

High Country News

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The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

EAGLES

James O. Vogan, a helicopter pilot from Murray, Utah, testified before Sen. Gale McGee's Subcommittee on Agriculture and Environmental Appropriations that he had participated in the shooting of nearly 800 eagles in Wyoming and Colorado.

The revelation came at a specially convened session of the subcommittee on Aug. 2 and 3. Senator McGee had quietly announced the special hearing on Saturday, July 31.

Vogan recounted that he had piloted the helicopter on many eagle shooting missions but had never shot an eagle. He said he did not know at first that the shooting was illegal. He said his employer in the Buffalo Flying Service, Doyle Vaughan, told him the company had a permit to shoot eagles.

Vogan testified that Buffalo Flying Service of Buffalo, Wyoming was set up to do spraying, predator control and air taxiing.

Vogan said his first job was to hunt predators at the Bob Gibbs ranch near Clearmont, Wyoming. He said the rancher himself was gunner when they killed two eagles, 2 coyotes and a fox. It was sometime in Sept., 1970. He later went back to the Gibbs ranch but gave no numbers of predators killed. Gibbs' son was attacked and injured by an eagle and had to be treated at a hospital. Vogan did not say if it was a wounded eagle which had injured the boy. But he did say, "Eagles are vicious, especially if you shoot them and break a wing or something and then try to kill them (on the ground)."

Vogan went to Dan Healy's ranch near Worland in October but no eagles were killed. Later in the month, he went to the Cameron Taylor ranch near Ten Sleep, Wyoming. There, Taylor, his brother-in-law, and another man all acted as gunners. Vogan estimated that between 75-100 eagles were killed. They also killed six elk.

Vogan began keeping records for pay purposes when he was sent to Herman Werner's ranch near Rawlins on Nov. 18. His documentation lists the dates, numbers of eagles and animals killed, who flew as gunners, and the helicopter used. Amongst others, he listed Joe Evans of Baggs, Wyoming, a deputy sheriff of Carbon County, as gunner on missions in Jan. and Feb.

Sen. McGee asked if a photostat could be made of the notebook which he kept. Vogan replied that had already been done in Salt Lake City and by the U.S. Attorney (presumably in Wyoming).

Vogan said he had also flown predator missions for several Colorado ranches as well as Wyoming. These were the Dean Visitiner ranch at Craig, the Greaves ranch, the Spicer ranch, and the Boyer ranch. "Some" eagles were killed.

He also flew a mission for the Arambel or Perlouis ranch, with Evans as gunner, where more eagles were killed. He said, "I don't remember Arambel hiring us to kill eagles, but we killed 24."

Vogan said his count showed a total of 570 eagles shot on Herman Werner's Bolton ranch during the last months of 1970 and into April, 1971. Approximately another 200 were killed on other ranches in Wyoming and Colorado. As many as 34 eagles were killed in one day.

(Please turn to page 16)



People are concerned with the management of their national forests and public lands. This was confirmed by a Forest Service study, recently published and entitled, "Forest Management in Wyoming." This photo of a tour of clear-cutting areas on the Bighorn National Forest, west of Sheridan, Wyoming, illustrates the interest and concern of citizens.

Timber Study Is Released

BY TOM BELL

"The importance of wildlife, recreation, and scenic quality as key values should be recognized in every management decision on the National Forests of Wyoming." This was one of the broad recommendations made by a special Wyoming Forest Study Team.

Six experts on the team took an interdisciplinary approach to the comprehensive study. The members were assigned the task in response to concerted criticism of forest management in Wyoming. Their report was released in July.

The team was told to thoroughly study and evaluate the changes being made of forest management, and to candidly report their findings. They did, and as a result the Forest Service comes in for serious criticism of past management practices. The report is clearly no whitewash.

Headings of the various parts of the report reflect the thinking of the team: People Are Concerned About Forest Values, People Are Concerned About the Effects of Timber Harvest, and People Are Concerned About the Quality of Forest Stewardship. Throughout the report, people and their concerns are a recurring theme. Such a theme could mark a turn-about in the Forest Service's guiding philosophy of recent years. That seemed to be commodity-oriented rather than people-oriented.

The report is a vindication of almost all of the conservationist's criticisms. Findings point directly to some of the most valid criticisms:

Clearcutting as the only method of harvest, overcutting, beetle infestation as a justification for much unwarranted cutting, complete overlooking of multiple use values, and an apparent disregard for even simple economics in some timber sales.

The report says, "We believe that there have been inadequacies in planning, in execution, and in evaluation of management actions on all four Wyoming Forests (Shoshone, Bighorn, Teton and Bridger), and that the evidence justifies concern for the future. The results of present actions will not be clear for some years, and it is important that past errors should not be repeated."

The report points to an underlying and basic problem of staffing with qualified men, and money enough to do the job. This, too, has been apparent to conservationists who have been writing their congressman for a change in appropriation priorities. It is difficult to accomplish when big timber companies contribute so much to campaign coffers. The biggest beneficiaries of more timber sales are the timber companies.

Although the report did not use the term "timber mining" as the comparable Bolle Report on the Bitterroot Forest in Montana did, the effect was alluded to in several cases.

Management recommendations concerning the forest are hard-hitting and far-reaching. The report says: No industrial harvest should be undertaken unless adequate funds and manpower are available to do a complete, (Please turn to page 5)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

A great inland arm of the sea once covered most of the western United States. Vast movements of the earth closed it off into the huge Lake Bonneville. Today, Great Salt Lake is all that remains. In the meantime, the Laramide Revolution shoved up the Rocky Mountains in great convulsions of the earth's surface. Volcanoes came to life, spewing out tremendous quantities of ash. It was the birth of the states along the Rocky Mountain chain and into the northwest.

Left behind were the products of the seas and the marshes which followed - pools of oil and natural gas, great beds of coal and huge deposits of shale impregnated with oil. Intermingled are the mineral products of the volcanic ash - uranium which was leached and concentrated into pockets or along the meander line of ancient rivers.

Such a legacy represents tremendous wealth in terms of mineral resources. But such a legacy also represents problems on a vast scale.

Today, the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona find that digging into the earth's surface has literally opened up Pandora's Box. The huge deposits of coal mean strip mining on an incomprehensible scale, and along with that the siting of huge power generating plants. As if to add insult to injury, both Wyoming and New Mexico have huge deposits of uranium which entail strip mining - again to provide the fuel for power generators.

Oil and gas exploration and development have scarred and fouled the earth. Now, the deeper, tighter deposits are being exploited by nuclear devices which pose a threat of their own.

Our topography lends itself to great dams on every available stream. They are justified on the basis of power production, flood control, and irrigation benefits.

Such developments bring more people and more attendant problems.

What it all adds up to is environmental degradation on a scale never anticipated by the residents of the wide-open spaces. The once clear air is being sullied, rivers are, or will be, reduced to trickles as millions of gallons of water are used up in the steam generators and oil shale processing plants, and the impact on the land by more people will be irreversible.

What is needed is bold, innovative and immediate action if environmental disasters are to be averted. The means would appear to be available if the leadership were forthcoming. At this point in time that does not seem likely.

The governors of the respective states, for the most part, still embrace the "bigger is better" philosophy. Only Colorado Governor John Love has recently begun to question the validity of continuing, uncontrolled growth. Governors Cecil Andrus of Idaho and Bruce King of New Mexico seem to be too new at their jobs to have been able to wrestle with serious population and environmental problems. Williams of Arizona and Hathaway of Wyoming are sneeringly contemptuous of the environmental considerations of impending growth and development. Anderson of Montana gives lip service but opts for growth.

Elsewhere in this issue (see page 7), H. Tom Davis of the Idaho Environmental Council pleads the case for a Department of Ecology. He makes a strong and compelling case for Idaho - and it can be applied across the board to every other Rocky Mountain state.

In the absence of specific legislation (Montana has), it would seem possible for a governor so disposed to appoint a council of environmental advisors. This action could well lay the groundwork for legislation to follow at the earliest possible time. In the meantime, it could give the governor a handle on some of the impending problems.

This, of course, is assuming the governors have the knowledge, the feeling, and the disposition to appreciate and deal with the problems. If they do not have, it will just be a matter of drifting until crisis overtakes us. In that case, the gift of human reasoning will have suffered another setback.



Saying of the day...

by Verne Huser

The Oregon Environmental Council has recently come out with a new brochure; its theme is "Keep Oregon Oregon." The newly appointed executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council ran for State Senate last fall on the same note: "Let's Keep Wyoming Wyoming." Keith Becker lost that election by 300 votes in a total of 5,000 votes cast; now he heads the WOCC, and he's still pushing the same theme.



What was once a ghost town, Atlantic City, Wyoming, is slowly coming back to life. The gold which once drew prospectors and miners now draws tourists and recreationists. The little settlement in the hills lies in the center of a historic and recreation area, and on the northern edge of the great Red Desert.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

We were not surprised over the light sentence in the form of a minimum fine for the killing and poisoning of antelope for bait. Those of us who are aware of the realities of politics, money and power should have expected it. We hoped against hope the nature of the crime, and its exposure to the national public would insure a more equitable decision.

We are not impressed with the plaintive cry of the sheepmen over the depredations of the predators. Their claims are too dubious to even debate.

During my tenure as Wilderness Ranger in the Rawah Wilderness Area (in Colorado), I found and reported five head of cattle killed by hunters. I also found seven more that had died of various causes - poison weeds, lightning, and disease. The owner was so casual that he never bothered coming up to inspect them.

A sheepman who had his

permit bounding the wilderness lost 150 head. I found and counted seventy of them in the Rawah Wilderness Area. During that ten day work period he never so much as sent a man in to pick them up. I will warrant that if one animal, sheep or cow, had been killed by a predator, he would have acted with haste to poison or shoot it.

A certain percent of both cattle and sheep are written off as a loss when they are turned onto Government range. This loss is accepted as a business loss, though it could be drastically cut if the cattlemen would put riders with their herds. If they can accept this loss, they can also accept the miniscule and unproven loss by predators.

The token fee the cattlemen pay doesn't pay for the trails and bridges destroyed, not to speak of the cattle guards, fences, range studies, weed control, etc.

The public has a vested interest in the sheep industry, in subsidies, range, predator control, etc. Let's not shed any tears for these people. The day of feudal lords and private dukedoms is long past.

Floyd Wilson
Denver, Colorado

Editor:

Bradlander Enterprises, Inc. (High Country News, 25 June 1971, p. 13) may be deluding themselves, but surely not you or your readers.

The gold "ore reserves" (50 cubic miles, 300 million ounces) east of the Tetons are nothing but country rock containing less than 2 cents a ton in gold values.

Further, if this preposterous venture were undertaken, where would they put the 12.5 cubic miles of mine tailings that they couldn't return to the ground? Here are three

possibilities: spread the tailings uniformly over the entire state of Wyoming to a depth of 8 inches; if the natives complain, cover Yellowstone National Park to a depth of 19 feet; if the tourists complain, build another mountain in the Tetons 17 miles in circumference rising 8330 feet above the valley floor.

John N. Ong, Jr.
Shorewood, Wisconsin

P.S. My wife and I, both displaced Westerners, appreciate your efforts to inject a measure of sanity into our nation's incredibly distorted value systems.

Editor's note: Mr. Ong sent a copy of his letter and accompanying computations to Bradlander Enterprises. Our thanks to him for his studied observations and his kind comments.

Editor:

Please renew our subscription to High Country News.

Have you any suggestions as to how members of the concerned public can communicate with the sheep ranchers in particular, or as a group involved with the eagle killings?

One would like not only to express dismay at their mindlessness, but to suggest that a happier solution to the predator problem, if indeed it is as costly a concern as they imagine, may be found. Many have pointed out that great expenditures of money and wildlife would be avoided if a fund were available to reimburse ranchers for their reported losses to predators, and "control" programs abandoned.

Thank you.

Mrs. Stanley J. Birge, Jr.
St. Louis, Missouri
(Please turn to page 15.)

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Start With A Valley

by Harvey Griffin

Let's start with a Montana valley. It doesn't matter which one for there are scores of lovely valleys in the state, some large, some small, all verdant and fertile—the Stillwater, the Bitterroot, the Gallatin, the Beaverhead, the Yellowstone, and many more.

A valley of fields, each with its separate green and crossed with silver threads of irrigation water; with cattle and sheep and horses grazing in the lush meadows or on the nearby rolling hills. When the sun gets behind the western mountains the beautiful colors of evening begin to trickle down the sides of the hills like water. A cowbell tinkles from a nearby meadow, loud on the evening silence. The smell of new-cut hay and the faint odor of the pines lies in the air. All around you is the peace and harmony of an unblemished land.

The people who own the animals and cultivate the fields live in widely scattered white houses sheltered by old cottonwoods, with here and there a tree-lined lane leading to the country road. And on the whole, they, like their fathers and their grandfathers before them, are happy and content with their environment.

Then come surveying crews, working through the best farm lands at river grade, and following on their heels a few bulldozers. After the people in the white houses get accustomed to the noise and dust, more bulldozers come. They construct a freeway across the valley. A permanent thing. Once concrete and asphalt are laid on land, it never goes back to grass.

Some of the farms and ranches would be cut in two by a freeway. A few might be replaced by cloverleaf interchanges. But the highway people would plant grass to cover the bulldozer scars, perhaps some evergreens at the interchanges; the freeway would not look bad at all.

When the freeway was finished some factories, low, sprawling concrete buildings with a contemporary look would appear. And the newspaper in the valley town would play with the phrase "selective industry." On the factories themselves would appear magic words like "electronics" and "data processing" or even "aerospace."

On Sunday afternoons the people in the white

houses would go for a drive and they would see the places where the bulldozers had been working and they would see the factories with their magic signs. They would make small talk about progress and prosperity and a broader tax base. Secretly, they would be apprehensive.

The people in the valley town would be a bit proud. They would erect signs near the city limits that said "Watch Us Grow" and "Industry Welcome." The chamber of commerce people would talk of expanding markets, dynamic, growing business.

Folks from both the East and West coasts would come to the valley, to get away from people-pollution, to raise their kids in the open spaces, even though the move entailed an income cut. Once settled and acclimated, they found they all had one thing in common, the wish that someday the gates could be closed to other new people.

There was a shortage of housing, so the bulldozers were brought back to clear more farm land for subdivisions and highrise condominiums and shopping centers. New supermarkets and chain stores displaced the small neighborhood grocer, the family butcher, the independent local merchant. Country people missed their erstwhile urban friends.

Of course the airport had to be enlarged to accommodate bigger planes. When there was complaint about the noise the chamber of commerce would come up with some self-satisfying slogan about "the roar of progress meets the demands of the people for speedy transportation."

Most of the bashful, winding country roads would be covered with blacktop; even some of the former canyon trails became paved highways, with crowds and noise and confusion holding sway where sweet solitude and surcease from tension once ruled.

When most of the valley had been covered with concrete and asphalt and smog, when on many small ranchettes thistles, leafy spurge and other weeds crowded out the bluegrass and clover from once smooth swards, when a way of life was killed by mediocrity and conformity, there were still some who called "Progress."



Of Life...Death...And the Country

by James J. Kilpatrick

SCRABBLE, VA. - Garfield Burke died on a Tuesday and was buried on Thursday in the little graveyard at Woodville. Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Mr. Griffith and his son Tommy came out to build the new deck, and this past weekend, once the sun got behind the mountains, it was possible to do some quiet sitting and thinking.

The death of a young husband and father - Garfield was only 38 - is always a matter of special wonderment and sorrow. The Rev. B. Gayle Titchnell, who delivered the eulogy, touched on the universal question that forever arises: Why Garfield? Until cancer felled him he seemed in perfect health - strong, wiry, a clear-eyed farmer who could make hay for 12 hours and never get tired. In a small community such as ours, it seemed especially unfair for death to claim Garfield Burke. Mr. Titchnell said, as all preachers do, that we have to understand it was the Lord's will. Such understanding comes hard.

