county attorney's office had recommended minimum fines. He replied, "No." Later, Justice of the Peace McCrary was asked, and said the county attorney had made no recommendations but that the defense attorneys had.

McCrary was asked if he felt he had sufficient knowledge of the case to rule as he did. He told a Casper Star-Tribune reporter that he did. He was assigned the case on Friday afternoon after two other justices were sworn off the case on a change of venue.

No other charges have been brought against Irvine at the present time. Burk was asked if Irvine was under suspicion for shooting eagles from a hired helicopter. Burk replied he had no knowledge concerning such a matter.

Wyoming State Law

23-94. Waste of Edible Portion of Game Animal, Bird or Fish Prohibited.

"Any person, who at any time, captures, kills or destroys any of the game animals, game birds or game fish of this state, and who at any time after capturing or killing any such game animals, game birds or game fish of this state, leaves, abandons or allows such game animal, game bird or game fish, or edible portion thereof, to wantonly or needlessly go to waste, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or shall be imprisoned in the county jail not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court."

23-99. Trapping of Game Animals, Game Birds or Game Fish by Certain Devices Prohibited; Use of Game for Bait Prohibited.

"... it shall also be unlawful for any person or persons to use any specimen or edible part of any game animals, game birds or game fish of this state for bait, for the purpose of trapping any

Irvine's Diamond Ring Ranch had a working agreement with the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife on predator control. The agreement stipulates that if a rancher enters into this agreement he cannot set out any bait of his own. Federal agents would place all baits.

Federal authorities say they know of no prior case where such an agreement has been violated. Therefore, they do not know if or how such a violation can be prosecuted.

Next issue of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS will carry editorial comment on the case and further developments.

Rancher's Statement

The following prepared statement was released to the public by Van Irvine of Casper, Wyoming, on Tuesday, July 13. Irvine, a Wyoming cattle and sheep rancher, was fined \$679.00 on Monday, July 12, on 29 charges of game violations after pleading no contest in justice court.

I have today, with the recommendation of my counsel, entered a plea of no contest to the misdemeanor charges involving game violations, resulting in dismissal of all charges against my employees and others. This is done without regard to whether our operations were or were not technical violations of game regulations because I feel responsible for our ranch employees who became involved in these problems as a consequence of their work on the ranch. These charges have grown out of efforts to meet the needs of the coyote control program and implement the predator control programs which have proven to be ineffective.

I feel that the publicity given to the eagle incident has obscured the greater problem of coyote control but this case will help the stockman to acquaint the public with the rancher's problems in that area. Sheep and cattle ranchers in Wyoming have suffered crippling losses from coyotes and the financial burden has become so great that it will be a major factor in driving many ranchers out of business unless a means of effective control can be organized and carried out.

So far as protecting antelope is concerned, the number of antelope on our ranch has more than doubled in the last few years, so it is obvious that our operations are not adverse to antelope. Every winter we find scores of dead antelope on the range which we should pick up and burn to keep an orderly ranch. Some of these animals die from natural causes, others from being wounded by hunters, and many are killed by coyotes. These carcasses are not edible for humans but do provide useable sources of meat to implement the existing predator control programs. We believe it is legal and makes common sense to use such waste meat in the coyote program instead of burning it.

It is my sincere hope that the publicity which has been generated will help the public become aware of the serious coyote problems facing the sheep and cattle men in Wyoming and to understand that without an effective coyote control program the staggering losses to the ranchers will have a very serious long range effect on



Eagle Briefs

More Dead Eagles Found

Three more dead eagles were found near Casper, Wyoming, in the bottom of Little Red Creek Canyon on July 18. Two members of the Murie Audubon Society found the eagle carcasses about one-half mile upstream from where six other eagles were found in May. The new finds bring the total to 24 poisoned eagles found in the area on the south and west side of Casper Mountain since May 1. The three eagles are presumed to have been poisoned but will be analyzed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Rancher Subsidized

Figures released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show wool subsidy payments made by the federal government to the Diamond Ring Ranch and Van Irvine amounted to \$65,055 in 1970, and to Irvine Brothers, \$34,080. The total comes to \$99,135.

Man Acquitted

David Marcoe of Casper, Wyoming, was acquitted in federal district court in Cheyenne on a charge of killing a golden eagle. Marcoe had been charged with shooting the federally protected bird near Casper last fall. Another Casper man and his son testified they had seen an eagle shot to death and only seconds later saw a pickup truck driving away with a rifle barrel sticking out of the driver's window. The truck was identified as Marcoe's. Marcoe and his two daughters testified they had been looking at antelope through the telescope on the rifle. They said they thought the eagle was shot by another hunter on another road.

Powerlines Kill Eagles

Colorado authorities said they have found 54 dead eagles along powerlines in that state. Colorado State University biologists discovered 17 immature eagles lying along a 3 1/2-mile stretch in the Pawnee National Grassland area in Weld and Logan counties. State officials also checked an 8 1/2-mile stretch of power lines in Moffat County and found 37 dead golden eagles. Robert Tully, small game supervisor for the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Division, said he was not aware of a poison problem "anywhere near that of Wyoming's".

