

High Country

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

News

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, Oct. 1, 1971

Hells Canyon Moratorium

Hells Canyon of the Middle Snake River is no closer to national river status following hearings in Washington during mid-September. The Packwood Bill which would provide protective legislation for the renowned area got the brush-off from all sides but the conservationists.

It now seems likely that legislation to provide for a seven-year moratorium on dam building in the canyon will be enacted. That would prevent the licensing of a dam or dams as has been recommended by the Federal Power Commission. But it does not protect the area from the in-roads of logging, mining, and the incursion of more and more off-road vehicles. Neither will it protect the few remaining areas along the river where public-use areas may be needed later.

Idaho's two powerful senators, as well as Oregon's senior Senator Mark Hatfield and Wyoming's Senator Clifford P. Hansen, stood in solid opposition to Oregon Senator Bob Packwood's bill to give better protection to Hells Canyon. In hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, the congressional delegation and upstream irrigation interests in Idaho blasted the Packwood proposal. It now stands no chance of even getting through committee.

Packwood's bill would create a 714,000-acre national park complex with the river bisecting two land areas on either side.

The main opposition to the bill was aimed at no guarantees for future upstream diversion for irrigation. Idaho Senator Len Jordan said, "If enacted, it could well be called the Idaho water export act of 1971."

Jordan said that should the moratorium be enacted and a decision reached during the moratorium to build a hydroelectric dam, Idaho should build it. The state would then sell the power to the utilities.

Pacific Northwest Power Co. and the Washington Public Power Supply System have petitioned the FPC to build a dam or dams in the Canyon. This could be at the Pleasant Valley or High Mountain Sheep sites.

Earlier Governors Cecil Andrus of Idaho, Tom McCall of Oregon and Dan Evans of Washington had issued a rare statement of agreement on the proposal to put dams in Hells Canyon. They said Hells Canyon was a "truly unique and magnificent national treasure." Their statement said additional dams would not be in the best interest of the people of the Northwest or of the nation. However, Andrus did not endorse the Packwood bill, saying it needed to be "studied."

Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton has also stated that there would be no "willy-nilly damming of the Snake River" while he was in that office.

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NOTICE

Due to the gratifying response from our readers in giving gift subscriptions to schools, and due to the interest schools and libraries now have in environmental matters, we are offering a "package" to these institutions.

For any one subscription, we will send up to three copies of the paper to any school or university which now receives it or which subscribes in the future. However, we wish to be notified as to the number desired, and if separate copies are to be directed to different departments such as journalism or science.