But life goes on. The Burkes have planted a big piece of the high meadow in corn this year, and early on the morning after the funeral, Garfield's brother-in-law was up there with the big tractor, working the crop. From down on the deck, over the noisy rhythm of hammers and handsaws, we could hear the engine fighting our rocky soil. Later in the day, Garfield's father, our rural letter carrier, was back on the road delivering the mail.

It may be - I venture the idea tentatively - that country people develop a certain stoicism about death. No farming here is cattle farming, of course. Angus. The bulls have their horns in their dark and heavy heads. On some distant and inevitable Thur-

sday, they know that tumbrels await for the auctioneer's call.

Country life is geared to living and dying, the yielding seed, the killing frost, the dead wood that finds a certain resurrection in bright flame and fertile ash. Birds and animals are a great part of our world - fish and insects too, for that matter - and we know, without ever really thinking of it, that chains of life are moving constantly around us. The chorus of frogs sounds a great amen.

We talk about these things, out on the new deck by night, with the trees in somnolent silhouette against an iridescent sky. This is a big year for fireflies; their soft lanterns are moving candles, points of light that dance with stars. But it is a big year for living creatures generally. Not since the summer of 1966 have we seen so many snakes - or so many chipmunks. Perhaps you can't have one without the other.

It has been a wet May and June. This is a country of granite and limestone - and every other rock known to man - and water runs off swiftly; but so much stays behind that our springs are gushing and the weeds are leaping. Our roadsides are a forest of day lilies, red as old barns; of blue chicory, massed honeysuckle, black-eyed susans, daisies that might have been lacquered in bone-white enamel. The dill is in full blossom; its slim stems shoot up like roman candles and explode in yellow diadems. We cut it for August pickling; and we marvel.

The rains have been great for night hunters too. It is useless to turn out the hounds when the countryside is hot and dry, but here, at 11 o'clock or thereabouts, you can hear them now. These are small hounds, lean and pur-

poseful; at first glance they all look alike, and they stream past like so many Little League players running to keep their legs in shape. Lorenzo, our bossman collie, hates them absolutely. He complains as bitterly as the captain of a 747 besieged by Piper Cubs, but after a while he gives up in brooding disgust, and the hunt goes on. It is like sleeping in the middle of an octet for French horns.

This is the life and the world that Garfield knew and we are sorry for his leaving it. Not much of high politics here; nothing of finance or industry, and very little of getting and spending. We are a long way, as they say, from where the action is; but we are very close, I think, to something else.

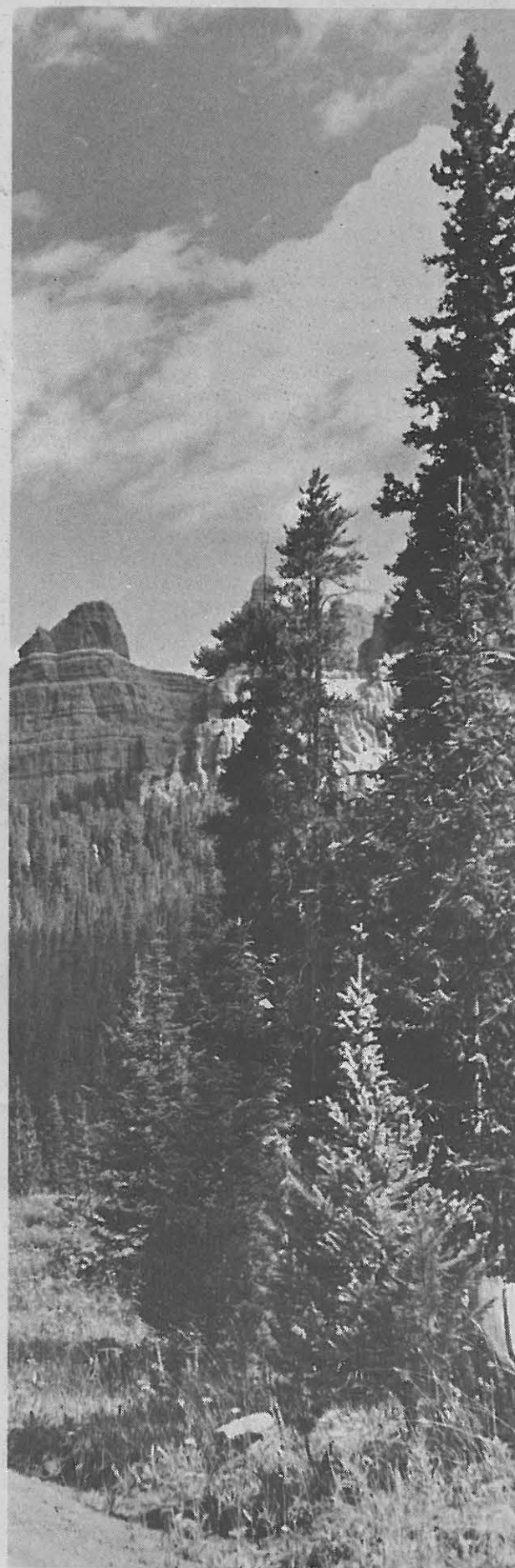


The following editorial appeared in the Casper Star-Tribune, July 25, 1971.

Rancher - Conservationist

The long uphill fight to create a "pocket wilderness" area on the north side of Laramie Peak has been won, largely through the efforts of a persistent rancher in the area.

Cattleman Art Fawcett, whose headquarters is at Roaring Fork at the edge of the scenic area, enlisted the support of conservationists in (Please turn to page 13.)



The Red Desert Proposals

Spread across south-central Wyoming is a vast area commonly termed the Red Desert. For the most part, the area is a desert. But scattered across those far reaches are found a variety of natural wonders, scenic sites, and prehistoric and historic locations.

The area shown on the map below is a good-sized area in anyone's reckoning. It is about 120 miles from east to west, from the sand dunes above the Platte River near Ferris Mountain to the settlement in the desert known as Farson. As the crow flies, it is a good 50 miles from Atlantic City on the north to Interstate 80 on the South. Within that rough rectangle is an area of some 6,000 square miles or about 4 million acres.

Lying along the southern edge of the area is what are called the checkerboard lands. Within this area every other section is private and the other is public. It encompasses some 2,000 square miles or roughly 1.25 million acres.

The remainder of the lands within the rough rectangle are more than 90 percent public. Only near Farson, south of Jeffrey City and along the Sweetwater River are there extensive private holdings. The rest is a veritable public treasure.

Within this last area, conservationists, sportsmen, rock hunters, and desert lovers have designated certain areas which they will propose as management areas or units. The proposal will be made at public hearings to be held beginning August 9 in Lander and continuing into September throughout central Wyoming.

Hanging like a dark cloud over all of these well-laid plans and proposals is the threat of strip mining on a vast scale. Most of the entire area is underlain with coal, much of it amenable to stripping. Oil shale intrudes into the western section and uranium deposits west of the Sweetwater River, in the northwest quadrant of the management proposal. Strip mining could obliterate important sections of the historic Oregon Trail just west of South Pass. The area is very important for migration of elk from the Wind River Mountains to the desert and back again. It is wild horse and antelope country, and has a serene, scenic beauty all its own.

Coal deposits in the south central part of the area underlie one of the most important pronghorn antelope wintering areas in the desert. Loss of the range could lead to loss of some 4,000-5,000 antelope in this ancestral area. The range is so important that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has bought several private ranches in the edge of the checkerboard area.

Red Desert devotees are going to ask that the area north of the checkerboard lands be designated a National Coal Reserve for use by future generations. In the approximately 1.25 million acres of the checkerboard lands, conservationists will also ask for special consideration on the public lands of all those values or resources of public interest. These would include archeological sites, historic sites, and others.

Following a series of meetings in Lander, an ad hoc Red Desert Committee has made the following general recommendations for management of the nationally important resources of this great public land area. The recommendations will be presented to the Bureau of Land Management at the public hearings which are scheduled. The committee hopes that all those interested in the Red Desert will generally concur with the recommendations, and that they will either testify at the hearings or write their thoughts and wishes. Letters may be sent to Mr. Dan Baker, State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. Because of the national significance of the Red Desert, letters or copies of your letters to Baker should also be sent to The Honorable Rogers C.B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, Interior Building, Washington, D. C. 20240, and to your senators and congressmen.

The following are the proposals. For the most part, they conform to the names and designations listed in CFR Title 43, Public Lands, Department of the Interior.

I. Red Desert National Recreation Lands.

The entire area from the Bridger and Shoshone National Forests and the Sweetwater River on the north, to the checkerboard lands on the south is significantly important for open space, recreation, historic, archeological, wildlife, and scientific values. It should be protected accordingly.

Within this vast area of some 2.5 to 3 million acres, various special use of specially significant areas can be identified. The identification and designation of these areas does not preclude or interfere with other multiple-uses such as grazing. However, grazing within fenced pastures would be incompatible with other proposed uses.

The entire area is important for many species of wildlife as well as numerous bands of wild horses. This is an important area for golden eagles, now so much in the news. Within the larger area are smaller areas of special significance for pronghorn antelope and elk. These can be identified as the Desert Wildlife Management Area, the Sandy Wildlife Management Area, the Pacific Wildlife Management Area, and the Green-Crooks Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The Steamboat Wildlife Protective Area is identified as much for wild horses as for game or smaller wildlife.

It is recommended that buffalo (bison) be reintroduced into the area.

It is recommended that there be no more fences constructed within the interior of the area, and that the one fence which marks the BLM district boundaries be removed at the earliest possible time. These fences could and do restrict the free and natural movement of pronghorns and wild horses.

Details of management of all species of

wildlife, including predators, bison, and wild horses, should be worked out at the earliest possible time for all parties concerned.

A. Primitive Areas.

1. Continental Peak Primitive Area.

An area of some 25,000-50,000 acres could be set aside. This designation for management is defined in the regulations as: Extensive natural, wild and undeveloped areas and settings essentially removed from the effects of civilization. Essential characteristics are that the natural environment has not been disturbed by commercial utilization and that the areas are without mechanized transportation.

The area around Continental Peak, including the area known as the Honey Combs, fulfills this qualification. It should be so identified.

2. Ferris Mountain Primitive Area.

This large, lone mountain is virtually untouched except for a small area of mining claims. It would qualify for such designation.

B. Sweetwater Natural Environment Area.

An area of virtually undeveloped river throughout the proposed area from the national forest boundary to the mouth of the canyon.

It is recommended that the nine or ten miles of the river within the canyon be designated a wild river.

C. Sand Dunes Natural Areas.

Two distinct areas, one on the west and one on the east could be designated as natural areas. The area on the west is important not only for its naturally unique characteristics but is also an important elk habitat. Parts of the area are already being used by dune buggies and other all-terrain vehicles. This use should be prohibited.

D. Boars Tusk Recreation Area.

This area is west of the Sand Dunes Natural Area and generally outside of the important elk habitat area. It is already being extensively used by vehicular recreationists and this use should continue under careful management.

E. Prehistoric sites.

The site of the buffalo jump and extensive petroglyphs on and near Steamboat Mountain should have special management.

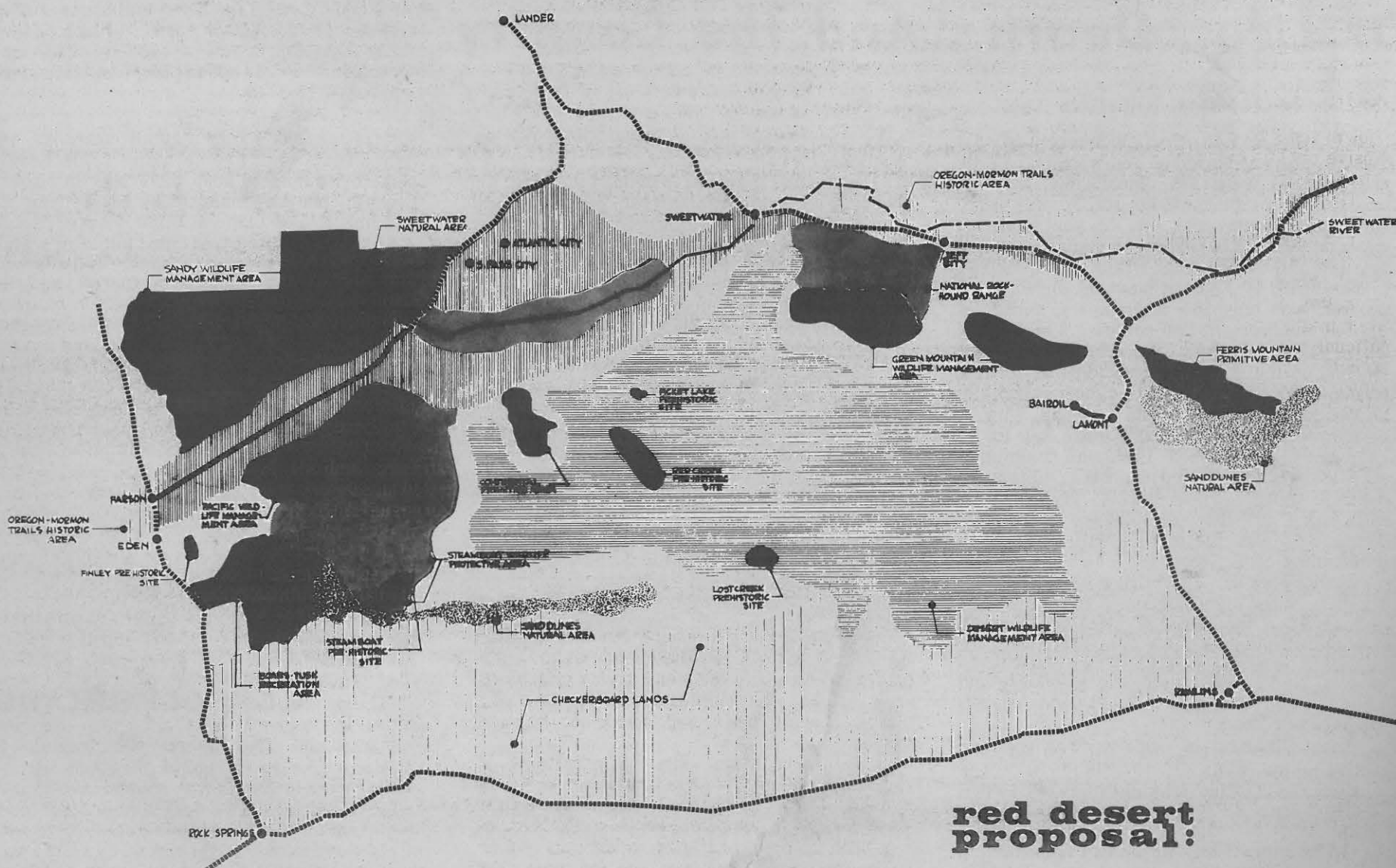
Around Picket Lake, Red Creek, Lost Creek, and the Finley Site near Eden are significant areas of prehistoric culture. These should be preserved and specially managed.

F. Oregon-Mormon Trails Historic Area.

Across this part of Wyoming, much of the historic Oregon-Mormon Trail complex is on public lands, virtually untouched from the days when it was used by pioneers and the Pony Express. As much of this historic trail as possible should be put under special management and protection.

G. Sweetwater National Rockhound Range.

In a large area extending north and west from Crooks Mountain, there is a nationally (Continued on page 5)



**red desert
proposal:**

Wyoming Timber Misuse Cited

by Steve Wynkoop

Forest values have suffered in Wyoming's national forests because of misuse and mismanagement of clear-cutting, a panel of Forest Service scientists reported in a study released Wednesday.

The scientists said faulty clear-cutting threatens scenic values, wildlife, and soils.

The report, covering timber harvests in the Teton, Bridger, Shoshone and Big Horn National Forests, was issued by two regional foresters.

W. J. Lucas, Rocky Mountain regional forester, and Vern Hamre, intermountain regional forester, emphasized that the findings of the report don't represent an official Forest Service position, though the report was published by the U.S. Forest Service.

The two regions, they said, will evaluate the 80-page report and make public responses in a few weeks.

The year-long forest study was conducted by a six-man research team led by Carl M. Berntsen, assistant director of timber management, forest disease and forest insect research at the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Fort Collins, Colo.

