



Friday, Sept. 17, 1971

Water skiiers take advantage of the bright, sunny days and magnificent scenery at New Fork Lake near Pinedale, Wyoming.

#### Review is needed...

### Teton Dam Controversial

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS has carried several articles relating to the Lower Teton Dam proposed for the Teton River in eastern Idaho. Since the first article (June 11, 1971), the confrontation between the developers and the conservationists has become a classic.

The developers are represented by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the irrigation interests for whom the Bureau will go to any lengths to please. Obviously, it is to the decided advantage of an empire-building bureaucracy to promote and build more dams, diversions and

irrigation projects.

The West is filled with glaring examples of the engineering feats - but environmental disasters - promulgated by the Bureau of Reclamation. There are even a few engineering disasters (see photos page 7). Some of the earlier projects were economically successful but as the better areas were developed, the Bureau moved to the marginal areas. Amongst these have been some that were so bad they created rural slums. One, a part of the Riverton Irrigation Project near Riverton, Wyoming, was so bad that Congress spent \$3 million to buy back the land from the settlers who had been hornswoggled by the Bureau. More recently, the land has again been sold back to farmers.

The projects normally entail the movement of

water from river valleys, where the dams are built, to the benches and flats of land at some distance away. Atmospheric, meteorological and environmental conditions in the area of most of the projects leads to problems. The high, dry atmosphere contributes to high evaporation rates and consequent loss of precious water to the atmosphere. It also helps lead to problems of salt accumulation on the surface of the land.

Most soils in the West have high concentrations of alkaline salts, mostly concentrated from a few inches to a few feet below the surface. In naturally arid areas, annual precipitation is not sufficient to have leached these salts from the soil. Irrigation water, applied in large amounts, brings the salts to the surface. In some instances it is extremely difficult or impossible to raise crops on such soils. In any case, the leaching of salts and their transportation into streams is increased manyfold. The Lower Colorado River now carries several tons of salt in solution in every acre-foot of water.

It is against this background of economic feasibility and environmental degradation that conservationists are contesting the Lower Teton Dam. The confrontations are bound to increase as valuable fisheries, wildlands, and pure waters

(Please turn to page 7)

### Planning Stressed

by Steve Wynkoop

Denver Post Staff Writer

Comprehensive land-use planning integrating state and federal land-use policies is the West's greatest need, Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton said in Denver Friday at the close of his 30-day "Operation West" tour.

Speaking to reporters at the Denver Press Club, Morton said, "If we fail to do this, I think we will really be failing our time and the next

generation."

The two best hopes for developing balanced land-use plans, Morton said, are two pieces of Nixon administration - backed legislation Nixon administration awaiting congressional action.

The "organic act" for the Bureau of Land Management and the passage of legislation creating the proposed Department of Natural Resources would together give the federal government the authority and the scope it needs to plan land use, Morton said.

Morton left Denver Friday afternoon shortly after his press conference, ending his 12-state, 15,000-mile tour of the West. During the tour, Morton met with Interior Department officials, Western governors, conservationists and Indian

"If we could get an organic act that had some authority and repeal the Homestead Act, we can begin to work out a land-use plan for the public lands and then enforce that plan with some

"I think then we can insure their use for future generations; otherwise, I think we take an awful chance of finding our public lands desecrated and degraded," Morton said. The economic boom of the '60s brought a host

of environmental problems, said Morton, singling out the Four Corners power plant near Farmington, N.M., as an example.

The coal-fired generating plant has been attacked by environmental groups who say it

causes major air pollution problems.

"I'm not too happy with the way we've conserved the country. I'm not here to either praise or condemn my predecessors; they lived in their time.

"But let me tell you this--that the biggest problems I've got are unwinding the mistakes

that were made in the '60s."

Morton declined to fix the blame on former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, saying,"I just don't think that we had become as environmentally aware as we are now."

'Operation West''may become a regular part of his yearly routine, Morton said, but said there may be some changes in format. Morton was headquartered at the Denver Federal Center during his visit.

Covering a wide range of topics during the hour-long press conference, Morton said:

A task force will begin work soon on National Park Advisory Board recommendations to study mass transportation in national parks, 'resting' fishing and wilderness areas from public use, architectural preservation and funding in-

-"I feel that the Indian water rights problem has never been fully resolved, and the government has delayed far too long in the settlement of many claims which have held up (Indian) progress."

-Environmental impacts of proposed oil shale development in the West need much further study. "I don't think we want to rush into (oil shale development), but we better get this resource in such a position the we can call on it, and that we can assure that the development of it

is in balance with the environment. -He has hopes that Congress will pass legislation creating the Department of Natural Resources this year. The new deparment would consolidate existing Interior Department agencies with the Forest Service and other outside federal agencies, giving it authority over nearly all publicly owned land.

2-High Country News

## HIGH COUNTRY By Jon Bell

Wyoming's Governor Stanley K. Hathaway and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission have done little to enhance the image of Wyoming in the eyes of the public. In fact, they may have added a little more tarnish. And at the same time, they have succeeded in depicting a number of dedicated field men as incompetent nincompoops. The illusion is unfair and not true.

Game and Fish Department field men have known for at least five years that illegal activites involving predator control were going on. They know, for instance, of game animals being killed, some from the air, and the use of carcasses for poisoned baits. They even got one rancher into court, just to have his wrist slapped. He had killed antelope and deer, loaded the quarters with poison and scattered the poisoned meat on public lands.

Where good solid evidence was in hand, they were not afraid to tackle the allpowerful livestock industry. But prudence dictated that if the evidence was not ironclad, they had better not even so much as whisper a suspicion.

Field men of the Game and Fish Department did know of clandestine activities in regard to eagle shooting. What they did not know for a certainty was who was actually doing the shooting, whowas employing the shooters, or how to catch them in the act. Cattle rustlers don't operate in broad daylight, in full view of the public. Neither do eagle shooters. It is certain that they will be observed on occasion – as they were. But until there is an actual breakthrough – as there was in the case of pilot James Vogan, there can be no arrests.

Field men even had some mighty good suspicions, as in the case of Herman Werner. But who amongst them is going to challenge the all-powerful. And Werner is powerful despite the denials of the Governor that individuals, especially within the livestock industry, can influence the decisions of the highest elected officials.

For Governor Hathaway to make the statement that, "They had no knowlege at all" is to demean good men who did have knowledge. They had laboratory analyses of poisoned game meat, at least one dead bald eagle in hand, and a few eyewitness reports of 'something going on' from concerned citizens. But the evidence was not enough to take a case to court.

What is even worse is for the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to issue a denial of knowledge, and then to brush the whole matter away by pointing out that the golden eagle is a predator in Wyoming anyway. So who cares?

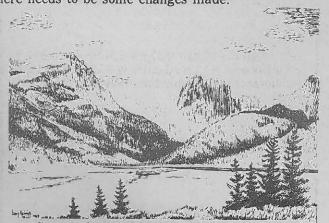
The main point of contention revolves around the statement which Vogan made that a Department man saw a pile of dead eagles. On such circumstantial evidence, in which Vogan may actually have seen a man in a red shirt (the uniform shirt of Wyoming Game and Fish Department men), the character and integrity of an entire department is impugned.

Instead of centering on the one point, and clarifying it, the Commission chose to skirt around the issue and further becloud it. They could have elaborated on the good work and investigations of their field men. They could have said that their men did know about illegal activities. And they very honestly could have pointed out that the men of the Department are handicapped by state law and the political power structure.

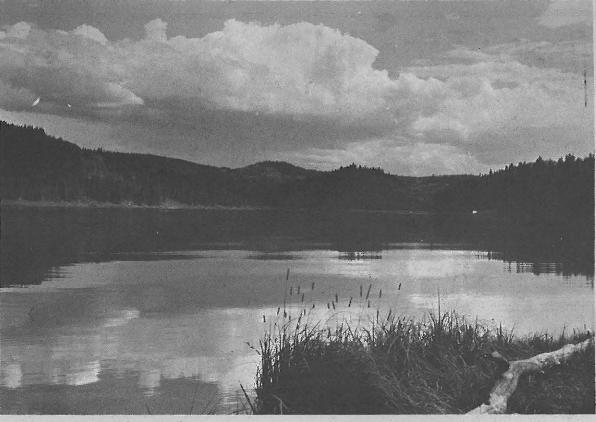
In all reality, the last could hardly be forthcoming from the present commission. It is composed of a former Republican candidate for governor who still may harbor political ambitions. And a former Republican state senator who doesn't know what he wants to do except refrain from rocking the same boat that the Republican governor sits in.

Another is a semi-retired real estate agent and former Republican state senator from the Governor's home town. Three of the seven commissioners are actively engaged in ranching, and the political aspirant probably represents as many ranchers in his law practice as any other profession. All seven members were appointed by the incumbent Republican Governor.

It is a sad commentary on the political system that dedicated, professional public servants must suffer in silence the indignities now perpetrated upon them in Wyoming. The system diminishes and demeans good men. There needs to be some changes made.



Gary Keimig is an aspiring young artist and illustrator from Casper, Wyoming. He is concerned with environmental problems, and willing to lend a hand in the effort to do something. The above illustration, and others similar we have used recently, were donated to HIGH COUNTRY NEWS as his contribution to



Fall has come to the Mountain West, and with it crisp, cool nights and a tang to the air. All is placid and serene at the moment but ominous clouds portend changes ahead.

Letters To The Editor





The following letter was simply addressed to the Governor and Legislators, State of Wyoming. Mr. O'Mahony is a member of Trout Unlimited and his letter was motivated by the article in TROUT, Summer, 1971, by Charlie Farmer on Wyoming's Green River. (Mr. Farmer is a former co-editor of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS and a free-lance writer.)

The editor

Gentlemen:

If you could spare of your valuable time - I would like to advance an opinion concerning your state's natural assets and your responsibilities to the citizens of our nation.

Your state, and a few other western states, have some of the last unspoiled and un-dammed rivers and land in our country. Our forefathers, along with their present decendants, knowingly or not, ruined for all times the great wild rivers and lands that once were available here in the East. Now we look with envy and hope to your state and the other lucky states.

It may seem economically prudent, at the time, to use these areas to your own advantage by daming the likes of the Green River, etc. A few may benefit but by the large most will not.

I have never been west of Ohio myself. Yet, I feel your unspoiled areas are a great part of me. Someday, I will fish for trout on the Green River. The knowledge of this helps me keep my sanity in these days of destruction. It will be worth the money I spend there - for where else can I go to find what you still have?

Visit the crowded, polluted areas and rivers of the East. Few of us feel that any of it is worth it. Please - save your valuable resources for all



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of us.

Most Sincerely, James B. O'Mahony Francestown, New Hampshire

The following letter is addressed to Mr. Alvin R. Grove, Jr., Editor of TROUT, and it, too, like the preceding, was prompted by Charlie Farmer's article on the Green River. HIGH COUNTRY NEWS readers may remember the letter from Mr. H. D. Waterman (August 20, 1971) in which he asked to have his subscription cancelled because of . . . "the generalizations which appear in your writings. . ." You will note the last sentence of his letter which follows. And then I would like to refute his statement which appears in the next to the last sentence of the first paragraph.

Evidently, Mr. Waterman is not aware of Wyoming Water Planning Program Report No. 3, Water & Related Land Resources of the Green River Basin, Wyoming, nor an addendum to that report which was issued by Wyoming's State Engineer (for water) Floyd Bishop AFTER the 1971 session of Wyoming's legislature. If Mr. Waterman had taken the time and effort to research these two documents, as we have done, he would find no reason for his statement, "For the present, any thought of dams on the upper Green or the New Fork River have been abandoned"

I refer Mr. Waterman to the statement by Mr. Bishop in the addendum to the Report which says, "If the Green were designated 'wild', it was believed that the possibility of regulating the river ABOVE FONTENELLE RESERVOIR would be lost, and transbasin diversion to the Platte might be made infeasible. Another serious objection had to do with possible adverse effects on existing water rights and developments of individuals." Neither Mr. Bishop nor Wyoming Governor Stanley K. Hathaway have ever refuted or denied any statements made by them as to the need for Wyoming to build one or more reservoirs on the Upper Green River. Mr. Waterman should be careful in his use of 'half-truths'.

The editor

Dear Sir:

I must object to the timing of the article on the Green River which appeared in Vol. 12, No. 3. This article should have either been printed in an earlier issue of TROUT or should have been updated to give the complete story on the Green situation. Currently there is a feasibility study under way on a location of a dam below the Fontenelle dam. For the present, (I imagine the deep thinkers would emphasize this!) any thought of dams on the upper Green or the New

### Lower Teton Fails Economic Test

Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, August 28, 1971

The fiction that the Lower Teton project would produce more benefits than it cost has been exposed by Scott Reed of Coeur d'Alene, a member of the Idaho Water Resource Board.

His analysis indicates that the project would cost the taxpayers far more than it is worth. It would also wipe out 17 miles of a beautiful fishing stream and scenic canyon - a resource which

cannot be replaced.

Since the Water Board has endorsed the project, and since other members support it, Reed is sticking his neck out. It is almost unpatriotic to question any irrigation project in Idaho, particularly if you are a member of the Water Board.