New President Speaks Out

Bruce Von Forell, newly elected president of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association and successor to Van Irvine, said cattlemen, sheepmen and ecologists should join forces to protect themselves against predators. He said he hoped the "unfortunate publicity" stemming from the deaths of 50 bald and golden eagles in Wyoming would bring about new techniques in predator control. Von Forell said, "The sheep industry is fighting for survival. There are millions of acres in Wyoming that would contribute nothing to the economy of the state if it were not for the sheep." (Editor's note: Mr. Von Forell evidently overlooked the contribution of game animals to the economy of the state. The millions of dollars spent in recreational pursuit of game animals might equal or exceed the value of the sheep industry to the state. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department contributed \$40,540.46 to the predator control program in 1969, and has \$46,000 budgeted for 1971.)

Says Industry Damaged

The new president of the Wyoming Woolgrowers Association, Bill Mau of Kemmerer, says, "Emotion, politicians, and overzealous reporters have caused the sheep industry in the western states to suffer irreparable damage with their involvement in the unfortunate deaths of the eagles in Wyoming... the case against the sheep industry has very rapidly progressed from the sublime to the ridiculous." Mau says the sheepmen have tried to get help for predator control programs and that the predator program has been ineffective because of lack of

An Open Letter...

and for publication so that the public may be made aware of the situation involving State lands.

I wish to formally protest the sale or disposal of any state lands without adequate public notice, and public hearings if requested by concerned citizens. I do not believe an obscure legal notice in a newspaper is adequate notice. I formally request that copies of applications for purchase of state lands, notice of pending sale of state lands, and final disposition of state lands, including sale price per acre, be sent to the office of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Box K, Lander. Such notices can then be forwarded to appropriate groups.

I think your proposal to have a small map printed with each sale notice is commendable. However, this is still not adequate for all parties concerned.

I wish to specifically protest the sale of 7,800 acres of state land to Nielsen Enterprises (Glenn Nielson, president of Husky Oil Co. and the Wyoming Hereford Ranch) for an appraised value of \$45/acre. My protest is based on several premises. One of these is that land is a valuable commodity and becoming more so each day. I refer you to an article in the current U. S. News and World Report (July 19, 1971). The dateline is Lovell, Wyoming, and the article is entitled, "Now a Land Rush in the West as City Folks Stake Claims."

Any lands are appreciating at a rate of from 5 to 10 per cent a year. It would seem the height of folly for the state of Wyoming to be embarking on a wholesale land disposal policy at this time.

I am afraid, and so are many others, that the sale of 7,800 acres to one large landowner will set off a demand by others to acquire state lands. It seems that large and influential landowners receive preferential treatment far beyond that accorded adjacent landowners only.

I am aware that Mr. Allen Fordyce, who wants to establish a game farm enterprise near Sheridan, Wyoming, also has his eye on extensive state lands adjoining his property. A sale to Nielson would establish a precedent difficult to deny to others.

I am sure you are aware of the implications of land speculation in the area of the Wyoming Hereford Ranch owned by Nielsen Enterprises. It is common knowledge that a developing megalopolis would encompass the area of Cheyenne and Laramie as population pressures push from the south. There is also purely a rumor that a large jetport may be planned for the area encompassing Wyoming Hereford Ranch lands.

I wish to specifically protest another imminent land sale near Pinedale, Wyoming. John Christmann, a millionaire Texan, has been using his wealth and influence on the governor and other state officials to acquire or completely control all state lands within his sphere of influence. He tried to force the sale of public lands



Looking south to the Oregon Buttes (right) and Continental Peak (left), this view from the gold mining area near historic Atlantic City is down across the Sweetwater River and the paths of pioneers and Pony Express riders.

administered by the Bureau of Land Management and was only partially successful. His success was due to the intervention of Assistant Secretary of the Interior Harrison Loesch who overruled his own staff.

He now sees a way to isolate the public lands by acquiring state lands. His acquisition of either lands is not entirely in the best public interest because of the reasons set forth earlier.

Due to inept administrative handling of the matter of state lands and the public interest by Wyoming Game & Fish officials, I now learn there will be no protest of the sale of the state lands by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. And yet there is sufficient evidence on hand to show public values which will be lost if the lands are sold to Christmann.

I specifically refer to those parcels found in Section 4, T33N, R108W, through which Pole Creek traverses, or through which access is necessary to get to the excellent fishing found in Pole Creek.

I would submit that if the State lands should be sold to Christmann that he will get them for an unrealistic, low price. As you pointed out to me,

you can appraise the lands only for their value for grazing. Such a policy is ridiculous in light of the speculation now going on involving similar lands anywhere in the West.

I also wish to protest the high-handed manner which Christmann and the State Land Board displayed in the management of Section 36, T34N, R108W. You are well aware that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is forced to use a narrow corridor of public lands south of the said Section 36 for an elk feedground. When the G&F Department requested the use of the State section for access and for feeding, Christmann raised Hell and forced the Department to remove a newly built bridge and go to extra expense in putting a new access road around the State section in order to reach public land.

Since when has State land, which is actually in the public domain, become the private province of moneyed landholders? The outdoor recreation industry, including elk hunting, probably contributes as much to the economy of Sublette County as all of the ranches north of Highway 187 all put together. And yet Christmann is allowed to deny the use of State lands for a winter feeding operation for elk at a time when his cattle are far removed.

I am not sure at this point in time if the public can make its wishes known and deny the sale of the State lands to Christmann. But if this cannot be done, I think it is incumbent upon the State Land Board to require the following provisions:

1). An appraisal for sale of the lands based on prevailing prices, and not solely on the value of the lands for grazing only.

2). That the State require and retain existing access by existing roads (whether designated County roads or not) to Game and Fish property and the national forest which lies north and east of Christmann's property. Such access should be secured as a part of the legal transaction for sale.