"Each of the forests has allowed logging in areas that would have been better left uncut; each has allowed some cutting with apparent disregard for other resources; and each has experienced some regeneration (reseeding and planting) failures," the report states.

Historically, it is pointed out, Wyoming has only recently begun to develop its timber resources.

The timber industry really got its start in the early 1960's when demand for timber rose, making logging economically feasible, the report says.

Prior to that time, the Forest Service had been conducting a holding action against insects and diseases in mature stands, and when development began, clear-cutting was seen as a way to control the spread of insect infestation and disease, according to the report.

Clear-cuts of up to 1,000 acres were authorized during that time, but the report states that clear-cutting as a single harvesting method has outworn its usefulness.

The study points up areas of management weakness and pins blame on the Forest Service, but concedes that most of the management troubles are more related to understaffing and fiscal problems than to conscious management failures.

"The most apparent cause of the management weakness we observed was the lack of adequate multiple-use planning. Commonly this deficiency stemmed from the lack of basic inventory information about the land and about people's needs," the report says.

Forest management guidelines were frequently disregarded, and the scientists found that often inexperienced Forest Service em-

Red Desert . . .

known depository of float jade. Here, on extensive public lands the public could search for prized pieces of the valuable mineral.

The area should be withdrawn from mineral entry.

H. Alternative Proposals.

The area encompassing Oregon Buttes, geographic South Pass, Pacific Springs, and the already designated South Pass Historic Mining Area might well be considered for a historic national monument status. Recent significant archeological finds on and around the Oregon Buttes give added emphasis for recognition and protection.

I. General consideration.

Throughout the area, there is a network of seismograph trails and roads. Many of these are not necessary to essential travel and should be closed out, with travel prohibited. Access to most of the areas should be limited to established roads and travelways. These should be unobtrusively marked.

Planning for increasing recreational use should anticipate the need for developed camping sites. Such planning should carefully avoid areas of high concentration use by wildlife and wild horses, or important historic or archeological sites.

Much of the area is blanketed with uranium mining claims. Many of these will prove to be of no value in the foreseeable future. They should be closed out at the earliest possible time. Some of the areas not already under mining claim should be immediately withdrawn from mining entry to protect their recreational, historic, scientific or scenic values.

ployes were making field decisions on sale layouts and harvesting methods because experienced men were too burdened with other work.

The study doesn't recommend total abandonment of clear-cutting. It instead states it should be limited to small acreages and should only be used in lodgepole pine stands.

Environmental values need more con-

Says More Study Needed

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Gale McGee, D-Wyo., said a report on forest management in Wyoming, compiled by a special U.S. Forest Service study team, has reinforced his belief that a more thorough interdisciplinary investigation is needed.

"The report carries throughout its 81 pages a recurring theme," McGee said, "that is expressed in such words as, 'Too little is known about the desires and needs of recreationists,' or, 'There is just enough information available to tantalize us,' or, 'Much more research is needed to determine the true costs and benefits of management alternatives, including clear-cutting.'"

The Wyoming Democrat is the prime sponsor of a bill that would authorize a two-year study of clearcutting and other forest management practices during which time the policy of timber harvest by clearcutting would be halted.

McGee said the Forest Service report pointed up the need for further study which encouraged him to push for passage of his bill.

"The Forest Service report, not unsurprisingly, concludes that the forest managers should continue to use clearcutting 'where it is a sound silvicultural harvesting method and in harmony with management objectives for the unit of land,'" the Senator said.

However, McGee noted, the report "also

sideration than they are getting. The report says: 'Forests can be managed for environmental quality as well as for wood products.'

In conclusion, the scientists said, "... There is urgent necessity to refine, revise and update existing multiple-use plans. ... The Forest Service must strive to increase public confidence and trust."

contains the admission that clearcutting has in the past been carried out to an excessive extent and without adequate consideration of forest values other than timber receipts."

McGee said the report did bear out his contentions that there were excessively large clearcut patches in all four of the Wyoming forests covered--The Teton, Bridger, Shoshone, and Big Horn National Forests. He said the report added some patches exceeded 1,000 acres in size.

He said the report also stated that the use of timber cutting as a means of controlling bark beetle infestation had led to logging where none should have occurred and concluded that, "the experience of the past 10 years has demonstrated that this logging was largely a vain effort."

The Senator said the Forest Service study represented what he called a "sincere effort by that agency to take stock of its management practices in these public forests."

"It certainly does not constitute a white-wash since the report is highly critical of the agency's weaknesses including the lack of adequate multiple use planning," he said. "But it does fall far short of being the type of thorough study warranted by the serious nature of the disagreement over the future course of our national forest policies. It contains little quantitative data which is badly needed."

Morton Asks For New Land Act

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has asked Congress to approve a new National Resource Land Management Act which would serve as a basic law for the more than 450 million acres administered by Interior's BLM. "This bill represents a historic proposal," Secretary Morton said, "which for the first time would state the national policies governing the use and management of the public domain and provide specific guidelines for the management of these vast lands."

The proposal would establish a national policy that these national resource lands - namely in the western states and Alaska - be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in such a way as to protect the quality of the environment.

The bill also declares it to be in the national interest that these lands be held in federal ownership to be disposed of only in certain circumstances. Repealing the existing hodgepodge of land disposal laws, the bill would authorize the Secretary to sell for fair market value those lands which he finds will lead to significant improvement in the management of the national resource lands or would serve important public objectives which could not be realized on other lands. Land exchanges and limited authority for land acquisition to block up existing holdings for more effective management would also be permitted.

"The authority Interior is seeking is in accord with many of the recommendations of the Public Land Law Review Commission," Secretary Morton said. He noted that the Department presently lacks a clear Congressional definition of its mission in managing the public lands. "Instead," he said, "there are some 3,000 public land laws which have accumulated over some 170 years and which are often at cross purposes."

As drafted, the bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to inventory these lands and develop comprehensive land use plans, giving priority to such critical environmental areas as flood plains, coastal zones and scenic or historic areas.

The bill would provide that violations of regulations promulgated under the Act would be misdemeanors. Designated Interior employees would be given legal authority to enforce the regulations, thus providing additional police protection for the resources and for those who legitimately make use of them.

Unaffected directly by the proposed act would be the present mining and mineral leasing laws; certain special disposal laws such as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; and the entire outer Continental Shelf, which also is administered for mineral leasing by the Bureau of Land Management.

Secretary Morton said the National Resource Land Management Act would be a logical and complimentary companion measure to the Nixon's Administration proposed National Land Use Policy Act. The latter authorizes aid to states under federal standards in planning and zoning uses of privately owned and other non-federal lands, giving special emphasis to critical environmental areas.

Timber study...

professional job; resource inventories should be completed for all major resources, and the Regions and Forests must better define resource management and environmental protection goals for the Forests and refine and update multiple use plans to include decisions that meet these goals.

The study team expressed appreciation for all values of the national forests, and urged that men on the ground be schooled and trained in that appreciation. The measure of how far their thinking went is expressed in the statement that one alternative of forest management is to do no timber cutting. As they put it, "This could fulfill the management objective for stands in which the forest cover, no matter how damaged by insects or disease, is best left untouched - in Wyoming even dead trees serve the utilitarian purpose of holding the scenery together."

To which many conservationists can only add, "amen."

It now remains to be seen how much of an impact the study will make on the men who must implement it. There is no doubt that it will require a decided change of philosophy on the part of some forest supervisors and some forest rangers. More important, it is doubtful if these men at the lower echelons will be able to operate effectively unless changes are made all the way up to the top of the ladder. This may require a change of faces at the very top.

Floating Western Rivers

Part Four: The River of No Return

(Continued from last issue.)

Up at dawn for a breakfast of bacon and eggs and pancakes. We're on the river by 8, and a lovely day it is—cool in the early morning but clear and sunny with the hot hours not yet descended into the Salmon River gorge, second only to Hell's Canyon of the Snake in depth. We run Little Devils Teeth Rapid and another just below Big Squaw Creek.

We reach Salmon Falls and see the waters leaping high into the warming air even before we hear the roar of the rapid. Somehow having missed the instructions to land on the right, we pull ashore just above Arctic Creek on the left. We have to trespass on the private property there below the cabin to get a closer look at the white-water run, an awesome rock pile with a tremendous initial drop. There are several chutes, at least five, and at this high water level, almost anything goes. Jones says "Run right high, run left low." Running in low water, Jones rated the rapid a five.

Rod decides to take the far left chute, but as we are about to enter, he notices a couple of sharp rocks just beneath the surface and swings quickly into the second chute from the left. Either would have gone; but the initial drop is more abrupt in the second. We pull in to the right shore below the back eddy and hurry back to photograph the second boat going through, Bob Collins at the oars. It's a breeze, but it looks great, and we get some good shots.

A short run takes us to Barth Hot Spring on the left bank where a series of hot springs feed into the Salmon River from a travertine terrace. We stop and swim, trying to regulate the water in the tubs, but we freeze our tails in the Salmon and burn our tummies in the hot spring flow. We lunch here, then run a long straight stretch of river with good beaches. Bailey Rapids, rated a 6 by some, is drowned out and hardly noticed, and we grew a little cocky, perhaps.

As we float through Split Rock Rapid in the lead, we suddenly become aware of a sleeper, a hidden hole that gives no hint of the sheer drop over its downstream face. We miss it by sheer luck. We wave frantically to the second boat, trying to warn them, but no one is looking. They're heading right for it. We yell, shout, scream, but no one hears, no one sees our frantic attempt to wave them to the left. The first they know of the hole, they're dropping into it, over the rock. The flexible Mark V plunges into the hole, bending at a right angle, and swamping. The whole boat is under water, and everyone in it is swimming; yet they are still in the boat. Then they are out of the hole, swinging sluggishly downstream. Everyone bails as Bob pulls hard for the right shore ('cause it's nearer), barely moving the craft, carrying tons of water. They land and continue to bail. We catch a back eddy and ride it around four or five times waiting; suddenly we see a plastic hard hat in the water—Art's riot hat. We chase it around the eddy, almost have it several times, but it invariably swirls away and is lost. Half-an-hour later the Mark V launches again, and we pull out of the eddy to float on down to Big Mallard.

Stopping on the left bank above the rapid, we study it from the broken rock slopes above the river, boulder-hopping our way downstream for a closer look at the big hole at the lower left.

"Jones says run left, but that hole is on the left. I don't want any part of that one."

"You don't suppose he means between the hole and the left bank—not enough room, is there?"

"What about the right? There are a few rocks and that little hole—maybe we could weave our way through over there."

And finally the solution: we'll run just left of the little hole on the right at the head of the rapid (can we get over that far?) and swing right of the big hole on the left. We all agree that that's the way to run.

Ray stays on shore to photograph the run; we go back to the rafts and put our life jackets on, tighten them, launch, and pull for the right. We pass the upper hole ("Rod, aren't you too far left?"), then pull to the right of that gigantic hole, pull, pull, PULL. God! The whole river is heading for that hole, pull like hell, pull!

We never have a chance—we are heading right for the big rock with the wall of white water pouring over it and dropping into that monstrous hole. In the boat behind, Bob Collins reads the signs and—with a hundred yards advantage on the first boat—pulls for the right shore as hard as he can, desperately—just missing the upper hole but also just missing the big lower one.

But we in the first boat hit it. No way to miss the rock—okay, then take it head on. Swing the

by Verne Huser

Photos by Verne Huser

boat, bow downstream. We enter the forehole and swing up onto the rock—and the forehole is so big Rod and I both think we've already hit the big hole, but only for an instant as we poise atop the rock, the boat twisting under us and diving at an angle into the black hole full of white water. The fore-edge of the raft drops out of sight, then rides the curl up, up, up and back, the fore-edge rising above us and over our head as the raft flips and we all spill out into the raging water, and for me, the world turns to light as I swim for the surface through the froth that is solid water, pulling for the air that is somewhere up there. The water is icy, but I don't notice at this point, still struggling for a free breath.

Finally, I reach the surface and take a great gulp of air. The current carries me quickly along, but I'm afloat. I hear Ray's voice: "Keep your feet up and downstream." We'd been told that if we ever found ourselves in the water in a rapid we should bunch our legs and keep them downstream to ward off rocks. I followed his advice though he was no doubt shouting to his son. Looking around, I saw the raft ten yards downstream with two figures clinging to the ropes dangling from the overturned 10-man.

Where's Rod?

Rod pivots the boat and pulls hard left, just missing the rock.

Deep Yogurt! (Rod's expression for big dangerous water).

We float under the Campbell Ferry Pack Bridge just below Moore Creek in quieter water and round a bend to camp at Groundhog Bar. We're exhausted. Unpacking, we find that the only thing that's wet is Ray's exposed film pack, and most of the film will probably be salvageable. We bathe in the river, build a fire and start cooking dinner, and the talk goes back to Big Mallard.

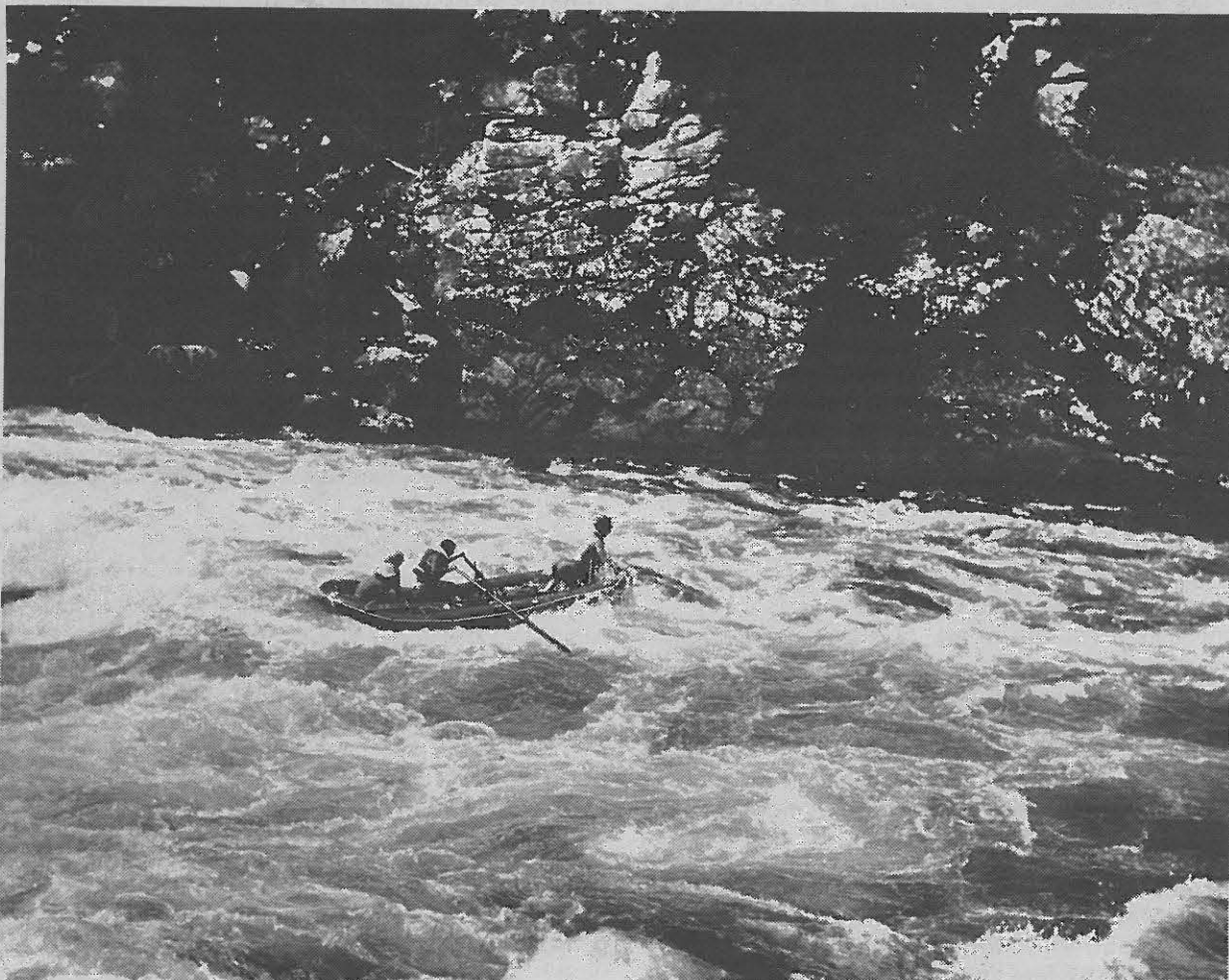
"When we hit that forehole, I thought that was it—I thought we were through the hole, then I was looking down into the real hole. Wow!"

