

# High Country

The Outdoor and  
Environmental Bi-Weekly

# News

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, Sept. 3, 1971

## Senator Says He Is Shocked

Senator Gale McGee warns of surprise and shock when full details of eagle killing are revealed. McGee, speaking to the Laramie, Wyoming, Chamber of Commerce, said the surprise would be for those who have criticized helicopter pilot James Vogan's testimony.

"We have been checking out various aspects of this case and when the government presents its prosecution, it will shock the people of this state," McGee said.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel Reed told conservationists in Denver Monday that evidence would be presented to a Federal grand jury "early in October." Reed said every available agent was working on the eagle-killing situation.

Senator McGee said the "severity of the depredation" was a cause of "deep shocks" to him. He said the cases were being made not only on Vogan's testimony but on other evidence uncovered in the current investigation.

McGee also said he would introduce new legislation calling for an increase in the fine for killing eagles from the present \$500 and six-month jail penalty to \$5,000 and a one-year jail sentence. His proposed bill would also make it a criminal offense to hunt any wildlife from aircraft.

Another section of McGee's proposal would provide for cancellation of federal leases on land, water or timber in cases of conviction under the terms of the act.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has also said he is looking into the possibility of rescinding grazing leases from any rancher found guilty of killing eagles.

'Meanwhile, back at the ranch' - Herman Werner, the Wyoming sheepman who allegedly ordered the mass killing of eagles from helicopters, found his own eagles shrouded in black.

Werner has two facsimiles of bald eagles sitting atop the fireplace structure on his home in Casper. He said he had obtained the concrete eagles from a defunct White Eagle refinery in North Dakota.

Last week, persons unknown climbed to the roof of the Werner residence and draped black cloth over the statues. The parties then addressed the following statement to the news media:

"This evening (Friday) a group of us placed black shrouds over the eagles perched on Herman Werner's roof. Cognizant of Mr. Werner's deep grief at the recent loss of over 500 eagles in Wyoming, we are sure that he will consider our actions proper and justified. Perhaps he will deem it proper to leave his stone eagles in mourning over the deaths of their flesh and blood brothers.

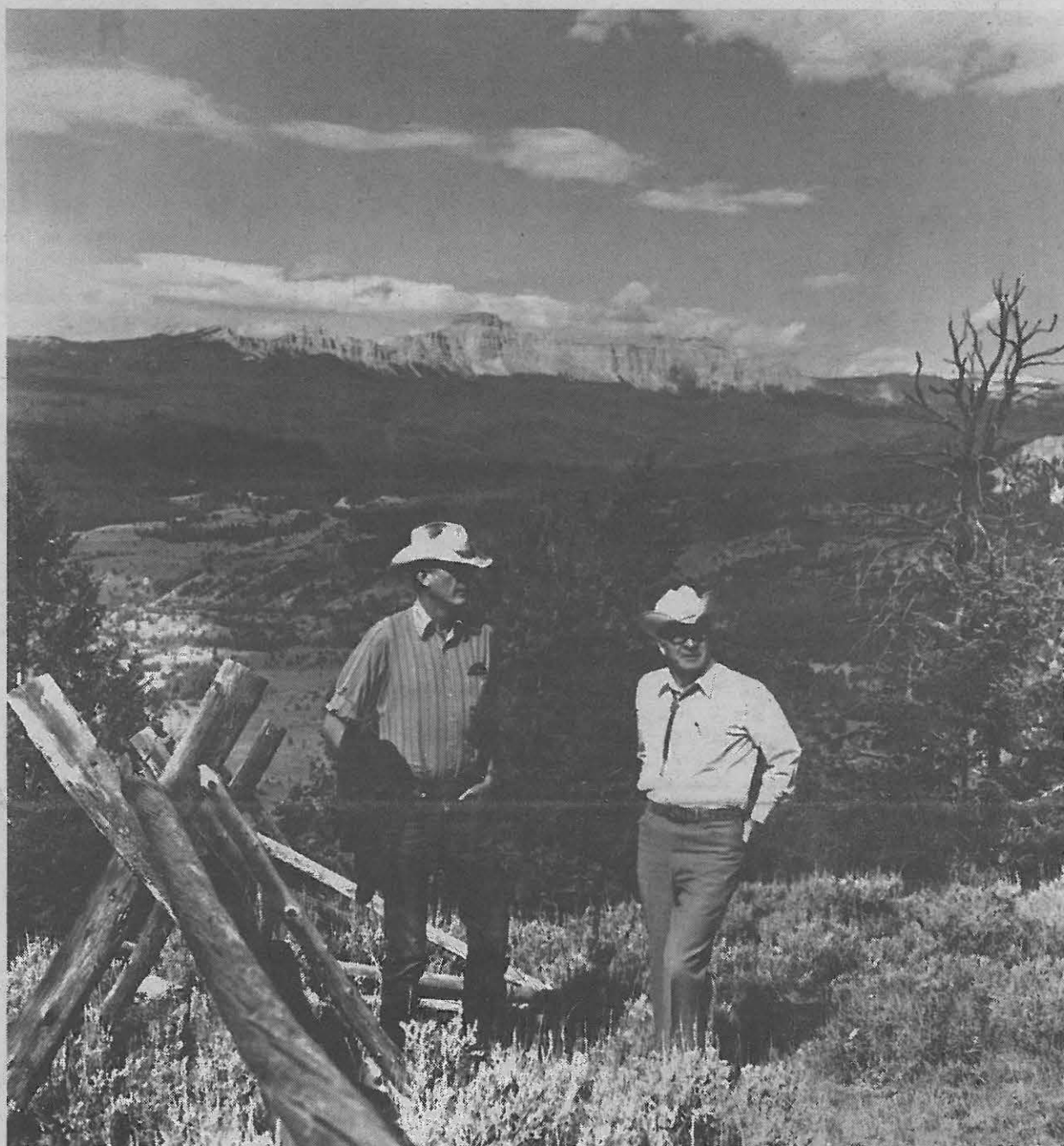
"We have violated the law of trespass to shroud the eagles. If we are caught and prosecuted, we expect no problems. The law has demonstrated gracious leniency in recent eagle decisions. Should we not expect the same?

"Our actions should not be considered as a personal attack on Mr. Werner. We respect his many fine accomplishments and realize that he may share little or no responsibility in the eagle slaughters. We intend only to express our concern over senseless slaughter and to demand that those responsible be censured accordingly. We call upon the people of Wyoming not to let this issue die.

"In a sense, Mr. Werner is extremely lucky. Shrouded or not, he still has his eagles. Someone has shot or poisoned most of ours."

Werner had the shrouds removed and remarked they "sure would look good on Gale McGee and Jim Vogan."

(Please turn to page 11.)



Wyoming Congressman Teno Roncalio (right) discusses the Washakie Wilderness with Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council Director Jake Kittle high above the DuNoir Basins northwest of Dubois. Conservationists took Roncalio to the area to point out the importance of the Basins and to ask for their inclusion in the Washakie Wilderness. The U. S. Forest Service has taken the position that the Basins do not qualify because of past timbering by 'Tie-hacks' and because of two jeep trails which penetrate into the areas. Roncalio was shown this evidence. Legislation has passed the U. S. Senate which excludes the areas from wilderness designation.

## Morton Meets Westerners

by Tom Bell

Western conservationists got an attentive and sympathetic ear from Interior Secretary Rogers Morton in an unprecedented audience at Denver on Monday. In a pleasant, relaxed two-hour session, Morton heard from representatives of seven of the eight Rocky Mountain states.

Morton mostly listened during the give and take on problems and concerns. But he often broke in to comment, make observations, and sometimes joke.

Maurice D. "Red" Arnold, Mid-Continent Regional Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation at Denver, introduced the state representatives. Sitting in with Morton was his Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel Reed and National Park Service Director George Hartzog.

Arnold said that a listening session by the Secretary involving conservation groups had never happened before. Assistant Secretary Reed, at a later luncheon meeting, indicated Morton may be planning more such sessions periodically.

Morton told the group of approximately twenty conservationists that his department was

oriented toward the Rocky Mountain states. He talked of problems concerning the public lands and observed that many of the problems could be resolved by the administration bill (H. R. 10049, the National Resource Land Management Act of 1971) if enacted. Morton urged conservationists to push for enactment of the bill which provides for an organic act for the Bureau of Land Management.

Olaus Lunt of the Arizona Conservation Council, in a lead-off statement, said predator control should be in the hands of specialists and that the federal government should take the lead in any control.

Jim Alley of the New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council said he thought the expense of predator control far exceeded the benefits.

In what was to be another recurring theme, the Arizona conservationist called for land use planning. Lunt cited the proliferation of utility lines as an example of unplanned land use and requested that the lines be concentrated in corridors.

Mary Kozlowski, a young and charming (Please turn to page 14.)

Friday, Sept. 3, 1971

# HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has opened a new era for western environmentalists. By deliberately exposing himself to the sentiments of people concerned with and directly involved in environmental matters, he is indicating a personal interest which cannot be ignored.

In the two-hour session at Denver last Monday, which I was privileged to attend, Morton showed an understanding and knowledge of, and a sympathy for westerners which can only bode well in future relations.

One of our conservation spokesmen, who is a transplanted easterner himself, told Morton he thought the Secretary could do a better job by virtue of his eastern background. I do not contradict the veracity of that observation.

Morton openly displays sensitive feelings. He further reassured environmentalists at the meeting by having Assistant Secretary Nathaniel P. Reed at his right hand. In a land where the fish, wildlife and parks resources loom very large, Reed comes across in great style. He, too, is from the land east of the Mississippi.

Wyoming newspapers have recently speculated on the surprise, overnight visit of President Nixon and his daughter, Julie, to the Jackson Hole. Nixon certainly knew that Morton and his family were already there. Consequently, a double meaning might be read into the President's visit (besides just wanting to see a beautiful area and relax).

The President's only news release while he was there was directed at the national parks and their attendant problems. Two significant statements came out of that release. After discussing some of the problems, he said: "In short, we are beginning to understand that there are limits to the amount of use our parklands can withstand, and that as more and more people seek the great rewards of outdoor life, the experience can be somewhat diminished for each of them."

That statement certainly backs up and reinforces what many of us have been thinking and saying for some time. The wonders of the national parks cannot stand the impact of the mass recreationists. Those who go to watch the opera do not expect to get the same reaction as when they go to an amusement park. And by the same token, they do not expect the management to sell more tickets to the opera than there are seats in the house.

Nixon also said, "And I am also convinced that we can substantially expand the acreage of our parklands, providing more adequate and more convenient recreational opportunities for all of our people."

Next door in Idaho, concerned people are pleading for additions to the national park system. Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon has introduced S.717 calling for a national river designation along Hells Canyon of the Middle Snake. (And he now has 26 co-sponsors, including Gale McGee of Wyoming and Barry Goldwater of Arizona.)

Morton has addressed himself to the problem of dams in the canyon by saying that land use planning must precede any decision "to dam or classify a stream such as the Snake." But he went on to say, "no willy-nilly damming of the Snake River is going to take place while I am secretary." Hence, while making no commitment to a park status for Hells Canyon, he has left his options open.

In the middle of Idaho is a great mass of beautiful mountains and rivers which should have long since been included in the national park system. Yet, today, conservationists find themselves in an uphill battle to get the White Clouds-Sawtooth-Boulder Mountains complex even considered.

Morton and President Nixon might find themselves in the bad graces of a few developers in Idaho and elsewhere, but they also might find an overt espousal of two new national parks in Idaho could win great public approval.

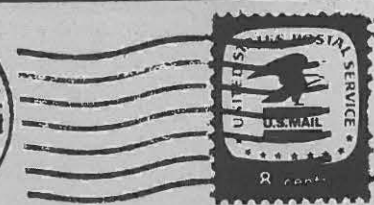
And so maybe President Nixon was breaking a little ice by saying there was need for more parklands. And maybe he was subtly saying to Secretary Morton that he could be somewhat bolder in expressing the desires for consideration of these great new areas.

At any rate, Secretary Morton is a man to watch. I get the feeling that he sincerely wants to act in the public interest, and that if we will let him know, he will consider our opinions and thoughts.



As summer turns to fall in the high country, mountain meadows become glorious flower gardens, sown and tended by Nature's own hand.

## Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Been buying your paper at the University of Wyoming bookstore for over a year and now I find it necessary for a subscription. It seems like people out here have some idea of what God's country is but you don't know what it's like not being there-misery!

My stay in Indiana is only for three or four years then back to the Rockies after my schooling. Meantime, I'll sit here and do what I can for conservation. Keep up the good work.

Robert Meyer  
Grad student in electrical engineering  
West Lafayette, Indiana

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Editor:

Please find enclosed a check for a year's subscription to your fine paper, HIGH COUNTRY NEWS. I have had the privilege to live in Wyoming this summer while I worked for the Bureau of Land Management here in Casper, and have come into contact with the NEWS at the BLM office.

Wyoming is a wonderful state and a fantastic place to live. I am overjoyed to see that some people in Wyoming are concerned with preserving the land and the wildlife for future generations to enjoy. I come from New York so I know the results of "progress" all too well. Most Wyomingites don't realize what a good thing they have. With your help, they may wake up soon.

Yours in conservation,  
Drew Grainger  
Cortland, New York

Editor's note: My thanks to two young men for their comments and words of wisdom.

Editor:

Picked up a copy of your paper while attending some meetings at the University of Wyoming and was quite impressed with your articles.

Enclosed is a check for \$10 for a year's subscription to your fine paper. Keep up the excellent conservation reporting.

Paul L. Rowell  
Pullman, Washington



## Record Broken

Wyoming's brown trout record, on the books since 1945, was broken on the shores of a Saratoga Reservoir when a Denver man landed a brown which tipped the scales at 18 pounds and two ounces.

James A. Boyce hauled in the big trout on a six-pound test line after attracting it with a Mepps spinner—a flat, shiny lure. It measured 33 1/4 inches from nose to tail and was 22 inches around the middle. The fish was taken May 10 but was not recognized as a state record until official documents were forwarded to the Cheyenne office of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. The former brown trout record for Wyoming was 17 pounds, eight ounces taken from Keahy Reservoir in Johnson County.

To be officially recognized, a fisherman must have his record-breaking catch verified by having the fish checked at a fish hatchery or fisheries management headquarters. When no such headquarters is nearby, as in the Saratoga case, the fish may be weighed on a certified scale and witnessed by three reliable persons. Pertinent information should then be presented to the local game warden and forwarded to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission headquarters in Cheyenne.

## Foot-dragging?

Congressman Henry S. Reuss (Wis.) has charged that the Department of Justice is dragging its feet in enforcing the Refuse Act of 1899, the nation's basic anti-water pollution law, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

Reuss released the text of a report from Wisconsin Governor Patrick J. Lucey to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus, showing widespread non-compliance with state pollution abatement orders on the part of industries. Of 268 cases referred to the Department of Justice last year for prosecution, only seven actions have been taken, Reuss said.



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# Guest Editorial



Reprinted from the LEWISTON MORNING TRIBUNE, Lewiston, Idaho, July 22, 1971.

## Showdown Between Lost Causes

The national conservation lobby has become so potent that advocates of continued development and industrial expansion now turn defensively to ecological arguments for perpetuating their way of doing things.

Thus former Idahoan John A. Carver, a member of the Federal Power Commission, has fallen in with the fashionable line that we will need more power production to clean up the environment. There is a grain of truth to the assertion, but there is also a large lump of rationalizing. The motive for the statement seems larger than the logic of it.

But Carver did spotlight one very real and greatly underplayed element in the continuing confrontation between development and conservation. When the developers ask people if they want their lights to go out and when the conservationists ask the people if they want to continue sacrificing nature to development, the answer in both cases is no.

But neither side has fully explained the price. In the long run, it is impossible to maintain both continued industrial expansion and the environment. Carver said in a speech at Moscow Tuesday that, "if environmental necessity dictates zero growth, then you cannot push up the GNP and you cannot have ever-expanding employment and economic opportunity. This is perhaps the most serious issue of public policy now facing this nation."

But that's not the half of it. You can't save the environment or maintain economic expansion forever unless you also achieve zero population growth.

All causes—whether producing enough power or saving the rivers and air—are lost causes if the population isn't stabilized. Indeed, with per-capita consumption constantly on the increase, it may be necessary to achieve minus population growth for a few years until a more realistic population level is reached.

It has been estimated that power consumption in the Northwest will triple by the year 2030. Thus, we are told, we must triple power production. And there's no reason to doubt the prediction, if current attitudes remain the same.