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Notice to Librarians

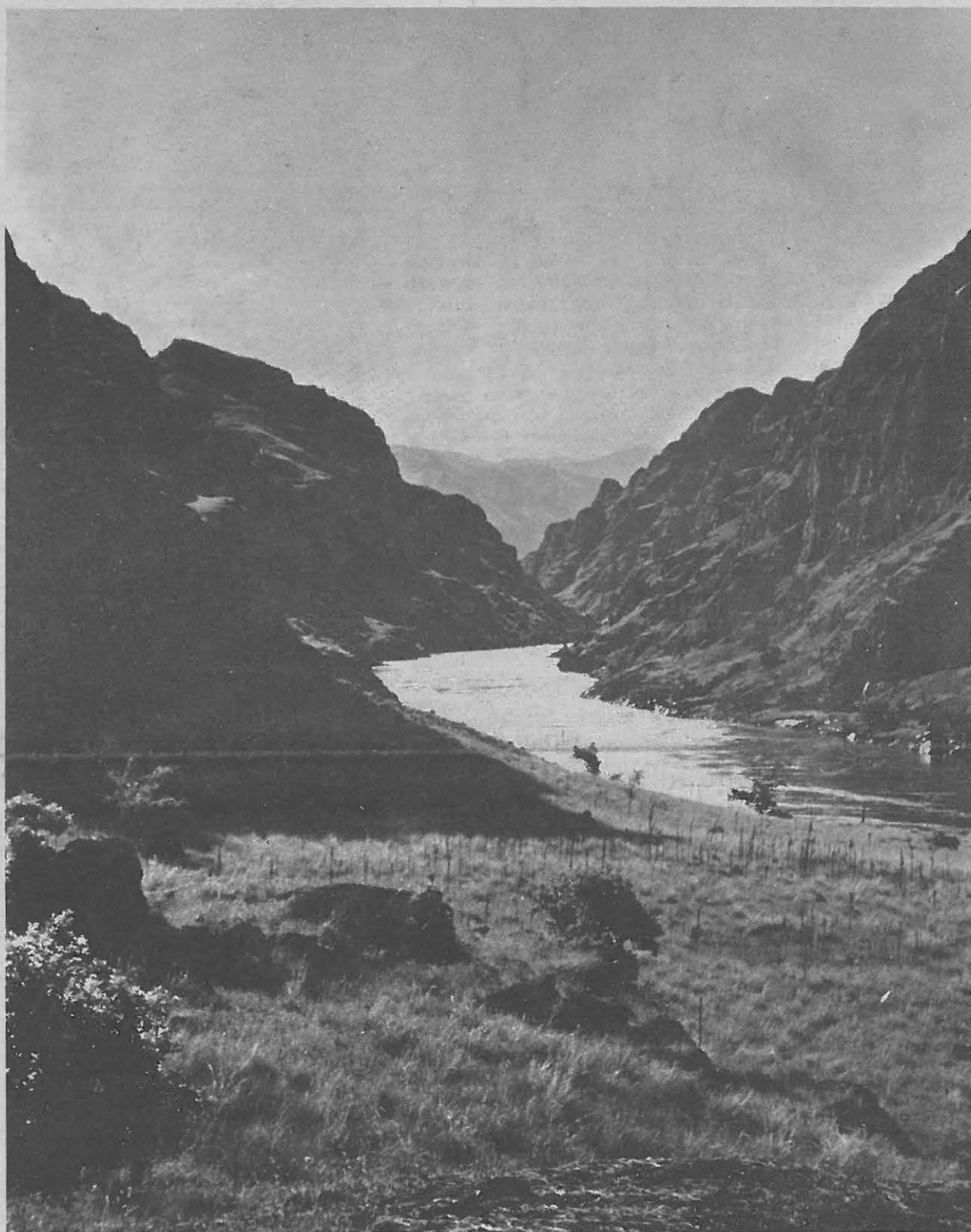


Photo by Verne Huser

A few miles below the proposed Pleasant Valley dam site, the Snake River flows through a narrow stretch of canyon that would be inundated by the High Mountain Sheep Dam. Major areas of wildlife habitat would also be inundated, and the anadromous fishery in the entire Columbia-Snake-Salmon River systems would be greatly affected. This view is looking upstream from Big Canyon Creek.

Energy Policy Gets Approval

The over-riding need for a national energy policy was agreed upon by both environmentalists and representatives of the electric utility industry in a two-day meeting at Denver. The first-of-its-kind meeting on a national basis was sponsored by the Electric Power Council on Environment and the National Wildlife Federation.

Over 200 conferees from across the country heard a series of speakers and then sat down across the table to talk about their differences. Out of the historic meeting came a resolution to meet again next year.

The two groups, who have found themselves in one confrontation after another, came to more agreements than the energy policy. They cooperatively called for open planning and one-stop licensing. Such moves could mean that long-term planning, open to the public and with public representatives included, could lead to quicker licensing of power plants of demonstrable need.

Both groups agreed upon, and they cooperatively called for, more research in power

generating technology. They asked for more attention to air and water pollution problems. They agreed to look into power rate structures and the problems of reverse rates, peaking-power rates, and other means to conserve power.

Utility representatives and environmentalists from the 11 western states passed a resolution to request the Western States Governor's Conference to consider strip mine legislation. The resolution called for uniform strip mine laws and cited the recently enacted Montana and Washington acts as models on which to draw for optimum standards.

The western group also called for immediate attention to the problem of nitrogen supersaturation in the Columbia River System. They cited the possibility of complete loss of salmon and steelhead unless action were taken by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Almost without exception both groups favored more citizen participation, and more meetings between the two groups to seek com-

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Electric utilities and environmentalists may not be as far apart in their common goals as both groups would have thought. A common meeting-of-the-minds in Denver Monday and Tuesday brought surprising agreement in many areas.

Brought face-to-face in an energy-environment conference, the participants thought the meeting productive enough to repeat again next year. Not only that but they agreed to meet at regional and state levels in the interim. Neither of the groups, which often find themselves as adversaries in the legal arena these days, found it difficult or unrewarding just to talk to each other.