3). That the sale be contingent upon retention by the State of a fishing easement for walking access to Pole Creek on the State lands to be sold, as well as for consideration of additional easement for fishing on that stretch of Pole Creek crossing Christmann's private property in Sections 3 and 4, T33N, R108W, and Section 34, T34N, R108W. This would be a concession for fishing involving approximately one-half mile on his lands.

4). That Christmann be instructed to allow public access through Section 36 to reach national forest lands beyond, and that he also be instructed that he is not to deny use of the State lands in Section 36 for purposes of elk management during the fall and winter months.

5). That access to Meadow Lake be assured as a part of the legal transaction for sale.

I think the public interest in these matters is such that a thorough hearing is required. I shall watch with interest for any developments along these lines.

Thomas A. Bell
Editor



Photo courtesy Bureau of Land Management

Ferris Mountain juts from the surrounding deserts and plains on the northeast edge of Wyoming's Red Desert. This isolated mountain which is almost totally public land could qualify for wilderness. This photo was taken from Green Mountain which is slated for mutilation as vast deposits of uranium are mined from beneath its surface.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

by Pat Bartholomew

The following testimony was given before the House Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation in Washington on June 7&8, 1971. The hearing was being held on legislation to establish H.R. 6957, a Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho.

Mrs. Bartholomew speaks eloquently for a national park-national recreation area complex, rather than the national recreation proposal.

My name is Pat Bartholomew. I was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and moved to the Ketchum-Sun Valley area in 1952 where I now reside.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to speak here today. While I never expected to journey so far to appear before this distinguished committee, I am not surprised to find that I would go to such lengths to defend the Sawtooths and White Clouds. I have long felt a great responsibility toward them. There are countless individuals throughout the country, and indeed the world, who would speak for wilderness if given the opportunity. It cannot be denied that natural "islands" within our expanding civilization are essential to the spirit of man. Many people I know personally who enjoy the magnificent forest and wild areas of Idaho share this same deep conviction. Therefore, my responsibility lies with these people today also. And so, I hope to impress upon you the need and urgency for protection and management of the highest quality. To delay another year or two is to place in jeopardy not only the most spectacular part of Idaho but some of the most beautiful country in the United States.

I wish somehow that I could take you all with me to an alpine lake my husband and our 12 year old niece and I hiked to last summer. I know that if you could be there and see it as we did you would understand my concern. We ran out of trail after four miles and made our way over fallen trees, fording streams and scrambling up cliffs and waterfalls for another five miles. We finally reached our destination. Up until then we had known it only as a tiny irregular outline with no name on our contour map. It was beyond our expectations. It was worth our struggle; the stumbling, scratches, short breath and tired feet were forgotten at the first sparkling sight of it.

The next day I sat on a rocky ledge looking out from this basin that cradled a jewel lake. I looked out and across the canyon to the very tops of the highest peaks in Redfish Canyon. I knew then I must try to do all that I could to obtain congressional protection for this area. I had, in a way, committed myself then to this unforeseen journey.

We were in a remote unfrequented area of the Sawtooths and it is true that a majority of the people of our nation will not see it. But because it is there and because it remains remote this wild beauty will survive many generations of man. The scenic quality of the region does not diminish as we descend a few thousand feet, passing on our way different levels of flora, dropping into the lower hills among blue berries and Douglas fir, leaving the white-bark pine, alpine fir and gentian at loftier elevations. It does not diminish because we have reached the lower warmer lakes and wider rivers running at a more gentle grade, where currant bushes and tall monkey flowers border the streams and shaded paths. It is still valuable as a natural scene. Of course, there is a point where wilderness loses its definition and purity, a diminishing point which can begin with a narrow foot path.

To have been absorbed in such peacefulness and beauty for a day or two is to become aware of the fading quality of wilderness with each sign of advancing human impact. The perception of such changes also increases our awareness of the small percentage of our country that is left in its natural state. Realizing the need, increasing yearly, for wilderness recreation it is difficult to understand the inevitable fight which meets every attempt to set aside qualified lands for the enjoyment of people now and in the future.

I have not left my head in the clouds back there at the alpine lake. Many people employ the philosophy that our resources and wild lands are boundless. I contend that it is they who have their heads in the clouds. While I'm aware of our society's needs and demands, I am also aware of a necessary quality in our life which will be insanely stifled if we continue to treat our earth with indifference.

We are in danger here of applying this disregard to the Greater Sawtooths in a Forest Service national creation area wrapping. I cannot concede that HR 6957 was written to protect the Sawtooths and the White Clouds. It seems to be written so as not to deter or interfere with continued extraction of commodities, heedless of other values.

I agree that the Sawtooth Valley with the existing ranches and hunting lodges creates a special atmosphere, setting a picturesque foreground to the magnificent mountains beyond; and that the helter-skelter development and despoliation here is of prime concern. But to hustle the NRA bill through simply because it is the best that can be done at present and will be unlikely to encounter strong opposition, and with the idea that we will at least be saving something, however small, is taking the risk of sacrificing everything.

A park and national recreation area under Park Service jurisdiction would offer the same controlled development and fair consideration for friendly inholdings to the Sawtooth Valley residents. But most important it would be an insurance against further loss of our valuable natural lands. The Forest Service has by policy



been geared to extractive uses. The Park Service was established for the preservation of outstanding parts of our country in their natural condition.