But the faulty assumptions behind Lower Teton are so transparent that it cannot survive an objective analysis. As Reed says, it couldn't be justified even if it were flooding barren desert.

As it is, the taxpayers are being asked to spend \$50 to \$60 million to wipe out a valuable and irreplaceable resource. They are being asked to do it despite the fact that the basic irrigation function of Lower Teton can be served at much less cost without building it.

The economic justification of the project is

based on assumptions that:

1. With the \$13 million second phase, a total of 37,000 acres of new land would be brought under irrigation. But most of that land, 20,000 acres, is already under irrigation. It has been irrigated by private pump development since planning for Lower Teton started.

2. There are 112,000 acres in need of supplemental water. The State Department of Water Administration says there is no acceptable evidence that 35,000 to 40,000 acres of that needs additional water. The records show that aside from 29,000 acres, the land is rarely

short of water. The total shortage has exceeded 10 per cent only once in the past 30 years.

3. A dam is required to provide this supplemental water. Twenty-seven pumps are to be part of the project, anyway. These could provide all the water which the records show the area has been short for every year in the past 43 years, except for three years.

4. Flood control benefits would be \$359, 00 a year. It would take a reoccurrence of the most serious flood on record every other year to even approach that figure, and serious floods are not that frequent. The flood control benefit figure is grossly exaggerated.

When those factors, plus the loss of the stream and canyon, plus the interest rates now in effect are considered, there is no way to make an economic case for this project. As a water

project it is an Edsel.

For a fraction of \$50 to \$60 million you could give the irrigators a pump system for supplemental water. Or you could insure them against a reoccurrence of a 1930's drouth, which this project is designed to provide for. You could give the relatively few farmers affected by floods insurance against loss.

There are other ways to store water in the Upper Snake area, notably by recharge of the ground water system, which the Bureau is studying. There are other ways to irrigate new land, including conservation practices to make

existing water go further.

A Lower Teton dam is not essential to the irrigators of the Fremont-Madison irrigation district, or to further irrigation development in Idaho.

The Bureau should recognize that economic realities, environmental values, and the private development of much of the land to be irrigated require alternatives to a dam.

Three sage grouse take a morning stroll through Wyoming's sagebrush covered highlands. A truly western bird, the sage grouse is ecologically bound to the sagebrush community. When sagebrush is eliminated, so are the grouse. They depend upon the low, fragrant brush year-round.

### **Environment Still Deteriorating**

WASHINGTON—The National Wildlife Federation's third annual environmental quality (EQ) index released this week shows America's

#### Letters...

Fork River have been abandoned. Incidentally I wouldn't trade the New Fork for the whole Green River.

Mr. Farmer's remarks concerning Governor Hathaway's efforts to attract big business for Wyoming are echoing writings that commonly appear in Rocky Mountain publications. It is getting rather tiresome. According to the last census Wyoming's growth was nil. Many would say great, but the only problem is that many of the young people that have grown up in this beautiful state are forced to leave to find gainful employment. Although I am not in favor of the dams on the Green or New Fork, I can appreciate the Governor's dilemma.

Perhaps you feel this is a rather innocous oversight on your part, but I can't agree. More and more in conservation-minded publications there appear articles in which an end justifies the means approach is followed. Half truths and generalizations seem to be the order of the day.

Sincerely, Herbert D. Waterman Casper, Wyoming

Editor:

The enclosed check for \$10.00 is to cover the cost of one years subscription to your excellent and badly needed paper to be sent to Seeley Swan High School- Seeley Lake, Montana 59868. This will I hope compensate for the loss of the subscription of H. D. Waterman of Casper who objects to your 'exaggerations and Half truths.'

If the school mentioned is a subscriber I suggest that you keep the ten. It will, I hope, cover in part the cost of the ink used in the printing of your material relating to the destruction of eagles. If, as suggested by Mr. Waterman, this is a half truth, many thanks for not giving us the whole sickening truth.

Sincere regards, Edward L.Foss Condon, Montana environment is continuing to deteriorate, but the rate is slowing in some instances.

In his introduction to the report, Thomas L. Kimball, federation executive director, notes, "For the first time in many years I am beginning to believe that our children will have a decent world to live in."

The EQ index shows gains in environmental awareness and timber resources, but slippage in air quality, soil quality, living space, wildlife and minerals. Water quality is holding steady.

Air pollution remains the nation's most serious environmental problem, the EQ index shows.

National air pollution standards to take effect by 1975 will be an aid in improving air quality, the EQ index states, but meanwhile Americans can look forward to several more years of increasing air pollution.

Water quality, for the first time since the EQ index began, is holding steady. But, the index states that the present level is still intolerable.

The EQ index attributed its water findings to new and expanded sewage plants, new plants to treat industrial wastes and the growing citizen demand for clean water.

Soil quality in the United States is on the decline as haphazard land development "gobbles up" valuable soil, the index shows.

As people leave the country to crowd into the rapidly developing 12 giant metropolitan areas, the quality of life is deteriorating, the EQ index states. The rate of decline was speeded up in the past year, according to the index.

The number of endangered wildlife species dropped by one to 101 between 1970 and 1971, but the over-all trend is discouraging as pesticides and destruction of natural habitats take their toll, the index reports.

Timber resources are in increasingly better shape as timber growth has exceeded timber cut and the use of recycled paper is on the increase, the report says.

Mineral resources have continued to decline on the EQ index as known mineral reserves dwindle in many cases and "Our hungry industrial society continues to gobble minerals as if the supply were infinite," according to the index.

One free reprint of the report may be obtained by writing to Educational Servicing, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C 20036. ".. Noted & Quoted .. "

"... There has grown up lately a saying that there are four stages to the approach of an industry to an environmental problem in which it is involved: one, is to assert that there is no real problem; two, is to acknowledge that there may be some problem, but its seriousness is being grossly exaggerated; three, is to say that the problem has been pretty serious, sure enough, but the industry is doing some things to take care of it and it isn't fair of conservationists to keep pointing at it; four, is to quit being defensive, to look squarely at the real nature and gravity of the problem, and to assign the corporate priorities necessary to command the talent and resources necessary to solve it."

Dr. Elvis J. Stahr President, National Audubon Society From report at 66th Annual Convention

"Often the things that need to be done aren't done because informed citizens don't support the public servants whom they believe are on the right track."

Dick Prouty Denver Post Staff Writer In Man and His World

"... Our entire thinking must change. For SURVIVAL we must return to a simpler way of life, and cut back and learn to save. We could make water cost ten times as much as it does and maybe then people would use less."

Dr. Jacques Piccard Swiss oceanographer From Seaside Topics

### Harmonizing Man With His Environment

#### An Account of Seminar on Environmental Arts and Sciences

by David H. Ackerman

The following is part two of three parts. The account will be continued in next issue.

#### Material Cycling and Energy Flow

"The materials in ecosystems are cycled and recyled through the organic and inorganic components. . . The following are levels of material and energy use: producer; primary, secondary and tertiary consumers; and, decomposer.

Modern man has developed a system where recycling essential material is the exception . . . (on the other hand,) primitive man took nearly everything from his biotic community and returned it in some biological fashion.

"In contrast to the cyclic movements of materials in ecosystems, energy flows through them in a reticulated but linear manner. . . the ultimate source of all biological energy is the sun. This energy is fixed by the exceedingly complex process of photosynthesis, that transforms radiant energy into chemical energy, that can then be transferred from one organism to another. With each transformation or transferral, some energy is dissipated as heat."

The still air was warm, the bedrock underfoot was hot, yet the aspen leaves, flat stemmed so as to buckle and tilt on edge, were refreshingly cool. What's happening? Transpiration; evaporation on the leaves' surface, converting water from one form to another.

Dr. David M. Gates, Director, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, brought his radiometer to the meeting, and described the radiating affects of a deer's antlers, in their mossy growth stage. The deer's body was 19°C, his head 25°C and the antlers 32°C!

Both the aspen leaves and the deer's antlers were, in their own way, doing the same thing, radiating energy, and recycling their constituent minerals into another form.

The haunting thought, of course, is how far has man gone, in his material world, in stretching things beyond their natural limits? Our glass, our plastic, our metals; have we broken the unending chain, of material cycling and energy flow? Are we the ultimate of all consumers? To man's own ultimate destruction?

Professor Lawrence Senesh, of the University of Colorado's Department of Economics, said it so simply, "For good or bad, man has the ability to create a goal oriented system. Nature, on the other hand, is not goal oriented. Nature dropped the dinosaur."

Will nature drop man??

#### Succession and Climax

"Ecosystems are observed to evolve through orderly processes, as in community development, over a long period of time. These processes are called succession. They are reasonably directional and predictable, progressing to stability or a dynamic equilibrium. This dynamic equilibrium is known as climax or a climax situation.

At noon, we found ourselves at the Grottos, an area of massive outcroppings of granitic bedrock, planed smooth by glacial movement, its cracks and crevices catching the debris of thousands of years of nature's decomposing.

As we ate lunch, the discussion focused on the lichens on the rock beneath us. Counting them, we came up with five to seven apparent species. In a depression, there were mosses and grasses in addition to the lichens; eleven species this time. Still further away were shrubs and trees; the vegetative species now numbered 27!

Later, we wandered down to the pond, a large depression in the landscape of about an acre in area, now dammed up by natural debris, filled with water and teeming with plant and animal life. The formational sequence was obviously so classic it was difficult to believe. First had come the floating plants and water borne fauna, next the rooted plants, followed by sedge material, anchored at the pond's margins. Eventually, shrubs had established themselves in the sedge; still later, came the trees. It was easy to imagine the succession, beginning with a clear pool of water, perhaps thousands of years before. We were rather pleased with our discovery. Such a simple process! A few thousand years is all that's needed. Given a few thousand more, the pond would be gone, replaced by bog and, eventually, by solid earth.

But wait! Aspen stumps in the sedge around the pond's margin! And, barely visible in the tall grasses, a mound of mud and sticks. A crushing blow to our explanation! Much of what we have imagined had really been hastened along by one of nature's own engineers, the beaver. It wasn't simple succession after all. Succession yes, but thousands of years, not necessarily! A hundred?

Further up the Valley, we passed the Braille Trail, in a thick stand of evergreens, Englemann spruce and lodgepole pine. The spruce and pine are steadfast in their hold on the natural processes. There is sparse new growth in the "under-story", a few evergreen seedlings, but few deciduous species, grasses or other vegetation; suggesting an equilibrium or climax situation.

#### **Carrying Capacity**

"The ability of an ecosystem to support a specific number of consumers."

"Come to Beautiful Colorado!" say the ads. And come, they did! In fact, so many came to the east slope of Colorado's Rockies that now there is need for more water and power to support the region's explosive population growth; the natural ecosystem burdened to support the demand. Ruedi Dam, an appendage to the Fryingpan-Arkansas River project, results from eastern Colorado's exceeding its carrying capacity.

Some believe Aspen has its carrying capacity problems, as well. Too many skiers on Ajax Mountain, inadequate employee housing, traffic congestion, etc.

Our beaver at the Grottos has long since departed. Did he exceed the area's carrying capacity? Did he run out of aspen bark on which to feed?

#### Diversity/ Stability/ Secialization

"Diversity in ecosystems contributes to stability by providing greater flexibility Aspen, Colorado, June 25-30, 1971

for adaption to the extremes of environment than do simple ecosystems."

Ute City, as Aspen was originally called, got its start with the silver rush of 1879. Its population was 12,000 people, the year before the 1893 Silver Panic. In 1903, the population was down to 705. There were reported to be 50 ablebodied, adult males in the community, in 1945. Aspen's early days reflect its specialization, as a one-industry town. It rose, and fell, on one commodity, silver.

Aspen, 1971. Population: 2,000-3,000. The question is being asked once again. Will it survive? Skiing accounts for the latest boom. More sustained and enduring, perhaps, but will it last? Competition from other ski areas may already have slowed local growth. Will Aspen's attraction hold? Or fade? Will the "City of Homes" succeed in its attempts to diversify, as a year-round resort, a cultural center?

Some concerned citizens cannot accept any other view that continued growth, others even suggest than its name be changed to "Fat City", as a deterrent to such growth. But would this be the effect? Or would this only hasten its demise? A good question.

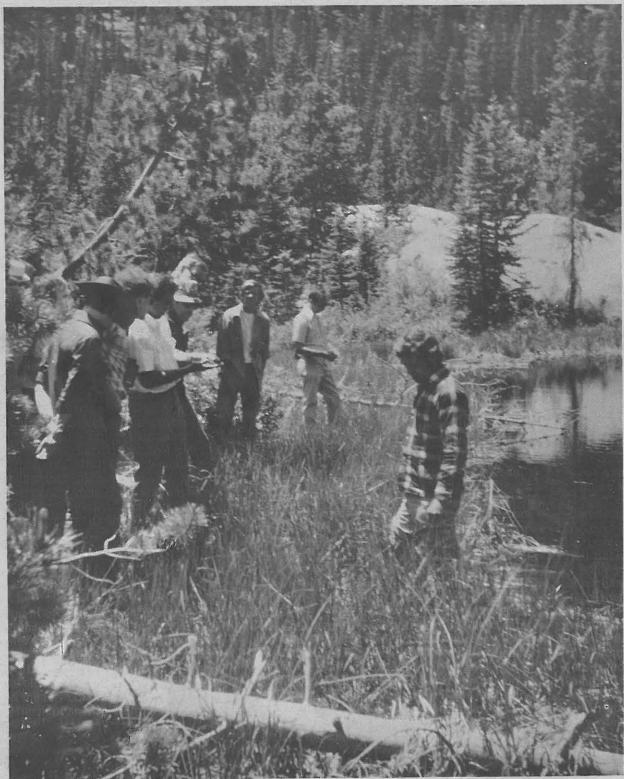
As was said earlier, nature dropped the dinosaur.