The national conference was sponsored by the Electric Power Council on Environment, who footed the bill for the environmentalists, and the National Wildlife Federation. Practically every electric utility company in the country was represented, as well as citizen and environmental groups from most state and national organizations.

But the conference was more than just talk. In spite of the decisive moral victory by environmentalists in the Calvert Cliffs decision (and very possibly because of the decision), industry spokesmen were not hesitant in discussing common problems and agreeing to work for common solutions. That there were areas of common concern should not be surprising, but the depth of concern was. And the willingness of industry to work cooperatively for solutions was not only surprising but pleasing. It could make a turn-around in attitude on the part of both parties which could augur well for the future.

It wasn't all unanimity on all points of concern by any means. But there was enough agreement to provide optimism to environmentalists. And the most heartening aspect was the near unanimous agreement on a national energy policy.

If there is any one point in which we should begin agreement on basic philosophy, it should be there. Without an acceptable energy policy, we are floundering helplessly in a thickening morass of social, economic and environmental problems. Not only that but we may well be jeopardizing our whole social structure, and indeed our survival as a nation.

As one speaker pointed out, our country, constituting one-sixteenth of the world's population, uses one-fourth of the total useable energy. It seems to be an accepted hypothesis of the industry that energy demands will double during every decade. Some of us ask, how can it be possible when we do not know where we are at the present moment, where we will be next week, and have no idea where we will stand in regard to energy by 1980?

We must have an energy policy if we are to know exactly how much electricity we now have, where it is being used (and wasted), what basic sources of supply we have and in what amounts, how long each will last, and how we shall manage and conserve each source to stretch its supply to the limit.

How can we possibly marshal our forces to solve the critical social and environmental problems we now face without knowing the exact resources we can bring to bear on them? Not only that but we should be guided by the same philosophy as our arms makers - the biggest hang for the buck. As one of the speakers asked, why should we accept fossil fuel generating plants which are only 40 percent efficient? And why should we accept a loss of up to 2/3 of the useable electricity while it is being transmitted? In effect, we are operating electric generating and transmitting systems that are not much better than that devised by James Watt, Thomas A. Edison, and the other early pioneers in the game.

Which brings us to a second point of major agreement - the critical need for stepped-up research and development on newer and far more efficient systems. It behooves us to do so when our energy supplies are dwindling so rapidly, and our demands growing so prodigiously.

Another major point of agreement is one which the environmentalists cannot possibly allow themselves to be caught in default. There appeared to be nearly unanimous agreement on the need for more citizen participation in the whole planning process. The term open-planning was used over and over again.

Russell Train, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, listed four areas to which we must direct our efforts in relation to energy. He said we must learn more from the research and development programs. We must put into practice more efficient means for the use of available energy, such as mass transportation and better insulation of homes and buildings. He said we must accept a program of commitment to alleviate pollution, and finally, he said there is need for a proper institutional framework between power production and environmental goals - to include long-range open-planning by the utilities, with the public as a participant.

It now remains for the utilities, concerned groups, and the public-at-large to get with it. Of rhetoric, we've had enough. It is long past time for action.



New snows have come to the Rocky Mountains. In the changing panorama of the seasons, white tints the peaks while more clouds gather in the distance.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

First of all I want to compliment you on the very fine paper which you're editing. In fact, I think it is the finest, and it seems, somehow, to improve. Mr. Huser's series on floating western rivers is terrific. I will certainly encourage some subscribing activity among my friends in this area. Yours is a task which must be maintained. The alternative is unthinkable. Now, to the point of this letter. From time to time I run across many items in your paper with which I'd like to share with the general readership of our Trout Unlimited Chapter Newsletter, "Hatches and Rises." We have a circulation of perhaps 350 plus many of whom are interested in your area. What are your policies in regards to reprinting such items? We would, of course, be happy to give full credit for the source, and I would be pleased to write a short article to "plug" your fine paper and make its presence known to more people here. New subscribers should result!

The guest editorials are great, too. Keep them coming. Quite often this is the only source of such information - particularly high quality, literate, and intelligent comment which is so sorely needed to combat the despoilers' propaganda. Again, my hat is off to you!