"At one point—just as the boat poised on its edge—I think we might have saved it if we'd thrown our weight just right."

"Maybe, but the boat flipped just like you'd flip a coin."

And the guys in the second boat join in: "I thought we were gonners when we saw you hit that hole. What happens to the tug boat if the battleship sinks?"

"You should have seen Ray: both cameras going like mad until the flip, then an open mouth



Running Salmon Falls, one of the major rapids on the main Salmon River, we shipped lots of water. The river was high, and any one of several tongues through the rock barrier went with ease, but at lower water, this one can be a real bear. We flipped a boat in Big Mallard Rapid a few miles downstream the same day.

Momentarily trapped under the boat, he pushes free and emerges alongside the craft with the other two and they kick the boat ashore.

An eddy carries me away from shore, and I drift with it, determined not to fight the current; then another eddy sweeps me toward the left bank where the raft is heading, and with two or three strokes, I'm standing near the boat where Rod and Steve and Paul are panting, holding the boat against the tug of the flow. The second boat pulls in just below, and everyone piles out to help hold the boat. It takes all ten of us to right the boat with two of us holding the far edge in with ropes to keep the boat from drifting out as we raise the inshore edge up to flip it over. We relash the gear and prepare to continue, checking quickly for water leaks in the waterproof bags—everything seems fine, but we won't know until we reach camp tonight. We walk back up to have a parting look at the hole that spilled us—terrifying. We've lost an oar, but we carry a spare lashed to the raft so break it out and are on our way. I've lost a hat and a pair of sun glasses, but other than that, we've come through in remarkably good shape.

Not far below Big Mallard, we run into more hairy rapids: Elkhorn and Growler, both with big rocks in mid-stream and strong currents moving in perplexing directions.

"We'll run this one on the right," says Rod as he begins pulling toward the right-hand shore. But as we draw closer and closer to the rock, it becomes more and more obvious that we aren't going to run it on the right. At the last moment,

and a lowering of the cameras—he missed some great shots."

"Yea, but I'm glad he reminded us to keep our feet up and downstream. He was running along the shore on those big slippery sharp rocks, yelling to us."

And so on into the night. We were 45 miles downstream from Corn Creek and the end of the road, 50 from where we'd started. The next day we ran only 25 miles as we stopped at Buckskin Bill's place (Sylvan Hart, the modern-day mountain man). This was at an old gold mine and at the confluence of South Fork, where we lunched and fished. Below Mackay Bar we swam several miles in the cool, clear deep-green water, even taking one minor rapid in our life jackets. We camp at California Creek, which comes in from the left. Fishing is great—Dolly Varden in the creek and rainbow in the main river. Only nine miles to the take-out at Chittam, the end of the gravel road coming in from Riggins.

Our last night on the river once again—time for reflection and for philosophizing. As the Middle Fork is a wild river, so this should be a scenic river, part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act designation. Even with the jet boats, this is a wilderness experience, and floating is the only way to go. No more roads. No more timber cutting. No more mineral exploration. Save this wonderful country for its greatest good, for wilderness recreation—there is too little left even now.

(Please turn to page 7)

Floating Rivers

High Country News—7
Friday, Aug. 6, 1971

Photo by Verne Huser

Up early for the final run, but we are reluctant to leave. Dry Meat Rapids is supposed to be a bear, and while it's big, we have no problems. Chittam Rapid is apple pie, and we land on the left just above Vinegar at the boat ramp. We unload and de-rig, wash the boats down, deflate them and roll them up. Why aren't the other cars here—only one of the three vehicles that's supposed to be here had arrived. We load the trailer and the one car, and Ray's wife and younger kids arrive to report that a slide has blocked the road a half-mile downstream.

We walk down for a look: a huge boulder has fallen onto the road, and two trees have added to the blockade. Some of us start removing the smaller rocks and branches while others stand around apparently helpless wondering if we should call the Highway Patrol or the Forest Service (and the nearest phone ten miles away).

Presently a 4-wheel drive vehicle comes along. The driver gets out and surveys the situation, then laughs at the inaction of those waiting around to be rescued.

"You can tell they're city folks," he says, "Can't do anything for themselves—let's lend a hand here."

And he takes command of the road clearing, winching the logs out of the way and pushing the huge boulder over the edge to tumble into the river below. The road clear but a bit rough, we pile into the cars and head our separate ways, the river trip finished and once more the spell broken.

Agency Needed

by H. Tom Davis

In the Forties and early Fifties the 180-acre Williams Lake, approximately 12 miles southwest of Salmon, was a pristine esthetic gem with a naturally reproducing fishery so good that the Idaho Fish and Game Department collected eggs there for hatchery use. The fish were referred to as "Williams Lake trout."

Access was by an easy one-and-a-quarter mile trail that tended to naturally regulate the fishery use by making a Williams Lake fishing trip involve a little more than a Sunday drive.

In the early Fifties, the first primitive four-wheel road was pushed into Williams Lake. The lake owner charged \$5 to take an individual to the lake in his truck, but the hiking was still free and the fishing still good.

Around 1965 the present full-access road was bulldozed in and lakeshore cottage development initiated. To date, more than 30 home sites ring the lake, and the ultimate lakeshore capacity is probably near 300 cottages; this development can be achieved in a very short time.

The sewage treatment is by septic tank or less, and full development will present a significant eutrophication potential.

Already the scenic sagebrush and forest hillsides are scarred by road cuts and cottage development sites. The high quality fishery is deteriorating rapidly and will soon be a memory.

In the 1940's and even in the 50s and early 60s, the lake had a significant potential value for public recreation. At one time the Idaho Fish and Game Department could have bought the whole thing for \$23,000; but at that time the value of the fishery did not seem to warrant such an expenditure. The future cultural value in 1970 or 2000 was not considered.

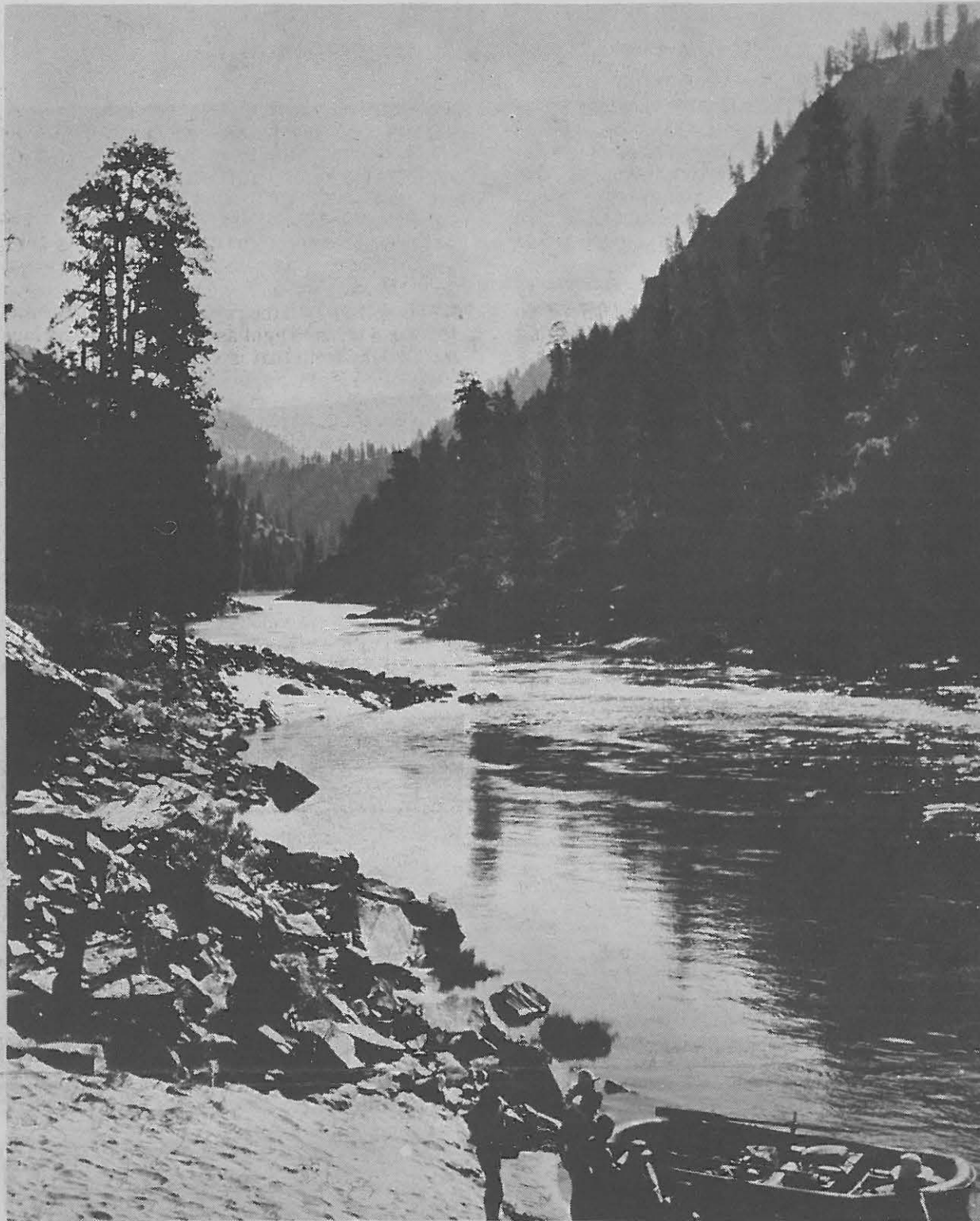
Williams Lake is an ominous forewarning of Idaho's future. Other superb Idaho natural areas, especially shorelines, are irreversibly going the same way.

Riverside developments on septic tanks are encroaching on the magnificent Henry's Fork of the Snake River in the Island Park area. Silver Creek in south central Idaho, the number one dry fly trout stream in the Nation is being choked by cottages and the public excluded. The small creek even has one pier jetting into it from a patio. Many of the big lakes like Coeur d'Alene are going the way of Williams Lake on a grander scale.

The most beautiful pastoral valley scene in Idaho - the Hagerman Valley - is being cut, sliced, denuded, and polluted by fish hatcheries, irrigation pipelines and second homes.

Hemingway's favorite trout stream, the Big Wood River, is fading fast. It is being altered, channelized, and encroached upon by homes and business developments, most of which are precariously sitting in the flood plain. After the first flood, cries for an upstream federal flood control dam that will further depreciate the river valley will be heard throughout the state and echoed in the halls of Congress.

The Salmon River is meeting a similar fate. M. Penn Phillips, Inc. of Azusa, Calif. is



Sandy beaches, rock-strewn slopes, steep forested mountains, and distant snow peaks marked our passage through the Salmon River Gorge. Wildflowers carpet many of the hillsides during spring and early summer, and game - deer and elk, bighorn sheep and chukars - is abundant during some seasons. Jet boats do break the wilderness spell with their roaring engines, and use increases every year.

Salmon River 21 miles upstream from Salmon, primarily to southern Californians. Sewage treatment will be by septic tanks. The potential for pollution is large, but hasn't been analyzed by a state agency. Idaho's birthright is being sold for a pittance.

The White Clouds and Pioneer mountain ranges are being staked for depredation by mining, and no state agency has addressed the problem from an ecologic perspective.

Urban sprawl has a large head start in Boise, with the local governmental agencies alone and helpless in the fight to avert the destruction of the valley. Action must be taken immediately to avoid the Los Angeles syndrome.

These are broad, complex problems and must be addressed by a broad purpose, ecologic agency. Only a department similar to Washington's Department of Ecology or Oregon's Department of Environmental Protection can fully examine these problems and move Idaho in the right direction.

Such a department was proposed as House Bill 164 in the 1971 State Legislature, but in its usual unconcerned manner the Legislature deferred the bill, possibly indefinitely. A year's delay could guarantee ultimate failure in solving the problems.

The bill was developed by the Attorney General's office and had the overwhelming support of environmental groups and the public. An organization called the Gem Environmental Liaison (GEL) was formed specifically to support this legislation and was composed of every major environmental group in the state. At the hearing on the proposal, testimony was overwhelmingly in support of the new department.

The key argument for a Department of Ecology is that environmental protection consists of more than the mere prosecution of air and water polluters. The problems of industrial effluents and emissions are being reacted to and will eventually diminish, hopefully to an acceptable level.

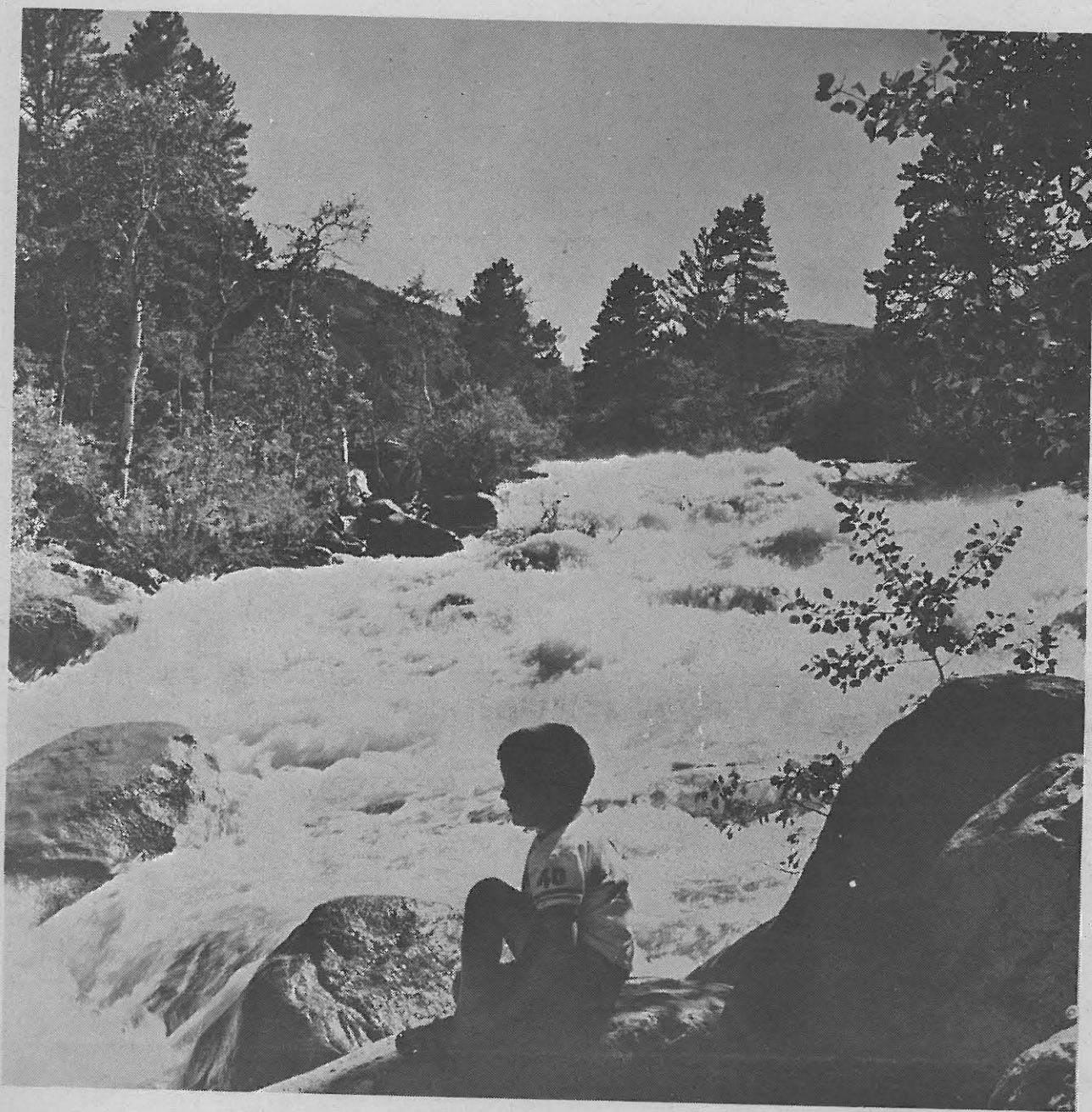
effective combination of land and environmental planning with efficient state management and regulatory powers to avoid problems before they arise. Environmental protection must be conducted by a professional environmental agency.