While most opposition to a National Park is local and encouraged by commercial interests, in the case of the Sawtooths and White Clouds, Idaho opposition does not constitute the majority. The testimony from the hearing in Sun Valley last August was two to one in favour of a park. Many individuals who testified were not representing organized groups, unless common concern for wilderness classifies them

as an organized group. They were simply people who cared enough to give their time, money and effort to give you their opinion. They answered a request for public opinion, they extended great effort to communicate with the delegation. Unfortunately, they have not been heard.

If the NRA is offering protection from open pit mining with the five year moratorium, then why does the Idaho Mining Association prefer it to a park bill? Could it be that this is the first NRA that has been established without full mineral withdrawal? The best we are offered is a bill only as good as the opposition wants it to



be. We are considering an area of undisputed park quality and equal to any existing park in scenic value. Why then should it not be a National Park?

Taking into account the small percentage of existing natural lands, it is certainly not an extreme point of view to ask that these lands remain intact. This a gentle wilderness, complete with rushing streams, mountain meadows, valleys, craggy mountain tops and rolling forests. It should be maintained in its natural unity. You have the unique opportunity to create a truly outstanding national park containing the Sawtooths, White Clouds, Boulders and Pioneer Mountains.

Time is of utmost importance to the preservation of the White Clouds and the Sawtooths. We need the firm protection that a national park affords, and we need it now. That is why I have come here today, gentlemen, to urge you to give the world something of great beauty and enduring value to be enjoyed by generations to come.

PAT BARTHOLOMEW
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Two of Wyoming's great conservationists met in a simple but impressive ceremony before the start of the Green River Rendezvous at Pinedale, Wyoming, July 11. Mrs. Margaret E. Murie of Moose made the presentation of the American Motors National Conservation Award to Carroll R. Noble of Cora. Noble was escorted into the arena by his three sons, Mike, Jim and Dick, and his son-in-law, Ben Pearson. Here, Dick (who appeared as an Indian in the Rendezvous pageant) stands beside his father. Pearson, to the right, and Mike are in the background. Noble was one of ten citizen conservationists to win the national award in 1971.

Environmental Spokesman for the Mountain West

High Country News

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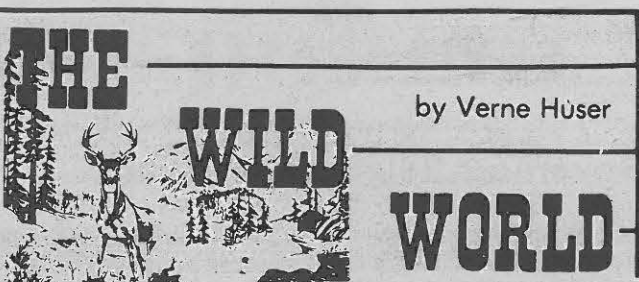
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I attended the Green River Rendezvous in Pinedale, July 11, a re-enactment of more than a hundred-and-fifty years of history that portrays early Wyoming from the days of the Indians and the earliest explorers through the mountain man era of the fur industry. With the Wind River Mountains in the background, the setting seemed much the same as it might have been in 1833; yet there were modern houses in much of that background, and I couldn't help thinking how progress and population and pollution were at work already destroying the scene and the mood.

The Indian had no concept of land ownership, and paradoxically had a greater respect for the land. As Aldo Leopold says in *A Sand County Almanac*, "We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

In a chapter entitled "The White Indians," Stewart Udall speaks of the mountain men in his book *The Quiet Crisis* written less than ten years ago: "The trappers' raid on the beaver was a harbinger of things to come. Their undisciplined creed of reckless individualism became the code of those who used a higher technology to raid our resources systematically. The spiritual sons of the mountain men were the next wave—the skin-and-scoot market hunters, the cut-and-get-out lumbermen, the cattle barons whose herds grazed the plains bare."

Udall points out that John Jacob Astor "became the richest man in America because he knew how to organize the extermination of the beaver," and that the early American ambivalence toward the land, which included a love for the land and the practical urge to exploit it shortsightedly for profit, led to the Myth of Superabundance.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, it was, who pointed out while these exploiters embodied the self-reliance that Emerson preached as a virtue, they wholly lacked the self-discipline which alone give it grace and meaning. And the exploitation continues to this very day with the proposed dams on the Green River and the urge to cram Yellowstone National Park with twice as many tourists for the sake of tourist trapping along the way.

Too few people in the modern world seem to realize that the earth is a finite planet, that we live on what amounts to a space capsule. As Robert and Leona Train Reinow point out in their must-reading book *Moment in the Sun*, with a new American born every eight seconds, each child requires 56 million gallons of water, 21 thousand gallons of gasoline, more than five tons of meat, 28 thousand pounds of milk and cream, 9 thousand pounds of wheat.

And some say GREAT! That will keep the gross national product continually moving upward and the standard of living continually rising. And yet, what of the standard of life? As the gross national product increases, the quality of life decreases. As the wild world is eroded by roads and timber cuts and dams and irrigation projects and housing developments, the quality of every individual life is lessened.

We have less clear, clean water as the demand increases. We have less of the wild world to roam in, fewer elk to hunt per hunter, fewer fish to catch per fisherman. We have less peace and quiet and less chance to find peace and quiet. We find the very air we breathe polluted with progress and in many areas have already accepted as a condition of life the fact of polluted air.

In industrial Delaware a few weeks ago, a crowded-by Wyoming standards—Eastern Seaboard state chose conservation over industrial growth and development. Gov. Russell W. Peterson signed into law a legislative bill that stops heavy industry from locating new plants along the state's 125-mile-long coastlines.