If you are open to suggestions for future articles, here are a couple that you might consider:

(1) A discussion of Supt. Jack Anderson's very excellent new fisheries management program in Yellowstone National Park. It might save the fisheries and maintain high quality wild trout fishing (which is really the only kind) in that portion of the West.

(2) A discussion of why Fish & Game Departments aren't doing a better job of educating the public and making them aware of

current things in regards to intelligent, long-range management.

(3) A discussion of why the mountain states' game & fish departments (who have so much - although dwindling) refuse to inaugurate programs designed to preserve, protect, and enhance the wild trout fishing which they have. Their programs are geared to "harvest" and usually "maximum harvest" when it should have the aim of maintaining the sport.

(4) A discussion of separation of politics and Fish & Game Departments.

Thanks for listening.
Malcolm B. Seaholm
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Editor's note: Thanks to Mr. Seaholm for the compliment on the paper and the offer to help obtain more subscriptions. We would greatly appreciate a "plug" for the paper. Our circulation is now 1,875 and growing at a painfully slow rate. We need a minimum of 3,000 subscribers in order to survive. We feel that there must be at least that many people in this great country who share our feelings and who will help support us in such a vital cause.

The question on use of material from HIGH COUNTRY NEWS is one which should have been aired long ago. We certainly do not have any objection to the use of any materials from the paper. We would appreciate credit for any of the original material both for the sake of our authors and for the paper. It is gratifying that articles and information we publish may be of use to other conservationists and editors of newsletters with common interests. Hereafter, a statement on the use of material will appear along with the statement of publication and ownership.

We certainly are open to suggestions and I will take yours seriously.

Your suggestion number two is well taken. As an editor, I see many of the news releases and other publications produced by the various fish and game departments. Most leave much to be desired in the area to which you refer. Idaho, Montana and Oregon do a creditable job but their information is usually for state or local consumption. Montana and Wyoming both have beautiful wildlife magazines in which there is some airing of long-range management. The Montana magazine is MONTANA OUTDOORS (Montana Fish and Game Department, Helena, Montana 59601, \$2 for one year/ six issues) and Wyoming's is the WYOMING WILDLIFE (Box 1589, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001, \$3 for one year/ 12 issues.)

As to suggestion number three, I will leave that to the various fish and game departments to answer. (I would solicit articles from them on this matter.) However, I think you would be interested in a program that Utah Fisheries

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Reprinted from the IDAHO FALLS REGISTER, Idaho Falls, Idaho, Sept. 12, 1971.

The West's Frontier Coal Rush

In the days of the early West, the resources were there for the taking and the government lent its support with the mining act of 1872, the homestead act, the banishing of Indians to reservations, and many another government action designed to move along even faster a pellmell frontier taming. The nation wanted the foodstuffs, the ore, the cattle, and the lumber for its burgeoning growth and the people needed the land.

The landrush left its scars in dredged out streams, gaping placer mined valleys, and in a public range which had been critically overgrazed for too many years. You can see them in Idaho. Most of Idaho's critical ranges for wildlife and livestock are the heritage of this era's heedlessness.

In the same era, there were also the good, far-seeing stewards of the land, too. Many of these put water to productive use and reclaimed the desert so that the West could have its growth leverage. These good land managers have handed down the fruits of their pioneering labor to succeeding generations.

But the land heals slowly. And the recognition of the abuse over too much of the public lands has come just as slowly. But this recognition has arrived.

But now a new "land rush" has come to the west of 1971. The coal rush, and to a lesser extent, the lumbering rush.

The eastern United States has just about run out of low sulphur coal, the kind that pollutes the air the least when it burns. On the coal front, the east's abuse of the land has been decidedly worse than even the dredgers and placer-miners who sent the soil forever down to the sea in the valleys and mountains of the west. Appalachia is a stark monument to the kind of stewardship the east has perpetrated in the name of progress.

The coal miners, and the electric companies have now "discovered" the West. There are vast quantities of low sulphur coal under the plains and mountains of the west. In Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado, the utilities have "found" their 1971 stake.

In the most serenely attractive area of the southwest, the Parks-laden Four Corners area, electric plants burning coal from nearby Indian reservations have already started. More are to come. The principal market is many miles away—principally southern California.

And strip mining and open pit mining is the kind of mining that is largely being employed—the most devastating to the land.