The most important function of an ecologic agency is the presentation of facts and solutions concerning ecologic problems to the Idaho Legislature and the public. The Legislature has failed to pass any significant environmental legislation. It scoffed at the proposed Idaho Wild and Scenic Rivers bill, emasculated the surface mining control bill, deferred action on flood plain zoning because of one company's objection, passed a weak stream protection bill, and failed even to consider other special protective measures, such as state zoning and minimum flow requirements. A major reason for this ineffectiveness is the absence of an agency to identify and research the problems and draft legislative solutions. If the proposed Department of Ecology had done nothing else during 1971, it would have served a useful purpose by identifying state ecologic problems and presenting good legislation for consideration by the next legislative session.

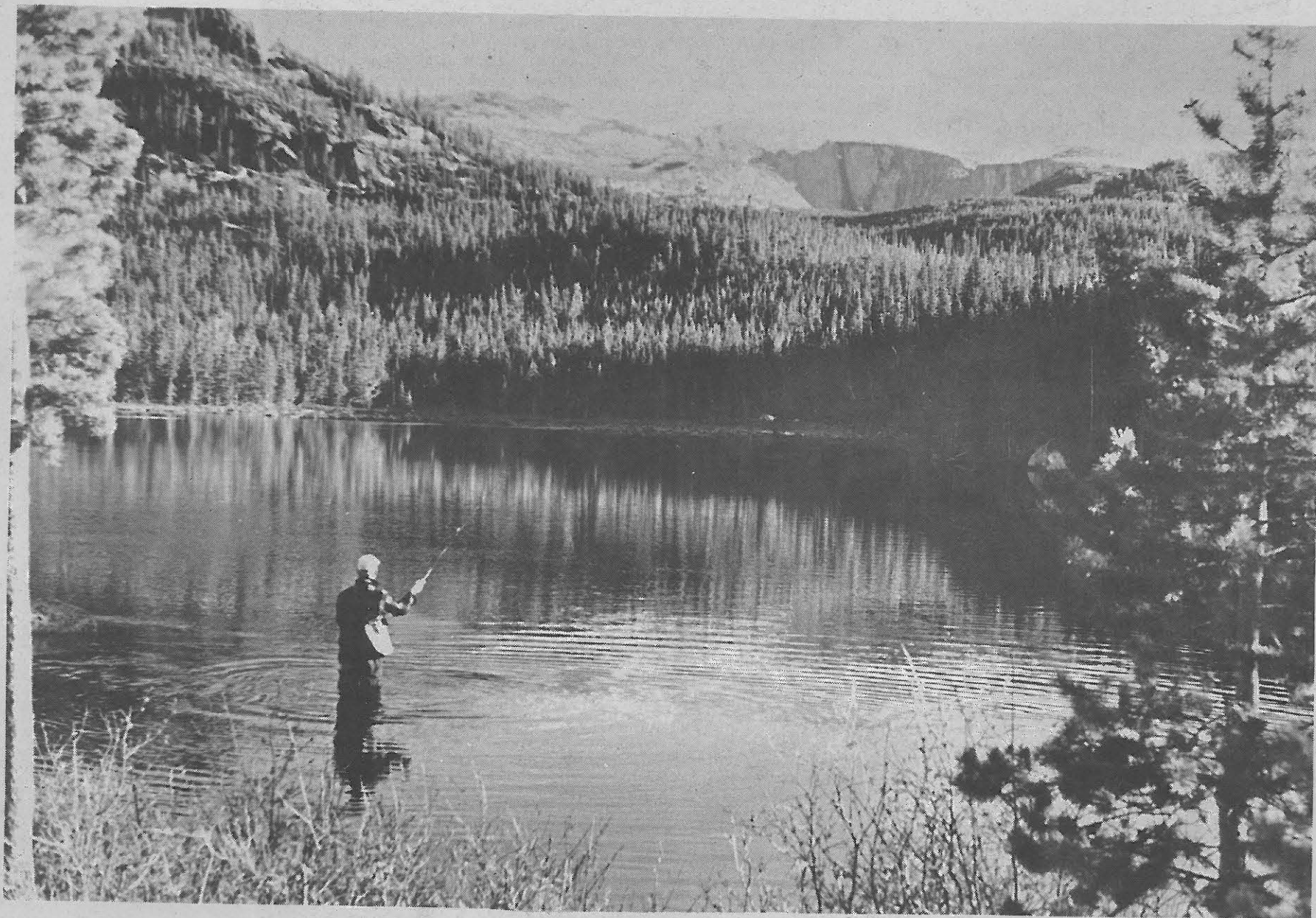
The need was demonstrated by the objection to the proposal for an Idaho Wild and Scenic Rivers System on the grounds that the Fish and Game Department couldn't administer it as proposed. No state department exists that can adequately administer such a system since it must be managed on a total environment basis.

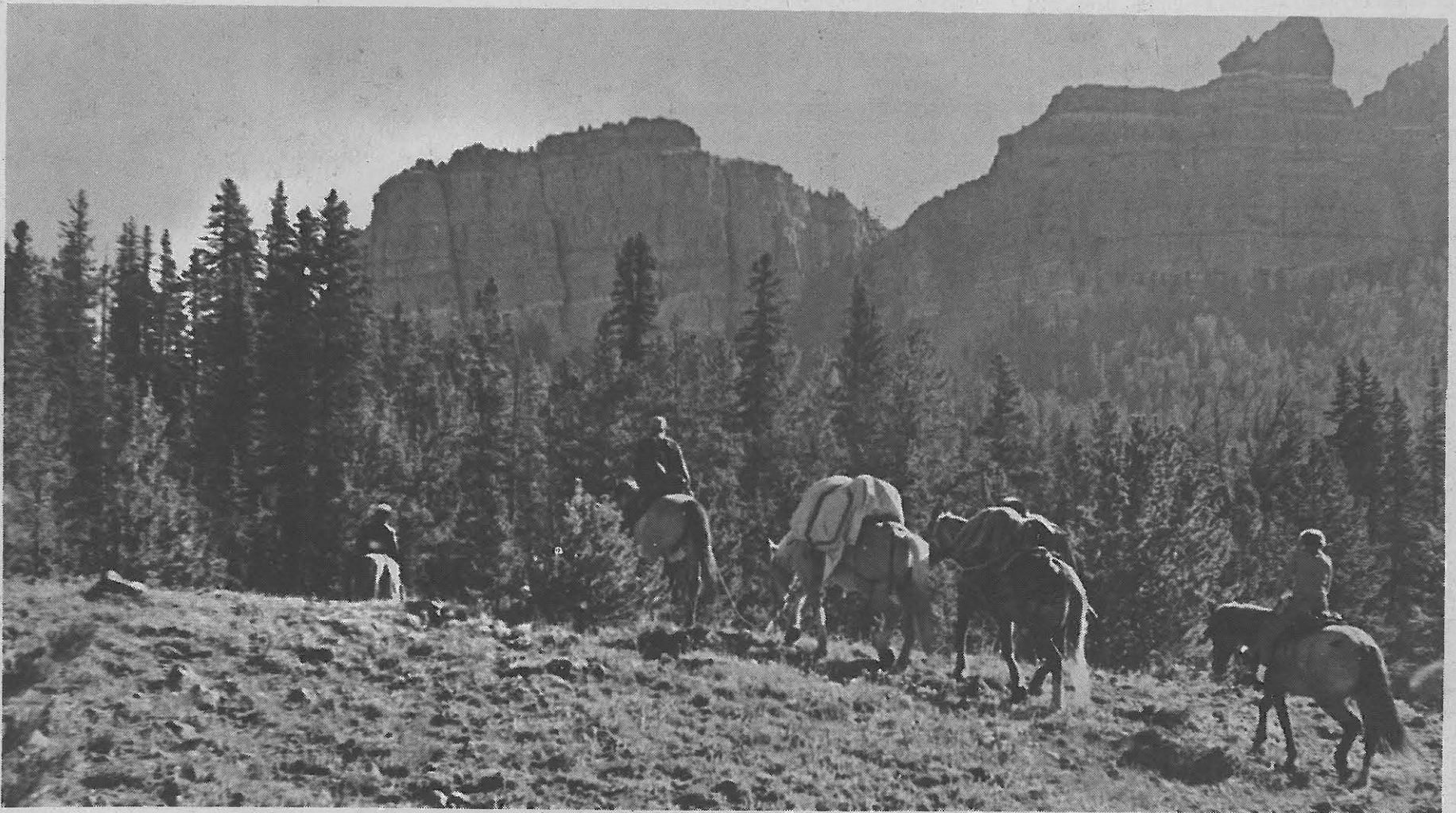
Goals for the Idaho Department of Ecology, in addition to regulating direct pollution, should include environmental planning, the administration of the state management systems that are initiated to maintain environmental quality, the identification of potential environmental problems, action to solve those problems, public education concerning environmental significance, interaction with other governmental bodies concerning the ecologic consequences of their actions, and the initiation of research efforts required to understand the Idaho eco-system.

VACATION



Who can resist cool, clear water whether in quiet contemplation fishing beneath towering mountains? Or a pack trip beyond the beckoning peaks? Or a marshmallow feast amongst the pines? They all add up to summer fun in the High Country.





Speaking out on the Selway-Bitterroot

by Clifton R. Merritt

Photo by Ernst Peterson

Impatience is growing with the U. S. Forest Service on continued foot-dragging in preserving the wilderness of Idaho's upper Selway, or Magruder Corridor, Morton Brigham, president of district 2 of Idaho Wildlife Federation, reported this week.

Brigham, who lives in Lewiston, Idaho, is a graduate forester and a consulting engineer.

He noted that the struggle to retain the fragile watershed of the upper Selway in a wilderness condition has been going on since 1956. In that year, Idaho and Montana conservation organizations and The Wilderness Society recommended that the undeveloped national forest lands north of the Magruder road be included in a Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, and that similar lands south of the road be added to the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. The road itself was proposed by the conservation groups to be maintained as recreational access to the wilderness on both sides. Brigham said that these recommendations continue to reflect the position of the conservation groups.

"Unfortunately, the conservationists' good plan was not carried out," Brigham stated. Instead, he said, the Forest Service made a review of the 1,875,000-acre Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area and proposed that the area be reduced to a 1,163,000-acre wilderness. He said that this proposal resulted in the deletion of nearly half a million acres of pristine wildlands from protected status.

According to the conservation spokesman, the main deletion was the 230,000-acre Magruder Corridor on the upper Selway. The Forest Service claimed that the Corridor didn't qualify as wilderness because of the unimproved Magruder road through the middle of it. "Conveniently overlooked were the many thousands of acres of primeval wilderness on both sides of the road," Brigham said. "They didn't have to throw out 230,000 acres of prime wilderness to eliminate the Magruder road."

The Idaho conservation leader pointed out that the declassified Corridor was to be opened to clear-cut timber harvest, despite its fragile watershed, valuable anadromous and resident fisheries, wildlife, and wilderness character.

Following Forest Service hearings on the matter, the Secretary of Agriculture established the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in 1963. It consisted of 1,239,000 acres.

Meanwhile, the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964.

The Forest Service proceeded with plans to road and log the declassified Magruder Corridor.

These threats prompted Idaho and Montana conservationists to form the Save the Upper Selway Committee to obtain wilderness protection for the Corridor.

Their efforts convinced Senators Frank Church, Idaho, and Lee Metcalf, Montana, that the Secretary of Agriculture should review Forest Service plans for the area.

Mrs. Doris Milner of Hamilton, Montana, and chairman of the Save the Upper Selway Committee, said that, as a result, a Magruder Corridor Review Committee of resource experts headed by Dr. George Selke was named by the Secretary to study the area.

Mrs. Milner emphasized that the Selke committee report, released in 1967, recommended that "as a guiding policy all land management within the Corridor, including all land use zones, should reflect and maintain wildland conditions" compatible with watershed, fish, historical, and recreational values.

The Selke committee, she noted, urged that all timber cutting and related road building be deferred. It said timber growing in the area was "marginal in financial terms" with the "average for the Corridor . . . much less."

At the same time, the Selke committee pointed to the major values of the salmon and steelhead fisheries in the Selway. The river, it noted, spawned 12 per cent of all steelhead trout that entered the Columbia. It emphasized that the Selway was one of the very few clear-running streams in the entire Columbia River system, with excellent spawning conditions. The Selke report warned that pure water and good spawning beds require a healthy watershed to prevent siltation. It disclosed that the terrain of the area was steep, with extremely fragile soils that were susceptible to massive erosion.

The report also disagreed with the Forest Service claim that roading and logging the Corridor would enhance wildlife values. Development of the area would endanger wild habitat required by the mountain goat and bighorn sheep and expose them to further inroads of civilization, the committee's resource experts advised. The Forest Service had held that timber cutting in the Corridor would promote growth of browse species used as forage



Looking into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area which lies astride the Idaho-Montana boundary, west of Hamilton, Montana. Conservationists also want to protect the Magruder Corridor which lies between the Selway-Bitterroot on the north and the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area to the south.

by the big game animals. But Dr. Selke's resource specialists stressed that the Corridor served principally as summer range for these wild creatures. They said that summer range forage in the Corridor was adequate, but that winter range was in short supply. Timber cutting in the Corridor would not provide significant winter forage for the animals, they said.

After the Selke report, the Forest Service made its first detailed resource inventory of the Corridor, Brigham stated. He pointed out that such an inventory should have been made before the Forest Service decided to remove the upper Selway from wilderness protection.

He said the inventory disclosed that about half of the Corridor, 109,600 acres, was unsuitable for timber cutting. "It also showed that the major problem of siltation from roading and logging in the remainder of the Corridor had not been solved," he emphasized.

"The Forest Service has admitted," Brigham said, "that roading and logging could affect water quality and damage or destroy the salmon, steelhead, and resident trout fisheries in the Selway River and tributaries. The inventory also confirmed that road building and timber harvest would have an adverse impact on the elk and mountain goats in the Corridor. Quality hunting would be reduced and the natural scenery disrupted."

Yet, despite these adverse findings, Brigham said, the Forest Service plans to build roads and log on some 81,000 acres of the Corridor. It also intends to construct roads and recreational developments on 85,000 additional acres in the area. Only 6,900 acres in the Eagle Creek drainage would be left for possible wilderness study, he asserted. The Forest Service plans to road and log a major part of the Corridor are subject to a five-year deferment, however, while more studies are made of the critical problems of maintaining the high quality of water for the valuable fisheries in the Selway.

This five-year deferment does not give adequate consideration to the fact that the wilderness on both sides of the Magruder road should not be developed at all, Brigham charged.

He noted that the Forest Service has continued to claim that wilderness in the Corridor would be "compromised" by bringing the wilderness boundaries down closer to the Magruder road, as the conservationists have recommended. At the same time, he said, the Forest Service has declared that extending roads and logging up to the boundaries of the established Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness on the north and the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area on the south would not "compromise" the wilderness concept of there area.

"In other words," Brigham said, "according to the Forest Service, it's all right to extend the roads and logging to the established Wilderness and Primitive Area borders, but wrong to extend the wilderness borders closer to the Magruder road -- and save nearly 230,000 acres of pristine wilderness in the process. This is very strange logic."