But assume the goal is achieved and power production is tripled over the next two decades.

What then of the year 2010? Do we triple power production again, or—because of ever-growing consumption per capita—quadruple it? And what of the 20 years after that? And the 20 years after that?

Surely there are limits on how many times you can triple power production without facing the consequences. And surely we must soon look beyond our own lifetimes toward determining what the practical limit is and what to do about it.

Without treating the overriding issue of overpopulation, the conservationists and the energy producers are just playing inconsequential short-term political games with each other.

If the conservation movement isn't working primarily for population control and secondarily—when it can spare the time from the even more desperate cause—against specific corruptions of the environment, it doesn't get the message.

And a power producer or a federal power commissioner who isn't working primarily for population control and only secondarily at trying to supply still more power doesn't know what time it is. He doesn't know that the hour is growing late for lesser concerns like deciding whether to dam or preserve a given stream.

If the population isn't brought under control, it will eventually become necessary—in desperation—to build every last feasible dam no matter what the consequences to serenity.

And if the population isn't brought under control, the developers can build every last feasible dam and they still won't be able to meet the demand of a growing population and mushrooming per-capita consumption.

All causes, whether those of the Federal Power Commission or those of the Sierra Club, are lost causes if the fundamental defect of human glut isn't regarded soon by developer and conservationist alike as the foremost crisis of the land.—B.H.

Reprinted courtesy INTERMOUNTAIN OBSERVER, Boise, Idaho, July 31, 1971

## Wild-eyed Predator Control

by Dwight Wm. Jensen

A seven-member commission, dominated by wildlife biologists, has been appointed by Interior Secretary Rogers Morton to study the entire economic and ecological picture of predator control as practiced by state and federal government and local public and private agencies.

The commission plans to make its report at the end of October. Its chairman, Dr. Stanley Cain, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and presently the director of the Institute for Environmental Quality at the University of Michigan, told *The Observer* that he expects the report to be made public immediately and to lead to corrective legislation.

Dr. Maurice Hornocker, wildlife biologist at the University of Idaho, is a member of the commission.

Besides Cain, the only non-biologist is Dr. Durward Allen of Purdue University, who, like Cain, has long worked on the periphery of that field.

Besides Hornocker, the biologists are Dr. John A. Kadlac of the University of Michigan, Dr. Fred Wagner of Utah State University, Dr. A. Starker Leopold of the University of California at Berkeley, and Dr. Richard A. Cooley of the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Leopold was chairman of a similar commission appointed by Stewart Udall in 1963. It reported the following year, suggesting among other things, limitations on the use of 1080 poison, and saying the federal government and other agencies were using poisons too broadly.

The commission is jointly funded by the Interior Department and by a White House agency called the Council on Environmental Quality.

Dr. Cain, in an interview with *The Observer*, said the commission must make a very broad-ranging study in a very short time. He outlined

some of the factors the group will study.

"We'll look at the important predators and the important animals on which they prey, both economic and non-economic. We'll study the role of predators in the environment. Coyotes, for example, kill not only lambs but rodents.

"Tourists and others want coyotes to be kept alive, for various reasons—they may just want to see one. That's a factor.

"We'll look at the economics of the problem. We'll study the claimed losses, and we'll try to determine the real losses. That's one awful problem. Predator losses to a stockman can be tax-deductible, and insurance is involved, so there are lots of stimuli to encourage a stockman to be casual about determining whether a loss is predator-caused.

"We want to examine federal, state, and other level problems and policies. Control is not just a federal program.

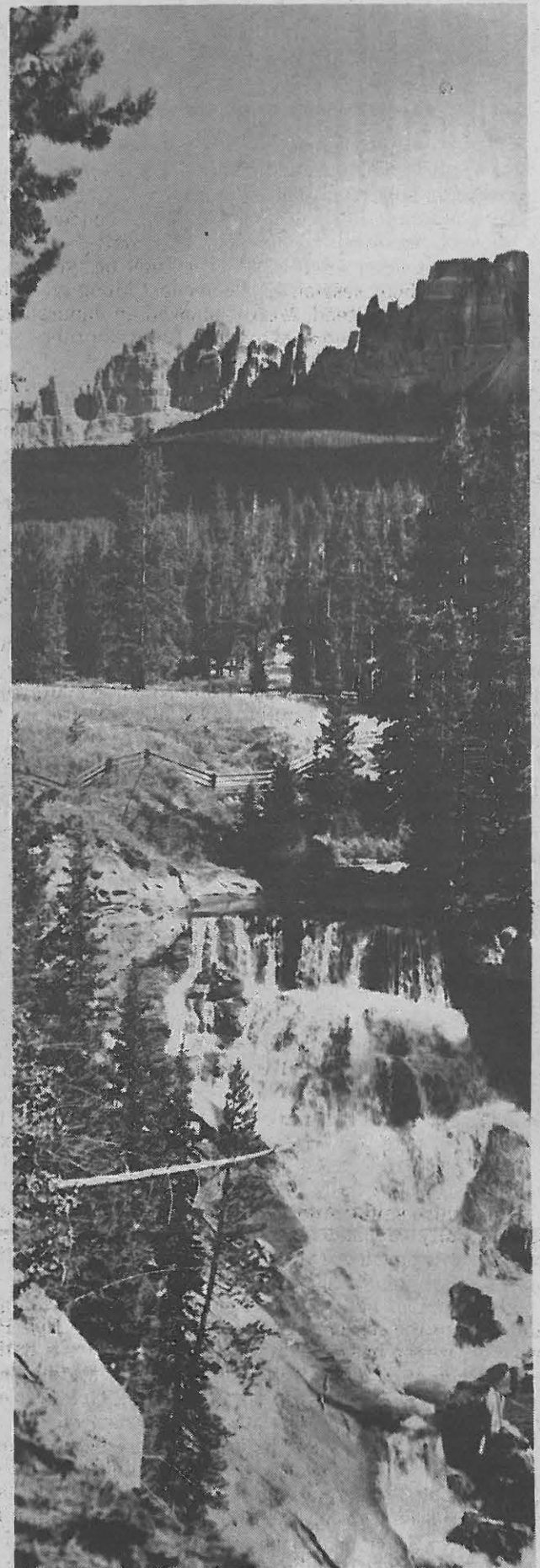
"We'll examine control material and methods, their impact on target species and also on non-target species.

"We want to take a look at the cost of the program, and estimate the damage it does.

"Along with our findings, we'll issue recommendations. We expect the report will be made public immediately. After all, the point of the whole thing is legislation."

Cain believes the commission has a good chance of arriving at fair and objective conclusions. "All seven of us were picked because we're not tied to federal or state government, nor to economic interests, nor to the bleeding hearts who don't want anything to be killed. It's as technically competent and objective a group as we can find.

"Some control is needed. The question is, what constitutes reasonable control? We're not wild-eyed about it one way or the other."



The falls on Brooks Lake Creek can be seen from Highway 287, between Dubois, Wyoming, and Jackson Hole.

## Planning Important

The Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality has reported to the President that land use is the most fundamental of all factors that determine the quality of our environment, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

The report stated that land misuse has been rationalized over the years on two short sighted premises—that our supply of land was limitless and that, while an individual's use of his land might be unfortunate, it was his right and of no concern to the community. The citizen group said, "Today we know differently. We know that the way each acre of land is used is of concern to the community and, ultimately, to the nation and to the world."

The Committee pointed out the need for national land-use authority by stating that such planning and control has traditionally been a local and state responsibility but should be recognized now as a federal responsibility as well.

## Get Job Done!

Conservationists are calling for less clamor about small, insignificant strip mine reclamation projects and more action on both the federal and state level to get the enormous job done, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Over 1.8 million acres have been disturbed by strip mining in this country. Thus far, only 56,000 acres have received any reclamation treatment.

# Harmonizing Man With His Environment

## An Account of Seminar on Environmental Arts and Sciences

by David H. Ackerman

The following account of the Seminar on Environmental Arts and Sciences held at Aspen, Colorado, June 25-30, 1971, was written by David H. Ackerman of New Vernon, New Jersey. Because of limitations in space, his account will appear in three parts. Even though the continuity will be disrupted, I think readers will appreciate the comments.

The editor

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### Green Team

"All right, now, let's switch roles! The people on the hill will become the environmentalists, and those down here will represent Consolidated Edison."

The voice was that of Dr. Frank B. Golley, leader of the Green Team.

There were gasps of surprise and shock as the 'industrialists' reacted to the idea of becoming members of the environmental action group, and as 'ecologists' contemplated taking on the role of corporation executives.

The antagonists and protagonists had at it. The situation? A debate as to whether the Federal Power Commission should issue a license to 'Con Ed' to proceed with its long thwarted pumped storage hydro project at Cornwall, New York.

The arguments went on for the next hour and a half, and became more acrimonious as the contestants warmed to their assignments. In fact one of the former 'industrialists' (a mining company employee in real life) was almost as convincing in his new role as an 'environmentalist' as he had been as 'geological consultant' to Consolidated Edison.

Finally, the F.P.C. had to make a decision. A vote was taken. It was 13 to 5 in favor of Consolidated Edison.

"What's going on here?" you may ask. The answer: "S.E.A.S.!"

"Something to do with oceans, right?"

"No, S.E.A.S. stands for 'Seminar on Environmental Arts and Sciences'. It's held at Aspen, Colorado, each year, in late June."

But that's not all. At this very moment other S.E.A.S. groups (five more, elsewhere in the greater Aspen area) were contemplating other problems, such as: the ecological impacts of the nearby Ruedi Dam; how to provide for Aspen's future; whether or not to build Interstate Highway I-70, through Glenwood Canyon; the pros and cons of the Alaska pipeline; how best to develop the water resources of Wyoming's upper Green River watershed. Each team has one local project and a more remote one, taking a day to focus on each. On the third day, they review and critique the findings of one of the other teams.

Upon arrival at S.E.A.S., each registrant is handed a folder which, in addition to the program for the next five days, contains a syllabus on ecological principles, copies of each case and other materials. When the indoctrination program begins the next morning, each person is expected to have at least some appreciation of the six basic ecological principles which govern all aspects of our existence:

- 1) Ecological Niches & Ecosystems
- 2) Limiting Factors
- 3) Material Cycling & Energy Flow
- 4) Succession and Climax
- 5) Carrying Capacity
- 6) Diversity-Stability-Specialization

Each team then went out and spent the day intensively studying 'Ecology in Action in the Roaring Fork Landscape'. Starting at Aspen, each group had worked its way up the Roaring Fork Valley, from the glacial moraine, southeast of Town, to timberline, above the ghost mining camp at Independence, and on up to the alpine tundra zone, at Independence Pass, elevation 12,093 feet. In Aspen, it's a warm sunny day. At Independence Pass, it's windbreaker weather, the first tundra wildflowers are appearing, pushing shoots up through the slowly melting patches of snow. Underneath there's perma-frost, which stays frozen year around. Obviously, the Aspen region presents an excellent laboratory for people to learn 'Principles of Ecology', the complex relationships of man's natural environment.

### Ecological Niches and Ecosystems

The syllabus said: "An ecological niche describes an organism's way of life. Organisms do not occur as isolated individuals, but as components of ecosystems. . . (they) are totally

interdependent on one another. . . in a human community there are niches of doctors, farmers, bankers, teachers, grocers, housewives, etc. Each plays an important role in the total functioning of the community. With a role unoccupied, the community is less capable of functioning well. . . An ecosystem is a recognizable unit of the landscape, composed of organisms, environment factors. . . and the interactions that operate among them. . ."

When you're in the grassy meadowland of the Roaring Fork, on the southeastern fringe of Aspen, its not surprising that the discussion turns to the herbivores, those animals which eat the green stuff. Rodents were the topic at the moment. While not visible, they were obviously present. Mice, for instance, eating plant life, transforming the energy and minerals contained therein into their own bodies and uses.



At Aspen's nearby Independence Pass, the Alaska pipeline's effect on that state's tundra is contemplated by S. E. A. S. participants.

You have fleeting, unexpressed, thought or two about mouse life: A busy summer! Getting born, weaned, learning to forage for food, staying out of sight of one's enemies, (the predator foxes, hawks, owls, bobcats, weasels, etc.) fattening up for the coming winter's hibernation, playing, procreating, building a nest, and so on.

The next day, you are asked to contemplate Aspen, its problems (real or imagined), where it may be going, etc. One of the difficulties may be its seasonality, a boom or bust atmosphere. In the winter, the ski resort's proprietors are busy "making it." Predator like, they're filling up the coffers for the long, barren summer. And, when summer comes, they hibernate, catching up on doing nothing, redecorating the ski lodge, maybe even a little procreating. You suggest changing the process, evening out the ups and downs. Nothing doing! Don't you see? It's a 'life cycle', a part of the system, the ecosystem that is. Whose? Proprietor or mouse?

### Limiting Factors

"A limiting factor is any substance or condition, either biological or physical, that limits or reduces the success of an individual, organism, species, population or biotic community."

Southeast of the Town, in the meadow, you had paused to view the realities of this principle:

Aspen, Colorado, June 25 - 30, 1971

north facing slopes, south facing slopes, and, the meadow itself. Angle of sun, temperature, moisture, soil condition, presence or absence of streams, ground water level and topography had differing impacts on each of the three ecosystems.

Despite the weighty terminology, the examples were there, plain and simple. One could not miss them, only wonder why we don't stop to look at our surroundings more often, see them as they really are. There's no mystique about it, all one has to do is just stop and think a little more deeply. A new world opens up!

The next morning, at breakfast, it's announced that, since not all the ruck-sacks had been returned the evening before, some lunches would be distributed in paper bags. As syllabus said, "A limiting factor is any. . . condition. . . that limits an individual. . .!"

(To be continued)



## Falconry Permitted

Hunting birds with birds is legal if you possess the proper permit. The ancient sport of falconry is practiced by a relative few but enjoyed heartily by those who have the time, patience and skill to master it.

Falconers in Wyoming may pursue upland game birds with their bird of prey as long as they possess the proper falconry permit, upland game bird license and carry no firearm while in the field.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has divided the state into eleven falcon capturing areas. The word "falcon," in this instance, includes both falcons and hawks.

Persons desiring to capture or possess any falcons which are found in their wild state in Wyoming, must make written application for and receive a permit from the commission.

Further information can be obtained from the Cheyenne office of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

# Coal Fever Hits West

by Ben A. Franklin

Copyright 1971, New York Times

The following article was a two-part series which appeared in the BILLINGS GAZETTE, August 25 and August 27, 1971. The information contained herein reinforces arguments which have been set forth before in this paper, viz., that comprehensive land use planning is a must for the western states, and that bold and imaginative leadership is required if Montana and Wyoming are not to suffer devastating environmental consequences.

The editor.

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WASHINGTON - A new stage in the development of the American West is beginning on the arid plains and badlands that flank both slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

On thousands of square miles of vacant land - much of it in federal ownership, or in government land grants to Indian tribes and railroads - a feverish coal rush is on.

The scramble is for coal leases and rights that will open an enormous and virtually untapped reserve of cheap western fuel to strip mining.

On a scale far larger than anything seen in the East, where acreage totaling half the area of New Jersey has been peeled off for coal near enough to the surface to be stripmined, portions of six western states - Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota and Wyoming - face a topographic and environmental upheaval.

It is being brought on by the nation's apparently insatiable demand for energy, by the air pollution crisis in urban centers, by new technology in the conversion of coal to clean fuels, and by the economies of bulldozing rather than tunnelling for coal that are available in the West.

In resolving the energy and air pollution problems, however, vast areas of isolated open spaces in the West may be drastically altered.

The visual impact of strip mining is invariably stunning. On flat or rolling terrain, mammoth power shovels crawl day and night through great trenches, lifting, wheeling and depositing the unwanted strata above the coal seam into thousands of uninterrupted acres of geometrically perfect windrows of spoil banks.

In mountain coal fields where one, two or as many as five seams may lie horizontally through timbered slopes far above the valley bottom, the contour strip mines are notched in continuous, sinuous strips around the mountainsides.

The legacy of upheaval remains. Silt fills streams for thousands of miles. Sulfur-bearing coal, left in place and exposed to elements, yields a long-lasting trickle of sulfuric acid which chemically burns streams and kills aquatic life. From the air over a "hot" acidic strip mine, pools of rainwater glow in weird shades of red and orange.

## Debate Grows

The debate over strip mining has been gathering since the late 1950's, when larger and larger earth-moving machinery made its growth economically feasible and gave it a cost advantage over under-ground mining. With a passion that coal men tend to see as mysticism, conservationists say that stripping destroys the very roots of men's souls - the land. The mining industry sees, with similarly strong conviction as the best way to tap a vital national resource which, as one strip mining executive put it recently, "God put there for man's use - it's a sin to waste it."