And the Roaring Fork's scraggly ponderosa pine, lonely remnants of an earlier system which existed prior to the arrival of depredating man. Are they also to be dropped, by nature, by Man's intrusions?

And that fugitive from the plains, the elk. Is he too specialized, too unadaptable to endure the unnatural impacts now imposed on his environment?

Give us a few thousand years and perhaps there will be some answere. Or, are the answers already glaring at us?

(To be continued)



For S.E.A.S. participants, it's easy to imagine the successional development of a pond in Aspen's upper Roaring Fork Valley. All that's needed is a few thousand years for it to develop as it is today.

by Dale A. Burk, State Editor, THE MISSOULIAN, Missoula, Montana

HAMILTON-National attention is being focused upon the Bitterroot National Forest in western Montana as the nation seeks to solve its problems in forest management.

The controversial forest, along with national forests in Wyoming and West Virginia, has become the center of a continuing debate over the use to which public forest lands should be put--and the manner in which multiple use is practiced upon them.

The Bitterroot has attracted national attention on several fronts in recent months-and promises to continue in the spotlight.

Recent developments involving the Bitterroot

-A news feature on Walter Cronkite's CBS evening news program, as well as a half-hour documentary narrated by CBS newsman Richard Therlkeld.

-An inquiry from Ralph Nader's Center for the Study of Responsive Law, which has undertaken an investigation of the Forest Service's timber policies and their impact on the environment. A Nader assistant indicated that the Bitterroot will be one of the forests receiving special scrutiny in a report Nader is to issue late this year.

-Announcement by Rep. John Culver (D-Iowa) that the Bitterroot will be included in a comprehensive probe of timber management practices on the national forests by the General Accounting Office (GAO).

Culver has asked the GAO, which is a congressional watchdog agency, to conduct a thorough study of the Forest Service, including an investigation of charges that the agency is stressing timber cutting at the expense of other forest values such as wildlife, watershed, recreation, esthetics, wilderness and grazing. Also to be studied are allegations that some timber cutting practices-such as clearcutting-have caused unnecessary esthetic and ecological damage.

-James Nathan Miller, roving editor of Reader's Digest, was in the Bitterroot recently to gather information for an article he is writing about the controversy on the Bitterroot National

Forest.
-Gladwin Hill, environmental editor of the New York Times, spent almost a week on the Bitterroot gathering information for a series of articles on the forest management problems faced nationwide on both public and private

lands.
-James Risser, Washington correspondent for the Des Moines, Iowa, Register, toured and wrote about the Bitterroot in a series of articles on forest management problems nationwide.

-Two National Environmental Protection Agency employes from NEPA's Denver office recently toured the Bitterroot. They indicated a more detailed look at the forest is forthcoming.

-Gary Eisler of Portland, Ore., a writer who is preparing a book on the Forest Service for the conservation organization Friends of the Earth, recently spent several days examining the Bitteroot. Eisler said his book, as yet untitled, will include at least one chapter about the Bitterroot.

-Robert L. Jordan, manager of forestry information for the Western Wood Products Association, has been in the area drumming up interest for a "one-day-on-the-ground" look at some of the issues facing the forest industry, the Forest Service and the public. He indicated a tour of the Bitterroot willbe in October or early November.

-Sen. Gale McGee, (D-Wyo.) indicated during a recent tour of the Bitterroot that he would start legal action against those "responsible for the rape of the Bitterroot."

McGee visited the Bitterroot as part of a tour that has taken him to numerous public and private forests in the West. He called the Bitterroot the worst example of clearcutting he has seen in the United States. The Wyoming Senator said he was "shocked" at what he found in the Bitterroot.

-Laurence Rockefeller Jr. of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., headquartered in New York and Washington, D.C., has indicated that his organization is interested in joining with local conservation groups in a lawsuit involving forest management practice in the Bitterroot.

Rockefeller visited the Bitterroot in late July while touring national forest lands in the West.

Of those who recently visited the Bitterroot, the two representatives of the National Environmental Protection Agency indicated that their visit was but the first of several they will be making to the forest.

"This is more of an informational tour so far," said Alvin York, coordinator for federal activites in NEPA's Denver office. "We will take data back and prepare a report for regional administrators."

York said it is too early to determine what use

will be made of the information.

"Right now we're trying to determine what the problems are," York said. "Then we will research the Forest Serive. There are two sides to the story and we will look at both sides."

York was in the area with Joel Webster, also of NEPA's Denver office, whose job involves environmental statements. Webster spent much of his time on the Bitterroot taking pictures of the forest

"I will be making environmental statements involving the forest and pictures are invaluable to show what I'm talking about," he said.

York added that NEPA uses pictures "all the time" to demonstrate what it is talking about.

"One area in which we do have some clout is in regard to environmental statements," York said. "This is one area in which it is helpful for us to background ourselves so we can compare agency statements against what we find."

York said he and Webster made the trip into Montana to look at both the Bitterroot and the Rock Creek drainage on the east slope of the Sapphire Mountains. He said the original request for them to visit the Bitterroot and Rock Creek came from R. P. Van Gytenbeek, executive director of the national conservation organization Trout Unlimited.

Jordan of the Western Wood Products Association, said that in his month-long visit to forests in northern Idaho and Montana he visited several newspaper offices and television news desks in an attempt to learn whether newsmen would participate in a field trip into the forests.

"Response was 100 per cent in favor of such a look, and the concensus was 'the sooner the better,' "Jordan said."

He said that Howie McDowell of Missoula, regional manager for the WWPA, would be "ringmaster" of the tour in the Bitterroot.

Writer Eisler said his impression of the Bitterroot National Forest was that the men who manage it hate the forest.

"I've been trying to think of my lead for the chapter on the Bitterroot and I keep coming up with 'Forest management on the Bitterroot is the most unspeakable act of arrogance of man against his source that I have ever seen."

Eisler said that what he found on the Bitterroot was the "direct antithesis" of multiple use management.

"I've never seen anything so contrary to the spirit the intent and in fact the letter of the Multiple Use Act as the terracing in the Bitterroot," Eisler said.

Congressman Culver has reported that the GAO investigation of the Forest Service will key on whether or not the agency is following the Sustained Yield—Multiple Use Act.

Culver also asked GAO to investigate the area of timber sales, including timber appraisals, collusive bidding and log scaling procedures, but

the GAO said this topic would not be included in its present investigation because the Agriculture Department's inspector general is currently reviewing timber sale procedures.

A recent report issued by the inspector general indicated that some logging firms have been getting National Forest timber free or at less than full value because of inadequate or antiquated timber sale procedures.

Culver indicated that he would renew his request to GAO to investigate questionable timber sale practices if they are not corrected by the Forest Service following the inspector general's study.

Problems involving these practices on the Bitterroot National Forest were raised at timber hearings held in Washington, D.C., in May by Richard Schloemer of Victor, a former industrial forester in the Bitterroot. Sen. Lee Metcalf, D-Mont., indicated that further investigations involving charges of collusion on the Bitterroot will be conducted by the U.S. Senate.

Sen. McGee, who has written a bill now in the Senate Subcomittee on Public Lands that would create a national blue ribbon commission to study the impact of clearcutting on forest lands, said the Bitterroot is a prime example of why a two-year moratorium on clearcutting is essential while the controversial practice is studied.

"The Bitterroot is the most extreme of what I've seen, but the impact is pretty much the same wherever you go," McGee said.

### **Decision Important**

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for fish, wildlife and parks, Nathaniel P. Reed, said the U. S. Court of Appeals decision on the Calvert Cliffs case may be the "single most important environmental decision in history." Reed made the statement as he spoke to about 1,000 scientists attending the American Institute of Biological Sciences meeting at Colorado State University.

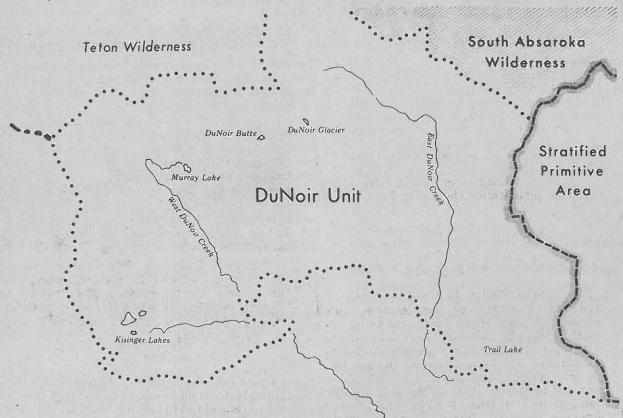
As a direct result of the Calvert Cliffs decision against Baltimore Gas & Electric, the Atomic Energy Commission has overhauled its rules relating to heated and radioactive discharges into the air and water by nuclear plants. The decision will disrupt construction and operation of more than 100 atomic power plants in 21 states and could cost the utilities as much as \$25 million. The July 23 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals said the AEC failed in its environmental duty when it licensed an atomic plant at Calvert Cliffs, Md.

The court ordered a "full and fruitful" environmental review of the plant construction and suggested a temporary halt to all nuclear power plant construction pending the review.

The suit was brought by the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation.



"The Bitterroot is the most extreme of what I've seen, but the impact is pretty much the same wherever you go." - Senator Gale McGee after recent trip to the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. This is the Blue Joint Area of the Bitterroot.

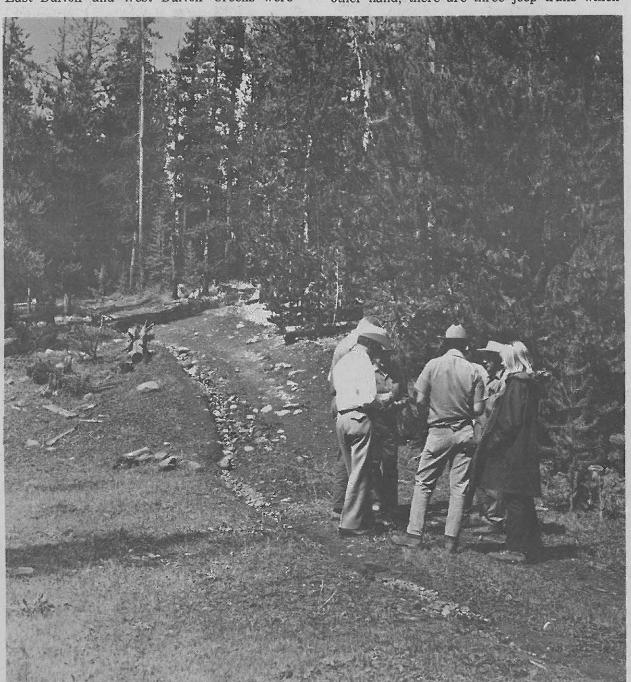


### Area Qualifies For Wilderness

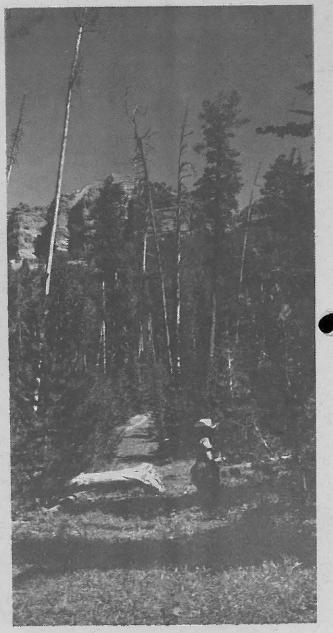
The Washakie Wilderness was first proposed to the President and Congress in the fall of 1967. A Senate hearing was held in March, 1968. The Forest Service proposed an area of 679,520 acres. The proposal left out certain important areas conservationists felt should be added. Most of those areas have been included in present bills and the Forest Service has accepted them.

The one big area which conservationists believe is most important for inclusion in wilderness is the DuNoir Unit. The Forest Service is adamantly opposed. The Forest Service said in its most recent statement (July, 1971), "Our principal reason for not including Area J is that nearly all of the mature lodgepole pine stand throughout the drainages of both East DuNoir and West DuNoir Creeks were

logged over in the period between 1920 and 1926. . evidence of timber harvesting is still plainly noticeable because of the stumps, campsites, and skidways."(This is a statement which is not entirely correct unless you were to consider that the stands to which the Forest Service refers were all one contiguous stand throughout. They are to some degree, but there are extensive areas which are virgin timber.) The Forest Service also said, "Sled and wagon roads were cutthrough the timber for access. Most of these roads are still plainly evident." They are - but they are not an extensive network of roads which make a large visual impact on the area. If you were following game trails across country, you could well cross one of these roads or skidways without knowing it had been built by man. On the other hand, there are three jeep trails which



Wyoming Congressman Teno Roncalio pauses with a part of the group which toured the West DuNoir area, proposed for inclusion in the Washakie Wilderness. The group is standing on one of the old logging roads said by the Forest Service to be incompatible with wilderness character. Those who saw this road and another similar road were impressed by how insignificant these signs of man were within the 30,000 acre proposal.