A. J. Teske, Boise, executive secretary of the Idaho Mining Association, in a recent Idaho Falls talk, noted that strip and open pit mining are becoming more and more necessary to achieve the economies necessary to provide the ore. Mr. Teske said that mining research has also allowed recovery of ores through these methods with ore densities which did not permit economical mining before. He also pointed out that withdrawal of lands for wilderness and other reasons is also narrowing the mining choices. (The Wilderness act, however, allows mining exploration under a definite regulatory framework until 1982 but the act does not say what will happen to mining opportunities after that.)

Stated the Lewiston Morning Tribune newspaper recently on this topic:

"...The blight (strip mining and its history in the East) must not be allowed to spread across the West in the assumption that some natural law requires us to use more electricity every year than we used the year before. The spiraling demand for electrical energy is not inevitable.

We are not committed to go on requiring power in larger amounts until the land is laid waste, the air poisoned and the waters barren of life. No matter what the power companies say, some things could be done to bring some balance into play.

"A governmental agency not beholden to

Letters...

Chief Don Andriano has initiated. There the stocking of parts of three streams with catchable rainbow trout will be ended. Wild brown, cut-throat and brook trout will be given a chance to prove whether they can develop their own populations when competition from hatchery fish is removed. For further information, you might write Andriano at Utah Fish and Game Department, 1596 W. N. Temple, Salt Lake City 84116.

utility stockholders could be given the responsibility of planning actual power need and the best means of power production. The Atomic Energy Commission could do much more than it has to encourage the development of safe, low cost nuclear power stations. The mining laws inherited from the 1870s could be rewritten to eliminate the mining industry's first priority on the land. State Legislatures could more strictly control the operations of dredgers and strip miners and require the rehabilitation of disturbed land and waterways. Public schools could bring to teaching the economics of survival...and the Indians of the western plains, whose treaties grant them more control over their lands than most of us have, could stop signing strip mining leases..."

The AEC and its breeder reactor concept, and later, in its fusion break-through, can be the ultimate answer. The problem is that at this precise time, electric utilities must elect coal for the best economics of the day. But should we go pellmell on coal now and its air-fouling potential, low sulphur or not, and irrespective of the sincere efforts of utilities to trap and filter smoke releases? What are we willing to pay for, not only when the breeder reactor is perfected, but right now when water reactors are available, in slightly higher power costs?

Yes, we must have electricity. But how do we get it is the critical question. What value do we put on our livability and the priceless purity of western living? What do we pay less for in the name of clutter?

Increased pressure is also being placed on western forests for logging. Private lands and out-of-west sources are not available in the same order of production so the west is being looked to supply the increased demand on an ever increasing scale. Because of the nation's housing needs, even an executive order from the White House is looking over the shoulders of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in pressurizing more stake-outs for lumbering. Lumbering is a legitimate function of public land production of course, but one of the chief worries is that the largely steep-mountain west does not lend itself in some areas to volume logging.

And volume logging, like volume mining, is naturally important to the logging industry. There are places in Oregon and Washington and Northern Idaho, for example, which lends itself

Reprinted from the LEWISTON MORNING TRIBUNE, Lewiston, Idaho, Sept. 6, 1971.

There Goes The Old Reservation

Financial and industrial publications are full of news about the latest western boom: strip mining for coal. The eastern United States has just about run out of low-sulphur coal, the kind that pollutes the air least when it burns and the only kind that can meet the new national air quality standards, but lies under the sagebrush, wheat and grass of the western states.

There is some irony in the fact that the fight against air pollution has led to a spreading pollution of the land, but there it is. Thanks to stiffer air quality standards in the East, it has become economical for the first time to strip the coal fields of the West and haul the fuel to hungry eastern markets. And because it is economically feasible to strip the land, mining companies and power firms are rushing to acquire mining leases in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada. And here is another irony: Much of the land under lease for strip mining is on Indian reservations, presumably under the control of people whose tradition has been to hold the earth as sacred. Although Indians have harshly condemned the white man's rape of the land, Indian leaders now are permitting the destruction of much Indian land with the same goal that motivated their white brothers: profit.