The first wave has begun. In 1970, for the first time in the 100-year history of coal mining in America, a western mine - the Navajo Strip Mine of the Utah Construction and Mining company near Farmington, N. M. - became the largest single producer in the country.

Near Centralia, Wash., 30 miles south of Olympia and just beyond the foothills of Mount Rainier, a 5,000-acre, 135-million-ton deposit of coal is being turned into one of the biggest strip mines in the country.

Pacific Power and Light owns rights to an estimated 1.6 billion tons of strip mine reserves in Wyoming and Montana. The company expects to rank among the top five coal producers in the country by 1977 with production of 23 million tons

Photo by Tom Bell

High Country News—5  
Friday, Sept. 3, 1971



Huge strip mining operations lie in the offing for Montana, Wyoming and other western states with large deposits of low-sulfur coal. This mine is north of Sheridan, Wyoming, and within a few miles of the Montana line. A recent report by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology indicates coal deposits totalling about two billion tons in Powder River County, which adjoins Campbell County, Wyoming, on the north. The deposits, designated the Moorhead coal field, lie within a 216-square-mile area in three seams, all less than 150 feet from the surface.

a year. Its president has said that the company will go slow on expensive investment in nuclear power stations because "we've got coal running out our ears."

## Strip Mine Explosion

According to government coal men, an immense strip mine explosion west of the Mississippi River that, by comparison, will make this excavation for electric power stations look like a mere desert gulch, is coming in the 1980's for a giant new coal consuming industry, gasification.

Official forecasts here say that 20 years from now perhaps 300 million tons of coal a year - half of last year's total United States production - will be processed at huge, refinery-like plants, surrounded by massive strip mines in the western coal fields.

Millions, perhaps billions, of dollars are thus finally ripening in coal beds under western sagebrush, where the mineral has lain for geologic time, 130 million years.

The speculative market in western strip mine leases to dig it, and in permits to explore for more, has suddenly become a bonanza.

In the 12 months that ended in July, 1970, the increase in prospecting permits issued by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management for coal exploration on federal land - national forests, grassland, desert and range - shot up by 50 per cent to the greatest number in history, covering 733,576 acres.

Prospecting permits on Indian reservations, issued separately by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, went from none to exploration rights covering 500,000 more acres.

Nearly one million acres of public and Indian coal land in the West is already leased. Leases by private owners, chiefly by the transcontinental, land-grant railroads, are unknown but may cover an equal area.

The Bureau of Mines has just cautiously disclosed in an unpublished compendium that beneath 13 states west of the Mississippi River there lies 77 per cent of the country's total of economically strippable coal reserves of 45 billion tons. The western coal is in seams 12 times thicker, on the average, than in the East. And 25.5 billion tons of it is low-sulphur coal.

Wyoming and Montana, together, contain 21

billion tons of the entire western reserve of low-sulphur coal. Wyoming's low-sulphur reserve, alone, is eight times West Virginia's and Kentucky's put together.

And still undisturbed beneath the wheat and grasslands of western North Dakota wait 50 billion tons of lignite - the leanest rank of coal, but equivalent in total energy to all the better grades of coal, left to be mined in the four largest producing states, West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Illinois.

## Massive Change

For a hundred years the traditional coal field regions of the United States have been in the Appalachian East and South and across southern Indiana and Illinois, tapering off into Missouri, Kansas and eastern Oklahoma.

Billions of tons of coal and billions of dollars of investment in immovable tools and tunnels remain in these traditional coal areas, and depletion of total coal reserves is not the most important factor in the move to the West.

But although the eastern and midwestern fields now supply 94 per cent of the 600-million-ton-a-year coal production, they contain only 17 percent of the remaining reserve of strippable low-sulphur coal.

It is this arcane statistic, the 83 per cent of shallow, strippable low-sulphur coal beneath the western states, that is starting what the U.S. Geological Survey calls "a massive change" in the whole national fuel and energy system.

Until the air pollution crisis of the 1960's and '70's the West's low-sulphur coal was worthless. Coal is the cheapest of fossil fuels and, accordingly, freight is a large part in its cost to consumers. Longhaul reserves were not cost-competitive.

But now that many urban pollution abatement laws forbid the burning of coal or oil containing more than 1 per cent sulphur by weight - and the federal environmental protection agency has said the limit may have to be pushed to 0.7 per cent - the ancient economic laws are caving in.

Already in a break with transportation tradition, the historic flow of coal from Appalachian mines to Lake Erie ports to docks at Superior, Wis., or Duluth, Minn., has begun to

(Please turn to page 7)

# Clearcutting Worst Seen—McGee

HAMILTON -- Clearcutting practices on the Bitterroot National Forest in western Montana are, in the opinion of Wyoming Sen. Gale McGee, the worst he has seen in the United States.

McGee made the observation following a visit to the Bitterroot this week as part of a nationwide tour he has taken of forests in the Rocky Mountain West and the Pacific Northwest.

"I come fresh from seeing many clearcut areas across the country and without any question this is the worst I've seen," McGee said. "This is the shocker of them all. I'm appalled."

The Wyoming Senator has been touring both public and private forest lands in the West in connection with a bill he has introduced calling for a two-year moratorium on the timber harvest practice of clearcutting and the appointment of a high level blue ribbon commission to study the controversial practice.

"What has taken place on the Bitterroot is a crime against the land and the public interest," McGee said. "Proper investigative authorities should get into this immediately and deeply."

He said the proper agencies that immediately came to mind were the Environmental Protection Agency and the General Accounting Office, which has begun a comprehensive probe of timber management practices on the national forests.

McGee said he had seen both movies and still photographs of the Bitterroot Forest, but nothing had prepared him for what he saw on the day-long tour of the area. He was shown the area by G. M. Brandborg of Hamilton, who until he retired in 1955 was forest supervisor of the Bitterroot for 20 years.

"Seeing it with your own eyes was even more of a shock," McGee said. "More people should get out and see the devastation firsthand. What is occurring is definitely not in the public interest."

McGee said his findings fully confirmed the situation on the Bitterroot described by the "Bolle Committee" (the University of Montana Forestry School team that conducted an investigation of Bitterroot Forest practices).

"It is my opinion from my observations that the Forest Service lacked a feeling of a land ethic," McGee said. "The evidence indicates that the Forest Service has flagrantly defied compliance with the Sustained Yield-Multiple Use Act."

The Wyoming Senator said that flaunting of the regulatory powers which the Forest Service has, as well as the fact that the agency has defied the Sustained Yield-Multiple Use Act, must be stopped to prevent further destruction of the national forest resources.

"I urge conservationists, environmentalists

and the general public to continue to register protests of forest management practices directly to President Nixon," McGee said.

McGee said his tour of the Bitterroot had resulted in three basic conclusions:

"1. Legal proceedings against those responsible for the rape of the Bitterroot ought to be begun.

"2. My experiences here in the Bitterroot make it even more imperative that my bill creating a national blue ribbon commission to reassess the timber practices of the U.S. Forest Service be enacted without delay.

"3. Further, my proposal for a two-year moratorium on all clearcutting in national forests be instituted at once."

McGee said that while the Bitterroot is the "most extreme example" of what he has seen, the impact of viewing clearcut areas is much the same wherever he has gone.

He said that the furor over forest management practices is just beginning in Oregon and Washington.

"Conservationists in these states are just beginning to do what has already been done in West Virginia, Montana and Wyoming," McGee said.

He said it was a "shock" to learn that unregulated clearcutting is occurring everywhere in the name of forest management.

McGee said that while the complaint is parallel in Wyoming and Montana against the Forest Service, in the coast states the feeling is more intense against the private companies.

He said that in his tours he has looked at both public and private forest lands.

"I've gone into the field with industry Forest Service employees, and conservation people," McGee said. "Naturally I can't visit each area with each of these groups, but I've got a well-rounded collection of viewpoints in my tour in the Northwest."

He said that one of the obvious tell-tale signs he has found in his investigation of clearcutting is that the professional men within the Forest Service are split on the issue.

"The Forest Service should take heed of this fact," McGee said.

His tour of the Bitterroot began with viewing a virgin stand of ponderosa pine in the lower Overwhich Creek drainage and included Blue Joint, Trapper, McCoy and Chaffin Creeks among others.

He said that according to a 1943 Forest Service report, the Overwhich stand was typical of the ponderosa pine stands in the Bitterroot National Forest.

"After reviewing the 1943 report describing virgin stands of timber existing at that time, it

was a horrifying experience to see destructive forest practices of clearcutting, overcutting, terracing, excessive roading, scarring up the landscape, brush and other debris burning," McGee said.

He said it was a "sad situation" to find land managers who possess land regulatory powers permitting land abuses of timber, wildlife, fishery, recreation and other resources entrusted to their care.

"I have assured the people of Wyoming, as I do residents of the Bitterroot and elsewhere, that I will exert my effort to acquaint my colleagues with the startling destructive practices that must be corrected," McGee said.

## Moratorium Not Off Says McGee

by Dale A. Burk

HAMILTON -- Wyoming Sen. Gale McGee says he was quoted out of context in statements attributed to him in Seattle recently which reported that he had backed off on his call for a two-year moratorium on the timber harvest practice of clearcutting.

"I want the record set straight. I am still asking for a moratorium on clearcutting and a national blue ribbon commission to investigate the practice," McGee said in an interview while on a tour of forest management practices in the Bitterroot National Forest in western Montana.

The Wyoming senator has introduced a bill that would call for a two-year moratorium on clearcutting on the national forests while a high level blue ribbon commission study the effects of the practice.

He said that a Seattle reporter had quoted him "out of context" in reporting on a discussion between himself and Dean James S. Bethel of University of Washington in which McGee said the moratorium on clearcutting wouldn't do any good without the blue ribbon commission.

"I said that the moratorium is expendable in a final settlement, but not that I was backing off on my call for a moratorium," McGee said. "The moratorium is still an important part of the whole picture."

McGee said he and Dean Bethel were discussing priorities involving the proposed moratorium and the blue ribbon commission when he (McGee) stated that while the blue ribbon commission was absolutely essential, the moratorium was ultimately expendable.

"I'm real mad that the reporter quoted this out of context to indicate that I had changed my position on a clearcutting moratorium because I have not," McGee said.

He said a moratorium on the practice was the best way to give the U.S. Forest Service a chance to find out the rights and wrongs of clearcutting.

"The moratorium is still vital until those people are more intelligent about what they're doing," McGee said.

McGee said he and his family had "lost themselves" in the Canadian Rockies following his visit to Washington and hadn't learned of the statement he supposedly had made until several days after it appeared in print.

"I was shocked by the release just as much as anybody else," McGee said. "It was a tragedy that the reporter lifted an answer out of context to make it appear that I said something I didn't. The reporter quoted only a portion of what I said in response to a specific question about priorities."

McGee said that in response to criticism that a moratorium would put woodworkers out of work, he would propose upon his return to Washington a plan that would provide a job in forest restoration and conservation work to any worker who lost his job because of the moratorium.

"Industry has hollered at me about eliminating jobs because of the moratorium, but I say it would provide employment and would permit us to positively improve the forest while studying the problem of clearcutting," McGee said.

He said that he would seek legislation to make funds available to employ anybody put out of work by a moratorium established to study the effects of clearcutting.

"We're better off that way," McGee said "If we continue to cut the way we have, we will be

(Continued on page 7)



Photo by Ernst Peterson

Ponderosa pine stands in the Blue Joint area of the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming said, after his recent tour of the area, "... it was a horrifying experience to see destructive forest practices of clearcutting, overcutting, terracing, excessive roading, scarring up the landscape, ... and debris burning."

# Coal Fever...

High Country News—7

Friday, Sept. 3, 1971

turn around.

Burlington Northern, Inc., the merged railway system - and also one of the largest private owners of western coal reserves through 19th century federal land grants - has been loading low sulphur coal from the Peabody Coal Company's Big Sky strip mine at Colstrip in eastern Montana. The coal goes by train to the docks at Superior and is shipped by lake steamer to Taconit Harbor, Mich., a movement that would have been economically unthinkable a few years ago.

Strip-mined Montana coal is under contract to fuel steam-electric plants as far east as Cohasset, Minn., and Hammond, Ind., east of Chicago. To reduce the sulphur dioxide emissions from its stacks, Commonwealth Edison of Chicago has contracted for 22 million tons of Montana coal and is testing New Mexico coal that comes 1,500 miles by rail.

More remarkable still, the Tennessee Valley Authority - the giant government-owned power agency in the heart of the Appalachian coal fields - has bought 1.4 million tons in eastern Oklahoma. The coal will be towed 485 miles east in barges along the newly opened Arkansas River Waterway and then north on the Mississippi to Memphis.

These revolutionary changes in what is probably the nation's most conservative industry designed to tide over the immediate crisis of electric power versus air pollution, are regarded here as significant beginnings - but only beginnings.

## Gasification

It is the prospect of prodigious volumes of strip-mined coal to supply gasification plants that lies behind the frantic scramble by coal, petroleum and pipeline interests - and by land brokers and speculators who expect to profit at their expense - to assemble leases and rights to large tracts of western coal for future stripping.

The scope of this western stripping for gasification-large both on a plant-by-plant basis and also in the area to be affected by big new surface mines-is suggested by what the American Gas Association calls its "very confidential" study of potential gasification sites.

Apparently for fear of stimulating price gouging to mineral leases and arousing conservationist opposition, the association will not discuss the study beyond acknowledging its existence.

But it is known that the association report pinpoints 176 prospective plant locations - each to require a \$200-million to \$300-million investment in strip mine and coal processing facilities - and industry officials say variously that "a large majority" or "nearly all" of them lie west of the Mississippi.

A government geologist who has seen the association study says that 156 of the 176 sites - all but 20 - are in "the Rocky Mountain West." Enough of them are to be developed by 1985, the study suggests, so that gasification by then will materialize as a \$1-billion-a-year industry on the West's open spaces.

According to Interior Department reports, coal for future gasification is spurring recent transactions like these:

In Response to U. S. Bureau of Land Management invitation to bid on 6,560 acres of federally owned coal land in Campbell County near Gillette, Wyo. - the Bureau delicately described the 10-square-mile area as "susceptible to stripping" - the Cordero Mining Company won the coal leases with a record high price of \$505 an acre. In recent years, some federal coal leases have gone for under \$1 an acre. Cordero is a subsidiary of the Sun Oil Co.

- On the same day last December, the Mobil Oil Co., bid \$441 an acre for leases on 4,000 acres of bureau land adjoining the Cordero site. The U. S. Geological Survey had estimated its worth at \$35 an acre.

- Bureau lease prices have advanced so rapidly that a short time earlier a successful bid of \$257.50 an acre by a land-buying affiliate of the Ashland Oil Co. - \$1.9 million for coal rights to 7,600 acres, or 13 square miles, of Carbon County near Hanna, Wyo. - was being called a "precedent-shattering high price." The \$257.50 precedent lasted two weeks, when Cordero doubled it.

- But particularly on Indian reservations, there have also been what one official of the Bureau of Indian Affairs here calls "some damn lucky breaks" for eastern coal companies bidding for leases of tribal coal reserves.

Last September, Westmoreland Resources, Inc., a year old western strip mining partnership of the Philadelphia-based Westmoreland Coal Co., Penn Virginia, Inc., the Kewanee Oil Co., The Morrison-Knudsen Co., and the Kemmerer

Coal Co., of Wyoming, had to bid an average of only \$7.87 an acre for 32,300 acres of coal rights held by the Crow Indian tribe in the Sarpy Creek area of Treasure and Big Horn counties, Montana.

Within months, the syndicate had sold options to buy 300 million of its 900 million tons of Montana coal reserves to the Colorado Interstate Gas Co. the pipeline division of the Colorado Interstate Corporation. The company is a major pipeline company and may be one of the first to erect a coal gasification plant. Presumably, near Hardin, Mont.

Other vast coal reserves in the West are owned by the railroads. Government land grants to the railroads, which were originally meant to encourage and finance the construction of track to the West but which have remained dormant and unsalable for 100 years, are suddenly valuable.

The Union Pacific, for example, has become a profitable lessor of its 10-billion-ton to 12-billion-ton reserve of coal on land given the company by the federal government under the railroad land grants of the last century.

But by far the greatest acreage of coal leaseholds is being acquired on speculation for later sale to the coal gasification industry.