An old logging road located within the proposed DuNoir area is about to be overgrown and thereby obliterated. Selective logging for railroad ties many years ago resulted in weathered stumps and fading roads. Conservationists maintain that such evidence of man's intrusion is "substantially unnoticeable" within the entire 30,000 acre area.



penetrate the area which are plainly evident. The total extent of the impact of roads, stumps, campsites, and skidways is 'substantially unnoticeable' within the total 30,000-acre unit. It must be seen to be appreciated.

HarryCrandell, testifying for The Wilderness

Society, said, "No one denies that portions of the Dunoir area under discussion here were impacted by some tie hacking operations in the early 1920's or that there have been some limited vehicle intrusions in the past which, in some instances may have left some signs of impact. But the real question is one of broad judgment. Certainly, the area qualifies as wilderness under the definition of wilderness as provided in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Certainly, the Congress has set clear precedent for designation as wilderness lands that showed some evidence of human intrusion. For example, the 1964 law placed in the Wilderness System some 54 units representing 9 million acres of National Forests. Many of these units contained evidence of both

Many of these units contained evidence of both past and present non-conforming uses which did not and do not detract significantly from the wilderness character of the the surrounding and contiguous wilderness lands. More recently, we see the record of this Committee and the House when steps were taken to include substantially unnoticeable man-made reservoirs of the Desolation Primitive Area (California) in the National Wilderness Preservation System. These non-conforming developments which came about before the enactment of the Wilderness Law, and refinement of Forest Service wilderness programs, do not detract substantially from the wilderness character of this great wilderness area. In the final analysis, within the recuperative powers of the natural ecosystems of the area and in view of the overriding public interest, wilderness status is most desirable for the DuNoir area."

Wyoming Representative Teno Roncalio has now seen the area. He was greatly impressed withthe wilderness character of the area and its suitablility for inclusion.

Wyoming conservationists are calling for expressions of opinion on the area. House hearings will be held September 30 on HR 1552. Write Representative Teno Roncalio, 1314 House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20515. Ask that your letter be included in the hearing record.

### Letter Exposes Teton Dam

The following letter, dated August 20, 1971, was addressed to Russell Train, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, Washington, D. C. The letter is self-explanatory in regard to the Lower Teton Dam in Idaho. It was written by Scott W. Reed, a member of the Idaho Water Resource Board from Coeur D'Alene. Since the letter was written, the Office of Management and Budget has ordered the Water Resources Council to up the interest rate on water projects to 7 percent, to be pegged at that rate for five years. If this higher rate is applied to the figures given by Mr. Scott in reference to the Lower Teton Dam then the benefit-cost ratio becomes even more ridiculous.

OMB has also requested that the method of evaluating water and land-related projects not include "social well-being" as a criteria for justifying the projects.

The editor

Dear Mr. Train:

This letter is written to request the Council on Environmental Quality to take appropriate action to halt immediately construction of the Lower Teton Dam proposed for construction in Southeastern Idaho by the Bureau of Reclamation.

I was appointed in January of this year as Republican Member at Large of the Idaho Water Resource Board. About two weeks ago I had my first opportunity to consider the project when Bureau Representatives took the Water Board members to view the site. Since that time I have sought further information which has led me to the conclusion, presently not shared by the other members of the Board, that the Teton Dam should not and cannot legally be constructed as proposed.

My criticism will not be directed to the adverse environmental impact from construction of the dam. The extent of environmental damage is adequately set forth in the comments made by the Bureau of Sports. Fisheries and Wildlife and the Idaho Fish and Game Department. The changes proposed by the Bureau after those comments represent some minor improvements but do not meet the main objections. Suffice it to say that a dam that will flood forever 17 miles of an excellent fishing river should have strong economic justification. The Lower Teton project as proposed does not have that justification. In fact, it would not be economically justified if it were flooding barren desert.

#### 1. First phase not justifiable in 1969:

The Bureau letter to Congress from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, dated January 29, 1964, is the basic document upon which Congress authorized construction in September, 1964, and has since provided appropriations. The ratio of benefits to costs for a 100 year period of analysis at a 2-7/8% interest revalued to March, 1963, for the entire project was 2.29 to 1. (Letter, P.XVI). The brochure prepared by the Bureau entitled "Teton Reservoir" undated but being generously distributed at the present time, sets forth the benefit-cost ratio as 1.3 to 1 on the "first stage" and 2.2 to 1 on the "total development". So far construction is to proceed only on the "first

The bureau of Reclamation prepared a Definite Plan Report in February of 1969. This report apparently is in the category of the Pentagon Papers and stamped "Top Secret". No reference has been made to it in the "Teton Reservoir" brochure or in any public statement made by the Bureau in support of this project.

The reason for the secrecy is apparent. As of February, 1969, using the 3-1/4% applicable

#### Dam, a 208-ft.-high, engineering feat, was finished in October, 1960, at a cost of \$6 million. The Bureau of Reclamation has since put another \$750,000 into "research" on how to hold water in a leaky

Photos by Paul Bujak

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reservoir bottom.

interest rate the benefit cost ratio on the first phase had shrunk to 1.08 to 1 for direct benefits with a ratio of 1.55 to 1 for full benefits. The cover letter on the February, 1969, report concedes that the project could not be economically justified on the first phase alone.

In the Definite Plan Report the construction costs for the first phase based on April 1968 prices were estimated to have increased from approximately \$35,000,000 (letter, P. 40; Teton Reservoir P.8) to \$51,046,000. Annual costs had increased from \$1,324,000 to \$1,879,800. For your information I am enclosing a copy of pages 33 to 36 of the Definite Plan Report at the risk of being prosecuted for leaking secret documents.

#### 2. Present Interest Rate Bars Project:

The applicable interest rate for water projects in fiscal 1972 is 5-3/8%. Assuming the costs and benefits to be identical to those set forth in February, 1969, application of the present federal interest rate makes the project unfeasible. At my request a member of the staff of the Water Resource Board did the arithmetic:

5-3/8% factor at 100 years - .0540376988 1969 estimated cost (first phase) - \$51,046,000 \$51,046,000 x .0540376988 - \$2,758,400

\$2,758,400	Annual Equivalent Cost
150,200	Annual Operating Cost
\$2,908,600	Total Annual Cost

Direct Benefits -

\$2,035,000 = .69 to 1.0 Benefit to Cost 2,908,600

**Total Benefits** 

\$2,909,000 : 1.0 to 1.0 Benefit to Cost 2,908,600

#### 3. Cost Underestimated:

As far as public representation is concerned the Bureau is proposing to build a project in 1971 based upon costs estimated in 1961 (Letter, P. XXIX; Teton Reservoir P. 8). The Definite Plan Report of February, 1969, which used April 1968 construction costs is seriously outdated by inflation. Again a staff member of the Water Board has provided me with estimated project costs as of January, 1971, based on the available cost index used in the trade. This computation is attacked. The cost increase varies from 17% to 25% to January, 1971. Realistically bids to be received this September would be higher by 6% to 10%. The January, 1971, construction cost is estimated at \$58,167,940.

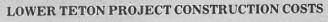


### **Teton Dam**

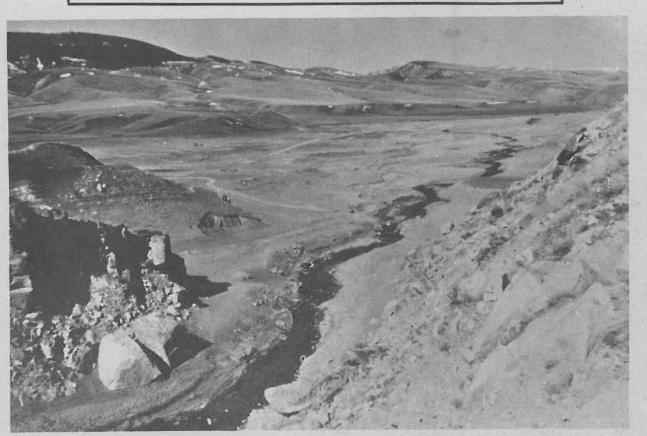
are proposed for sacrifice on the altar of reclamation.

On this and other pages of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, the facts are put forth for all to see. So, too, are the opinions of other newspaper editors.

It would help speed up the day of reckoning for the Bureau of Reclamation if readers would express their opinions to Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton, Interior Building, Washington, D.C. 20240. It would help if you could send copies of your letter to your elected congressmen in Washington.



		Jan. 1971	
Teton Dam and Reservoir	\$33,730.000	\$40,476,000	
Teton Power and Pumping Plant	6,390,000	7,668,000	
Water Replacement Wells	2,240,000	2,665,600	
Fremont Pump Canal	62,000	72,540	
Fremont Gravity Canal	2,760,000	3,229,200	
Enterprise - East Teton Feeder Canal	655,000	766,350	
Teton Powerplant Switchyard	420,000	508,200	
Substations for water-replacement wells	155,000	187,550	
Electric service Units to water replacement wells	520,000	650,000	
Modification of private utilities substations	75,000	90,750	
General property	484,000	605,000	
Recreational facilities and lands	189,000	236,250	
Fish and Wildlife mitigation	810,000	1,012,500	
	\$48,490,000	\$58,167,940	

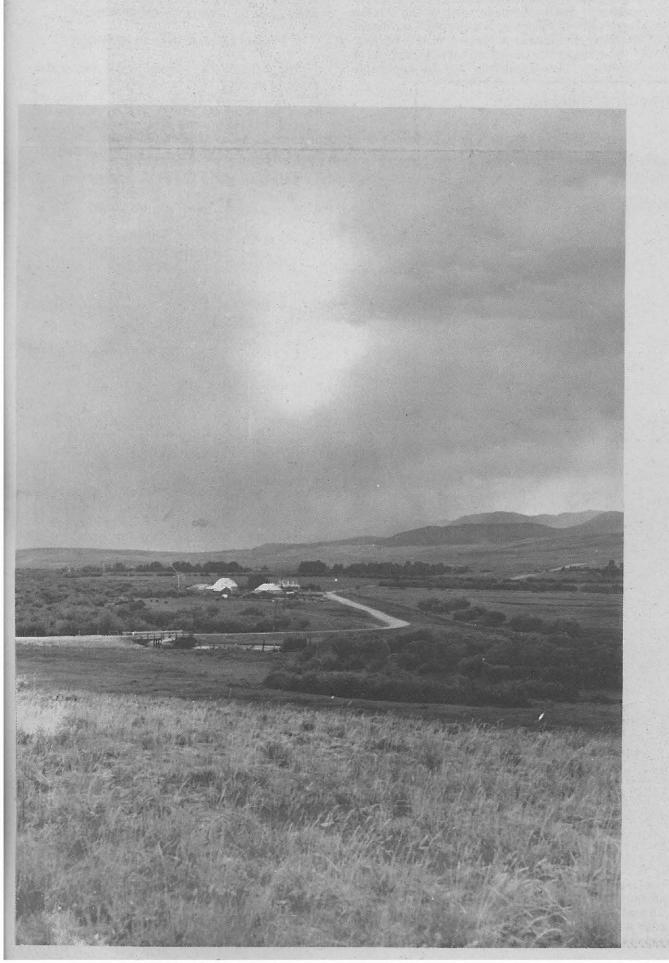


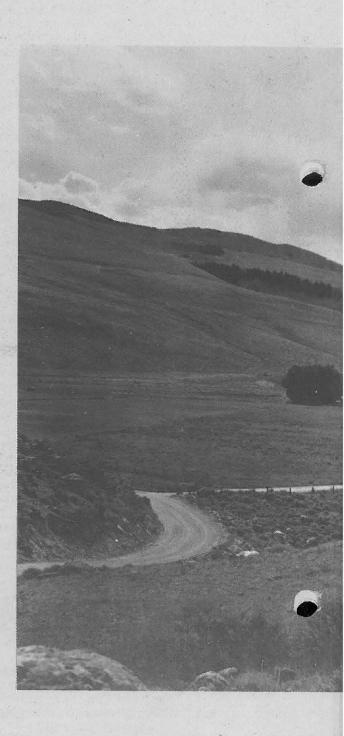
This is the reservoir that Reclamation built on Owl Creek near Thermopolis, Wyoming. It was designed to hold up to 22,000 acre feet of water which was to supply supplemental irrigation water for 13,000 acres. It once filled to within 22 feet of the spillway before the bottom dissolved again. Where the water and tons of sediment goes no one knows. But the Bureau has now determined that the reservoir was built over a limestone formation which disintegrates as water stands under pressure above it. The Bureau is now spending between \$40,000 and \$75,000 a year on research as to how a reservoir built on limestone can be plugged

I—High Country News Friday, Sept. 17, 1971

## WESTERN RANCHE

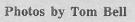




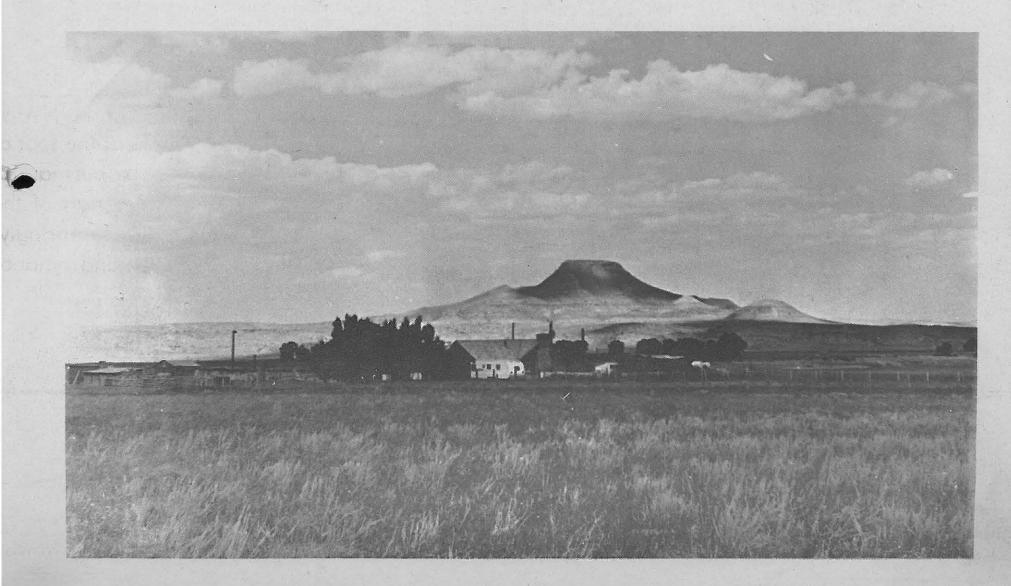


Western ranches are not always nestled in the valleys at the foot of magnificent mountains, but ma of them are. They are a part of the landscape and, not surprisingly, contribute to the allure and romance of the Great West.