While profit is the basic motive, the strippers' argument for public consumption is that coal is needed to produce electricity to meet the inevitably increasing demands of a growing economy. Production of electricity is the chief use of the coal, to be sure, but there is another less destructive way of producing it. Unfortunately, coal is cheaper than nuclear power at the present state of technology, and as long as coal abounds, why invest in nuclear stations? The president of Pacific Power & Light Co. is quoted by The New York Times as saying his firm plans to go slow on development of nuclear



Oil and gas exploration can be an environmental disaster on land as well as at sea. Old drilling sites are seldom cleaned up or the drilling platforms rehabilitated. Refuse, mud pits and oil spills add to the degradation.

to this kind of logging. But there are many another national forest areas in the West which do not. The clearcutting abuses in steep sided mountains in Montana and Wyoming are vivid cases in point. This should not indict all clear-cutting which is needed within the framework of logging choices. These are apparently extraordinary abuses. It should not reflect the general stewardship of the Forest Service.

But it should alert westerners that the pressure game is on in the West, and that care must be taken that we always log where we should and in the manner that will truly achieve a sustained-yield. It must also recognize other public values in the same logged land. Logging is an important function of forest management. It also provides in-forest values, like new elk pastures. But we don't know enough yet on how to do it better and what other impacts it may have. We need to accompany our logging not only in the right places and in the right manner, but more research.

power because "we've got coal running out of our ears."

And while it is true that the use of electricity is increasing, it is also true that the demand for juice is being stimulated by the companies that sell it. The utilities spend millions of advertising dollars every year exhorting us to buy electric air conditioning for our homes and install power-hungry floodlights around our farms, and then they argue that they have to build more dams or strip-mine more coal in order to supply the "demand."

The way to curb the spiral is not to go on heroically meeting the ever increasing "demand" for electricity, as though the escalator were beyond human control, but to discourage it.

The power companies say that even if we stabilize the population here in the Pacific Northwest, our demand for electricity will continue to increase. It will do that only if we let it—that is, if we continue to give the responsibility for planning power needs and production to those who stand to profit from power sales.

The rate at which we consume electrical energy in the future, and the way we produce it, is going to determine the nature of our environment to a marked degree. Since the kind of environment we live in will have much to do with the length and quality of our lives, we should not make it subject to the corporate needs of the Washington Water Power Co. or Pacific Power & Light.

The history of strip mining in the eastern United States, with its water poisoning, erosion and destruction of whole mountains and valleys, constitutes one of the most sordid chapters in the long chronicle of our misuse of the land. The blight must not be allowed to spread across the West on the assumption that some natural law requires us to use more electricity every year

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Harmonizing Man With His Environment

An Account of Seminar on Environmental Arts and Sciences

by David H. Ackerman

Aspen, Colorado, June 25 - 30, 1971

This is the third and final part of the account on the S.E.A.S. program. Mr. Ackerman is vice president of American Metal Climax's Copper Division.

Holocoenotic Environment

"... That all living things are related to and inter-dependent with one another, and, all interact with, influence, and are influenced by factors of the environment. Man has a tendency to look at various phenomena in the natural world, and in Man's world, as isolated from each other. They are not."

After some five days of matching basic principles against man's actions and his interactions with his ecosystem, one comes away from S.E.A.S. with a far deeper appreciation of how man and nature fit together. And if you are concerned about environmental matters (as a businessman, teacher, government employee, student, or merely as an interested citizen) in one way or other, the mind stretching, attitude wrenching, points-of-view exchanging atmosphere which S.E.A.S. provides, leaves one more upset, more firmly resolved and confident about the need for concern, by everyone, over man's activities on 'Spaceship Earth.'

S.E.A.S., which has just completed its fifth annual seminar, is presented by the Thorne Ecological Foundation of Boulder, Colorado, in cooperation with a number of important entities such as the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, and the Ecological Society of America. The list of sponsors includes: American Metal Climax Foundation, American Petroleum Institute, Anne Richardson Fund, The C.T. Foundation, Chevron Oil, Georgia Pacific, I.B.M., Oil Shale Corporation, Public Service Company of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Center on Environment, Sierra Club Foundation, Sports Illustrated, Syntex Corporation, and Wildlife Management Institute.

S.E.A.S. has a scholarship fund which makes it possible for students and representatives of minority groups to take advantage of the Seminars.

The field staff comprises eminent professional ecologists, botanists and biologists drawn from various academic institutions across the country. Assisting them are resource people who coming from a variety of fields, have particular talent or broad experience in matters relating to the environment. Included in this latter group were lawyers, a federal circuit court judge, an architect, a professor of economic education, etc. But even greater diversity is found among the participants.