An unpublished "working paper" prepared at the Interior Department shows that the 10 largest holders of federal coal leases control 49 per cent of the 773,000 acres of public domain turned over to mining interests or land speculators as of July 1, 1970, and that very little of this acreage is being mined. Some of the inactive leases have been held at little cost since the 1920's but most are above five years old.

The 10 largest lease holders, in order of the acreage of their coal rights, are listed as the Peabody Coal Co., the Atlantic Richfield Co., the



## Forest Research Area Dedicated

Red Butte Canyon on the Wasatch National Forest has been designated by Forest Service Chief Edward P. Cliff as a Research Natural Area, according to a joint announcement today by Regional Forester Vern Hamre, of the Intermountain Region, and Director Robert Harris, of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, at Ogden, Utah.

The 5,500 acres of important watershed land in Red Butte Canyon, east of Salt Lake City, includes part of the old Fort Douglas Military Reservation which was transferred from the Department of Defense to the Wasatch National Forest in 1969.

Regional Forester Hamre and Director Harris stated that Red Butte Canyon is an outstanding selection for Research Natural Area designation because of its size, location, and nearly pristine ecological conditions. Other factors favorable to this designation are the nearness of the area to the Intermountain Station, the University of Utah, the Forest Supervisor's and Regional Offices; the study and research possibilities; and the support for such a designation by the State, the University, individuals and groups.

With a few exceptions, Red Butte Canyon has been closed to occupancy and public use for more than 70 years. Except for a relatively small acreage of private land, the area has been withdrawn under military withdrawal or by the Act of September 19, 1941, both of which prohibit mineral entry.

Since before 1900, Red Butte Canyon has been closed to grazing and other uses to protect water supplies at Fort Douglas. Complete protection has made the area unique along the 150-mile Wasatch Front where much damage resulted from early day overuse and fire.

The varied biotic conditions make Red Butte Canyon a desirable site for ecological studies. Conditions are much the same as they were when white men first came to Salt Lake City. The area will continue to remain closed to general public use.

Many studies have been conducted in ideal outdoor laboratory conditions by the University of Utah, the Utah Fish and Game Department, the Forest Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. The area will be available for research

Garland Coal and Mining Co., the Pacific Power & Light Co., the Consolidation Coal Co., the Resources Co., the Kemmerer Coal Co., the Utah Construction and Mining Co., Richard D. Bass, a Dallas geologist and land investor, and the Kerr McGee Corp.

The interior study says that, of all the federal coal acreage under lease, those 10 lease holders control 97 per cent of the leases in Montana and North Dakota, 91 per cent in New Mexico and Oklahoma, 79 per cent in Utah, 75 per cent in Colorado and 77 per cent in Wyoming. Peabody and Atlantic Richfield together hold one-third of all the federally leased coal land in Montana and North Dakota.

Federal coal leases, many at bargain rates, are not the only incentives that the government has provided for the development of western coal.

On Aug. 4, the Interior Department signed an agreement with the gas industry that will add \$80 million in federal funds to \$40 million from gas and pipeline companies for a four-year acceleration of existing work on small-scale but working pilot coal gasification plants. Some \$176 million more in federal money has been set aside for the next step - construction of a full-scale demonstration plant.

## Environment

Meanwhile, the coal industry is working hard to picture the environmental prospect for the west as benign, if not uplifting.

Carl E. Bagge, a former member of the Federal Power Commission who now heads the National Coal Association, an influential Washington-based industry group, has been making an unusual number of trips into the West to preview the "new prosperity" in western coal and to inveigh in speeches against "reckless," "radical," "emotional" conservationist attacks on strip mining.

Bagge has been pointing out in his western travels that the strip mining industry genuinely means to do better there than in the ravaged coal fields of the East, and that the tempo of western nature is slower - there is less timber, less rainfall, less visual discontinuity in stripping buttes and badlands than Appalachian hickory forests or Indiana cornfields.

projects by all responsible agencies, organizations, and individuals under suitable cooperative agreements.

"The Red Butte Canyon Natural Research Area helps provide an effective yardstick to measure how our environment is affected by the surrounding megalopolis," said Director Harris and Regional Forester Hamre.

## Moratorium...

eliminating jobs in the future. Industry has not come clean on this part of the issue."

McGee said that a nationwide aspect is necessary in looking at the issue of clearcutting.

"In the past the Forest Service has been under heavy pressure locally from industry to develop jobs, and Congress is partly responsible for this, too, with its misplaced emphasis when funding the agency," McGee said.

He said that it was possible that a high level study would show clearcutting to be an acceptable practice in certain limited cases, but that right now the answers about the practice simply were not known.

"What we're opposing is the Forest Service's stand-pat attitude that it is doing nothing wrong, or if it is wrong that they didn't do it," McGee said.

He said it was not just timber management, but full forest values in regard to other land uses such as aesthetics, recreation, wildlife, wilderness, water, and range that were involved.

"We want management rather than mining," McGee said. "We have seen so many of the tragedies of clearcutting that we feel we should have better answers to some of the questions about it before going further with the practice."

He said that the appointment of a high level commission to study the practice would be made by President Nixon and that he believed the concern was great enough that the President would appoint a highly qualified and objective group once his bill had passed.

McGee was in Montana as part of a nationwide tour that has taken him to forests throughout the Rocky Mountain West and the Pacific Northwest. He said he is scheduled to visit pine forests in the Southeast in October.



**E**ARLY this fall a bill to settle Alaskan Native Claims will come to the floor of the Congress for a vote. The bill *must not be allowed* to pass unless it contains a provision for Comprehensive Land Use Planning as a prerequisite for large scale selections. The issues are complex but the primary one is clear. Once the claims of the Natives are legally settled the way will be open for the widespread development of the Alaskan wilderness for short term profit. Without a Comprehensive Land Use Plan to guide and order development we can immediately expect the following:

- ☐ The oil companies will get the pipeline right-of-way and begin to build the pipeline, regardless of environmental damage.
- ☐ Mining and mineral interests, benefitting by the pipeline access road, will start ripping up the land.
- ☐ State selection and resale of remaining land will turn vast acreages of the public domain over to private developers.
- ☐ Dirt and ditch roads,  in villages, crackerbox motels, construction camps,  rich mining and logging will turn the last great wilderness into a plywood jungle, and put thousands on welfare once the boom is over.

The only thing that can prevent the destruction of Alaska is a Comprehensive Land

SOME American Indians had a perception of the world quite different from ours. If a thing was there, there was a reason for it, and a need to understand, and appreciate the reason. Walking down a dusty path and seeing a bush growing by the wayside was not an occasion for taking a whack at the bush, rather for reflecting on the things that had brought the bush there in the first place. We have lost, if we ever had it, that capacity for reflection and respect. Instead we approach every bush in terms of taking a whack at it.

Well, if the 20th Century can be seen as the path we are now walking, and Alaska as the bush, then don't we at least have the time to seriously consider whether the best way to relate to a bush is whack at it. The Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians who have lived in Alaska for thousands of years have not—for whatever reason—seen fit to treat it as a whackable object.

Alaska is not a symbol. It is a real place. Real people, animals, streams, rocks, birds, skies, constitute its electorate. Some of them vote, and some of them do not. Some of them have more power and press than others. It may be presumptuous, but we are taking on the job (unasked) of representing Alaska's disenfranchised electorate. And we hope to represent them in a spirit of reflection and respect, rather than with the spirit of whacking.

Unknown, unexplored places have been called "the geography of hope." Untouched and clean places can (now) be seen as our ultimate national treasure. The people who see Alaska as a treasure to dip into, as a storehouse full of goodies to rob, may be deeply missing the only point: Our lives are impoverished almost directly in proportion to how greedy we are about robbing the world.

So let us not save Alaska only from the specter of ruin and desolation, the oil spilled on the tundra and in the clear ponds and fresh rivers where fish live and birds hunt. Let us save it for our own good. Let us save it because in saving something beautiful and intact and whole, we can accomplish a minor miracle in our own lives. We need never live in or go to Alaska, to receive its riches. We can spend a little money protecting the geography of hope, and a little less at the corner gas station, and take one of the steps we need to take to keep ourselves and our world sane and beautiful.

## THE LAND CLAIMS ISSUE

At present Congress is deciding the ultimate disposition of millions of acres of Eskimo, Aleut and Indian land. Native claims legislation will determine how much the Natives will keep, and how much they will be paid for what they will lose. Legislation will also decide how title will be transferred, now that the Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians must deal with "ownership." Since there will be no individual ownership legislation will also determine the kind of organization which will hold title. Whether or not the settlement is legal, it seems clear that it is hasty, poorly conceived and cynical.

The oil companies want Native claims settled so that they can get the pipeline right-of-way and get on with building the Trans-Alaska pipeline system. Mining interests want a quick settlement of Native claims because there may be mineral riches awaiting the auger. The Natives themselves want a quick settlement because their economic condition is desperate, and they have been convinced that the longer they wait, the less they will get.

Oil companies have run full page ads in national magazines and newspapers showing happy Eskimos dancing around a circle, and talking glowingly about the good things that will come to Alaska from oil development. But there will be no more than 300 permanent jobs from the pipeline. The Alaska State Housing Authority predicts that the construction of the pipeline could hurt the economy more than it could help it. It would attract many more people to Alaska than there would be jobs for. The result would be a residue on welfare and relief rolls. And the 300 permanent jobs won't all go to the Natives.

The Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians do need immediate consideration from the Congress and immediate funds to help them with serious problems of housing, basic sanitation and jobs. But they need real help, carefully considered, not hastily conceived. For example: In an effort to alleviate serious housing problems among Alaskan Natives, the President has just promised that 1200 federally funded housing units (out of HUD's national program) will be built in rural Alaska. But the appropriation was made *without* any planning and development money, and now the Alaska Federation of Natives, the recipients of the grant, are faced with the dilemma of either building 1,200 houses without proper planning and research, or losing part or all of the promised housing.

Planning, a serious need throughout America, is especially critical in the Arctic where harsh conditions demand that the right houses are built. There will be little use in building plywood crackerboxes that will leak, split and crack because of the severe weather. If the nation really wants decent conditions for Native Americans, then planning money must be appropriated, and the time extended to allow proper planning.

In a letter to the members of the House of Representatives, the Indian Affairs Committee, friends of the

# SAVING

The only thing that can prevent the destruction of Alaska is a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, *before* the first head is pulled to unravel the wilderness. This is not just a pipeline. It is the whole future of the state. As the Sierra Club's Bob Waldrop said:

"ALASKA IS THE LAST CHANCE TO DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME."

**Write Now**—Congressmen are not mind readers. They have no way of knowing what issues are important to you unless you write them. FOE's lobbyists represent you very effectively (remember the SST) but they need your help. Write your Congressman and Senators immediately. If your Congressman is a member of the House Interior Committee (see list at right), ask him to support the Saylor Amendment to Native Claims Legislation. If your Senator is a member of the Senate Interior Committee, (see list), ask him to introduce an equivalent amendment to any Senate Bill on Native Claims. If they are on neither committee, write and ask them to vote *against* any Native Claims Legislation which does not contain a provision for Comprehensive Land Use Planning. Remind them that 95% of the land in Alaska is public domain. We must make our representatives understand that the future of Alaska is a public issue.

#### Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Members of the Senate have this address:

|                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Honorable .....          |                          |
| Senate Office Building       |                          |
| Washington, D.C. 20510       |                          |
| Henry M. Jackson, Wash.      | Mike Gravel, Alaska      |
| Clinton P. Anderson, N. Mex. | Len B. Jordan, Idaho     |
| Alan Bible, Nevada           | Gordon Allott, Colorado  |
| Frank Church, Idaho          | Paul J. Fannin, Arizona  |
| Frank E. Moss, Utah          | Clifford P. Hansen, Wyo. |
| Quentin N. Burdick, N. Dak.  | Mark O. Hatfield, Ore.   |
| George S. McGovern, S. Dak.  | Ted Stevens, Alaska      |
| Lee Metcalf, Montana         | Henry Bellmon, Okla.     |

#### House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Members of the House have this address:

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| The Honorable .....       |                     |
| House Office Building     |                     |
| Washington, D.C. 20515    |                     |
| Wayne N. Aspinall, Colo., | Nick Begich, Alaska |

|                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| James A. Haley, Florida      | James Abourezk, N. Dak.   |
| Ed Edmondson, Oklahoma       | John P. Saylor, Penn.,    |
| Walter S. Baring, Nevada     | Craig Hosmer, California  |
| Roy A. Taylor, N. Carolina   | Joe Skubitz, Alaska       |
| Harold T. Johnson, Calif.    | John Kyl, Iowa            |
| Morris K. Udall, Arizona     | Sam Steiger, Arizona      |
| Phillip Burton, California   | James A. McClure, Idaho   |
| Thomas S. Foley, Washington  | Don H. Clausen, Calif.    |
| Robert W. Kastenmeier, Wis.  | Philip E. Ruppe, Mich.    |
| James G. O'Hara, Michigan    | John N. Happy Camp,       |
| William F. Ryan, New York    | Oklahoma                  |
| Patsy T. Mink, Hawaii        | Manuel Lujan, Jr., N. M.  |
| James Kee, West Virginia     | Sherman P. Lloyd, Utah    |
| Lloyd Meeds, Washington      | John Dellenback, Oregon   |
| Abraham Kazen, Jr., Texas    | Keith G. Sebelius, Kansas |
| Bill D. Burlison, Missouri   | James D. McKeivitt, Colo. |
| Robert G. Stephens, Jr., Ga. | John H. Terry, New York   |
| Joseph P. Vigorito, Penn.    | Jorge L. Cordova, Puerto  |
| John Melcher, Montana        | Rico, (Resident           |
| Teno Roncalio, Wyoming       | Commissioner)             |

In a letter to the members of the House Interior Insular Affairs Committee, Friends of the Earth proposed the following:

#### THE RIGHTS OF THE ESKIMOS, ALEUTS AND INDIANS

The Native claims bills are not giving the Alaska natives anything. They are at best, allowing them to keep a small portion of what they historically own. The State of Alaska, in the Statehood Act, was granted 103 million acres of the 360 million total, for a far larger proportion than that given any other state in the nation. We feel the Native claims are just and reasonable and must be settled in an equitable manner, and suggest:

- lands owned by the Natives that are being maintained for subsistence purposes not be taxable. We are concerned that land taxes will be an unnecessary spur to development and the possible cause of the Natives' ultimately losing whatever lands they receive.
- that the Natives receive a cash settlement of \$1 billion out of the general fund starting immediately.
- that the Natives immediately receive title to existing populated village sites as determined by the 1970 U. S. census, and other land selection be contingent on a comprehensive land plan for the State of Alaska.

#### THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE LAND PLANNING PRIOR TO SELECTION

Settlement of a Native claims bill will open up Alaska to foreign and domestic development and exploitation, and there is little unity among Eskimos, Aleuts, and Indians, as to what constitutes a fair and equitable land settlement. Only comprehensive and intelligent long range land planning can harmonize the long range interests of the Natives, the non-Native citizens of Alaska, and the rest of the nation, and prevent boom and bust exploitation on public lands.

For these reasons we urge you to support the Land Planning Amendment which has been offered by Congressman Saylor, to require completion of a comprehensive land use plan as a prerequisite for selection except for village sites.

#### Earth and The Great Weather: THE BROOKS RANGE

The great sea  
Has set me adrift  
It moves me like the weed in a great river  
Earth and the great weather  
Move me,  
Have carried me away  
And move my inward parts with joy.  
- Osarqaq

This volume can be a powerful tool in convincing people that Alaska is worth a few years of thought. It is the most convincing argument we have about the true value of the Arctic.

Buy the book if you can. Read it. Show it to your friends. Send it to your local book reviewer or newspaper editorial writer. Send it to your Senator and tell him this is why he must support Comprehensive Land Use Planning for Alaska.

Friends of the Earth  
c/o Western Book Service Co.  
1382 Natoma St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103  
Please send me ..... copy(ies) of EARTH AND THE GREAT WEATHER: *The Brooks Range* at the special members' price of \$24.00.

Name.....

Street.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

Please make your check payable to Friends of the Earth.

☐ Check enclosed (postage & tax will be paid by FOE on all prepaid orders). ☐ Bill me (price will include; \$.50 postage and handling fee plus sales tax if required).