Brigham, a designer of sawmills and chipping plants, is particularly critical of the meager commodity values that would result from roading and developing the Magruder Corridor. "The area has no known mineral deposits, no grazing for livestock, and would provide only a dribble of sawlogs," he said.

"Development of the Magruder Road as a through-road tourist attraction would never be possible because the road is blocked with snow from nine to ten months a year," he continued.

"The Forest Service now contends that the annual allowable cut on the 81,000 acres it proposes to road and log is only 6,400,000 board feet of mixed timber. This would run a modern stud mill with a quad band and one band headrig about 32 shifts, or 16 days of two-shift operation. This adds up to six per cent of the logs it takes to

(Continued on page 11.)

Selway-Bitterroot . . .

run such a mill. Trying to operate a modern high-speed mill in such an area is like trying to raise ducks in the Sahara Desert," Brigham declared.

He further explained that if the timber is cut, it would not be processed in Idaho but, instead, would be hauled to western Montana sawmills. "Idaho citizens wouldn't even get the benefit of employment from timber harvest in the Corridor," the conservation spokesman stated. "Stumps are about all that Idaho would get."

"Logging of this 81,000 acres, however, would ruin forever the chances to keep 230,000 acres of fine wilderness, including 60,000 acres in the Bargamin and Running Creek drainages north and west of the Selway headwaters," he stressed.

The Idaho conservation leader stated that except for the Magruder Road, spur roads, and related recreational facilities already built or needed along these roads, the rest of the Magruder Corridor qualified in every way as wilderness and should be given wilderness status by law. He said a bill to accomplish this was introduced this year by Senator Metcalf. Idaho conservationists, he pointed out, are calling on Senator Church to introduce similar legislation.

Checklist Used

Strict adherence to a new "environmental checklist" is now required in preparing timber sales on the Boise National Forest, in Idaho, according to Acting Supervisor Tom Coston.

Coston said today's public wants to know about environmental considerations, especially those in connection with preparing, harvesting and rehabilitation of sales areas.

He cited the soon-to-be-bid "Yellowstone Timber Sale" of the French Creek drainage of the North Fork of the Boise River as an example of where environmental planning was used in preparing the sale.

Cottonwood Ranger Joel Frandsen and his associate foresters worked on the 11 million board feet sale, which includes systematic control of serious mistletoe and bark beetle infestations. Harvesting will be accomplished in a manner to encourage restocking by natural seeding.

In consideration of the watershed, tree cutting will be carried out over several years to allow for vegetation regrowth to avoid overloading streams by extreme runoff. Existing roads will also be used to minimize erosion caused by new construction.

Several harvesting methods will be used in line with studies made to identify plant communities and to predict their response to changes.

By utilizing this information, selective cutting will be made in part of the sale, while 13 clearcut units totaling 44 acres will be logged in infested areas.

In addition, "seed tree" areas - where six or eight superior trees are left standing to provide seed - round out the harvest planning, Coston said.

Consulting with Frandsen and his staff were Dr. Walter Megahan, watershed specialist, and Russel Ryker, silviculture specialist, both with the staff of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

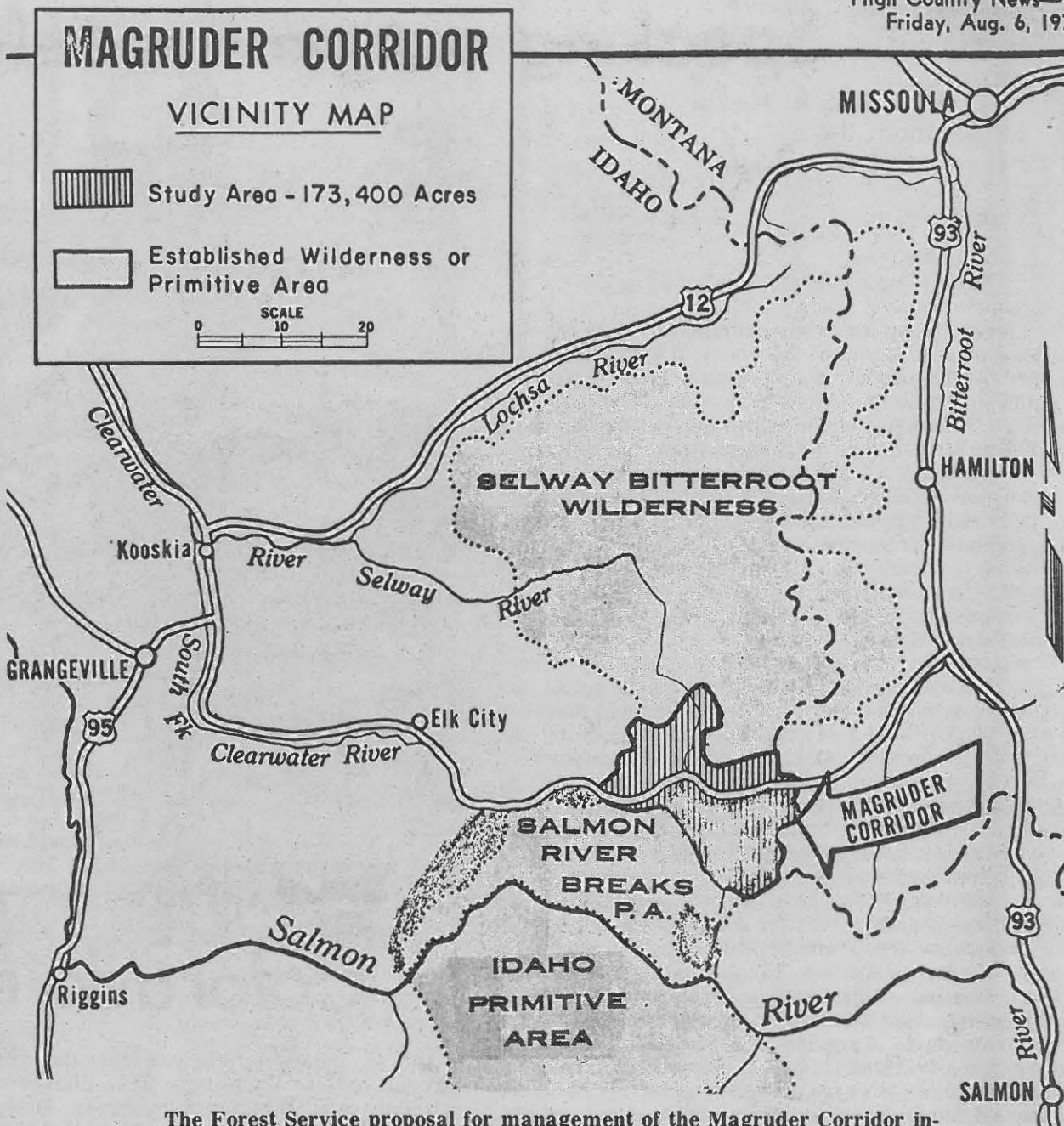
Environmental safeguards reflected in the timber sale contract will include mulching of work roads with straw, restricting tractor use near stream banks and re-seeding skid trails. Restrictions will also be made on sheep grazing during logging and afterwards in areas where new tree seedlings are starting.

Coston said national forest rangers must now consider certain questions in preparing a timber sale, including:

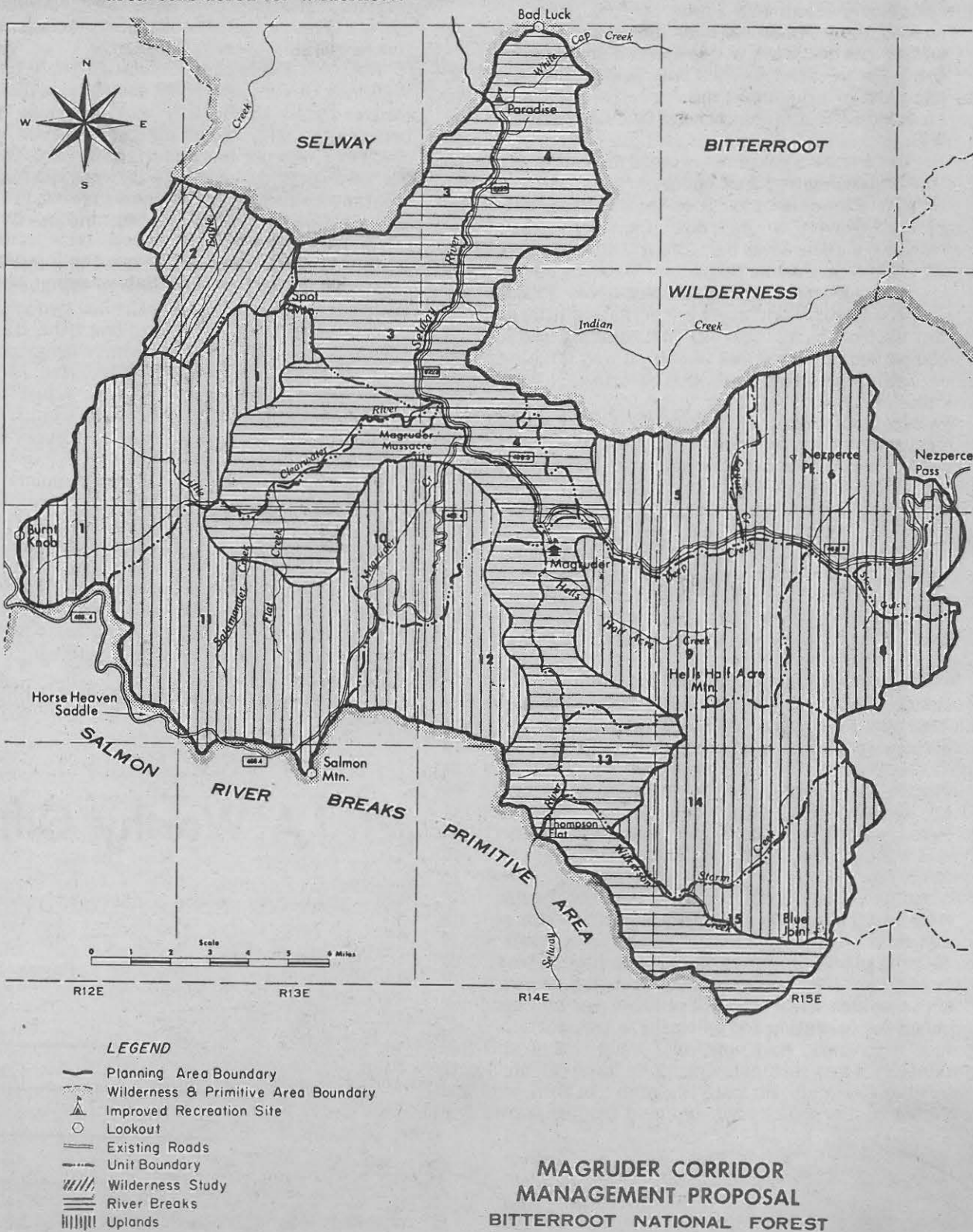
- Will special consideration be necessary in order to give protection to natural beauty values on all or a part of the sales area?
- Will clearcutting - even if considered the best practice on a particular stand - need to be curtailed or excluded?
- Does the project area involve habitats needed by rare or endangered species of wildlife?
- Will special action be necessary to protect fish habitat?

Coston said there are many other items to be considered on the environmental checklist.

"We're beginning to get a better job of timber management and our critics have had a hand in it," he said. "For one thing, they've helped us identify alternatives. They also helped to get some increased financing needed to do a quality job."



The Forest Service proposal for management of the Magruder Corridor includes an uplands area of approximately 81,400 acres. This area, the Forest Service says, has a potential for timber harvest and recreational development. Approximately 85,000 acres are recommended for river breaks management because of the scenic and recreational values. Conservationists want most of the area considered for wilderness.



Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

Whenever I hear the word "naturalist," I think of a gentle old man called Sam. In a way, it's strange that I should remember him so clearly because, during a lifetime, his path and mine have crossed only twice. The first time was for a few short summer months when I was a child; the second time was for one afternoon, ten or eleven years later.

Sam was a carpenter, and that is how I happened to meet him. I was about nine the summer he built the cabin for our family, in the mountains of northern Colorado. My sisters and I loved to watch him at his work, but best of all was going with him for a walk in the woods, or down by the creek. Somehow, he always seemed to know beforehand just what we would find.

It was he who showed us the willow-lined draw where the blue gentians grew, and the grassy slope across the creek where we could count six or seven different shades of red paintbrush. He seemed to know exactly which day was the right one to return to the shallow pond full of tadpoles, so we could see how they "turned into frogs." One day he found a doll-sized bird's nest, with three incredibly small hummingbird eggs in it; another day, he cut open an abandoned hornet's nest, so we could examine it. He taught us to recognize the resounding cry of the red-winged blackbird, and the scary hoo-oo-oo of the owl. It was Sam who convinced me (finally!) that the dragon-fly is not a fearsome, stinging enemy, but rather, a harmless creature of great beauty.

There were lots of little grey squirrels around, and one day I decided that it would be fun to catch one, and have it for my very own. Eagerly, I ran to where Sam was working, and asked him if he would help me build a cage, if I should catch one. His eyes mirrored neither approval nor disapproval, but the rhythm of his saw slowed perceptibly, as he told me about the ways of wild creatures. He mentioned mothers taking care of the babies until they were old enough to explore for themselves; he mentioned their love of freedom, and their fear of man. There was no reproach in his voice (I didn't even feel scolded!), but somehow the cage was never mentioned again!

Too soon, the summer was over and we had to move back to town.

During the next few years I was busy going to school, and just plain growing up. I didn't really forget Sam. We spent our summers at the cabin, and I would remember him with a smile when I found a blue gentian, or heard a blackbird's cry. Or when a gossamer-winged dragonfly skimmed over the water where I was fishing.

Home for a summer's vacation from college, one of my sisters and I drove to a ranch down the river for lunch one day. A new bunkhouse was being built, and we learned with pleasure that Sam was the carpenter. We went out to where he was working and re-introduced ourselves. The laugh-lines in his weather-worn face were perhaps a little deeper - other than that, he was just as I had remembered him. It seemed perfectly natural that he said "I was thinking about hiking up to Middlefork Falls this afternoon. Would you girls like to come along?"

We accepted eagerly. Privately, Lou and I agreed that we must remember that Sam was getting pretty well along in years, so we shouldn't set too fast a pace over the difficult trail up through the canyon. Famous last words! The only times during the whole afternoon that we managed to catch up with that spry old gentleman, were the times that he waited for us, so that he could point out something of interest! An otter, swimming easily against the current beneath the bank on the other side of the creek. A wide-eyed owl, watching us work our way upstream as he sat motionless on a tree branch. An especially deep-hued clump of columbine.

When we reached our destination we looked, in appreciative silence, at the scene before us. White water tumbled with a roar over a rocky cliff high above, and into a deep round pool that was edged with blue spruce and quaking aspen. A rainbow shimmered where the sun was shining on the spray of water. Finally, Sam broke the silence by suggesting that if we looked on the other side of that grassy knoll, we might find ripe wild strawberries. Again I wondered, as I had wondered during that childhood summer, how Sam always seemed to know just where to look, and just what we would find! This time, I asked him.

"I've eaten hundreds of strawberries from this patch," he answered, with his gentle smile. "You see, this is one of my favorite places, and I try to come up here at least once every summer, because it's so beautiful, and so peaceful."

With a sudden sense of awe, I realized just how generous had been his invitation for us to share this particular afternoon with him! And now, as I write this, I still feel grateful that I was fortunate enough to have my life's path cross, even fleetingly, the path of a man like Sam, who was so willing to share his knowledge, and his love, of nature.



Bart Rea and his son, David, of Casper, Wyoming, brought in three more poisoned eagles they found July 18 in Little Red Creek Canyon on Casper Mountain. So far, 24 dead eagles have been found in the vicinity since May 1.

Colorado Editor Replies

"It is indeed unfortunate that the Chief Executive of Wyoming has chosen to misrepresent the facts," states Denver publisher, Merrill G. Hastings, who is President of the Colorado - Rocky Mountain West magazine.