Here in Wyoming, we are still trying to attract such industrial development and encourage population growth. But Gov. Russell, of the industrial East, has found that such a massive influx of industrial workers "could build population pressures that would create more problems than it would solve."

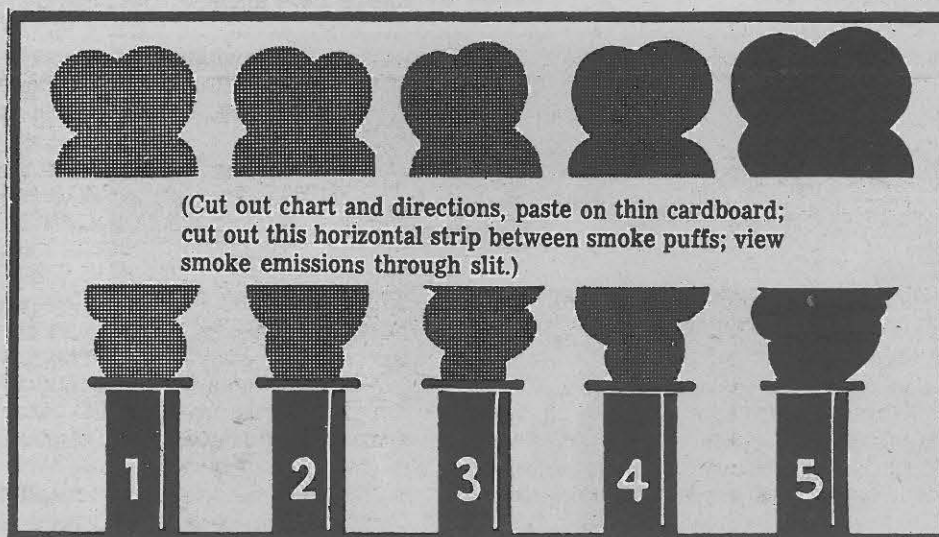
Here in Big Wonderful Wyoming we don't worry too much about population pressures. But they are building—not as fast as Gov. Stan Hathaway would like—but they are building. And our highly touted air quality standards don't seem to be giving us much protection with highway improvement projects operating in clear violation of our air quality regulations and countless municipalities still engaged in open burning.

And at Pinedale July 11 there was an honest attempt to provide for the few thousand visitors with trash barrels and one-holer privies. However, the litter was appalling as beer cans and soda-pop cans were trampled into the dust, as paper napkins and paper plates and styrofoam cups accumulated in the bins and barrels or simply blew about the grounds. And what of the ground water pollution from those privies?

When there were a few dozen mountain men and a few hundred Indians, there were few problems relating to the environment, even when respect for land and water and air lessened with the coming of civilization. But today, even with our skimpy population in Wyoming—augmented by millions of summer visitors—we have problems that are growing every day. And we stand a good chance of losing our wild world if we continue to abuse it in the name of progress and industrial development.

Pollution Detection Chart

High Country News—13
Friday, July 23, 1971



How to spot those overstepping the limits of permitted pollution. The Ringelmann Chart will help you to determine to what extent the offender is fouling your environment. It has been in use for nearly three-quarters of a century and is considered by many scientists to be one of the best indicators of the severity of air pollution. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Mines has adopted it as the basic scale for measuring smoke darkness.

Directions for using the Ringelmann Chart

1. Find out what Ringelmann ratings industries may have under your county's sanitary code.
2. Stand about 100 feet from source of smoke or at a location with a clear view of the stack and background.
3. Make sure the sun is at your back. Holding the chart at arm's length, aim it at the smoke stack.
4. Readings should be made by looking at right angles to the smoke plume. Concentrate on the densest part of the plume at a point about two feet above the top of the stack.
5. Make observations for five minutes at a time. The more observations, the better. Change your location and compare readings.
6. Note time of day, wind direction, name of plant and exactly which stack is emitting the smoke.

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A Growing Problem of Access

The mayor of Three Forks, Montana, William Fairhurst, has co-authored an article to appear in the July issue of *Outdoor Life*. The article, "Cloud in the Big Sky", points up the growing problem of access to public lands, according to *Outdoor Life* editors.

In the article, Fairhurst and Ben East, retired field editor for *Outdoor Life*, claim that lack of

adequate access to millions of acres of public land is one of the most serious problems confronting hunters and fishermen in most of the western states. The article deals at length with the access situation in Montana and also documents the growing problem in Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and other mountain states of the West.

For the last six years, Fairhurst has led a bitter but unsuccessful fight to remove locked gates that bar public access to Forest Service and B.L.M. lands in Montana's Bear Trap Canyon country on the Madison River. The controversy erupted in the fall of 1965 when a big corporation ranch hired armed guards to patrol a locked gate closing off the road to public lands with good deer and elk hunting.

The access situation grows more critical each year, the authors contend, and they say that unless solutions are found soon, some of the finest hunting and fishing in the West will be lost by default to all but a few privileged landowners.

Don Aldrich, executive secretary of the Montana Wildlife Federation, says, "The loss of public land for recreational use may turn out to be a greater threat to outdoor enthusiasts than antiquated legislation." Neal Rahm, former regional forester of the U.S. Forest Service at Missoula, recently told U.S. Senator Mike Mansfield, "We recognize the necessity of acquiring rights-of-way for primitive roads to provide access to forest lands."

Montana Outdoors

The Montana Fish and Game's magazine, *Montana Outdoors*, will go on a paid subscription basis beginning the July-August issue, according to Max Stone, chief of the department's information-education division. This is probably the first time that the department's publication has been on a pay basis since its beginning in the mid 1920's.