### Red Desert Should Be Protected

Following a series of hearings around Wyoming, State Director of the Bureau of Land Management Dan Baker says most people seem to favor leaving the Red Desert as it is. That would mean that grazing would continue, but without any more fences; that the primitive road and trail systems would be left as they are, and that development of any kind would be restricted or prohibited.

restricted or prohibited.

The BLM held the hearings to determine public attitudes toward management of the 3.3 million acres of public land in the vast area. About half of the acreage is considered crucial

wildlife habitat.

The BLM points out that the entire area encompasses some five million acres. The bulk of the private lands are located within the "checkerboard" lands along the Union Pacific Railroad

Within the larger area, the basic resources of the land furnish forage for about three quarters of a million head of livestock. Some 30,000 antelope and a like number of deer call the area home. Within the sand dunes areas of the southwest part and on Green Mountain, several thousand elk are located. Most of the vast area, wherever water and sagebrush are found in conjunction, is sagegrouse habitat. And it is the range for possibly 1,000 head of wild horses.

Along the northern edge of the Red Desert, the historic Oregon-Mormon Trail is located. There are many places along its length which have changed but slightly from the pioneer days. Within the confines of the Desert are found important historic and archelogic sites

important historic and archelogic sites.

Many natural resouces are located in the area. About 10,000 acres of commercial timber are found on Green Mountain. It is estimated that as many as 40,000 uranium claims (covering 800,000 acres) may be in existence. The BLM has no accurate way of knowing. (They need to be given the authority.) Geologic surveys indicate there may be as much as half a million acres underlain by coal which can be strip mined.

The sand dune areas are used by dune buggies, the entire area is used by rockhunters and open-space seekers, and special areas are marked by archeologists. Hunting in season covers almost the entire area.

This is an area which is marked for conflict. Some of the coal which can be strip mined is in the area of most critical antelope winter range. Dune buggies have already reduced the range of elk herds. Uranium prospecting has pockmarked the desert, and prospecting for oil and gas has left marks across the whole landscape. A transcontinental telephone cable right-of-way has destroyed or disturbed sections of the Oregon Trail. At the same time, increased use by people has led to other problems.

'The area holds great promise as an outstanding natural area if developments can be held to a minimum. This is northern desert and is valuable as an ecologic study area. Its great open spaces are a magnet for many people wanting to escape people pressures. It can remain a wildlife haven and wild horse refuge if properly managed.

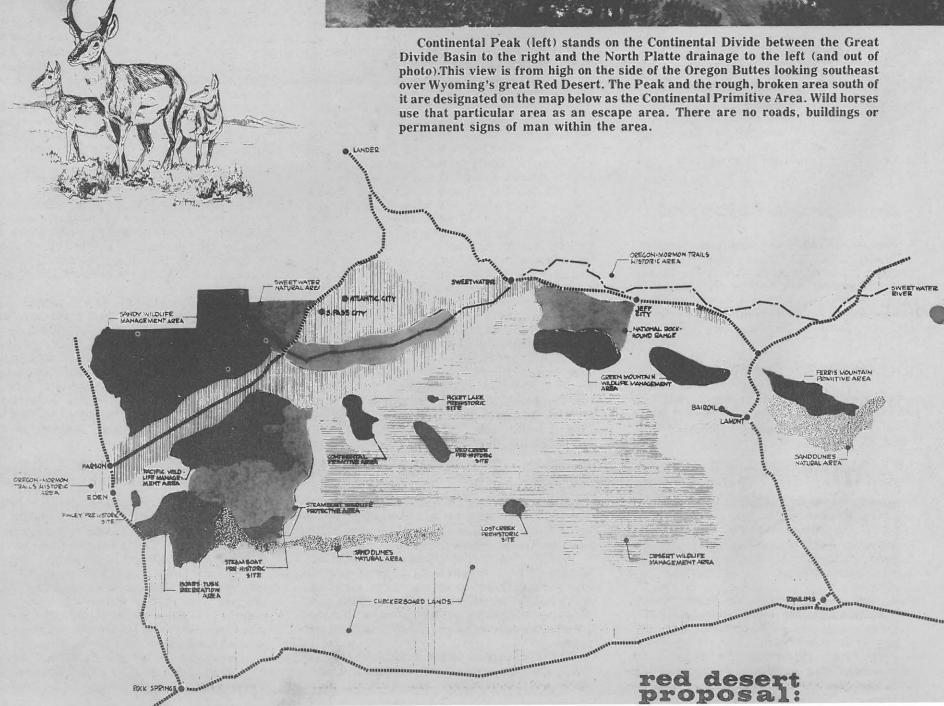
Some areas will require more protection than others. These should be identified by concerned citizens and the BLM. No management changes

should be initiated without public hearings.

The Bureau of Land Management needs to hear from people as to how the Desert should be treated and managed. The BLM has solicited comment until October 1. Write Mr. Daniel Baker, State Director, BLM, Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.









### **Eagle Briefs**

#### **Predator List Changed**

Wyoming State Representative John Turner reports that a proposal to remove eagles from the list of predators in Wyoming has gained legislative committee approval. The committee is working on a recodification of game and fish laws. Other birds and animals are also involved in the proposal. They are the mountain lion, lynx, wolf, all owls, hawks and falcons, and the kingfisher and great blue heron.

#### Colorado Eagles Killed

Colorado's Assistant U. S. Attorney Leonard Campbell reported receipt of a preliminary report indicating the illegal killing of "50 to 100" golden or bald eagles. Campbell said, "I can say that if the detailed report bears out what is said in the preliminary report that it is very likely that charges will be filed on the killing of eagles in Colorado." The report was submitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **Utah Hunters Get Eagles**

Brigham Young University's head of the zoology department, Dr. Joseph R. Murphy, says the most serious threat to Utah's eagle population is hunters. Dr. Murphy says, "...a lot of undisciplined gunners, not the responsible sportsmen, are shooting these birds." Dr. Murphy says he has been studying eagles for ten years. According to Murphy, a 1969 survey showed Utah ranchers were also killing eagles.

#### Livestock - Eagles Compatible

Leo G. Heugly, a BYU graduate student studying the interaction of livestock and eagles, says five years of research had led him to the conclusion that "livestock and eagles can be maintained in the same area. He says, "There might be times, in extreme stress, when a few eagles might prey on livestock. But the loss would be minimal."

#### Predator Program Endangered

Ray Burke of the Colorado Department of Agriculture says that state's predator control program is endangered by the Game, Fish and Parks Division decision to withhold \$45,000 from the program. The decision was made to withhold the money unless the predator control program eliminates the use of poisons. The state share exclusive of the division is \$332,000. Burke said trappers would have to be laid off thereby virtually wiping out the program. He said the trappers would have to quit hunting killer bears and killer lions.

#### Compensation Considered

Federal officials and others are thinking increasingly of direct compensation to ranchers for losses incurred from predators. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the special advisory committee appointed by Secretary of the Interior Morton, and Sen. Gale McGee have all indicated interest in this approach.

#### Senator Considers Bills

Sen. Gale McGee says he has several bills concerning eagles and predator control under consideration. He plans to introduce the bills during the current session.

### Charges Made, Refuted

James O. Vogan, helicopter pilot on eagle shooting missions in Wyoming and Colorado, testified that Wyoming Game and Fish Department men had seen a pile of dead eagles and intimated that they were aware of what was going on. Later, on the Dick Cavett television show, he said wardens had submitted reports which "were kicked back from upstairs". Vogan said state officials took no action because they were afraid of Herman Werner and his son-inlaw, Van Irvine.

"They practically control the state, " Vogan said. "They have so much power in that state

that everyone is afraid."

Werner has proclaimed that he is the largest sheep rancher in Wyoming. The Historical Encyclopedia of Wyoming says the 78-year-old rancher and businessman "owns and operates the largest ranch unit in Wyoming and the largest sheep breeding outfit in the United States." Besides owning extensive land holdings in Wyoming, Werner is a major stockholder in a large motor hotel in Colorado, a director of the Wyoming National Bank in Casper, and a trustee

of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. Governor Stanley K. Hathaway refuted the charges by saying, "I have never received a report. I asked the Game and Fish Department to make an investigation to determine if any of their personnel had knowledge of the eagles found near Saratoga. They had no knowledge at

Hathaway disclaimed Vogan's assertion that state officials were influenced by the ranchers. "This office is not answerable to any one

individual in this state," he said.

Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department James B. White told UPI, "I don't know what he istalking about 'being kicked back from upstairs'. I can assure you if any of our people saw or had knowledge of killing bald eagles they would take action, and I'm sure they would report any golden eagle shootings to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service."
White admitted, "It's difficult for me to say

unequivocally that some warden didn't see something. But I certainly think any large amount of dead eagles would have been talked about and we would have heard about it. We haven't been able to tie together that any of our people knew about this.'

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He refuted Vogan by saying, "Under cross-examination, he said he didn't have any direct knowledge that any Game and Fish men knew of the eagle slayings or took pictures of dead eagles. He said he 'heard this was the case'."

In an aside, White said, "I think we've done a pretty good job of protecting Wyoming's wildlife but maybe not so good with the eagle. Until recently, of course, we considered the eagle a predator, but I feel sure a law will be passed in the next legislature to protect him."

#### Rancher Rebuts

Herman Werner, Casper rancher who allegedly had eagles shot on his properties, said Sen. Gale McGee considered himself a "public prosecutor" in his implications of Werner.

In a prepared statement, Werner said: "It is my opinion he (McGee) shows himself unworthy to serve any branch of the federal or state government, and his conduct is so rank that even public apologies would not remedy the wrong he has done."

Werner accused McGee of trying his case in

"Apparently, Sen. McGee would rewrite our constitution and substitute his own standard that a person is guilty if Sen. McGee thinks he is or if it suits Sen. McGee's own political purposes rather than a standard based upon judicially acceptable evidence establishing guilt beyond a reasonable doubt," Werner said.

In another part of his statement, Werner said, "Part of the public whom Sen. McGee criticizes for ridiculing Mr. Vogan are well aware that Mr. Werner, at considerable expense, constructed and donated to the city of Casper a wildlife museum bearing his name in a big step toward encouraging better public knowledge of wildlife and the conservation of all wildlife.'

#### Pipeline Issue Fishermen Sue on

Seattle - Representatives of Cordova District Fisheries Union said today that they were genuinely concerned that people outside of Alaska have been led to believe that all Alaskans are in favor of the proposed trans-Alaska pipeline route.

Cordova is a small, isolated fishing village in South Central Alaska on Prince William Sound which is the terminus of the pipeline.

The fishermen feel that their opposition to this proposed route has been ignored

The Executive Secretary of the CDFU, Mrs. Dell Goeres said today, "Our way of life is threatened and nobody seems to give a damn."

CDFU has filed a lawsuit in District Court in Washington, D.C. in an attempt to stop the pipeline terminating in Valdez. They feel that this terminus would present a serious threat to their economic livelihood and way of life.

Ross Mullins, Chairman of their Marine Pollution Committee said, "As far as we can determine, there have been no adequate studies made regarding the serious effects that oil is very likely to have on the marine environment. I feel that this is clearly in violation of the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act which implies that all potential damages to an existing resource be carefully examined and consequences evaluated before a project is approved by the federal government."