Friends of the Earth  
451 Pacific S.F., Ca 94133

Dear Friends:

☐ Yes, I have sent the coupons. ☐ Enclosed is \$..... to buy time for Alaska. ☐ Please send me ..... copies of *Saving Alaska* to post and distribute.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500



Dear President Nixon:

As an environmental voter, pledged to the preservation and rational use of the earth, I urge that you not let Alaska go down the drain for short term profits, and long term pollution. We must have Comprehensive Land Planning for the State *before* the wilderness is destroyed and thousands fall prey to a boom and bust economy.

Please instruct the Secretary of the Interior to not grant the Trans Alaska Pipeline Permit.

Also, please do not approve any Native Claims Legislation which does not contain Comprehensive Land Planning as a prerequisite for large scale selection.

I also urge that you extend the time limit on the first units of Rural Alaska housing and ask Congress for an appropriation for planning and research. We must do right in Alaska. It's our last chance.

Thank you,

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

DETACH AND SEND TO A FRIEND:



Dear.....

As an environmental voter and a member of Friends of the Earth I am asking that you help us SAVE ALASKA. We must not let Alaska go down the drain for short term profits and long term pollution. We need Land Planning for the state *before* the wilderness is destroyed, and thousands fall prey to a boom and bust economy. FOE, in a coalition with other conservation organizations, is presently fighting for time for

Alaska and they need our help. I am sending you this membership coupon because I believe that FOE has proven in the last two years that they can be effective in lobbying for the kind of world we want. Please fill out this coupon and send it in today.

Thank you,

(signed)

SEND TO:

Friends of the Earth, 8016 Zuni Road, S.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

Yes, I would like to join Friends of the Earth. Enclosed is \$..... for

- |                                              |                                             |                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 (regular)      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (family)      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 (supporting) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (contributing) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 (sustaining) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 (life)    |

Contributing members and up will receive a free copy of *Earth and the Great Weather: THE BROOKS RANGE*. All members receive NOT MAN APART, FOE's monthly newspaper. Contributions to (FOE) are not deductible.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

# Floating Western Rivers

## Part Six: Wilderness and Power and Wild Rivers.

by Verne Huser

There can be no question about the increased interest in river running activity in the western United States during the past decade. Commercial float trip passengers on the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park increased from fewer than five thousand in 1960 to more than 50,000 in 1970. The increased use of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon increased from 1,067 in 1966 to 9,935 in 1970 -- nearly a ten-fold increase in just five years. Use of the Middle Fork of the Salmon has tripled during the past three years. What is the effect upon those western rivers of this tremendous increase in commercial as well as private use?

In some cases it is detrimental. Take the Colorado River, for example, in its course through the Grand Canyon. Before 1963 when Glen Canyon Dam began impounding the waters of a previously free-flowing Colorado, perhaps a dozen people camped on a sandbar in the Canyon twice a summer, but every spring the rising snow-melt waters of the once mighty Colorado literally flushed out the canyon and provided a new supply of driftwood--and the silt-laden water continued to carve away at the Canyon walls.

But with the increased use of the Colorado for white-water floating, by 1970 that same sandbar might have been used twice a week by as many as 162 people. And the river, now harnessed and blocked by Glen Canyon Dam, no longer flushed out the human waste nor did it add a new layer of fresh clean sand nor did it bring in a new supply of driftwood to be burned for an evening campfire. Sandbars became littered with human waste remains, and firewood became scarce. A common practice was landing at some non-campsite to collect wood for a campfire downstream at the overnight stop.

Not only did the number of commercial and private float trips increase. The number of people per boat increased as well from 23.5 in 1967 to 30.7 in 1969. Was it safe to carry that many people on one boat? A number of accidents occurred, especially the spring of 1970, and the Park Service's concern increased. Another problem: drinking by boatmen on commercial trips where responsibility to the paying public becomes a major, legal matter. During the summer of 1970 the Park Service received numerous complaints about litter and human waste on beaches, boatmen behavior, fires left burning (one known euphemistically as "the unfortunate occurrence at Nankoweap" on May 20 or 21 burned over the beach on the south side of Nankoweap fan).

The Western River Guides Association has worked closely with the Park Service to solve many of the problems that have developed through increased use of the river in Grand Canyon National Park. Some of the changes have been suggested by the guides themselves, and others the guides may not like, they know they will have to live with if they plan to continue to use the river in the park and the monuments. The main speaker at a November 14, 1970, meeting of the Western River Guides Association was Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Lovegren, who outlined the new regulations.

All litter and trash should be carried out of the canyon, not dumped at Phantom Ranch as floaters were accustomed to doing. No longer were floaters to use sandbars as latrines. This meant that each float trip operation had to start carrying chemical toilets, one for every twenty people. (Later recommendations called for dumping sites in suitable places within the canyon--since the human waste from an eight-or-ten-day trip could become a major problem).

At the beginning of the summer of 1970 the Park Service put a ceiling on the number of commercial float operators (20) and have allowed operation on a Special Use Permit basis--as is true in Grand Teton National Park. But in both cases, the Park Service is considering placing operators under the Concession Policy Act of 1965. Beginning in 1971, the Park Service established an interim carrying capacity for the river in Grand Canyon until scientific studies are completed and a continuing figure is developed, probably expressed in terms of a maximum number of passenger days on the river per year.

One Park Service directive to commercial boatmen and operators said, in part: "our trip demonstrated to us that the river operators are becoming quite conscientious and thorough in the matter of litter pickup." Concerning the various complaints that the Park Service has fielded, River Manager Warren Hill suggested that "Most of these problems can be solved by conscientious boatmen that really care about

Grand Canyon." And Lovegren, in his talk last November, said "Operators should be able to handle this. If they don't, we will," suggesting that where the river runners fall down on the job of policing the river in the park, the Park Service will be forced to regulate.

When I floated the Colorado River through Grand Canyon in June of 1968, we camped at Redwall Cavern with a Park Service group that included Ranger Glade Ross, veteran river runner now at Dinosaur National Monument, and Naturalist Warren Hill, now River Manager for the Park. Hill was at that time making a brief ecological study of the river, and the whole crew was checking out the river for potential problems of litter, sanitation, safety, etc. A recent letter from Ranger Hill may serve to highlight the contrast that exists just three years later--after the Park Service began enforcing control measures. Camping is no longer permitted at Redwall (nor at Elves Chasm, Deer Creek Falls, the Mouth of Havasu Creek or at

pgrounds in the Monument were seriously overused during peak periods of river running. (One of the campgrounds had been burned out during the previous winter.) In 1971 the Park Service instituted new regulations that called for any floater--commercial or private--to have a campground reservation for any overnight use along the river. Floaters were required to camp in assigned campgrounds only, except in case of emergency (and there was a major emergency during the early summer when a boy scout group was marooned after their boats proved too flimsy for the rapids in Ladore Canyon and one boy was drowned).

More than ten thousand people floated the Yampa and the Green in Dinosaur the summer of 1970. (Figures are not yet complete for the 1971 season but seem to suggest another increase) The Yampa, with an average drop of twelve feet to the mile, flows for 45 miles before it reaches the confluence with the Green in Echo Park (proposed site of a dam that was stopped--it can

Photo by Earl Roberge



Jim Zanelli runs his double-pontoon rig through Cache Creek (sometimes erroneously called Granite Creek) Rapids in Hells Canyon. Operating out of Oxbow, Oregon, Zanelli's Hells Canyon Navigation runs both float trips and jet-boat trips below Hells Canyon Dam. Probably fewer than 250 people floated this stretch of river during 1971 to date.

### Five-year Increase in Float Trips

|                                  | 1965 | 1966  | 1967  | 1968  | 1969  | 1970  |
|----------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of Commercial Float Trips |      | 39    | 79    | 108   | 178   | 307   |
| Number of Private Float Trips    |      | 3     | 10    | 11    | 18    | 28    |
| Total Number of Float Trips      |      | 42    | 89    | 119   | 196   | 335   |
| Number of Commercial Passengers  |      | 1,031 | 1,998 | 3,455 | 5,834 | 9,507 |
| Number of Private Passengers     |      | 36    | 101   | 154   | 185   | 428   |
| Total Number of Passengers       | 547  | 1,067 | 2,099 | 3,609 | 6,019 | 9,935 |

Phantom Ranch).

Hill said in part: "I just returned from a river trip myself, and I can tell you that we are moving in the right direction on a lot of our management activities. I am particularly pleased with the results of the use of chemical toilets along the beaches this year. The beaches seem to be cleaner than they were in 1968 when you and I first met at Redwall Cavern. If this trend continues, we could tolerate increased use of the Colorado, but I think eventually we will need to have an absolute limit." (18 June, 1971)

He mentions further, broadening the scope to other western rivers, that "a student from one of the Universities in Idaho hopes to conduct sociological carrying-capacity studies on the Salmon in Idaho" similar to the ecological and sociological studies being conducted in Grand Canyon National Park. The Dinosaur National Monument is also engaged in evaluating the use of both the Yampa and the Green rivers from the river-running and over-use point of view.

During the summer of 1970 river cam-

be done!). The Green River, with a drop of thirteen feet to the mile, flows about 44 miles through the Monument (Gates of Lodore to Split Mountain). Several sections of these rivers are placid, but there is much white water: Teepee Rapids on the Yampa involves a drop of 31 feet in a mile; Hell's Half Mile has a drop of 30 feet in less than half-a-mile above Echo Park on the Green; at Moonshine Rapids below the confluence there is a 39-foot drop in a one-mile stretch of river.

Thus, the Green and the Yampa alternate between smooth quiet water and raging rapids (Major John Wesley Powell lost one of his boats, the "no-name" in the Canyon of Lodore near where the boy scouts were marooned). Safety regulations are in force in the Monument regarding boats and equipment, experience and maximum loads. Motors are outlawed (as many people feel they should be in Grand Canyon, and as they are in Grand Teton) except in emergencies. But perhaps the major control to (Please turn to page 12.)



## Eagle Briefs

"We don't shoot'em and we don't ask to shoot'em," David Smith, executive secretary of the Montana Wool Growers Association, said of the eagle problem in Montana recently. However, the wool growers asked Gov. Forrest H. Anderson to request a blanket kill permit in 1970 and he did so. The request was turned down by then Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel along with requests from Wyoming and several other states.

### Montana Has Eagles

Norton Miner, an official in the Billings, Montana, office of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife said there are more eagles in that state than is generally realized. He said 2,345 birds have been sighted within a 12-month period. "I've seen as high as 16 in one day," he said.

### Vote To Censure

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission recently voted to "censure the people responsible for the killing of eagles in Wyoming," and asked Senator Frank Church to "see that the parties responsible for the killing of the eagles in Wyoming are appropriately punished and that steps are taken to see this does not happen in the future."

### Letters Flow

Wyoming Gov. Stanley K. Hathaway reported in mid-August that his office had been getting 40 to 50 letters a day in the aftermath of the testimony that almost 800 eagles were shot from helicopters. The Governor said the letters were "sharp, abusive, arrogant and intimidating."

"Frankly, it irritates me quite a bit. They hold all people in Wyoming in contempt - say that they're all murderers!" he said.

### Eagles As Predators

The Joint Committee on Travel, Recreation and Wildlife of the Wyoming Legislature has said it will recommend that golden eagles be removed from the state's predatory animal list. State Representative John Turner of Moose, a recognized authority on eagles, is a member of the joint committee.

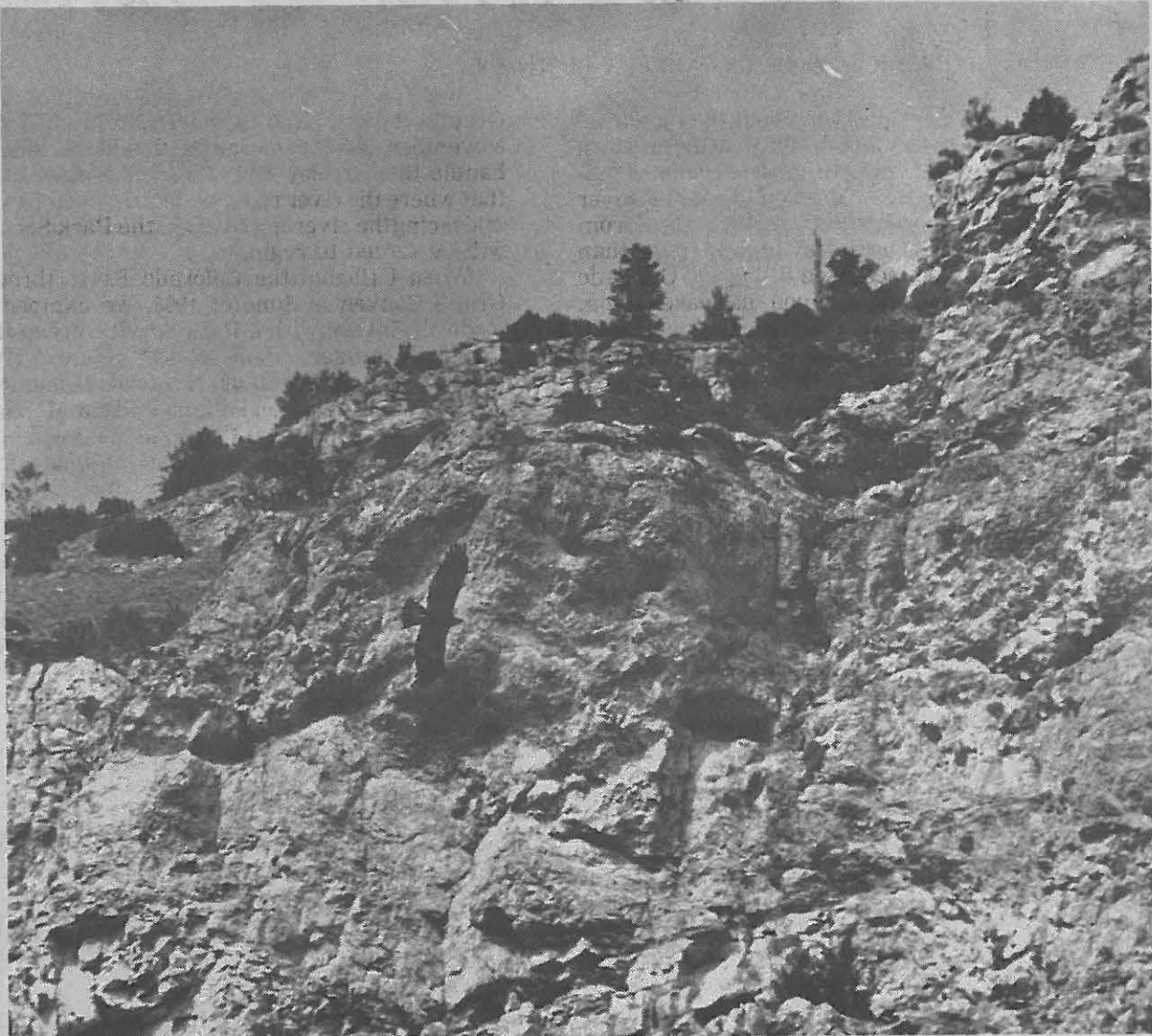
### Study Proposed

Environment West of Sun Valley, Idaho, an organization engaged in environmentally-oriented research, has proposed a study of 1080 bait stations. Purpose of the study would be to determine the real effects of 1080 on the environment. As the proposal points out, "little is known about the effects of 1080 stations on wildlife. Laboratory studies have shown that it requires 15 times as much 1080 per kilogram of body weight to kill a badger as a coyote, and much more to kill most other species of wildlife. However, at the dosage prescribed by federal regulation, 1.4 oz. of poisoned meat will kill a coyote; 13.0 oz. - badger; 1.6 oz. - fox; 6.6 oz. - bobcat; 1.4 oz. - marten or mink; 22.7 oz. - golden eagle (Peacock, ca. 1964). Furthermore, sublethal doses of 1080 may incapacitate animals to the extent that they may die of starvation, inclement weather, or predation before they can regain their normal condition." Heat-sensing devices would "watch" existing 1080 stations put out by the Division of Wildlife Services of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

### 'Van' Is Influential

Van Irvine, the former president of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association who pleaded 'no contest' to 29 charges of game violations and was fined the minimum of \$679, is now a regional vice president of the American National Cattleman's Association. According to Dean Prosser, secretary-treasurer of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, "Van . . . has a seat on the Executive Committee which is perhaps the most influential group in ANCA." Irvine's violations were discovered during the course of investigations into eagle deaths by poisoning.

Photo by Pat Hall



Golden eagles are inhabitants of the mountains, plains and deserts, from Canada to Mexico. Recent deaths by poison, electrocution and deliberate shooting have drawn attention to the plight of the big, magnificent birds. Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton recently dedicated the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area along the Snake River in Idaho. This area has been set aside for the express purpose of protecting the eagle and other species of predatory birds.