"Governor Stan Hathaway has conjured up a great excuse for his ineptness in environmental matters," Hastings goes on to say, "but nothing can erase his record of ecological fumbling in the Cowboy State."

Hastings made the remarks in reply to the Wyoming Governor's recent accusations that the Denver-based publication was attacking him because the state would not buy advertising.

"The Governor has distorted the facts to suit his own political needs," retorts Hastings. "Hathaway should know by now that our Editors judge a Governor by his deeds, and not by his advertising dollars."

Earlier Hathaway had declared that Hastings "has had something vindictive to say about me or the state in every issue for the last two years."

"Nothing could be further from the truth," Hastings has countered. "We have occasionally criticized Wyoming's Chief Executive for his poor conservation record, and he's just plain sore about it. But Hathaway flatters himself by saying that he has been mentioned in every issue since that's simply not so."

"On the other hand," Hastings points out, "we are constantly publicizing the many wonders of Wyoming. And I challenge the Governor to find one single derogatory remark about the State itself. Why doesn't he mention the beautiful center picture spread of the Tetons in our current issue, plus numerous other color photographs and the many fine stories and articles which we regularly publish about Wyoming?"

"We have not once said anything detrimental

about Wonderful Wyoming, and I personally resent Hathaway's misrepresentation of my magazine just to make himself look good."

In answering the Governor's charges, Hastings has revealed that on several occasions Hathaway tried to persuade him to print the name of Wyoming on the magazine's front cover in the same size of that of Colorado.

"We would not concede to the Wyoming Governor's wishes," Hastings declares, "and will continue to report on Hathaway's seeming indifference to environmental considerations - not the least of which is some unbelievable gubernatorial graffiti wherein for hundreds of miles the Governor has had bright yellow paint splashed on large roadside stones leading to the National Park and attached his nameplate to the first rock which he himself painted."

According to Hastings, Governor Hathaway has long been criticized by local members of the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited and the Wyoming citizens. In addition, Hastings pointed out that the US Forest Service has just released a 90-page printed report titled "Forest Management in Wyoming" which is severely critical of recent timber cutting in the Teton, Bridger, Shoshone and Bighorn National Forests.

"The trees are non-partisan, and so are we when it comes to conservation matters," Hastings summarizes. "And I would like to point out that our magazine has received the unqualified support of both Senators Gale McGee and Clifford Hansen as well as that of Wyoming's Congressman Teno Roncalio."

The Colorado Rocky Mountain West Magazine is distributed nationally and now has a paid circulation in excess of 140,000 copies per issue. In addition, the slick paper publication is being carried aboard all flights of both Continental and Western Airlines and on every plane of TWA worldwide.

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THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

Rivers live; lakes die. These are simple facts, but they have many complex implications for the wild world. The life expectancy of rivers is infinite; the life expectancy of lakes is limited, whether they be man-made or natural. Rivers continually change the landscape through which they run to the sea, to a land-bound lake, or into the earth itself. Lakes cease to exist because their sources dry up or their damming device becomes eroded or they simply fill up with silt and vegetation or evaporites.

The Snake, the Salmon, the Colorado rivers have each carved a gorge more than a mile deep, but the Snake and the Colorado have both had their tools taken away by dams that have turned rivers into lakes, lakes that are dying, lakes that have been filling with silt since the day they began impounding water.

Now there is nothing necessarily bad about a lake's dying. It is natural, part of the pattern of things. A beaver builds a dam. The pond behind the dam gradually fills with silt, but the water flowing through and over the dam is clear and pure. Decaying vegetation and debris of several kinds—both plant and animal—fills in the pond, and in a few years the pond has become a marsh, then a meadow, and eventually it is added to the productive land of the natural world.

A pothole lake such as the little pond in Jackson Hole just west of Hedrick's Pond (visible from the main Highway—U. S. 26, 89, 187, 189) is less than nine thousand years old, but it is nearing its end as a lake. The cirque lakes in the heart of the Tetons are dying more slowly as they fill in gradually with rock and finer products of the powers of erosion. The moraine-made lakes are filling in too, and the one at the end of School-room Glacier at the head of the South Fork of Cascade Canyon burst its dam the summer of 1957 to spew mud and silt for miles down the canyon.

Man-made reservoirs die even faster than natural lakes because they seldom fit into the ecological pattern of things.

Evaporation concentrates the salts. The slowing of the water allows the silt to settle out. Debris of various kinds is caught and waterlogged and added to the sediments that fall to the bottom, slowly but surely filling in the lake that man created to produce power or prevent floods or provide irrigation waters to dry lands that were never meant to be cultivated (such as the rolling hills of the Snake River plains east of Idaho Falls where the farmers are literally mining the land to raise more potatoes to burn or more grain to stockpile).

But the river—by contrast—lives, often despite the dams that stem its freeflowing nature, dams that control its current and fluctuate its flow and kill its insect population and poison its fish and alter the ecological pattern of its wildlife. Even Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park, a natural lake on the formerly free-flowing course of the Snake River, alters the Snake, for the lake level has been raised by the building of a dam, raising the storage capacity of the lake. This increased storage capacity delays the spring run-off on the river below the dam just long enough to drown out dozens of duck and goose nests. It also alters the spawning cycle of the native cut-throat trout and interferes with the natural insect reproduction so necessary to trout production.

But despite the damming of the Snake, the river lives, fed as it is by tributary streams that no dams control. The river bank is undercut by the high waters of the spring run-off, and silt, gravel and sand are added to the suspended load of the river. Trees, undercut by the rapid flow of high water, plunge into the water to float downstream and lodge on gravel bars (almost always with their root-systems upstream, their tops pointing in the direction of the current flow) and islands.

These trees protect emerging islands and help to slow the current momentarily so that the suspended load of the river settles out on the bars and islands, providing rich soil in which willow takes root to stabilize the bars and islands that ultimately emerge from the free-flowing river to change the whole pattern of the river. In the 12 years since I first floated the Snake River regularly, I've seen ten-foot-deep channels become foot-high islands, and I've seen fifty feet of shoreline, dominated by ancient cottonwoods and climax forests of blue spruce, cut back and added to the changing pattern of the river.

The beaver, building his lodges on the bank rather than damming the river, finds good protection in the root systems of the river-side alders or under the leaning trees. He cuts the cottonwoods along the shore until he must go too far from water to be safe from coyote attack, and he may have to move to another area for adequate food, but the river, continually cutting away at the bank, opens up new areas to the beaver as it moves closer to previously-isolated trees.

A dying lake isn't a bad thing in nature, nor is the changing course of a river, even if it changes property lines.

It is part of the nature of things, but nature often upsets man's plans and the order of things in man's attempt to reach a status quo. But nature is never standing still, and the balance of nature is never static. It is a living growing developing thing, a dynamic continuum, an ever-changing life-giving process, and even the dying of a lake is a life-giving part of the pattern, a pattern that man seldom understands adequately and too often tries to control for his own short-sighted use.



The Big Missouri through central Montana is once more being considered for wild and scenic designation. Sen. Lee Metcalf recently held hearings on a proposal to set aside a long reach of the river, upstream from Ft. Peck Reservoir. The Corps of Engineers wants to build a dam at Cow Creek, just above Ft. Peck, which would flood more of the great river. Shown here is Steamboat Rock, near the May 30, 1805, campsite of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

Grazing Fees in News

Identical new bills introduced by Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall (Colo.) and Gordon Allott (Colo.) have put the western livestock industry squarely on record in support of grazing recommendations of the Public Land

Rancher...

Casper, Laramie, Scottsbluff and other cities and towns in a campaign of several years to carve out the wilderness area.

The Wyo-Braska Boy Scout Council, with headquarters in Scottsbluff, joined the movement with vigorous support.

Despite opposition of the Forest Service from the start, and some business interest in his home community of Douglas, Fawcett enlisted the aid of Congressman Teno Roncalio, who introduced the bill creating the wilderness area.

The Forest Service pointed out that the area was too small to qualify for a wilderness area under the federal law, and pushed its own plan to open the area to roads and campsites so that the maximum number of people would benefit. The plan included building a \$100,000 road to harvest \$25,000 worth of Ponderosa Pine.

Fawcett countered that the Ashenfelter Basin north of Laramie Peak is one of the few unspoiled, untrampled areas in eastern Wyoming and should be left in its natural state for Boy Scouts, hikers and nature lovers. It's only a short hike from the perimeter into the heart of the area.

Providing roads and campgrounds would create the usual problem of policing the area for tin cans, garbage and other litter.

Few residents of the area can take advantage of the big wilderness areas in western Wyoming, so the Laramie Peak area is a "natural."

The tall, lanky rancher took color slides of the Ponderosa Pines, the flora and the fauna of the area, and showed them to outdoor groups; he took newspapermen and Sierra Club members on hiking tours, he talked on the radio and kept up a one-man crusade in the face of opposition from the Forest Service and logging interests in his own community. He had been a small sawmill operator at one time, but realized that the cost of harvesting Ponderosa Pine in this area was not justified.

As a rancher, he runs cattle in the area. But his rustic drift fences do not detract from the scenic and recreation values. And there is no overgrazing.

The story of Art Fawcett points up the fact that some of our best conservationists and ecologists are ranchers, and also realists.

Law Review Commission, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

Conservationists are concerned about this move by the livestock industry in that the proposals, H.R. 9002 and S. 2028, would be contrary to multiple-use concepts and policies on western public lands, including U.S. Forest Service holdings. The bills would make many significant changes in policy. For example, a grazing fee formula would be established that would give stockmen a proprietary right to public lands by giving credit for their costs in purchasing a grazing privilege from their neighbors.

In addition, the bills seek to give a 20-year renewable right to graze the public lands with little or no limitation placed on how the grazing would be performed. Under the Aspinall-Allott proposals, ranchers would be compensated for any reduction in grazing privileges.

Conservationists had hoped that another "range war" would not be started and that the two groups, which could have many common goals, would adopt multiple-use principles in the management of public lands. Most conservationists consider the bills far off base and undeserving of consideration. Should these proposals advance, many people interested in good public land management fear that counter proposals by interests having much broader concern about western public lands could bring an end to all commercial livestock use of the lands.

Fishermen Warned

"Unusually high water in the streams and lakes of Yellowstone National Park present a hazard to fishermen," warned officials of the park recently. The high water is created by the runoff of the exceptional amount of snowfall last winter.

Officials said in many places where fishermen can normally wade and fish at this time of the year, the water is too deep and swift, and could sweep a person off his feet if caught unaware.

Fishermen are urged to test the stream bed cautiously before entering the water. It is always best to fish with a companion.

All waters in the park, except those closed for domestic water supply and other reasons, will be open to fishing July 15. Fishermen are urged to obtain a copy of the fishing regulations from any ranger station so they may become familiar with special regulations pertaining to Yellowstone.



Wyoming Congressman Teno Roncalio discusses House Interior Committee hearings on his Washakie Wilderness bill with Harry Crandall, director of wilderness reviews for The Wilderness Society. The Subcommittee on Public Lands heard testimony on July 23 from Roncalio, John McGuire, associate chief of the Forest Service, and Crandall. The testimony produced conflict over the status of the DuNoir area. Under the bill's fifth section, DuNoir would be set aside as a special management unit with prohibitions on timber harvesting, road building or motor vehicle usage. The Forest Service asked that Section Five be stricken, claiming that existing regulations provide protection. Crandall disagreed and said DuNoir should be included in the wilderness area. He said evidence of human intrusion is minor and increasingly unobtrusive. At Roncalio's request, the Subcommittee will resume hearings sometime in September. His request was prompted by the desire of interested persons in Wyoming to gain time for extensive testimony on the issue. The DuNoir area was selectively cut by tiehacks around 40 years ago, leaving evidence of logging roads and stumps which are now almost rotted away. The area is especially important for the protection of large elk herds which must migrate through the area to reach vital wintering grounds. Conservationists feel the best protection for the area would be through wilderness designation. Wildlife biologists agree.

Keep It Beautiful

If America hired people for the job, it would take the largest sort of army to keep our country free of litter.

But there's no need to hire anyone. It's a job we can do for ourselves. All of us. Every family that spreads a picnic lunch. Every boatman who cruises the lakes and waterways. Every motorist who uses our roads and highways.

This is our land. Let's treat it right.



ENVIRONOTES

Coal Gasification Is Dirty

William E. Lloyd, a Washington patent attorney, told the Senate Subcommittee on Minerals, Materials and Fuels that, "Coal gasification is inherently a dirty process." He said that unless strict environmental controls are required, the plants could cause much more harm than good by polluting areas of the country which have not yet experienced extensive air pollution. The principal by-products are fly ash and hydrogen sulfide. The process extracts methane gas from coal. Senator Clifford P. Hansen and Representative Teno Roncalio, both of Wyoming, have requested that a large-scale demonstration plant be constructed in their state.

Teton River Dam Slated

Approval by the House Appropriations Committee of a \$4.58 billion appropriations bill for water and power development and the AEC on July 26 included \$10,655,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation for construction of Lower Teton Dam in Idaho. The Bureau has announced it will open bids on the \$50 million project on Sept. 9. The Bureau says project modifications include a minimum flow of 300 cubic feet per second rather than 150 cfs to meet objections of fish and wildlife opponents. Also to be "considered" is purchase of big game range to replace that destroyed by the reservoir. This would be in addition to \$1 million assigned to mitigation of fish and wildlife losses. The reservoir would flood 17 miles of the Teton River which is considered one of the best cutthroat trout streams remaining in the West. It would also inundate critical winter range for some 500 to 1,000 head of deer. The project has been protested by the Idaho Environmental Council, Trout Unlimited, and other conservation groups.

Mining Law To Be Discussed

Kick-off hearings on changes in the federal mining law are slated for Billings, Montana, on Aug. 18 by a Senate Interior subcommittee chaired by Sen. Frank Moss of Utah. Views will be presented by the mining industry, the U.S. Forest Service, and concerned private citizens. The problem of mining on public lands is described as being a "politically ripe subject."

River May Be Wild & Scenic

A recent hearing in Montana on Sen. Lee Metcalf's bill to create a 175-mile stretch of wild and scenic river on the Missouri resulted in widely divergent views. Developers want to build the proposed High Cow Creek Dam and generally leave the river area open to development and exploitation. Conservationists want the river left as it is - which is much like it was when Lewis and Clark saw it in 1805. The National Park Service endorses Metcalf's proposal because it is very similar to recommendations made by the Service in 1968 for a Missouri River Breaks National River.

West Faces Water Crisis

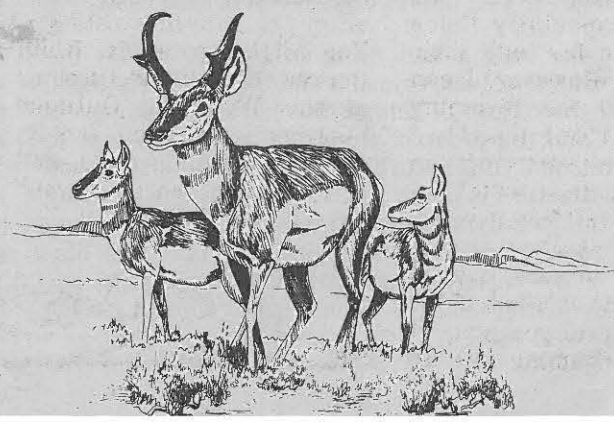
Ellis Armstrong, commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, says the western United States faces a severe water shortage crisis by the year 2020 unless aggressive action is taken soon. Armstrong says water requirements will increase 500 percent over 1960 levels, while population will increase by 300 percent. He says water supplies in the Southwest are already running out "due in large part to greater population and greater per capita use of water."

Recreation Lands Designated

A unique area in eastern Oregon has been designated as Steens Mountain Recreation Lands. The Bureau of Land Management which administers almost three-fourths of the land has developed a plan for management along with private landowners. The proposal is a recreation management and development plan, including roads, trails, a wild river zone, natural areas, roadless areas and recreation sites. The recreation plan will consider such elements as air quality, siltation of streams, sewage disposal, off-road vehicles, and horse or foot trails. Public use of the 194,000 acre area has more than tripled since 1960, from about 60,000 to 224,000 visitor days in 1970.