"If a permit for the trans-Alaska is in fact issued in the near future," continued Mullins, "the fishing industry will have been sold down the river by the federal government. I feel that CDFU speaks for many thousands of commercial fishermen both in Alaska and on the entire Pacific Coast."

Concerning their law suit, Chet Cheshier,

member of the Board of Directors, CDFU said. "Somebody had to try to stop this thing and a law suit looked like the only way, so we did it.

They've been running over anybody that gets in their way," Cheshier said. "Now they're trying to run over our living. We're fishermenthat's all we've got.'

Mrs. Goeres said, "When this little 450 member union took on this fight, we knew we were going to have to buck the Alaska State Administration, various U.S. government departments, and the oil industry. How do you like those for odds? We felt that we had no choice. Somebody had to stand up and speak his piece and say that fishermen--and the whole country for that matter--can't stand by and watch the pollution of the North Pacific."

### Barrels "Flower"

Discarded oil drums are so prevalent on the Alaska landscape that they have been named the unofficial "state flower," according to the Wildlife Management Institute. More than 400,000 barrels blot the landscape at Point Barrows and the Arctic National Wildlife Range

Of the approximately 300,000 barrels lying around Point Barrows, some 15,000 are filled with frozen human wastes. The 100,000 in the Arctic National Wildlife Range are scattered primarily along the beaches. Authorites estimate it will cost \$800,000 to clean the mess up. A \$2 million incinerator is being considered to help dispose of litter accumulated in the Arctic region. The Navy Department, whose projects contributed to the littering, has offered \$1.2

#### Administrator Named For Mountain-Prairie Region

John A. Green will be the Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Rocky Mountain-Prairie Region which includes the States of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus has announced.

Green's headquarters will be in Denver, where a new EPA office is being established to coordinate and manage Federal environmental programs for this region.

Prior to his appointment as Regional Administrator, Green was Management Assistantin EPA headquarters in Washington. He is a former Director of the Office of Management in the Federal Water Quality Administration and a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel. Green, 53, is married and has three children.

As EPA Regional Administrator, Green will be charged with responsibility for correcting air and water pollution problems in this area; encouraging better solid waste management; and directing programs concerned with the environmental threats of pesticides, radiation, and

Ruckelshaus said Green would serve as his "Principal representative in the region in contacts and relationships with Federal, State, interstate and local agencies, industry academic institutions, and other public and private groups." The Regional Administrator is also responsible for accomplishing National program objectives within his region.

EPA was established last December 2 to concentrate and coordinate the National effort to enhance and protect the environment. It brought together in one organization some 15 programs which had been scattered throughout several agencies of the Federal Government.

Approximately 100 employees are now on duty in the Denver office with additional staff being added.

12—High Country News
Friday, Sept. 17, 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 Alon Old West Trails will continue for another issue.

Proceeding West is the Deer Creek Station site. It was here, near the present site of the town of Glenrock, in 1859, the first Christmas party held in Wyoming was given in a log building by four German missionaries from Iowa for the neighboring Indians.

At Casper, Wyoming is a replica of Fort Casper. The history of this fort began many years before it was a fort. On June 12, 1847, Brigham Young and his pioneers arrived at the Platte River Crossing. He discovered the river was nearly impossible to ford. So he had his people construct a crude ferry out of two large cottonwood trees that were made into canoes, then fastened with crosspieces and covered with slabs.

Young appointed nine men to stay and conduct river crossings. Rates varied from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per wagon and were often paid with grocery staples.

Louis Guinard built the Platte River bridge in 1858-59, at the cost of \$30,000.00. The bridge was said to be 1,000 feet long and 13 feet wide and had 28 piers made of wood. The piers resembled farm corn cribs and were built about 30 feet apart. The inside of the piers contained rock ballast for anchorage.

Platte Bridge Station was established July 19, 1858, at the present sight of Fort Caspar. The station was about 800 feet southeast of the bridge approach. The first buildings were sod and there was a stockade of pointed pine poles. However, it is believed that the fort was an open fort, rather than a stockade type. The stockade appears to have served only as a stock corral, not to wall the fort.

The 11th Ohio reactivated the post in 1862. On July 25, 1865, the hostile Cheyenne and Sioux Indians had gathered across the river and were trying various attempts to engage the soldiers of the fort in a fight. The Indians of this war party were after retaliation for the death of the Cheyenne war chief, High Backed Wolf, who had been killed in a skirmish when the Indians tried to stampede the army beef herd. The Indians also sought revenge for the Sand Creek Massacre.

Major Anderson ordered the young, twenty year old Lt. Caspar Collins, to lead 25 men of the 11th Kansas, across the bridge to try and help Sgt. Amos Custard. The latter was returning to the fort with five empty wagons from the Sweetwater Station. Sgt. Custard had a 24-man escort with him.

With two borrowed revolvers and a borrowed horse, Lt. Caspar crossed the bridge at the head of his column on July 26, 1865.

At 7:30 a. m., about three quarters of a mile north of the fort, the Indians surrounded the column and engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the soldiers. About 600 Cheyennes charged the detail from the left front, while 1,800 Sioux came in from the right rear.

Lt. Collins gave the order to retreat to the bridge. The converging Indians had the soldiers so confined that the order put the lieutenant at the rear of his men.

Two companys from the fort had followed well behind Lt. Collins' detail and upon the attack of the Indians they moved to help.

Five or six men of Collins' command died and virtually all were wounded. Lt. Collins, who had not yet reached the age of 21, had been wounded in the thigh. As he neared the bridge, he heard a cry for help. One of his men had been wounded in both legs and couldn't stand. Collins turned back and was helping the wounded man across the front of the saddle when he was shot in the forehead with an arrow. The horse bolted straight into the attacking Indians. The life of the young lieutenant was lost.

This left the Platte Bridge Station in a state of near siege, with Indians surrounding the entire fort. All communications had been cut. Lt. Walker and 25menweresent east of the fort to try to repair the telegraph wire. Lt. Walker was told that should Indians be seen in their direction, the howitzer would be fired. The Indians attacked, the howitzer was fired, and Lt. Walker and his men beat a hasty retreat to the fort.

Fort Caspar, located near Casper, Wyoming, was an early-day Army post, situated along the Oregon-Mormon Trail to guard emigrants. It was named for a young lieutenant who lost his life while fighting Indians near the Platte River Bridge nearby.



noon by both Indians and soldiers. The howitzer was fired to warn them, but to no avail. A five man advance scouting party was cut off from the wagon train. They were pursued by Indians. Two men were killed, the other three made their way to the fort.

This chase gave the wagon train time to prepare for a defense, but it ended in the loss of all the soldiers after several hours of gallant fighting

At approximately 10:00 p.m., Major Anderson engaged Mitchell and Noel Lajeunesse, for \$150.00, to carry the news to Deer Creek, the first telegraph station east of the fort. Mitchell and Noel were successful and helparrived at 3:00 p.m. the following day for the stricken Platte Bridge Station. However, the Indians must have known that help was on the way as they departed.

The body of Lt. Caspar Collins was found July 28, nearly two miles north of where he had last been seen. His body was severely mutilated. He was buried the same evening with full military honors in the little fort cemetery.

It was on November 21, 1865, the order was issued: "The military post situated at Platte Bridge, between Deer and Rock Creeks, on the Platte River, will hereafter be known as Fort Casper, the mistake in spelling was made in the orders changing name in honor of Lt. Caspar Collins, 11th Ohio Calvalry, who lost his life while gallantly attacking a superior force of Indians at the place."

Lt. Caspar Collins' remains were exhumed for the 1st time and buried in the cemetery at Fort Laramie on March 21, 1866. On June 14, 1866, the remains were again exhumed and escorted by members of his company to Ft. Levenworth, where it arrived July 7. On July 14, the final journey was made, escorted by a body of fellow officers of the 11th Ohio. The body was laid to rest for its final repose in Hillsboro, Ohio, on July 24, 1866.

Fort Caspar has been restored on its original foundations. The buildings contain an extensive collection of relics and mementoes of the pioneer era.

### Dam Exposed...

These additional costs result in still further deterioration in the benefit cost ratio using the applicable 5-3/8% interest factor:

Federal Investment

Construction Cost Less Investigation cost Plus interest during construction 

\$58,167,940 (Jan. 1971) (Apr. 1968) (Apr. 1968) (Apr. 1968)

Jan. 1971 Estimated cost (First Phase) \$60,723,940 x .0540376988 - \$60,723,940

\$3,281,382 Annual Equivalent Cost (Jan. 1971)

150,200 Annual Operating Cost (Apr. 1968)

7 Total Annual Cost

**Direct Benefits** 

\$2,035,000 = .59 to 1 Benefit to Cost \$3,431,582

**Total Benefits** 

2,909,000 = .85 to 1 Benefit to Cost

In summary the benefit-cost ratio is far below economic feasibility even without adding the inflation costs in interest and annual operating costs since April 1968.

#### 4. Environmental Costs not Included:

In its April 1971 Environmental Statement, the Bureau estimated the costs of obtaining pervious material from a location other than immediately downstream from the dam at "3.5 million to approximately 6.0 million dollars". The Final Environmental Statement of June 24, 1971, makes the change in plans to obtain pervious material other than downstream.

Various engineers and farmers who viewed the site with me in late July seriously questioned whether the costs would be that high. My personal view is that the high cost was fixed intentionally to show how much was being spent for "environmental protection." Whatever the correct figure is, it has not been included in any analysis for determination of benefit-cost ratios.

#### 5. Benefits Exaggerated:

There has not been a corresponding "inflationary" increase in benefits to match the growth in costs since 1964. The annual irrigation benefits are fixed at \$4,081,000. Unfortunately the farmers have in general suffered a relative economic decline in income in relation to others since 1964. The costs of operation have increased without an increase in prices and profits. It is difficult to relate this unhappy situation with precision to irrigation benefits but without question the benefit figure should be discounted.

More precisely the full development project was based upon providing irrigation to 37,000 acres of dry land (Letter, P.26) Since 1961 some 20,000 of those 37,000 acres have been placed under pump and sprinkler irrigation. The second phase of development is to provide water to these 37,000 acres and presumably most of the difference of \$3,198,000 between the first phase benefits of \$883,000 and total development of \$4,081,000 are attributable to this dryland irrigation. If more than half of the land is now watered without the dam, then more than half of the benefits should be subtracted from the benefit side of the ledger. Again recognization of the facts as of this date would destroy the benefit-cost ratio without any other factor in the 1964 equation being changed.

(Please turn to page 16)

School starts soon

Keep young people informed

### A Worthy Gift for a Worthy Cause

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# Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Said the deer, "If it does come to pass
That they dam the Green River--alas!
Mud flats will abound
Over acres of ground
Where now, there's delicious green grass!"

Dr. Simon Ramo, former chief scientist for the intercontinental ballistic missile program, predicts a "social-industrial complex" that will develop to profitably solve many of the environmental problems of society. Dr. Ramo also believes it will take government commitment on the order of the moon program to provide the expertise and technology necessary.

The Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies reports that the United States faces the "distinct possibility" of achieving zero population growth before the year 2000. A 14-page report says there were 15.5 percent fewer children under 5 years of age in 1970 as there were in 1960. This is the largest decrease occurring during a decade since records were first kept in 1850. The report says that in spite of ecological benefits, zero population growth could present servere challenges to the nation's "growth-oriented" economy.

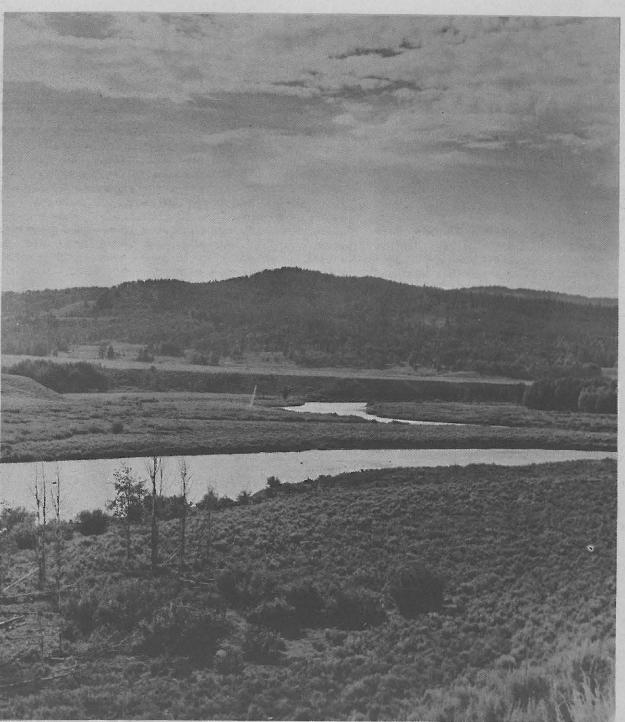
The LOS ANGELES TIMES has editorially condemned an Interior Department decision to lift the suspension on exploratory drilling in 14 oil and gas leases in the Santa Barbara Channel. The editorial asks the question, "Is the oil extracted from the Santa Barbara Channel worth the certain cost of environmental damage and the potential risk of much greater damage?" And replies, "We, and many Californians believe it is not. The Nixon Administration believes it is. On this point the difference is basic . ." The editorial contends that there is no "demonstrated need" for oil from this source and that when the need arises, the oil will be there.