Stone said it also marks the first time that editing and circulation of the magazine has been turned over to a full-time staff to insure regular publication. Until now, the editing has been done piecemeal as time could be spared from other duties.

The oldest magazine on file in department offices is dated August, 1926. It was an eight page, joint effort of the fish and game commission and Montana Sportsmen's Association called *The Big Horn*. Publications have since been printed under the names of *Montana Fish and Game Notes*, *Montana Wildlife Bulletin*, and *Montana Wildlife*.

Since its new look last November, the colorful magazine has been distributed on a free subscription basis. Now the department is asking its readers for a small subscription fee in order to cover some of the increased costs involved with the production of a higher quality magazine.

"The minimal fee is not meant to pay for the magazine," remarked Stone. "The revenue received from subscriptions will only cover part of the printing costs, but it will allow us to continue *Montana Outdoors* in its present form."

Persons interested in subscriptions are invited to contact any of the Fish and Game Department's district headquarters or the main office in Helena. Individual copies are also available at these sources and some newsstands and sporting goods stores.

Hunters Overflow

Over 18,000 applications were received by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission for the 1,824 available permits for hunting moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

Nearly 16,000 hopeful applicants filed for 1,420 permits that would allow them to hunt moose in Wyoming. There were 400 bighorn sheep permits on the line and approximately 2,800 hunters applied.

All unsuccessful applicants will have their forms and license fees returned by mail immediately. Sportsmen who were successful in the drawing will be notified by the middle of August.



Soaring cliffs, rock formations (The Arch at Big Bend, above), and beautiful boating waters are found in Fremont Canyon on the Platte River southwest of Casper, Wyoming. The canyon is between Alcova and Pathfinder Reservoirs. Access to the canyon is from Alcova Reservoir with little or no access from above, where these photos were taken.



Governors Reject Clearcutting

The Western Governor's Conference meeting at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, tabled a resolution which would have put the governors in favor of clearcutting on the national forests. The resolution was proposed by Oregon's Gov. Tom McCall and strongly endorsed by Gov. Stanley K. Hathaway of Wyoming. Gov. Dan Evans of Washington said he could not support a two-year moratorium as proposed in legislation by Sen. Gale McGee of Wyoming but he agreed with McGee "that we have to take a good look at forest management."

Governors Back Alaska Pipeline

Western governors at their annual conference held in Wyoming's Jackson Hole passed a resolution supporting the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. The resolution was seconded by Gov. William A. Egan of Alaska who is from Valdez. He said the construction of the 800-mile-long pipeline is expected to begin next spring.

Ecological Studies Recommended

Utah's Gov. Calvin Rampton has suggested to the Four Corners Regional Commission that ecological impact studies should be made "right alongside" economic impact studies. Rampton said, "Unless we move ecological studies along with economic studies at the same time, then some of our efforts could go down the drain." Colorado Gov. John Love added that he thought the Four Corners Commission should be looking into the problems created by the Four Corners power plant in New Mexico.

Moose Rustlers Fined

Moose rustlers who were caught transporting moose calves from Wyoming to Idaho have been assessed fines totalling \$7,450.00. W. E. Arrington of Idaho Falls, Idaho, paid \$3,000.00 in fines to Wyoming and \$600.00 in Idaho. Dick "Corky" Lozier of Daniel, Wyoming, paid \$3,250.00 in fines, and two truck drivers were fined \$300.00 each. The latest charges against both Arrington and Lozier were for 29 violations of Wyoming game laws. Both were fined \$100.00 on each count. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department says it knows of at least 12 moose and 10 antelope which were stolen. The animals are in zoos and game farms across the country, including the zoos at San Diego and Detroit.

Oil & Gas Not Subject to Pollution Laws?

Wyoming's Gov. Stanley K. Hathaway told a meeting of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission in Bismarck, N. D., that he doubted if the 1899 federal law prohibiting discharge of wastes into streams and waters was ever intended to apply to the oil and gas industry. He said fees amounting to about \$1 million were going to be levied against some 600 oil and gas well operators in Wyoming. He contended the federal regulations would force some oil producers to shut down marginal wells.

Governor Opposed to Water Use

Gov. Calvin L. Rampton of Utah says he is opposed to allocating water for any more steam-electric generating plants in Southern Utah until the environmental effects of authorized plants can be determined. He made his comments to power company officials who want more water for a proposed new plant near Escalante.

Hells Canyon Tour Slated

Idaho Congressman James McClure said members of the House Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation have accepted his invitation to tour Hells Canyon on August 10. McClure and others of the Idaho congressional delegation are backing a seven-year moratorium on construction of dams on the Snake River in Hells Canyon. None of the delegation has backed Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood's bill calling for an national park in the area.



Search for a Solution

by Haynes Johnson, The Washington Post

Seattle, Wash. — Good, solid citizens at lunch in a good, expensive restaurant; Nancy Arnold, wife of an aeronautical engineer, former office manager now a mother of four in a house with three dogs, player of duplicate bridge. Jack Robertson, businessman, advanced college degrees, active in civic affairs. John R. Miller, attorney in private practice, interested in the outdoors.

"It is my personal view that unless we can achieve reform within the system, it's going to be settled on the streets," one of them was saying. "An organization like ours is trying to work within the system, and we need the support of the business community because I'm just as convinced as I sit here that it will move to the streets unless that happens. After all, all other similar issues have moved just that way."