Environmentalists - Ranchers To Talk

Bruce Ward of Casper, president of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, praised the newly elected president of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, Bruce Von Forrel. Ward said that for the first time a spokesman for the industry had indicated that sportsmen and other environmentalists should be entitled to a voice in the management of wildlife and control of predators. Ward said previous spokesmen - including Gov. Stanley K. Hathaway - had "dismissed environmentalists as drug store cowboys, sick newcomers and Johnny-come-latelies who were trying to preserve Wyoming as a part of the West to the exclusion of all industrial development or realistic livestock management." Ward said he had written to Von Forrel suggesting a meeting between members of the two opposing factions to discuss mutual problems. Livestock groups have accepted. The suggestion came in the wake of a \$679 fine against the outgoing president of the Stockgrowers for killing antelope and using the carcasses as poisoned baits.



Buffalo Is On Comeback Trail

The buffalo has made a comeback.

Almost extinct in the 1880's when the savage slaughter by buffalo hunters was finally brought to a halt, the buffalo is plentiful again in its native South Dakota.

Today, one-third of all American buffalo can be found in South Dakota, according to Ralph E. Johnston, curator at the South Dakota State University Museum and Heritage Center, Brookings.

"Although nobody knows for sure the exact number of buffalo in the United States," Johnston said, "there are approximately 15,000. I have proof that we have at least 5,000 in South Dakota."

It was here in South Dakota that the buffalo made his home for centuries, living on the grassy plains during the summer and wintering at the base of the Black Hills. It was here that the massive beast and the Indian made their last heroic stands against the onslaught of the white man, and it was the loss of this mighty animal that finally brought the courageous Sioux to their knees.

The buffalo, once the most numerous of all large four-legged creatures, reaching populations of 30 to 50 million, was of great importance to the plains Indians. Economy, way of life and even portions of Indian religion revolved around this rugged animal.

Johnston started studying the buffalo in 1968 and since then has compiled folders of information, research and correspondence concerning buffalo, their history, numbers and preservation. His principal sources of information have been the National Park Service Wildlife Inventory, Department of Agriculture surveys, an agriculture and livestock census and personal surveys.

The greatest number of buffalo in South Dakota is contained in large private herds in Stanley and Jones Counties, according to Johnston. The largest private herd in South Dakota is Triple "U" Enterprises at Fort Pierre, owned by Roy Houch, president of the National

Buffalo Association.

"It appears to be a growing industry," Johnston said. "Men are making a business of raising buffalo for commercial meat and for a curiosity animal, something for the people to come and look at."

In addition to these huge herds, approximately 2,000 buffalo can be found in public herds in South Dakota. One of the largest herds in the nation is at Custer State Park in the Black Hills with 1,450 head of buffalo. Others are at Wind Cave National Park and Badlands National Monument.

The remainder of buffalo in South Dakota are scattered in small herds and zoos, mostly in the western part of the state.

The present-day buffalo population is the culmination of nation-wide efforts to save the vanishing species. The 15,000 is a far cry from 19th century's millions, but it was not until the buffalo numbered only about 20 in the entire United States that actions were taken.

Scotty Phillips, a South Dakota rancher, is one of the men credited with saving the buffalo from extinction. Because his wife, a full-blooded Sioux, grieved that buffalo would disappear forever, Phillips took it upon himself to help preserve the animal.

He acquired 60 animals which became the base stock for the buffalo now roaming the plains and Black Hills of South Dakota. The South Dakota State University Museum and Heritage Center has a display honoring the once-common prairie inhabitant. The display contains a large buffalo head, a buffalo painting, a buffalo coat and printed material about the Dakota bison. Johnston said the display also contains buffalo chips, a once-common pioneer fuel. He added that the museum also plans to obtain a buffalo skull and bones in the near future.

The herd held at 1,500 animals in Custer State Park ranks second only to Mount Rushmore as the most photographed attraction in South Dakota. Over a million vacationers visited the herd last summer.

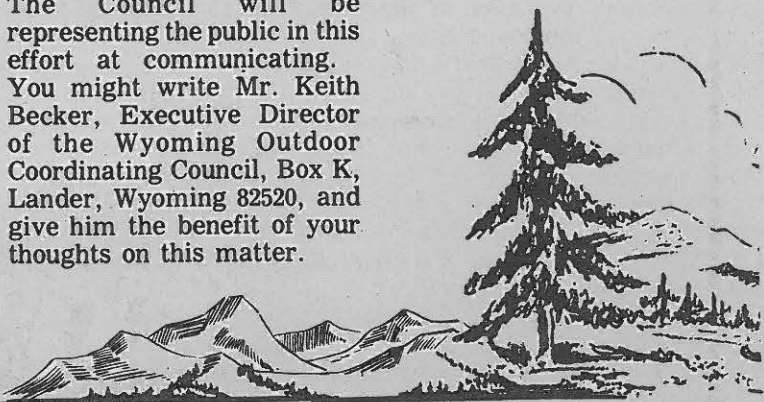


Small herds of buffalo are all that remain of unnumbered millions. But the small herds keep growing. Wyoming's Red Desert is a likely site for re-establishment. Here buffalo once roamed but are now gone.

Letters to the editor...

Editor's note: Thank you for asking and for your concern. I am not sure I can answer your question about communicating with the ranchers, especially those who take the law into their own hands. However, I can tell you that the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, a responsible group of active environmentalists, has taken the initiative in asking the ranchers for a meeting to discuss mutual problems, one of which is the predator control problem. It is only a beginning but we

hope it is one which will work to the mutual advantage of the public and the industry. The Council will be representing the public in this effort at communicating. You might write Mr. Keith Becker, Executive Director of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520, and give him the benefit of your thoughts on this matter.



Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"Somebody's going to get hung from a tree.
I decided it might as well NOT be me!"
So he told the gory
Eagle death story.
Who "gets hung?" We must wait and see.

The California Board of Forestry has reversed a decision to allow clearcutting of 145,796 acres of redwood forest. The reversal came after Simpson Lumber Co. requested the change. The timber company said it made the request to avoid embarrassment for Gov. Ronald Reagan's administration. Reagan had said in early July that the company would request the change after conservationists and state legislators had protested the board decision to allow clearcutting of the large area.

A poll taken in California showed that about 29 percent of the residents, or six million people, wanted to move to another state. The state rated highest in their favor was Oregon.

Twenty-eight head of cattle located on a ranch near Gooding, Idaho, died 10 to 15 minutes after they were sprayed with what was thought to be a fly spray for dairy cattle.

Pan American World Airways says it will not book anymore tours after August 31 which involve the killing of endangered species of animals. Pan Am is the first major travel organization to announce such a ban.

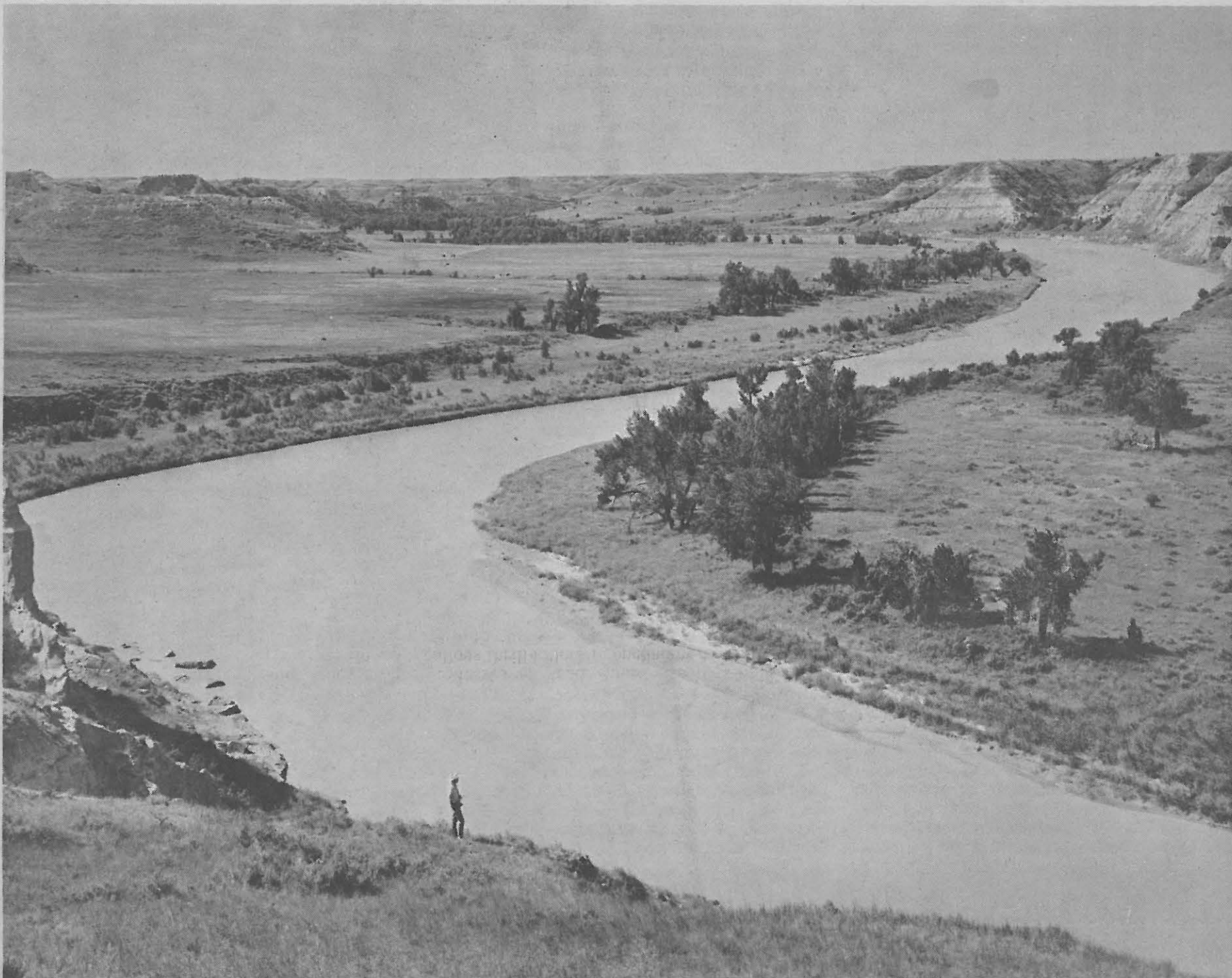
A one-month cram course in environmental problems with emphasis on what the citizen can do and how he can educate others is now in session at Pingree Park, Colorado. The course is offered by Creighton University at Omaha where the first week was spent.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says farm fertilizers may be possible sources of pollution, but it says no one is sure the problem exists. The Farm Index, published by the Economic Research Service, carried an article in the July issue which said, "Very little is known about how much fertilizer moves in either surface or ground water, nor do we know how much of the nitrogen and phosphorus in our water supply actually comes from fertilizer."

The Recreational Vehicle Institute reports a total of 3.5 million recreational vehicles on America's roads. By 1980, the figure is expected to go to 7.5 million vehicles in use. The Institute reports that as recently as 1956, there were only about 15,000 travel trailers and motor homes.

The Harris Survey reports 59 percent of American people are willing to pay \$15 a year in additional taxes "to finance a federal program to control air and water pollution." In 1967, the results of the poll showed only 46 percent in favor. The 1971 poll showed 34 percent of the citizenry to be opposed to the added taxes.

Scientists believe geothermal sources (underground hot water and steam) may be able to provide up to five percent of the total electric energy now used in the U.S. The West Coast seems to be peculiarly blessed with this relatively non-polluting source. Some scientists believe the use of this power could provide time to develop better and safer methods of using fossil fuels or nuclear sources.



Room to roam . . . in the rugged beauty of the North Dakota badlands.

Eagles . . .

He testified that Werner had paid at least \$15,000 in bounty money to the flying service. He said Werner paid \$50 for every coyote killed and \$25 for every eagle. Werner raised Hell when he learned Visitiner had only paid \$10 for every eagle killed.

Most ranchers paid the flying service a flat fee of \$80 an hour. Some paid the rate whether anything was killed or not.

He also said he went to work for Werner and was sent to Minneapolis where he bought a used helicopter for \$17,000.

Vogan said that someone from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department had seen a pile of dead eagles and taken photos of them. When asked if he had actually seen the incident, he said he had not but was told by several people about it.

He also said the Colorado Fish and Game had once stopped two of the gunners when they had a load of coyotes which had been shot from the air. He said no one had followed up on the incident.

Most of the eagles killed were goldens. Vogan said he didn't think more than five were bald eagles. He said, "I avoided bald eagles because they were hard to kill . . . If you shoot a bald eagle, I guarantee you earn your money."

Vogan said that besides eagles and coyotes, the gunners had shot elk, deer, antelope, geese, and a bear, killed by his son on the Rochelle ranch near Rawlins.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed said Vogan's statistics were "absolutely sickening." He said the evidence collected by federal game agents "indicated that this sordid story is a cold, callous, deliberate defiance of federal and state law."

A number of federal agents are now in Wyoming, armed with search warrants and collecting evidence. No warrants have been issued as this is written.

Werner has not been available for comment.

by Tom Bell

Messes of dead eagles - bounty money - callous thrill-killers - nonchalant ranchers - it's all in the day's work!

But how can you possibly make sense out of such chilling revelations? Some people will do anything for money. But this? Or was it just for sport?

The shooting deaths of some 800 eagles dropped like a bomb on the national scene. Coming on the heels of poisoning, game killing and prositution of justice, it seems almost too much to take.

To those on the local scene, the fact that shooting eagles had been done illegally by the ranchers involved was no surprise. The scale of the operation, the numbers killed and the amount of money expended just for killing eagles does come as a big surprise. It gives the lie to an industry supposedly about to expire because of economic difficulties.

James O. Vogan, the helicopter pilot who turned states evidence in the killing of the eagles, was known for some time before he exposed himself to Sen. Gale McGee. Photographs of him and his helicopter, complete with shotgun and shells, had been taken inadvertently at the airport in Casper, Wyoming. That photograph and the fact that the "heat" was on may have convinced him of impending exposure.

His move was the kind of break enforcement officers had been hoping for. Wyoming Game and Fish Department field men have known for some time of clandestine and illegal operations involving not only eagle shooting but the killing of deer and antelope from the air and the subsequent poisoning of the carcasses. There seemed to be no way to apprehend the violators for a man and his gunner in a plane can see for many miles around and shoot only when they are certain they cannot be observed.

It seemed only a matter of time before events would lead to a break. The accusation by Vogan that rancher Herman Werner was one of the principals in the case was to be expected. A pile

of dead eagles was seen on one of his ranches as early as March but when the observer returned with witnesses and a camera the eagles were gone.

It was Werner and his son-in-law, Van Irvine, who built some 68 miles of illegal and unauthorized sheep-tight fence on public lands in 1966. When confronted, Werner claimed he did not know that what he had done was wrong. Because of his power and prestige, the Bureau of Land Management made the fencing legal by merely issuing authorization for its construction.

The fence still effectively surrounds large blocks of public land which are important to antelope in the area.

It is ironic that Werner later built more fence on the public lands adjacent to his Bolton Ranch, where most of the eagle killing took place. His brazen action resulted in an order by a Federal examiner to remove his fence.

Werner is a director of the Wyoming National Bank at Casper, and, by his own admission, Wyoming's largest sheep operator.

Help Save Trees

Paper plates, napkins and paper towels come from trees, a dwindling and expensive resource. By using non-disposable cups, plates and other utensils, many trees can be saved.

The "disposable everything" explosion has developed another problem—waste. If you have the choice between a non-disposable and disposable item, buy the permanent one.

Reuse paper bags or take your own cloth bags to the store. Recycle the waste you do have. An empty garbage can is a sign of ecological awareness.

Colored facial and bathroom tissue have dyes and inks that pollute water and retard natural organic decomposition. Buy white tissues and towels if you must use paper.