## Senator . . .

In another development, a leg of lamb which was anonymously mailed to Werner early in August was found to contain no poisons. The meat was sent to the State Department of Agriculture laboratory in Laramie for tests. It showed no evidence of thallium, strychnine, arsenic, lead or cadmium.

The CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE (August 31, 1971) carried a story under the headline 'Thallium Cocktail' Sweeps Fair. The story said:

The wave of indignation which followed the recent slaughter of bald and golden eagles in central Wyoming also produced its humorous sides at the State Fair in Douglas last week.

A popular drink at one or two Douglas bars was a potent concoction billed as a "thallium sulfate cocktail." The deadly concoction with Eagle brand milk did not deter quite a few customers from sampling it and commenting that it really "tingled the talons." It was followed with a "helicopter chaser."

A dummy named Old Silas, noted for his weekly commentary in the window of a Douglas liquor store, had this to say:

"Haven't heard much about the eagles lately. Do you suppose Nixon froze them? As well as the Justice Dept.?"

A tray of smoked lamb slices served at a party for dignitaries carried the notation: "some of the lamb the eagles didn't carry away."

Another story floated around Douglas to the effect that a popular brand of chicken soup had been recalled from the grocery shelves because it was found to contain portions of "minced eagle."

The story ended by saying, "Ranchers driving to the Fair from the Esterbrook country south of Douglas reported seeing five or six golden eagles along the road every day. A photographer went to 'shoot' one but reported it flew away from its perch atop a power pole before he could get within telephoto range."

Bumper stickers which have recently made an appearance in Casper read, "Let's Make Sheep Our National Emblem."

South of Wyoming at Leadville, Colorado, a bizarre case may be revealing of circumstances which lead to unwarranted accusations against predators. On August 15, UPI reported a Colorado sheep rancher, Irving Beard of Fruita, said one of his sheepherders told him an "army-colored" helicopter flew over one of his herds and sprayed it with bullets. Forty sheep were reported killed in the mountainous area south of Tennessee Pass. The Army investigated and so did a veterinarian. The latter found the sheep had been killed by lightning.

"A cop out!" That phrase is familiar to all of us who believe that population growth rates in the U.S. and the world must be reduced at once. Some of our critics are wont to call our efforts a cop-out, saying that to work for population control is a conscience-saving substitute for doing the job that each of them thinks is more urgent . . . We populationists answer that, 'whatever your cause, it's a lost cause unless we control population.' We readily concede that many efforts other than those that try to curb population growth are desperately needed. But NO other cause so vitally affects all its fellows: no problem apart from human proliferation so multiplies the difficulties of solving nearly all the myriad other ills that beset mankind."

Stewart Ogilvie  
Executive Director of the  
Hugh Moore Fund and Vice  
President of Friends of the  
Earth.

\*\*\*

"When we build a building or plant today, we don't question the need for bathrooms or plumbing. I believe that the same will be true of pollution-control equipment in about 10 years."

John Hearn  
Hewlett-Packard

\*\*\*

"In the past 20 years alone, we have been able to double our consumption of energy without exhausting supply. But the assumption that sufficient energy will always be readily available has been brought sharply into question within the last year."

President Richard M. Nixon  
Message to Congress on Energy

\*\*\*

"It wasn't 1080 (poison) that killed the eagles, it's your Wyoming citizens who have been killing eagles and we're going to put the cuffs on them."

Rogers C. B. Morton  
Secretary of the Interior  
Speaking at Jackson Hole,  
August 19, 1971.

## Thoughts

from the

### Distaff Corner

By Norma R. Hentges

#### Forts and Historical Sites Along Old West Trails

This is a continuation of Norma Hentges' column from last issue. Her series on Forts and Historical Sites Along Old West Trails will continue for another two issues.

\*\*\*

Uplifting from the valley of the North Platte is the massive 800 foot high sentinel, "the Gibraltar of the Plains," Scotts Bluff. This castellated bluff over looked the emigrants bound for Oregon, California and Utah.

The bluff was named for Hiram Scott, a fur trapper who died near here in 1828. The Indians called this "Meapate," meaning, "the-hill-that-is-hard-to-go-around."

Keep in mind when traveling here that the emigrants reference to Scott's Bluff was to the entire area. This would include the monument area of today, between the river, badlands, Mitchell Pass and the 25 mile long ridge called Wildcat Hills which extends from Chimney Rock to Robidoux Pass.

The trail of the 49ers and most who preceeded them, was the one that went by Robidoux Pass. This trail detoured south of the present Monument. It went up Gering Valley, over Robidoux Pass, then northwest to the Platte near the mouth of Horse Creek.

Mitchell Pass saw over 150,000 emigrants, soldiers and freighters in the 1850's and 1860's. Mitchell Pass was also noted for the Pony Express, the Overland stage and the Transcontinental Telegraph.

Most pioneer diarys describe the area in sublime terms. However, the Mitchell Pass bottle-neck must have dampened the pioneers ideas of the region.

The bottleneck was so narrow that wagons had to travel single file. It is here that today actual ruts of the wagons are preserved. One may walk in the ruts to the Jackson campsite marker.

Today, Scotts Bluff Monument has a visitors center, staffed by National Park personnel. There is a 1.6 mile foot trail from head-quarters to the summit via way of a foot tunnel and Scotts Spring. Those that prefer to drive may do so on the 1.7 mile road to the top. The visitors center houses the Oregon Trail Museum.

On the East side of the road, two miles northwest of Mitchell Pass, about where you can see a ranch house, stood Fort Mitchell.

This fort was established in 1864 as Camp Shuman. It was a typical adobe-walled stockade, 166 X 134 feet with a block house and rifle ports. The name was changed to Fort Mitchell in 1865.

Today, the hills along the North Platte river are far from scenic wonders. Let your mind slip back to the slow-pace of wagon travel and miles of flat prairie from the Missouri River. Prairie grass grew wagon box high, the whole expanse seemed like an endless sea of grass and unbroken sky line. Now, the beauty of the area will impress you as it did those hardy pioneers.

The emigrants of wagon trains left their mark along the trails, many in the form of graves, while others carved their names in rock in such places as Register Cliff, near Guernsey, Wyoming. Nearly 500 pioneer names and dates are visible on the face of the cliff.

In this same area can again be found the deep ruts cut by the long line of covered wagons. Beyond Guernsey, is a place where the pioneer woman could wash her clothes. This springs and pool stayed at about 70 degrees year round. It was known as "Emigrants Wash Tub."

Fort Fetterman became a military post in July of 1867. The post was named for Bvt. Lt. Col. William J. Fetterman, the infantry captain who with 80 men in his command was killed by Sioux Indians near Fort Phil Kearny.

Fort Fetterman sat like a fortress on a high mile-square plateau overlooking the Valley of the Platte River. The fort was well established and consisted of about 50 buildings made of adobe, wood and stone.

After the Treaty of 1868, which closed the forts of the Bozeman Trail to the North, Fort Fetterman became the last out-post of civilization on this frontier.

The fort was considered a hardship post by the men and officers stationed there. Supplies were often short and desertion was not uncommon.

Abandoned in 1882, cattlemen turned it into a frontier town. Barns and warehouses became places of business. Its life as a city was short lived and after the founding of Douglas in 1886, the old fort went into rapid decline. Most of the buildings were sold, moved or dismantled.

Today, a restored officer's quarters and an ordinance warehouse are the only original buildings left. The officer's quarters that now house the Fort Fetterman State Museum was not built until 1879. However, the scene the restored quarters represents is that of 1877.

John S. Finerty wrote the epitaph to Fort Fetterman: "Fort Fetterman is now abandoned. It was a hateful post—in summer, Hell, in winter, Spitzbergen. The whole Army dreaded being quartered there, but all had to take their turn. Its abandonment was a wise proceeding on the part of the government."



Near Guernsey, Wyoming, deep ruts were cut into the soft rock by thousands of wagon wheels traversing the Oregon-Mormon Trail.

## Floating Rivers...

prevent overuse is the regulation that allows no launching without a campground reservation for every night on the river.

In Grand Teton National Park, there are roughly twenty commercial float trips operating under special use permits, one of which was withdrawn this summer when a boat hit a well-known log in the river and dumped two passengers into the Snake. (That operator is no longer running commercial trips in the park.) All boatmen are required to attend a seminar sponsored by the Park Service, usually three times in the spring and early summer, and new (trainee) boatmen must be broken in under the guidance of an experienced guide. Several, major, commercial float trip operators who run many western rivers have not been allowed to float in Grand Teton National Park because their guides have not fulfilled the requirements for boatmen established by the park.

Here again, safety regulations are enforced, and to date no one has drowned on a commercially-operated float trip within the park. Every summer there have been minor accidents to private parties and occasionally to commercial float trips operating in Grand Teton National Park, but the Snake River in the park is a relatively placid stream. It's average flow is about twelve feet to the mile—much the same as the Green and Yampa in Dinosaur or the Colorado in Grand Canyon but without the rapids (it is a more constant steady drop rather than the alternate rapid and smooth stretch of the others).

The major concern in Grand Teton National Parks seems to be with the aesthetic aspect of too many crafts on the river at a given time. Does it really detract from the wilderness experience of floating through Jackson Hole to see another boat? For some people it does; for others, it obviously does not (see the first article in this series for a further discussion of the problem). Certainly some kind of control is necessary. Perhaps a ceiling on the number of commerical float trips should be established. Perhaps a ceiling on the number of people allowed to float the river each day will even-

tually be established. Perhaps the commercial floaters will police their own ranks, which—to some extent—they do even now, scheduling around each other to avoid congestion at the launching and landing areas and attempt to run trips at times when there aren't too many other boats on the river.

Of course, during the late afternoon when wildlife viewing is at its best, the river does often get crowded. This past summer more and more private crafts added to the traffic on the river—canoes, kayaks, inflatable boats of several types, even a few hard boats (johnboats and McKenzie boats). How much control should be enforced on river running? Should all commercial float trips be stopped? Some think so; yet as many as 50,000 people a summer get a valuable wilderness experience that would not be possible if commercial float trips were banned from the river.

Certainly, studies should be initiated on all the major western rivers that still have wilderness quality to attempt to determine the impact of the float trips on the rivers and the areas through which they run. Perhaps motors should be banned from float trips in Grand Canyon. Perhaps commercial float trips in Grand Teton National Park should be ended. Perhaps jet boats on the Salmon River and in Hell's Canyon should be outlawed. But in each case strong special interest groups that have a good point will resist such moves or suggestions, and many of them have a great deal of public support.

But ultimately the only criterion should be what is best for the river. And this value judgement brings up several other factors relevant to rivers and wilderness quality. Should any more rivers be dammed? Presently the Teton River in eastern Idaho, the Green River in western Wyoming, the Snake River in Hell's Canyon and the Idaho-Oregon state line are all threatened with proposed dams.

Should any more roads be built along wild and scenic rivers? The Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone in northwestern Wyoming is being threatened by a proposed road, and the Hoback

(Continued on page 13.)

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# THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

Ever heard of an organization called Outdoors Unlimited, Incorporated? It's an anti-conservation conservation organization that has recently moved into Wyoming. A fore-runner of the group formed in Washington State a few years ago and attempted to prevent the creation of the North Cascades National Park. Remnants of that group moved to northern Idaho and set up headquarters.

A few months ago the organization announced the creation of a tri-state chapter for Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming with Gary Tucker and Roy Peck of Riverton and Leonard Hay and William T. Taliaferro of Rock Springs named as Wyoming board members. Last week I ran into another chapter headquartered in Boise, Idaho: The Greater Snake River Land Users Congress.

Ostensibly dedicated to promoting multiple-use management of public lands, Outdoors Unlimited is basically composed of the abusive users of public lands: the timbermen, the miners, the stockmen, the tote-goats and snowmobilers.

That last statement is no doubt going to make some people mad—snowmobilers and stockmen grouped with abusive users. I'll add 4-wheel-drive nuts as well and motorboat users—people who would destroy wilderness values with mechanized means. Colorado has destroyed its elk herd with overcutting and overgrazing and 4-wheel-drive use. Much of Wyoming's bighorn sheep population is going the same way to snowmobile abuse.

I'm not attacking the responsible users; I am attacking the abusers and the organized exploiters who would destroy wilderness values for easy access, who would destroy hunting and fishing by letting too many people into delicate areas, who would sell wilderness and wildlife for quick profit.

I simply distrust Outdoors Unlimited, Inc. The organization opposes wilderness and its members are among those who testify against enlarging or even establishing wilderness areas. They push for more roads and more timber cutting and more and more ready access to those few remaining wild areas we have left. Must all of nature be conquered? (It will never be!)

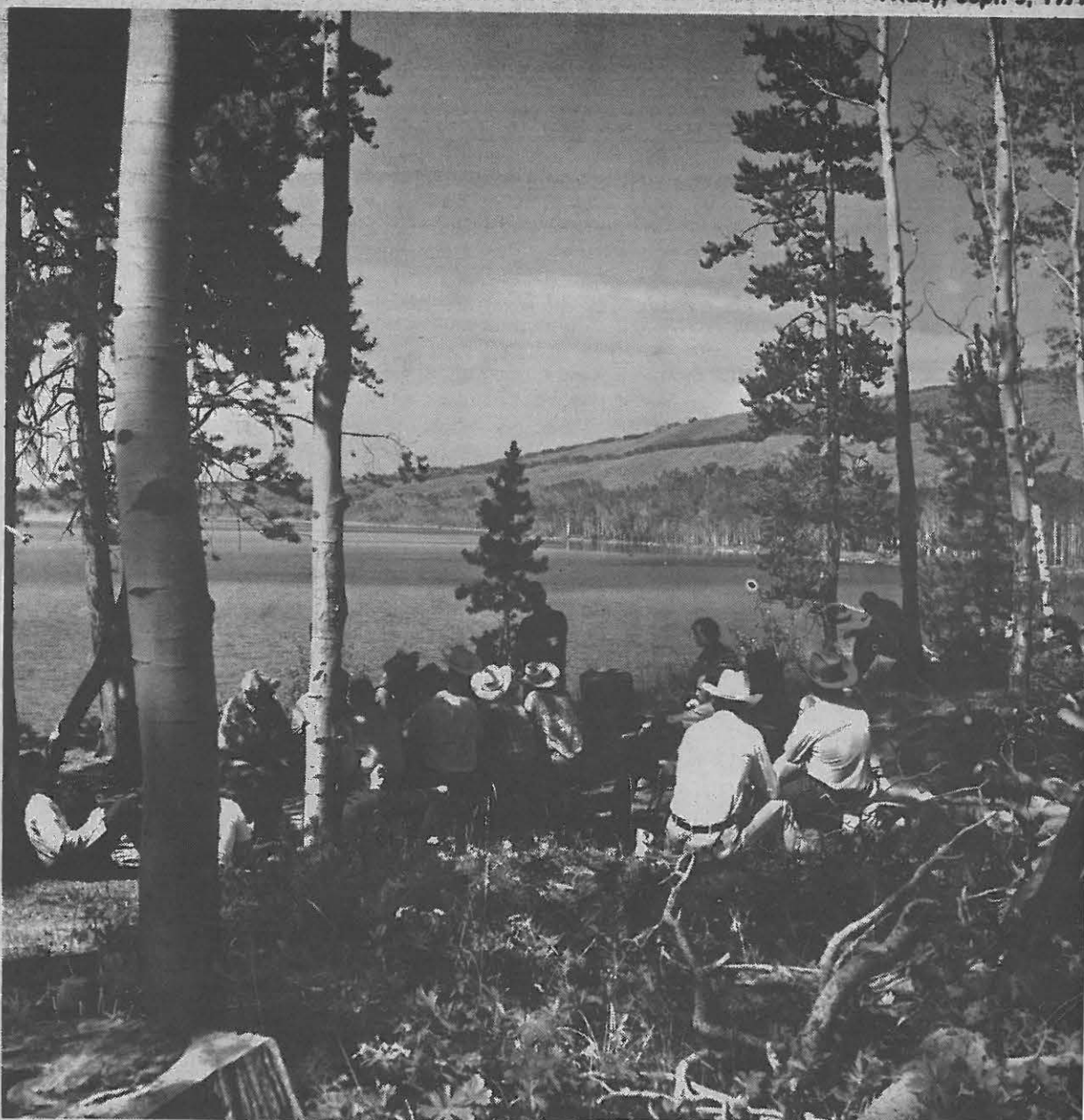
Are you aware, asks the organization "That in all this vast area (three million acres of the Snake River drainage) no roads are built, no trail bikes or snowmobiles are operated, no minerals are mined, no timber is harvested and very little livestock grazing is permitted?" And I say GREAT. How many million acres in that drainage are open to such uses? Must every acre of the public domain be accessible to motorized vehicles?