A council representing 6500 engineers and seven engineering societies in California has drafted an environmental code of ethics. Under the code, it would be considered unprofessional for engineers to act for clients or employers without due regard for the impact of their work on the environment.

Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wisc., has forced the Navy to withdraw all but \$200,000 from its Project Sanguine budget request of \$2.14 million to study burying Sanguine antennas in deep underground tunnels in northern Wisconsin. The controversial defense project would cover approximately 1,500 square miles with a criss-crossing grid of cables buried six feet deep. Massive amounts of electricity would be generated through the cables to enable transmission of emergency signals to submarines armed with nuclear missiles and to other military forces throughout the world. The system would cost more than a billion dollars and would merely be a back-up for existing systems.

The Department of the Interior has come to the aid of the desert pupfish at Devil's Hole, Nev. The Department announced it had worked out an agreement with a farming corporation to do no more pumping after Sept. 9 and through 1972. Pumping from wells has lowered the water table and endangered the few hundred remaining fish. Scientists think the pupfish may be important for genetic reasons.





This beautiful stretch of the Upper Green River would become a mud flat if the proposed Kendall Dam were built by the State of Wyoming. About 25 miles of blue-ribbon trout fishing would be lost if the historic river were dammed. Conservationists want the river included in the national wild and scenic rivers system.

### Camping Regulations Stiffened

Applications for camping during 1972 in the Inner Canyon (below the rim) of Grand Canyon National Park will be accepted starting October 1, 1971. The selection procedure established by the National Park Service will permit groups to make early plans for next year. Applications for campsite reservations along Inner Canyon trails during 1972 may be mailed to the Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon Arizona, 86023 beginning October 1, 1971. Applications with a postmark before October 1 will not be considered. Reservations will then be awarded on the basis of the earliest postmarks. If applications in excess of the campsite capacities are received during the period of October 1 through October 15, a drawing will be held to select those who will be given camping permits. All applicants will be notified of results by November 15.

The greatest numbers of people have usually camped during holiday periods and over weekends. This pattern is continuing with all reservations taken for the Memorial Day period and weekends through the middle of June. Visitors that plan their hiking trips during the weekdays are having no trouble reserving campsites.

Some of the other limitations that have been set include a maximum stay of two days at each camp and a total of seven days in the entire Park. The campgrounds affected by this two day limit are all of those below the rim in Grand Canyon National Park except those in Havasupai Canyon. All are reached only by trail.

Regulations instituted this year include a prohibition against open fires and the gathering of wood in the Canyon. Campers must carry stoves and fuel if they wish to cook meals below the rim. These rules were made necessary by the destruction of living trees by hikers collecting wood.

Campers hiking the developed trails of Grand Canyon National Park have given overall acceptance to the registration system recently instituted by the National Park Service at the Park. The new procedure was started in an effort to equalize the use of the four campgrounds along the trails and to eliminate some periods of

### **Pheasants Hold**

LINCOLN, Nebr. -- Hunters can expect roughly the same number of pheasants for the 1971 season, according to the results of a statewide survey conducted in late July by rural mail carriers and tabulated by Game Commission biologists.

The survey showed pheasant numbers down by nearly 7 percent statewide, but the number of chicks per brood observed was up nearly 6 percent.Broods were larger in all areas of the state except the Panhandle, where a 25 percent decline was noted.

In the southwest, the overall population was down about 5 percent, but the broods averaged 18 percent larger. Broods in central Nebraska were 15 percent larger, while the overall population fell nearly 8 percent.

The ringneck population in the northest was less than 2 percent lower, with broods more than 6 percent larger, while southeast Nebraska showed a decline of 7 percent in overall population and an increase of about 3 percent in the number of chicks per brood.

The carriers also noted other game species observed. Their data showed a statewide decline of about 8 percent in the number of quail and no change in the cottontail population.

In addition to the summer brood count survey, the mail carriers conduct counts each spring to provide information on breeding population and another during the winter to furnish sex-ratio data following the season.

Rural mailmen have co-operated with the Game Commission in these surveys since 1945, noting the number of birds they spot while covering their regular daily routes.

### Wyoming Speaks Out

The following letter-to-the-editor was run as a paid advertisement in the Casper Star-Tribune because of its length. It is reprinted here as a matter of interest because the author, Harry E. Dearinger of Wheatland, Wyoming, is a retired rancher. It was written before the revelation of the eagle shooting.

The editor.

From your news releases, 50 or more eagles, poisoned, have been found. Makes one wonder just how many more are laying out in the sagebrush or hidden among rocks on the mountain sides. The exact number killed will never be known.

True, we must have some predator control and the coyote is the prime concern of the sheepmen and the eagle running second, but other innocent animals and birds should not be killed trying to get these two predators.

It's a known, established fact that coyotes and eagles eat mostly rabbits, rodents and mice, and when they can't get enough of these they often overcome their fear of human smell and try to get a chicken - maybe, or a lamb - maybe; now don't forget, they are not trying to "hurt" man, they are just trying to live, and most often pay the supreme price (poisoned).

The jackrabbit comprises about 83% of the coyote's natural food, U.S. Biological Survey, but man (night hunters) have practically exterminated the jackrabbit, thereby forcing the coyote to kill lambs, because after all, he has to eat; he's not going to starve to death.

I've talked and preached this time and time again, that if the stockmen would get together and have a law passed to outlaw all night hunting, and also protect the jackrabbit until he could make a comeback, it would be the most effective and cheapest predator control program ever launched; also it would do away with that rotten, filthy, inhumane 1080 poison, which causes a terrible, slow, agonizing death, and is a horrible way for even an animal to have to go.

Believe me when I say, anyone who has never seen an animal die from a dose of 1080 poison better hope they never do, because they'll never forget it. Strychnine is humane and quick as compared to 1080; I know; I've seen both, to my sorrow. An animal doesn't even have to eat 1080 poison; all he has to do is roll on a treated decomposed carcass, like most fur-bearing animals do, then just lick his fur and 'that's all she wrote.'

There are enough 1080 baits put out in Wyoming alone to kill every predator animal and flesh-eating bird in the entire Urited States, but that isn't enough; they keep hollering for more.

I think I'm safe in saying that most people feel as I do that coyotes are as much a part of the Old West as Indians, cowboys, flapjacks, Bull Durham, sowbelly and beans, etc., etc., and he has miraculously survived bounty hunting, dog slaughterers, poison programs, uses of all makes of weapons, airplanes, helicopters, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles. But his numbers are gradually dwindling under all the combined pressures plus the squeeze of an advancing front of farming and ranch activities which cut down his range. Now I don't care what the stockmen and the federal government say, the coyote is the best nature balancer that Mother Nature ever put on the face of this earth, and I pray he will always be with us.

Now just think this over. Every time you pay your taxes you are contributing your share to the mass slaughtering of our (your) wildlife; the state and each county use taxpayers' dollars for predator control. There should also be a law to ban the sale of any kind of poison through drugstore outlets. The way it is now, anyone can purchase poison, but if it wasn't so easy to get, a lot of this senseless killing would stop. Then the federal fish and wildlife agencies could come in at will and poison our entire state, then it is time that it be brought to a vote of the people, for this is Our state, Our land, Our forests, Our public domain and Our wildlife; there should be no chosen few to call the plays.

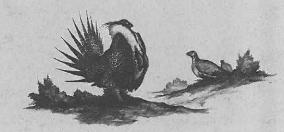
Since the poisoning of all these eagles there is no doubt but that the public is beginning to wake up, and now as individuals or groups, we must deluge our law-makers, both federal and state, with letters and petitions demanding an immediate stop be put to this mass poisoning of our

wildlife. If everyone would just take eight minutes of their time and spend an eight-cent stamp, and not take the attitude of "let George do it", we can. get something done. Just write the Governor's

office, and let the lawmakers know we don't want to buy any more poison programs, and too, they are not deductible on your income tax return.

We surely don't want to pass on to other generations a world that we have made void, silent and lifeless, because of ignorance and greed, and are just sitting by, permitting the destruction of all wild creatures that were put here to help us survive.

I wrote this commentary hoping to advance man's concern for the whole world in which we live, including each living thing and vital resource, for all this is what makes man's life worthwhile living.

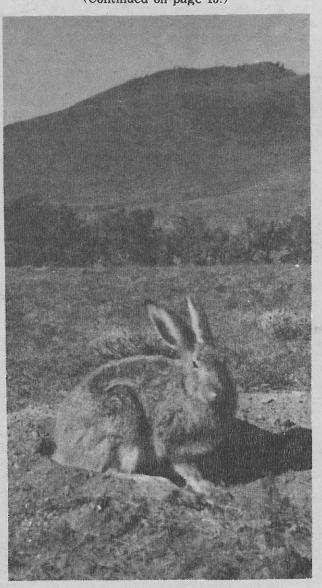


The following letter-to-the-editor appeared in WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS. It is self-explanatory and quite revealing of the depth of concern of many people who live in the wideopen spaces of the West. Mr. Orr happens to be from Wyoming, where if news stories are indicative all ranchers are eagle killers. That is not true, and, in fact, very regrettable for the vast majority are honest, law-abiding citizens who have a deep and abiding love for the land, the animals-and Wyoming's clear, blue skies.

The editor

Dear Editor:

In your June editorial,"Try Stewardship," you are right to apprise the of the increase in cost of electric farmer service which would be forthcoming by "the immediate effecting of expensive environmental devices upon the power industry." But you mention nothing of the alternative costs if these devices are not to be used. What about the horrendous price to be paid in plant (Continued on page 15.)



The jackrabbit comprises about three-fourths or more of the coyote's natural food where jackrabbits occur within the natural range of the predator. Studies of golden eagle diets indicate the big birds depend heavily upon rabbits and other rodents. Their diet is composed of from 75 to 95 percent rabbits.

by Verne Huser

A couple of Sundays ago I explored the fringe of the Eagle Cap Wilderness in northeastern Oregon, not far from Hell's Canyon. The area through which we approached the wilderness had been heavily mined, mute evidence of man's disregard for nature in the past. Gold had drawn thousands to the dry hills, and they had diverted streams to their fancy, leaving bare boulders in

They had also left bits and pieces of mining equipment and dozens of wooden structures (shacks, sluice boxes, mills, chutes, houses) for the weeds and wildflowers to grow through-quite picturesque. They'd also gouged out pits and tunnels and roads that were now trails so steep that even 4-wheel-drive vehicles were

discouraged.

That's steep country, hot and dry, on the southeast slopes of Cornucopia Peak (8650) just south of the southern-most edge of the Eagle Cap Wilderness. We didn't even break the boundary because we didn't make it to the top of the mountain-late start, out-of-shape companions (true, but a good excuse for me, too), threatening thunderstorm (we did get rained on briefly shortly before we got back to the jeep).

But we didn't give up early. Following an old mining road, we skirted the Middle Fork of upper East Pine Creek so high above the valley floor that we could see the roof of the old mining tram-tower. We looked down into a series of beaver ponds hundreds of feet below and watched eagles soaring below us.

We even saw last year's snow in the cirque just east of the summit and more higher up in the south cirque. There were gigantic ancient Douglas fir trees-one must have been 25 feet around the base (chest height) with lots of bright green lichen growing on the fire-scarred bark

and on the dead dry limbs.

The mining road petered out in a gully, and we took to the steep slope covered with sagebrush and sub-alpine fir. We topped a ridge of nearly-white granite and saw a trio of deer scamper into that south cirque. There was the summit-ages away, so much higher than we were that we knew we'd never make it that day. And besides, it looked awfully steep and a bit dangerous. We weren't equipt for a climb.

So, after a brief rest, we started down, bush-wacking and route-finding--it was still steep country. We slipped and slid, boulder-hopping and scrambling, using both hands and feet and sometimes a little patch of blue-jean. Another eagle swept by hardly a dozen feet overhead. Clark's nutcrackers jeered at us from their lofty perches in the limber pines, and raven cavorted in the wind currents that were building thunderheads over the peaks. As we entered the heaver timber we saw a trio of blue grouse.

And as we lost altitude, the terrain gained in ruggedness. What had looked fairly level from on high gradually became steeper and steeper. The twin gullies that descended to form Jim Fiske Creek were both too bare and rocky and steep to attempt. We'd follow the ridge between, hoping we could find a way down-and we did.

I'd hate to have to climb back up that ridge. (I learned later that we'd come down Tin Can Basin.) Where the right side of the ridge became slightly less steep, we dropped to the stream for a cool drink and found pink monkey flowers still blooming. Nettles were here, too, and alders.

Thank god for the alders. Even the stream bed dipped away too steeply to follow, and only by grasping the alder branches could we descend with any degree of safety. Can you imagine dropping down a sliding waterfall by hanging from alder limbs leaning out over the cascading water? We did, several times: twenty, thirty, forty feet.

Frightening, yes, but fun too, especially when we reached the confluence of the two steep streams and found a relatively level streambed. And a hundred feet further on we found an old mining road, now a weed-grown trail marked by an abandoned ore bucket. We were on a trail at last after miles of uncertain bushwacking.