Each, in his own way, was saying the same thing. Like their more vocal and militant fellow citizens, they were finding serious problems with the system.

They started out as citizens concerned over what they thought was a clear-cut problem: to

(Continued on page 14.)

Search...

preserve the remaining shoreline of the state of Washington for future generations. They learned some painful facts of American life.

"It always works out this way," Nancy Arnold, 48, was saying. "A person starts out with an interest that's clearly innocuous. He's interested in the outdoors or in birds or in camping and then finally reaches the point where he becomes aware of problems; then he becomes upset and decides to do something. Then, perhaps, he starts out once again in a very mild way - writing a legislator, perhaps joining an organization - and somewhere within the next year and a half he bumps up against the fact that the problem is not just legislative. It's a governmental problem. It's the whole system."

"One of the things that opened my eyes and started me in getting signatures for our petition was how many middle-class, middle-aged people were quite bitter about their government. Not because they thought it was worse than other governments, but because they really feel disenfranchised. They feel their interests are not spoken for, they are unable to be heard or listened to. It has reached the point, really, where they feel very bitter, and it was quite a shock to find people that I never would have thought of that way speaking out so strongly. I realized that a lot of people besides the young or the radicals or the hippies are bitter. And that is significant because these people are my age and older."

What happened to Mrs. Arnold and other members of the Washington Environmental Council (WEC), a statewide organization of some 1,500 persons, is a case study of its kind. They found a complex of problems touching every aspect of society. The enemy was everywhere, and sometimes everyone. All were competing for the same dwindling space.

Industry wants to be on the shorelines because it needs water and cheaper transportation. The port authorities want to be on the shorelines because of shipping needs and the flow of commerce that builds the great metropolises. Real estate developers want to be on the shorelines because the land is thus more salable and desirable. The recreation interests want to be on the shorelines because that's where the wildlife and the recreation possibilities exist.

The result is a land-use crisis of growing proportions. Although the problem is easy to define, the citizens discovered getting legislation to protect the people's interest is immense.

"When you get into this broad sort of legislation you open up all the boxes and all the interest groups are concerned," said John R. Miller, like Mrs. Arnold a board member of the

Environmental Council. "It's tougher than pushing any other environmental legislation because it brings into play all the forces. You can talk, for example, about an oil spill bill. OK, You're just taking on the oil companies. But when you talk about protection, timber companies are concerned, oil companies are concerned, railroads are concerned, land developers, the ports, the local governments, individual citizens and individual property owners - all get into the act."

For three straight sessions of the state legislature, the council tried to get shorelines protection bills passed. Six were introduced. All failed. The signatures of 160,000 Washington citizens were obtained on a referendum petition. Still, the comprehensive bill failed to be enacted. The issue is still alive.

Now, the council has concluded that the basic issue is far more than a single bill over a single issue. It is reform of the entire legislative system.

Now these essentially conservative citizens, Republicans and Democrats all of them, are beginning to sound like today's radicals.

"Having worked in the political arena," says Jack Robertson, a businessman who is also president of the Environmental Council, "we have observed the abysmal conditions under which the legislature operates. The atmosphere of suspicion, the knowledge that some are voting for hidden constituencies, the committee process where things are decided in secret, the inability of private citizens to testify in meaningful ways, and the fact that, increasingly, people of modest means can't realistically run for office unless they rely on economic interests - all of these, I think, are going to end up as a major political issue. And that is legislative reform."

While they fight that bigger battle over political reform of the system, the original question of preserving what is left of some of the most beautiful American shorelines is still unresolved. And the shorelines, every inch of them, are going fast.

John Miller, the lawyer, quietly reflected on that situation and then offered a long, but inconclusive, thought.

"We're just trying to catch up with 16th and 17th century England, because in that time the courts in England had established quite clearly the doctrine that the king's subjects had certain rights on the beaches and that developers, in those cases great lords, had to tread very carefully before they could construct anything that would diminish the king's subjects' rights."

"So, hopefully, maybe by the next century we'll catch up to where we were 500 years ago."

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"It's sad," muttered Justice Fleegle,
"That it happened to kill an eagle--
There's a thallium ban,
But he's a powerful man--
So let's call it just SLIGHTLY illegal!"

Rep. Bob Mathias of California has introduced H. R. 9661 which would designate the California Desert as the California Desert National Conservation Area. The bill would protect the ecological, economic and recreational resources of the desert, and provide for immediate and future protection, development and administration of 12 million acres of public land in the desert.

Dr. Elburt Osborne, U. S. Bureau of Mines Director, told the Wyoming Mining Association that chances for passage of a federal mined land protection act are very good. He said the alternative would be an all-out ban on strip-mining as proposed by some congressmen. "And this really shakes you up," he said.

The president of the National Coal Association, Carl E. Bagge of Washington, D. C., told the Wyoming Mining Association that the economic welfare of the United States is being threatened by a group of radical conservationists. He said the legitimacy of the conservation movement was now being challenged by those "political spokesmen who are adopting some of these unreasonable positions and thereby threatening the economic welfare of the nation."

Oregon's public utility commissioner, Sam Haley, has issued an order regulating promotional practices of electric and gas public utilities, effective July 1. The regulation is aimed at reducing advertising that builds demand for gas and electricity. The order regulates the extent that promotional costs can be passed on to utility customers.

The 1971 class of M. D.'s from the University of Miami unanimously voted to take the Oath of Maimonides rather than the Hippocratic Oath. The Oath of Maimonides makes no reference to abortion and the prohibition against it as the Oath of Hippocrates does.

Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin has proposed an amendment to the Atomic Energy Commission's appropriation for fiscal 1972 which would increase funding for fusion research. Nelson's amendment would restore funds asked for by AEC but pared by the Nixon Administration. The fusion process would provide unlimited amounts of energy without producing radioactive pollution such as produced by atomic fission.

An ecology course costing \$2,500 and crammed into a two-week session is being conducted for top business executives by Westinghouse Electric Corp. James E. Terrill, Jr., conducts the School for Environmental Management at Colorado State University. The session began July 12 and ends July 23.

New York City has announced a tough, new air pollution warning system. The system gives the environmental agency broad powers to shut down polluters when levels are actually lower than those formerly considered dangerous.



Clearcutting of timber in Wyoming's national forests has been roundly criticized by a special study team from the U.S. Forest Service. The team said other multiple use values had often been overlooked in the past because of over-concentration on timber values. This site is in the Big Horn National Forest.



Hundreds or even thousands of years ago, ancient man trapped bison in this sink hole east of Sundance, Wyoming, in the Black Hills. The sink hole was discovered to be an important archeological site by Wyoming Highway Department crews. It happened to be in the right-of-way for

a new section of Interstate 90. But the Department did not wish to disturb the site so a new alignment involving approximately two miles of the interstate was re-designed at a cost of \$1,500. Wyoming's state archeologist, Dr. George Frison, will begin excavation of the site later this summer.

Planning Set for Red Desert

Planning proposals affecting resource use of 3.5 million acres of public lands in the Red Desert will be discussed at a series of public meetings to be held by the Bureau of Land Management in August and September.

A schedule of meetings, to be held in several Wyoming cities, has been announced by Daniel P. Baker, Wyoming State Director of BLM. In making the announcement, Baker said, "The policy of the Bureau is to plan with the public and

not for the public. The public's active participation in the planning process will be vital to the formulation and successful implementation of plans that are designed to achieve public goals."

"We've gathered and analyzed all the information that was available to us on this area," Baker said. "Nearly 60 conflicts between competing resource use recommendations have been identified."

He stressed that because of the large number of conflicts, and in order to allow as much discussion as possible, a series of meetings will be held in each location. Each evening meeting will focus on one or two of the resources to be discussed. However, material that identifies the

recommendations for all the resources will be available at every session.

All meetings will begin promptly at 7:30 P.M. and will last two to three hours.

The schedule of meetings is as follows: Lander - August 9 through August 12; Rock Springs - August 16 through August 19; Rawlins - August 23 through August 26; Casper - August 30 and 31; Pinedale - September 7 and 8, and Jeffrey City - September 9.

Those who cannot attend the meetings or who are from out-of-state can write their thoughts and recommendations to Mr. Daniel P. Baker, Wyoming State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

Fish Are Safe

Lincoln, Nebr. -- Levels of persistent pesticides and mercury in fish from Nebraska streams are well below accepted maximum levels, according to a study conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

Sample fish for the studies were taken from the Missouri River near Nebraska City, the Platte River at Plattsmouth, the North Platte River at Lake McConaughy, and the South Platte River near Julesburg, Colo., just before it enters Nebraska.

The analysis determined levels of DDT and its metabolites, DDD and DDE, plus Dieldrin, benzene hexachlorides, poly-chlorinated biphenyls, and mercury. Only one sample, four goldeyes taken from the Missouri at Nebraska City, exceeded the Food and Drug Administration standard of five parts per million for DDT and metabolites. Two other samples totaling six fish taken there and all samples at the other sites were within tolerances.

The fish also passed the tests for the other substances, including mercury. Highest concentration of this element found in Nebraska fish came from three carp taken near Plattsmouth. Analysis showed these fish containing .24 parts per million of mercury, less than half of the .5 parts per million federal standard. Levels of mercury in the other samples hovered around .15 parts per million.

White Clouds Still Closed

Forest Service officials have announced that the U-6 closure placed in effect on the White Cloud Peaks area July 8, 1970, remains in force.

The closure action was taken by Forest Supervisor E. A. Fournier, Sawtooth National Forest, and Supervisor G. W. Carlson, Challis National Forest, Challis, Idaho. In announcing that the closure remains in effect, the Supervisors emphasized that this closure restricts the use of crawler tractors and other mechanized earth-moving equipment on National Forest lands in the White Cloud Peaks area, except on certain predesignated roads.

This closure was made pursuant to Secretary of Agriculture's Regulation U-6. The White Cloud Peaks area on the Challis and Sawtooth National Forests contains a wide variety of important resources, and the scenery is of exceptionally high quality. Forest Service studies are underway to identify management alternatives and provide specific recommendations for future land management decisions for this area. "In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and as directed by

Presidential Executive Order No. 11514, the Forest Service is obligated to use all practicable means, consistent with other essential considerations of national policy, to prevent, eliminate, or minimize damage to the natural environment of the National Forest lands," Supervisors Fournier and Carlson pointed out. "This closure action is an essential and practicable method," they continued, "to help ensure needed protection of the various resource values and the environment on National Forest lands in the White Clouds, until the studies now in progress can be completed."

Any miner who is unable to do required assessment work on his claim may apply for a waiver of the assessment requirement at the Land Manager's Office, Bureau of Land Management, in Boise, Idaho.

Anyone having questions or desiring more detailed information is invited to contact the Forest Supervisor of either the Challis or the Sawtooth National Forest in Challis or Twin Falls, Idaho.