Outdoors Unlimited stands for "access routes to and use of public lands for hunting and fishing and other recreation" (but how long will such use be worthwhile if every acre is accessible?); "access for the snowmobile and other vehicles;" (but what of the horseman or the backpacker or the snowshoer or the cross-country skiers or the Sunday hiker who wants to get away from the sound of civilization?); "protection of the right to properly explore and mine mineral resources" (but have you seen the rape of the land perpetrated in the name of mineral exploration and development under the 1872 mining laws which are still in effect?); "equitable treatment by the federal agencies of the livestock industry" (which should mean that grazing fees be brought into line with reasonable rates, be raised to five or ten times the present rates).

It seems to me that some of the very men who have most abusively exploited the resources of Wyoming on the public lands are now making a bid for further control. We've seen the abuses of the sheep industry concerning overgrazing and predator control. We've witnessed the abusive timber cutting practices on Wyoming's high dry forests. We've been reminded more and more frequently of the inroads into wildlife habitat and the destruction of quality fishing and fisheries. What further evidence do we need to reject such exploitation?

Yet, here comes an out-of-state organization trying to perpetuate such abuse. Many Wyomingites reject the Sierra Club as an outside organization coming into the state to try to tell us what to do with our lands. They resent Federal control, yet had it not been for the very Federal control they resent, there would be no grazing left, no trees left to cut or streams left to fish in. I say thank God for such Federal control and for the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. But beware of Outdoors Unlimited, Inc.

Only as long as we continue to husband our public lands with an eye on the future and a finger on the ecological pulse may we expect to enjoy the outdoors. We live on a finite planet, and our great outdoors has limits. Only if we limit our use and prevent abuse can we keep the positive options open and continue to enjoy our resources for an unlimited time. But time may already be running out on many of our resources. Let's hope it isn't already too late.



The summer meeting of the directors of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation was held at beautiful New Fork Lake in the Bridger National Forest near Pinedale on August 7.

## Machines Utilize Wood Products

How to use the large volume of valuable wood fiber left after timber harvesting is a problem faced by foresters everywhere. To help solve this problem, a cooperative study is now underway on the Teton National Forest, near the Continental Divide in Wyoming, to find practical and environmentally sound methods for complete tree utilization of an overmature lodgepole pine forest.

Regional Forester Vern Hamre of the Intermountain Region, Ogden, Utah, announced that Forest Service scientists and managers of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the Intermountain Region are joining with officials of the U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc. in this "environmental harvesting" field study.

Hamre invited all persons interested in seeing the study to visit the area before August 31, 1971. A report on road conditions and travel directions can be obtained by calling the Forest Service at Jackson, Wyoming, (307) 733-2752, or Dubois, Wyoming, (307) 455-2466.

The study will determine nature and amounts of residues left on the site following logging, how these residues can most efficiently be moved from the logging site, and the economic feasibility of converting residues into products.

Hamre pointed out that proper forest management does not stop with adequate residue use. Among factors that need to be considered in residue removal are regeneration problems, rate of reforestation, possibility of reducing need for burning slash, wildlife habitat, esthetics, and quality of air and water.

The study is made possible by specialized equipment developed by industry to harvest timber with limited impact on the forest environment. Machinery being tested includes the following:

1. Drott Feller Buncher. Drott Manufacturing Company, Wausau, Wisconsin. This machine cuts lodgepole pine up to 24 inches d.b.h. off near the ground and bunches them for easy pickup.

2. Timberjack grapple skidders. Timberjack Machines Ltd., Woodstock, Ontario. The skidder moves the commercial tree length logs to a loading area and all other material, except stumps, to the chipper site.

3. Morbark Super Beaver Mitro Chiparvestor. Morbark Industries, Inc., Winn, Michigan. This machine is fed all live, dead, and down timber not utilized for lumber products,

and this material is chipped for total utilization of the timber fiber.

This harvest concept by the three machines used in the Teton study proved their worth in hardwood timber near Winn, Michigan, in May 1971 and again in June 1971. The study now underway on the Teton National Forest of Wyoming is the first test of the machines in a coniferous stand.

## Rivers...

River just south of Jackson Hole is currently being channelized by a highway project.

Timbering requires road building; both timbering and road building lead to silting of those same rivers. Irrigation projects lead to crop production on land never intended for crop production, and erosion occurs that further pollutes the very rivers that have been dammed to provide the irrigation water. Rivers are being destroyed much more by factors other than floods, trips, motor-driven or otherwise. Perhaps floods serve a valuable function in showing most people the devastation caused by dams and stream channelization and road building and abusive timber practices and mining. Too often the blight caused by the exploitive use of public lands and national resources is hidden from the roads we usually travel. By taking such back roads as rivers we often see the damage that no one thought to try to hide because it was too far off the beaten track.

The wildness of a river or of an area through which a river flows is a relative thing. That's why there are three categories in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (wild, scenic, and recreational). Some rivers should have no motors on them. Others perhaps should. Certainly—in the mind of this writer—no more rivers should be dammed and darn few should be roaded. There are too few unspoiled rivers left and the quickest way to spoil a river is to make too accessible, either by car or by boat.

But don't take my word for it. Float a river yourself. Certainly no fewer than a hundred thousand people have done so during the time that this six-part series has run in the HIGH COUNTRY NEWS. I will welcome any question or comments from any reader, any information on rivers that need to be floated because they're there, any knowledge of overuse or abuse on any western rivers. Verne Huser, Box 871, Halfway, Oregon 97834

# Morton Meets...

blonde conservationist who is a Nevada commissioner on the Colorado River Commission, said people in her state were concerned because Nevada lies between the 4 Corners power complex and California where the power was destined to go.

Alley said there was a need to develop a criteria for powerline citing.

Two conservationists, Lunt of Arizona and Alley of New Mexico, hit upon the "water salvage" activities of the Bureau of Reclamation. Alley said there was not enough data to support such questionable activities as phreatophyte control along the Pecos and Rio Grande Rivers. He said he questioned whether any water salvage would actually result. Lunt said there seemed to be many arbitrary decisions as to just what plants and animals are desirable or undesirable.

The Bureau of Reclamation drew fire on another front. Ed Connors of the Colorado Open Space Council said the Bureau does an impact statement on the immediate area of a proposed reservoir, but that statement does not consider the total impact on an over-all area.

Secretary Morton commented that he was in complete agreement - that total water planning must be done, and that such planning must cover such aspects as the social, industrial, physical and environmental aspects.

Mary Kozlowski said there must be more environmentalists involved in the Westwide Water Plan and other planning for rivers.

Connors said we needed change in land use policies and pointed to the 1872 mining Act and clearcutting of timber as examples.

Secretary Morton said clearcutting has its place but decisions to clearcut should be made on a scientific basis. He said foresters have to decide where clearcutting is best.

Morton drew a laugh when he said, "If clearcutting is banned in the southeast, you wouldn't be able to publish the New York Times - which might not be all bad but would still be a fact."

Ernie Day, national director of the National Wildlife Federation and a director of the Idaho Environmental Council, told Secretary Morton that "I can't see anything wrong with Interior taking some lead in getting the area (White Clouds-Sawtooth-Boulder Mountains) into parks."

In a friendly exchange of banter, Morton said the Federal government "ought to own 90% of Idaho," and asked Day if he wanted a wall put around Idaho.

Day also said the Hells Canyon on the Middle Snake must be protected, and that he couldn't see writing off such a natural area for 19 months of lead-time in power production.

Day told Secretary Morton that he appreciated the concern of the Secretary for the Birds of Prey Natural Area along the Snake in Idaho. (Secretary Morton personally dedicated the area just the week before.) But Day said he thought the long-term administration of the area should be in the hands of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife rather than the Bureau of Land Management because of the enforcement aspects.

Ass't Secretary Reed then pointed out that the State of Idaho had not closed the area to duck hunting and that it was within the powers of the state to do so. He said he thought there would be better protection of the prairie falcon and other smaller hawks if the area was closed.

Morton bluntly asked Day, "Can we count on you to put the heat on the state to control hunting in that area?"

On another subject concerning public lands, Day said he thought the Desert Land Entry Act ought to be repealed, and that the Bureau of Land Management advisory boards are outdated and ought to be abolished. He said if the boards cannot be abolished they should be broadened to include more interests.

To this, Morton commented that there "hasn't been a balance since the Taylor Grazing Act was enacted."

In what could come as a pleasant shock to many who are concerned with wilderness, Assistant Secretary Reed said there would be a flood of wilderness proposals in the next nine months. His comments came as Jim Alley deplored the foot-dragging of the National Park Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in identifying and classifying wilderness areas in the national parks and national wildlife refuges.

Reed said that conservationists should be prepared for a steady stream of proposals on both the parks and refuges.

Mary Kozlowski and Tom Bell, editor of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, both expressed concern with strip mining laws. Bell said there ought to be a Federal law with minimum guidelines which each state must follow.

Morton expressed great sympathy for the Indians and their problems. However, it was pointed out to him by Jim Alley that the Bureau of Indian Affairs had allowed two subdivisions in New Mexico to be leased by land developers who

said they had immunity from state or local zoning laws.

Morton said, "We have got to have new regulations for development of Indian lands."

In a discussion of national park usage, Secretary Morton asked for comments. Bell said the optimum carrying capacity of the parks ought to be determined and use limited to that capacity. Morton then elicited the comment from Hartzog that a system of reservations is being worked out and will be tried at Yosemite and Acadia National Parks next year.

Mary Kozlowski and Malin Foster of Salt Lake City both said the problems of sub-dividers must be dealt with, especially in relation to public lands. Foster said Southern Utah was a mess.

Secretary Morton agreed with him and said there was definite need for "more state land-use planning." He said he thought Utah was "one of the most difficult areas to manage because of the hodge-podge of lands and because of bureau orientation."

Foster expressed concern with what was happening in the Escalante Area and in regard to the Central Utah Project involving water development.

In other areas touched upon, Bell said he thought all environmentalists were in agreement that the nation must develop a population policy as a first priority.

Mary Kozlowski said the experience with the Youth Conservation Corps in Nevada had been very heartening. She said she hoped that it would continue and expand.

Montana conservationists were unable to attend because of weather difficulties. Colorado was best represented by about 10 people. Wyoming had three representatives, Idaho and Arizona two, and Nevada, New Mexico and Utah each had one. Not all those attending had a chance to speak because of the time limitation.

The Rocky Mountain Center on Environment hosted a luncheon-discussion following the meeting. Assistant Secretary Reed commented on several areas of interest to conservationists including direct access to the Secretary (to be worked out), recent court cases (Calvert Cliffs and Department of Transportation), and using ROMCOE to get the word out on issues. He said conservationists often were given inside information on matters, and cautioned that such sources must be protected.

## New Departments Deal With Environment

by Ken Bovee

In a recent study made by Elizabeth H. Haskell and her associates (Managing the Environment: Nine States Look for New Answers, The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560, April, 1971) a number of new ideas and concepts have been brought forth as means by which the government can effectively improve the conditions of the environment. One of the methods recommended is the creation of new governmental agencies whose duties include looking after statewide environmental problems.

For instance, in 1970, the State of Washington created a new Department of Ecology, which is responsible for the control of air, water, and solid waste pollution, as well as combining the program to regulate water use.

The study brings out the point that creation of new departments can be a state government's symbol that it is committed to an issue. In an age where people, and especially politicians, are remarkably uncommitted to anything or over committed to special interests, this is a very important point. By creating a new environmental agency, a governor may say to the voters, "You see, I do care about ecology," whether he actually does or not. The simple creation of a governmental agency will not clear the air, nor the water. The agency must have three things in order to be functional: 1) enforcement powers assigned by the legislative branch, 2) dedicated and well equipped personnel, and 3) money. A deficit in any of these requirements will reduce the agency to a worthless entity.

Enforcement powers are written into legislation as it is drafted. These powers determine which agency is responsible for enforcing the law, and usually the punishment for violation of the law. After all, there is little use in passing a law if no one is going to make sure that people obey it. Unfortunately, laws are purposely made vague and full of loopholes in order to get them passed as laws. In politics, this is

known as compromise. In enforcement, it is known as red tape. Wording used in many laws makes them almost incomprehensible, to the point that it is soon hard to tell what is or is not against the law.

An outstanding use of loopholes was made by an oil refinery in Montana. A standard was set on sulfur dioxide emissions so that no more than 7 parts per million sulfur dioxide was to be emitted from any stack. The stack at the refinery was emitting 21 ppm. Rather than going to the expense of reclaiming the sulfur, the company took the cheaper route and built two more stacks. They were completely within the law, yet the amount of air pollution remained the same.



Finding dedicated and well trained personnel is also a problem in the staffing of agencies. From a political standpoint, the most dedicated man in any position is usually the first to be fired. Case in point-almost everyone protested when President Nixon appointed Walter J. Hickel to the post of Secretary of the Interior.

Hickel had a lousy record as an environmentalist, and had been known to pander to the interests of big business. However, Hickel proved to be the big club as far as ecology was concerned. He surprised everyone from the President on down with his hard line of prosecution against polluters. We all know what happened to "poor old Wally," but we will probably never know the real reason why it happened to him. Suspicions have it that he simply did his job too well, and stepped on too many powerful feet in the process.

In order to placate the growing number of voices crying for environmental protection, a government may create an agency and staff it with highly trained, dedicated people. Then, to keep important feet from being stepped on, the legislature may fail to appropriate sufficient funds to support that agency. Money is needed to research particular problems, to organize cases and hire lawyers, and to prosecute violations. In the absence of funding, the agency can do little more than publish its findings.

What, then, is the purpose in creating these new super-departments, such as the Environmental Protection Agency? This depends almost entirely on the governor. He has the power to establish the agency, select the staff, and push for funding. If the governor is merely creating the agency as a "front" with little or no power, he has done nothing for the state, nor for his own political well being. If, however, he is genuinely concerned, and fulfills the prerequisites for a meaningful department, real progress can be made, often without alienating business and industry.

The Haskell study indicates that one of the primary functions of such super-agencies is to provide a united focus for various types of environmental interest groups. Thus, the husky fellows in the rod and gun clubs can be united with the bird watchers and the "new environmentalists", who are more concerned with pollution than the number of pheasants. Such a

(Please turn to page 16)

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST NEWS

By Harvey Manning

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Dangerous times, these, in Olympia and Salem, the capitols respectively of Washington and Oregon. The way things are going, the league of faceless men, the legislators nobody knows and their boon companions, the lobbyists, may lose control of the governments, overthrown more or less violently by a rabble of alien meddlers.

A Washington legislator bitterly told the press that he and his cronies were so irritated by the impertinent deluge of letters and telegrams in support of environmental legislation they were being driven into an "anti-ecology backlash."

A representative of Associated Oregon Industries publicly complained about the large numbers of citizens coming to Salem to present their views--thereby threatening the very stability of the democratic process!

By no means to minimize the leadership provided by environmentally-aware governors, Tom McCall of Oregon and Dan Evans of Washington, and by the dedicated legislators who serve at considerable personal sacrifice with no thought of private gain, the key factor in the "new politics" is the unprecedented degree of citizen involvement.

The Washington Environmental Council and the Oregon Environmental Council, formed respectively in 1967 and 1968, have rudely shouldered into the legislative process and virtually overnight become forces to be reckoned with. Both represent numerous organizations (currently, for WEC, a total of 91) and have the beginnings of fulltime staffs. Financially they live from hand to mouth, and can't compete with the big-money boys in entertainment and campaign contributions and business "favors," but they can mobilize brigades of volunteers to take a day off from work to attend hearings and buttonhole legislators, and on signal to the troops back home can direct salvos of letters at specific targets. And though neither engages in political campaigns, by publicizing voting records they contribute to informing the electorate--the inner clique of the Washington Legislature was badly shaken in the last election when one of its most powerful members and the darling of the automobile lobby, "Asphalt Al" was thrown out of office in a stunning upset.

There's a long way to go before we all sail into the sunset and live happily ever after. The bright-eyed volunteers are learning how rough and tough and skillful are the vereran mercenaries. Ownership of the legislatures is worth billions of dollars in special privileges, and millions are being spent to defend the citadels against the barbarians who rush into battle virtually naked of the all-important weaponry of the dollar, trusting to the ballot and the knowledge that

"My strength is as the strength of ten. Because my heart is pure."

## WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE 1971

Prospects for environmental action were dismal when the Washington legislature convened last January. In the general opinion the splendid "Environmental Session" of 1970 had given the ecology nuts all they had coming for a while, and in any event the state was hard hit by the Nixon Depression, was in the throes of a taxpayer revolt, and on top of that, the legislation was faced by the necessity of redistricting.

For 5 months the session was an unrelieved environmental disaster, and with only a single week left, chances seemed slim of salvaging more than a few scraps of the ambitious programs put forward by the WEC and Governor Evans and by various "good guy" legislators. But when the final gavel fell, the mercenaries were startled to discover that during the traditional free-for-all of the last days, precisely the kind of melee they were accustomed to win, they'd been out-logrolled and out-bamboozled by the "Childrens' Crusade."

The most significant measure passed was the Environmental Policy Act, requiring environmental-impact studies of construction projects by all levels of government (state, county, and local), and recognizing the right of every citizen to a clean, healthful environment. It may be construed to permit class-action lawsuits, a matter certain to be tested in the courts.

Frustrated by years of getting the runaround from the legislature, the WEC drafted Initiative 43, for Shorelands Management, and in the incredibly short time of 10 weeks obtained the preposterous total of 160,421 valid signatures. Since by state law the initiative would automatically be presented to a vote of the people if not adopted by the legislature, even the land-developer crowd was forced to push for action, or else start looking for honest jobs. Thus, the legislature passed a fairly-decent Shorelands Management Act, which assigns primary responsibility to the counties, and the much stronger Initiative 43, which would put the state in charge.

A Pollution Disclosure Act requires yearly reports from polluters on the make-up and volume of their pollution.

A State Land Planning Commission was established to inventory state land resources in the Ian McHarg manner.

A Conservation Future Act allows counties and municipalities to purchase development rights of land considered valuable for open space.

A Water Resources Management Act enables the Department of Ecology to coordinate the use of all water resources in the state.

And the Legislature provided for multiple-use of state-owned lands, doing away with the old requirement that "income be maximized," no matter what the long-range damage; prohibited sales of state-owned tidelands, a scandal of years standing; directed the Department of Ecology to review the environmental impact of all new highway proposals; required the Highway Department to construct alternative routes for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians when new construction severs old routes; required registration of all off-road vehicles including trailbikes and snowmobiles, a first step toward effective control; provided for management and protection of marine mammals, thus halting the unrestricted slaughter of seals and killer whales; authorized a study of the oil-spill problem, including supertankers; instructed the Superintendent of Instruction to plan ecology courses; authorized a study of noise-pollution control; allowed visual displays of contraceptives and their sale by others than pharmacists.

There were these and other partial victories. There were also defeats. Governor Evans lost his fight to take the highways away from the present Highway Commission and Highway Department, which are owned by the automobile lobby, and put them under a people-responsive Department of Transportation. He also lost in his attempt to repeal the exclusive devotion of gas taxes to highway construction. And the brand new Department of Ecology was hamstringed by a major budget reduction exactly at a period when its funding should be greatly enlarged.



And ironically, the 1961 Billboard Control Act, which marked the beginning of effective citizen involvement in the Washington legislative process, and was one of the best in the nation, was sabotaged by the necessity to comply with terms of the federal "Lady Bird Johnson Law," which in reality was written by the billboard industry. Thanks a lot, Lady Bird.

In conclusion, the WEC went into the 1971 session supporting 24 bills; 17 were passed into law. The dazed polluters and wreckers are still trying to figure out what hit them in that final hectic week.

## OREGON LEGISLATURE 1971

Meanwhile, down in Salem, the fat and happy fulltime lobbyist of business and industry set up their customary hospitality rooms equipped to supply the good things of life the clock around to legislators. The young Oregon Environmental Council hardly could buy anybody a cup of coffee, and lacked even one paid lobbyist, and could offer no campaign contributions or "legal fees" or other coin of the legislative realm.

But the 1971 session drew the heaviest citizen participation of any in recent history. Many an old-line legislator who looked forward to lushing it up with lobbyist pals and making a few deals for himself and his sponsors was scared half to death to find that Somebody Out There Was Watching. And many a legislator devoted to the public interest was renewed in faith and energy by the unprecedented evidence that the public cared.

(Please turn to page 16)

# Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Strange creature, Man! All bathed and neat  
With armpits dry, and breath that's sweet ---  
Yet he hardly sees  
That he's up to his knees  
In the garbage he strews 'round his feet!

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The Association for Voluntary Sterilization (AVS) says that during 1970, 750,000 American males submitted themselves to a 20-minute surgical procedure that made it impossible for them to father a child. AVS says there is a good chance even more men will undergo a vasectomy in 1971. All states except Utah permit the operation on demand. In Utah, vasectomies can only be done for medical reasons.

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U. S. Bureau of Mines scientists have succeeded in converting manure, sewage sludge, vegetable waste, and household garbage to a good grade of crude oil. The process converts two tons of dry manure into a ton of crude oil and a ton of water. Heat, pressure, and the addition of carbon monoxide are used in the conversion.

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A presidential panel recommended in March, 1969, that the SST not be built because of an anticipated poor market value, high technical risks, the fact that the SST would not be allowed to fly over land at supersonic speeds, the likelihood of fare surcharges, probable environmental impacts from high altitude flights, and high financial risks. The report of the panel was kept secret until recently released by President Nixon's Office of Science and Technology. The release came in the wake of an appeals court decision on a lawsuit brought by two environmental groups and the American Civil Liberties Union.

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The National Science Foundation has awarded a grant to the University of Washington for a study of "terrestrial lines" in astronomical data. The lines will be used for an air pollution survey to determine the types of pollutants present in the Earth's atmosphere.

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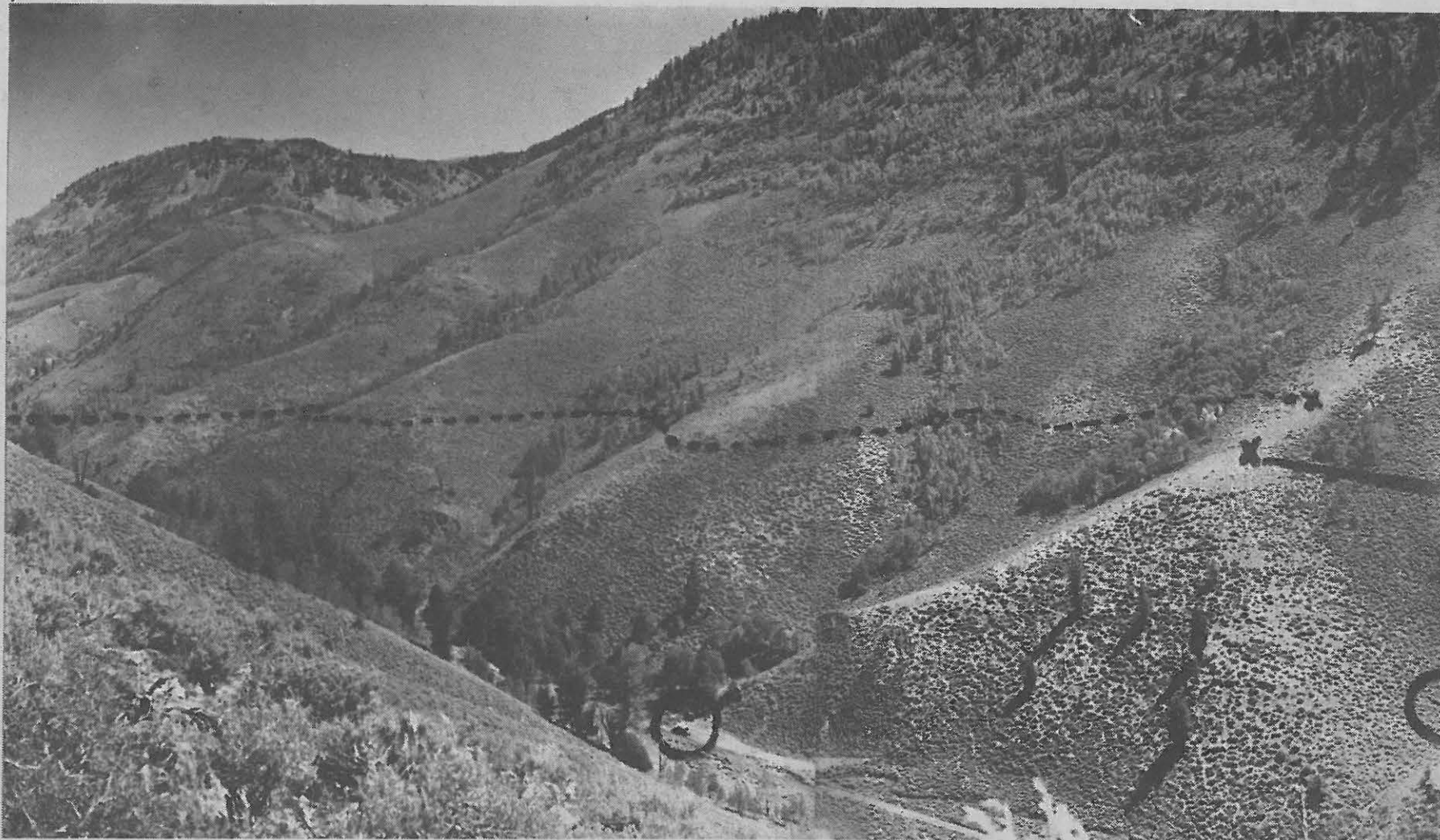
The Office of Water Resources Research has included all aspects of water planning, and particularly the analysis of water rights doctrines and their effects on decision making, in the studies list for priority research support in fiscal 1973.

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Resources of the Future, Inc., has published a new book (Interbasin Transfers of Water: Economic Issues and Impacts, Charles W. Howe and K. William Easter, Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Maryland 21218) in which the authors question the economic benefits of water transfers in the West. Howe and Easter say that "the provision of water for agriculture has conflicted directly with attempts to raise the incomes of farmers and of particular regions and has placed large costs on the general taxpayer." They recommend that before transbasin diversions are attempted more intensive research be directed at alternatives. Such alternatives are irrigation economies, ground-water recharge, and evaporation control.

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The Canadian Press made a cross-country survey and came up with the finding that United States residents are buying wilderness and recreational areas "in amounts that are alarming more and more Canadians." The national news cooperative said, "As the United States becomes more crowded and its own wilderness dwindles, many Americans yearn for the lakes, the cottage lots and the islands to be found north of the border . . . many Canadians . . . wonder what's going to be left for them and their children."



This is Long Hollow Creek, approximately 15 miles due west of LaBarge, Wyoming. In the left background is Lake Mountain. This panoramic view of the area shows prime wintering area for some 200 mule deer and 300 elk. The land is all public land, considered an important natural area by the Bureau of Land Management and so designated in their management plan for the entire area. But all is not well. This area lies just west of a producing oil and gas field. Oil and gas leases cover the area shown. Recently, Belco Oil Co. announced it was going to drill a wildcat well at the site shown upslope at right. The company wanted to build a road up the stream bottom from the parked truck (circled mid-bottom) to a point where the road could be brought along

grade to the site (dotted line). Cooperative effort by the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Land Management, and the company has resulted in a change of plans. The company will put the well site further down hill, and build a short switchback road to the site. Should this well be successful, the entire elk wintering area of some 13,000 acres will be opened up to the devastating impact of roads, drill sites, pipelines, power lines, and the whole gamut. The loss of winter range means a loss of elk. An environmental impact statement is now being prepared by the Bureau of Land Management.

## New Montana Regulations Protect Wildlife

The Montana Fish and Game Commission has adopted regulations to license persons who have certain birds of prey in their possession. Application forms for the falconers' licenses are being prepared and will be available from fish and game offices by July 1, according to Orville Lewis, chief of law enforcement for the fish and game department.

Montana law rules out licenses for keeping or capturing eagles, ospreys, and peregrine falcons, so these birds are given complete protection. Other raptors, including members of the hawks, owls, and falcons will also be protected beginning July 1, 1971, but persons may keep some of the birds under a \$3.00 falconer's license.

Lewis emphasized that falconers' licenses will not be handed out indiscriminately. They will be issued to Montana residents only who have met five specific requirements. These are:

1. Applicants must become familiar with the various species of hawks occurring in Montana.
2. Applicants must study and become familiar with the art of falconry.
3. Fenced enclosures with prescribed shelters must be provided to insure healthful, safe and humane quarters for captured birds.
4. Certain handling equipment is required, including jesses, swivels, leashes, and gauntlet gloves.
5. An adequate, healthful diet must be assured.

Lewis said that persons who have birds in their possession will be given a reasonable time after application is made to qualify for falconers' licenses.

Coupled with the dramatic emphasis that has of late been placed on the need for quality environment is a trend to give more protection to dwindling species of wildlife. Some birds and mammals that were considered as common pests but a few years ago now enjoy at least partial protection under federal or state laws. Montana sportsmen will find the list of animals that they may plink at is getting smaller, and more will come under protection beginning July 1.

The mountain lion, which demanded a \$50.00 bounty in Montana as late as 1963, was raised from the official status of predator to game animal by recent legislation. After July 1, it will be illegal to kill one of the animals with exceptions granted by law or commission regulations. Commissioners are now con-

sidering hunting seasons, under a free license system, for the big cats.

The list of game animals now includes deer, elk, moose, antelope, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goats, bear, bison, and mountain lions.

Another group of mammals that gets protection from indiscriminate hunting and trapping are the furbearers. These are listed as marten or sable, otter, muskrats, fisher, mink, beaver, and black-footed ferret.

There are very few birds that are not protected by either state or federal laws or both. After July 1 when the hawks, owls, ospreys, falcons and kingfishers join the protected birds, there will be only about six species that receive

## Environment...

coalition can provide a much stronger support for tough laws and increased budgets than all these various groups with no common bond.

Another advantage of a multi-division super department is that the director would be more directly accountable to the public. A single director, given specific guidelines to avoid excessive executive freedom, is viewed in some states as a way of increasing accountability of state officials, speeding agency response time in crises, and decreasing intra-department funds and power struggles. In other words, if something goes wrong, John Q. Public will know whose throat to jump down.

A third motive for such a reorganization is the shift of pollution control responsibilities out of health departments in order to broaden anti-pollution measures to cover more than the dangers pollution presents to human health. As an example, such an agency would be able to control pollution directly endangering a forest, even though it presented only an indirect danger to humans (such pollution may be difficult to find, but this is only an example).

Possibly the greatest advantage to the taxpayer, however, would be that a super agency under one director should be much more efficient. It would eliminate program duplication and overlaps, and focus the correct personnel and equipment to the particular problem. In addition, it would reduce the number of partial analyses received by smaller agencies, and should eliminate inter-agency squabbles as to which data is correct and complete.

no protection at all. These are house sparrows, crows, blackbirds, magpies, starlings, and rock doves (pigeons gone wild).

## NEWS...

As it happened, Salem became the scene of a confrontation with more than state significance. The bottle-and-can industry poured funds into Oregon in an unsuccessful effort to defeat a bill requiring a 5¢ deposit on beer and soft-drink containers. If the legislation survives the expected court test, it could provide a model for the entire nation, not only in controlling litter, but in stimulating recycling of resources and alleviating the problem of solid-waste disposal. But it may be the symbolic value was greatest of all, proving to Oregon environmentalists they could win a head-to-head combat with a determined and wealthy antagonist.

Of national interest, too, is the Open Space Taxation Act, which permits landowners to petition for assessment on the basis of open space use, which is declared to be the "highest and best use."

Another major victory was a Coastal Zoning Act which establishes a Coastal Conservation and Development Commission, and specifically provides that six members must be non-coastal, and must have "demonstrated" an interest in the protection, conservation, and orderly development of the environmental quality of life in this state.

The legislature also required waste-discharge permits, a beginning toward pollution control; devoted one percent of all highway funds to the construction of bicycle trails and footpaths; required snowmobile registration; placed control of solid-waste disposal in the Department of Environmental Quality; set up a Nuclear Council to establish nuclear power safety standards. And there were measures involving estuary filling, noise control, field burning, oil spills, an Oregon Recreation Trails System, forest practices in regard to water and visual pollution, detergents, billboard removal.

In all, the OEC tallies some 30-odd complete or partial victories in gaining good and preventing bad legislation. It counts defeats, too, but takes proper pride in the fact the central theme and the major accomplishments of the 1971 legislature were environmental.