We followed it to the old Union Mine: broken down buildings and slag heaps and rusty machinery left to return to nature-too much trouble to carry out. Feet sore and weary, we trudged slowly down the dusty road to the old mining town of Cornucopia where our ride was waiting. And that's when the rain settled the dust for us, a fitting end to a day in the wild world.

Cornucopia Peak had a touch of new snow that night, just a touch. Next weekend I'll hike around the peak in a two-day, overnight backpacking tour getting in shape for more strenuous excursions into the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

### Orphaned Areas Get Reclamation

COLSTRIP -- Bulldozers have tackled coal mine "spoil bank" slopes, undisturbed since 1923, to begin Burlington Northern's reclamation

of nearly 1,000 acres in Montana.

Burlington Northern officials and conservation leaders watched as soil was smoothed in preparation for converting the surface-mined area to grass and shrubbery. Northern Pacific Railway, predecessor of Burlington Northern, mined sub-bituminous coal for 35 years for use in steam locomotives. After the switch to diesels, the mines were closed until demands by midwestern utilities for low-sulphur, clean-buring coal reopened them two years ago.

T. H. Seep, of Burlington Northern's

T. H. Seep, of Burlington Northern's regineering department in St. Paul, supervised dirt-moving by Schultz and Lindsay operators. First phase of the work will reduce the angle of the "spoil bank" slopes by about mid-November over an area of some 40 acres.

Early in 1972 dirt-moving will resume north and east of this site, which then will be planted to native grasses, shrubbery, Russian and Siberian elm, willows, cottonwoods, and other species. Assisting with the planting operation will be J. L. Bishop, Burlington Northern Supervisor of Grazing and Cultivation.

Grazing and Cultivation.

Seep said "Mr. Bishop's long experience in eastern Montana with the Soil Conservation Service will do much to assure the successful establishment of new ground cover. Our immediate goal is to create an improved habitat for native game and birds, stabilize ground cover with good forage grass and encourage

South and east of the dirt-moving operation, Seep plans to construct a pond or small lake surrounded by trees as a nucleus for a public camping area. Water for the pond will be obtained from existing sources throughout the Colstrip area. Fish planting, he said, would depend upon water quality and the availability of fish stock.

At the planned rate of development, the project should be completed in less than eight years

Harold Miller, Hysham rancher and formersident of the Montana Wildlife Federation, also was present to view the start of the reclamation project.

### Wyoming - -

emissions? You give us no information about this. We are left to form our estimates from other sources.

According to the Cameron Engineering Report for the State of Wyoming, there will be by 1980 nine coal burning plants in Wyoming producing 5,100 megawatts. How much of this power will be used by Wyoming residences? How much filth will these plants consign to Wyoming's clean air? From the

to Wyoming's clean air? From the Denver Post we learn that approximately this same megawattage, produced by the proposed Kaiparowits plant in Utah, will emit daily 98 tons of fly ash, 880 tons of sulfur oxides, and 450 tons of Nitrogen Oxide! Will this be our price for Wyoming's electricity in 1000?

Wyoming's electricity in 1980?

As a long standing cooperative member, I think I have the right to insist that you, as the editor of our official publication, should inform all members of the total cost of our future ectricity, so that the power user in Wyoming decide for himself how much of a price burden he wisely wil choose to bear.

"The fear tommorrow of us.'' You said it. overwhelmed overwhelmed, and so are my ranch neighbors. We do not want it to happen to us as it has to the Our reaction cannot be termed 'hysterical.' We do not even call ourselves environmentalists. We simply are used to breathing clean air and wish to continue doing so. I have lived under Wyoming's blue skies for over forty-five years. Most of my neighbors have resided here longer. We all know what it was like to exist without electricity. We cannot be frightened by that prospect. While none of us wish to return to kerosene lamps and ice blocks stored in sawdust, we do not look back on those days as woefully deprived. To the contrary, we managed to realize some magnificent achievements, an abundance of good times with good neighbors, and countless moments of love and laughter and sharing within a close familyall without the helping hand of one blessed kilowatt-hour. Never assume that the ranchers are more fond of electricity than clear skies.

Joseph B. Orr Centennial, Wyo.



The Viva Naughton steam generating electric plant near Kemmerer, Wyoming, is only the first of many plants which are destined to be built in this area. The consequences of large-scale strip mining and air pollution have not been assessed against the economic returns.

### **Hunting Helpful**

The State Fish and Game Department has again voiced its approval of sport hunting as a game management tool and as a secure recreational use of one of Montana's natural resources.

Frank H. Dunkle, Director of the Fish and Game Department says, "Sport hunting and the resulting game harvests are vital to many Montana game populations. Without hunting, many of our game species and especially deer, antelope and other big game would suffer considerably from overpopulation and range depletion.

"Overpopulation poses one of the greatest threats to our big game populations," added Dunkle.

Dunkle.

This most recent support for hunting appears in the September issue of MONTANA OUT-DOORS, the department's official publication. The colorful, bi-monthly magazine is presently being mailed in Helena.

"Contrary to the feelings of many people, properly regulated hunting has a very beneficial effect on game populations," continued Dunkle. "The sport functions by removing surplus animals that would only deplete essential food supplies during winter months."

There has always been opposition to hunting because of the fact that most hunts end in the death of one or more game animals. However, conservationists contend that deaths brought about by hunting are much more humane than those that nature would inflict and that if hunting is not permitted, a valuable and renewable natural resource is wasted.

"Besides the management values of hunting, the sport provides countless man-hours of excellent outdoor recreation," concluded Dunkle.

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The lead article in the September issue draws a vivid contrast between two typical Montana hunting areas. In one district an adequate game harvest by hunters has maintained a healthy deer population. In the other, the lack of hunter harvest has resulted in a game overpopulation and, in turn, a destruction of winter food supplies and an unhealthy, decreasing deer herd. The story, entitled "Mandate to Manage" and authored by Craig Whitney, contains some shocking statistics concerning the productivity of the two contrasting areas. For example, deer in the overused area produced only half as many fawns as the area experiencing an adequate hunter harvest.

In the same issue, Dunkle gives his views on the virtues of sport hunting and its value to Montanans in his regular column.

Other features found in the September issue of MONTANA OUTDOORS include:

--a factual article on the Arctic grayling, one of Montana's rare wildlife species.

-a story on the Wold Creek-Missouri River Recreation Road, which runs along Interstate 15 between Great Falls and Helena.

-an article explaining what recreationists and landowners should know about accident liability.

--a humorous listing of the qualities of a true Subco sportsman.

#### Mine Bill Tougher

A new strip mine bill before the Ohio legislature would toughen strip mine license applications and require complete land reclamation. A strip mining license fee would cost \$150 plus \$30 per acre. An additional fee for a fund to reclaim "orphaned lands" was rejected. Pennsylvania and West Virginia have such funds.

### **Areas of Action**

#### **Executive Order**

Almost seven years have passed since Congress passed the Wilderness Act. In that time less than half of the areas, mandated by Congress for review and consideration within the ten-year period, have been acted upon. Only the Forest Service is near schedule. It seems apparent that many primitive areas and qualifying de facto wilderness areas will get only hasty consideration in the three years remaining. In the meantime, people pressures on our wilderness areas continues to grow at an alarming rate.

The White House has drafted an Executive Order to give interim protection to all candidate wilderness lands until Congress has had a chance to act. But President Nixon has not signed the order. The reason may be because of intense timber industry pressure. Secretary of the Interior Morton and Assistant Secretary Reed strongly endorse the order; Secretary of Agriculture Hardin opposes it. An aroused public must overcome that oppositon and pressure.

The Executive Order would:

(1) Assure that areas of the national forest, national park and national wildlife refuge systems, which are to undergo wilderness review, will not be impaired until their sutiability for such designation has been reviewed by the President and Congress in accordance with the Act:

(2) Require the Secretary of Agriculture to identify by September 3, 1974, all areas of wilderness contiguous to existing primitive areas which meet the Wilderness Act's definition of wilderness, so that these areas may receive the same interim protection; and

(3) Require a complete inventory and identification of all undesignated (de facto) wilderness lands within the national forests by December 31, 1972.

The President needs to know the feelings of the public. You can encourage him to sign the Order and protect our remaining wilderness. Write at once to President Richard M. Nixon, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

#### Hells Canyon

Hearings on S 717, the Packwood bill to create a Hells Canyon-Snake National River along the Snake River in Idaho, Oregon and Washington were held in Washington, D. C. on Sept. 16 and 17. Most of the national and regional conservation groups are in accord that the best way to protect Hells Canyon is to designate it a national river. Such action would foreclose the construction of any more dams throughout that stretch. The groups wholeheartedly support S 717. It is a matter of great urgency that the public express its feelings. Write Senator Frank Church, Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands, New Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20510.

a remarks all alow but and yourself



DuNoir Butte juts out from the main rim of the Absaroka Range (see page 6) northwest of Dubois, Wyoming. On either side of the landmark lie two big basins, each a secluded haven for elk, bighorn sheep and an occasional grizzly bear. This photo is looking into the East DuNoir Basin. Through the basin and across the slope shown in the foreground, elk migrate in significant numbers. They come from as far as the high elevations of the Yellowstone Plateau on their way to wintering grounds at lower elevations near Dubois. Somewhere within the photo John

Colter, the first white man known to have been in the entire Yellowstone area, followed game trails which eventually took him to the wilderness that would someday be Yellowstone National Park. Conservationists want the area protected as a wilderness area for its historical, scenic, and wild game characteristics. The Forest Service says the area cannot qualify for wilderness because of former selective logging for railroad ties and because of old lumbering roads.

### Teton Dam Exposed...

#### 6. Flood Benefits Exaggerated:

The 1964 letter includes annual flood control benefits of \$323,000. These were based upon a 1960 reconnaisance survey by the Corps of Engineers on the Upper Snake River Basin. (Letter P. 14) If any further flood control analysis has been done in the intervening 11 years, the results are undisclosed and unaccounted for.

Anyone who has any familiarity with the Corps of Engineer estimates of flood control benefits anywhere acquires grave skepticism concerning the origin and application of the basic economic data used to support the conclusions.

The report of the Corps of Engineers appended to the 1964 report to Congress stated that the maximum flood of record had occurred in 1893 and that a similar discharge now would create a flood plain covering 5,700 acres of agricultural land. (Letter P.45) The annual benefits of flood control over a 100 year span are estimated at \$323,000 per year or, for the full 100 year period, \$32,300,000. Assuming that such flood would totally destroy the 5,700 acres for any purpose, which is absurd, the land would have to be worth about \$5,507 per acre to justify the cost. It is good farm land but not that good.

During this past spring the Ashton-Rexburg-St. Anthony area had more than at any time in recent history. The newspaper accounts referred to "thousands" of dollars of damage from flooding but no one to my knowledge has estimated that figure for this year as high as even \$100,000. For perfectly natural and business reasons estimates of damage tend to run much higher during a flood than afterward.

Much farmland that is flooded can be replanted. This involves an additional cost but certainly not a total loss. Flood is bound to be more frequent in a sub-irrigation area using 1214 acre feet as compared to 3-4 acre feet used for irrigation in the rest of the Snake River Basin.

Flood control and power benefits and costs are nice to have in a reclamation project. The costs do not have to be repaid. This is no doubt one of the reasons why the repayment charges to the irrigators are estimated at \$.79 per acre foot rather than \$2.00 to \$3.00 and higher found in other irrigation districts in Idaho.

All that is suggested is that any independent and accurate analysis of flood control benefit is going to reduce the \$323,000 flood control benefit figure by 50% to 90%. Once again substantial reduction in this benefit will knock the benefit cost ratio into a cocked hat.

#### 7. No Economic Justification:

The various economic sins of commission and omission taken separately each result in an unfavorable benefit-cost ratio. In fact, each should be considered in combination with the



others and the total result is extremely negative.

This objection would better be directed to the Bureau of the Budget instead of your council but you now have the final administrative say. The Bureau of Reclamation has asked for construction bids on September 9, 1971. It would be extremely unfortunate if an economy-minded administration failed to exercise its legal prerogatives but required private parties to go

to court to enjoin construction.

In making this objection I am mindful of the disappointment that the frustration of the project at this date will cause in the area. Farmers are periodically short of water. There are floods that do cause damage. Like other areas of the country, the local people would benefit from a large expenditure of federal construction dollars over a considerable period of time. The project is highly favorable economically at the local level.

However, as long as the federal laws require national economic justification for a project then the law and the rules of the game should obeyed. The project as publicly presented by Bureau at the present time is not accurate honest. In civil law between private parties failure to disclose facts constitutes actionable deceit as much as wilful misrepresentation. By failure to present current costs and current benefits based on current accurate studies the Bureau of Reclamation is perpetrating fraud on the taxpayers of the nation.

One of the major complaints voiced across the country against environmentalists is that they stand in the way of economic progress. It is true in certain instances that those who would preserve an existing river or other natural condition are forced to rally arguments that cannot readily be translated into dollars. In the case of Lower Teton, this situation is reversed. The environmental benefits of preserving a free flowing river are recognized by the Bureau and everyone else. The economic benefits from damming the river turn out upon analysis to be grossly misrepresented.

In summary, the proposition stated in rough approximation is: Should the United States pay out \$2.00 in costs for every \$1.00 received in benefits to destroy a river. You don't need the Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to answer that question.