The "Green Team" is typical: Its leader is Dr. Frank B. Golley, Executive Director, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens. Supporting him in the resource role, was an officer of American Metal Climax's Copper Division. While each team's participants were switched around each day, so as to stimulate exposure to the leadership of all the teams, the Green Team's make-up illustrates the degree of diversity:



Young people from the Aspen community enter into the discussions of the S.E.A.S. program. Here, they discuss the ecological impacts of Ruedi Dam near Aspen.

Professor of Water Resources, Univ. of New Mexico.

Land Engineer, Anaconda Company, Tucson, Arizona.

Real Estate Promoter, Denver.

Audubon Society, Denver Chapter President.

Graduate Student in Planning, Univ. of California.

Catholic Priest.

Environmental Science Instructor, Aspen High School.

Member, Environmental Task Force, Aspen.

Deputy Director, Air & Water Conservation, American Petroleum Institute.

Chief, Applied Sciences, U.S. Bur. of Reclamation.

Feature Writer, Denver Post.

Chief of Planning & Reports - U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Landscape Architect - Colorado Division of Highways.

Such a melange of interests might cause one to wonder how anything constructive could result. But then, the world's environmental problems attract just as varied interests. And, confronting each other in a courtroom or at an emotionally charged public hearing, each interest group instinctively resorts to dramatics to stress a point and attract public attention. A grassy, tree rimmed knoll, overlooking Colorado's beautiful Maroon Lake, is a more conducive setting for concerned environmentalists, of all shades, to quietly explore their differences, and discover that the issues separating them are relatively small, once their respective viewpoints are understood. Ecological encounter, it's been called, or sensitivity training. Whatever, when one finds oneself bridging ignorance gaps, it's a rewarding experience!

That's what S.E.A.S. is all about, our holocoenotic environment.

Oregon Takes Steps To Protect All Wildlife

The Oregon Game Commission has adopted a broad management plan for nongame wildlife and provided full protection for a number of species.

The action was taken under a new law passed by the 1971 Legislature which broadened the Commission's responsibilities by placing most wildlife species under its jurisdiction.

John McKean, state game director, said that the Commission gave full protection to the golden-mantled ground squirrel, chipmunk, chickaree or pine squirrel, flying squirrel, pika or cony, sea otter, fisher, wolverine, kit fox, ring-tailed cat, and a number of salamanders, lizards, and frogs that are classed as rare or endangered. He said the action does not imply that hunting or trapping is a limiting factor of the named animals but that they are more valuable for people to see and enjoy in a nonconsumptive manner.

According to McKean, the Commission will establish an advisory committee to coordinate programs, review problems, and make recommendations on nongame wildlife management. Representatives from environmental, recreational, and landowner groups will be invited to participate. Additionally, the Commission established six

guidelines for the management of the state's nongame wildlife. These include statewide inventories, development, education, research, protection, and control, and suggested specific action programs in regard to each.

The Commission intends to assist state, county, and city park departments in developing



wildlife populations in appropriate parks and urban areas, to aid public and private land managers in enhancing nongame populations, and to give more emphasis in developing wildlife populations for people to see on its management areas.

Life history studies of the osprey and cypress hawks and coyotes are now in progress and expansion of research on other nongame species is planned. Schools, youth camps, and other educational groups will be provided services and materials.

Rare and endangered species will be protected. Oregon laws which protect nongame birds, including hawks, owls, and eagles, and regulations passed under the 1971 legislation will be enforced by the State Police Department and employees of the Commission. The Commission will also monitor land use and pesticide proposals to minimize losses of wildlife or habitat.

The Commission will cooperate with responsible agencies and landowners in providing efficient and humane control programs where predator or rodent populations are in conflict with primary land uses. McKean advised that the Commission has no authority to protect the animals listed as predators in the state law.

According to McKean, the Commission's intent during the 1971-73 biennium is to provide protection for any wildlife at any time it is jeopardized and to promote the management and public appreciation of all forms of wildlife.

Environment: Beyond Easy Answers

by David Rockefeller

The following article by David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, gives much food for thought as one of our readers observed who sent it to us. There is much with which we can agree in Mr. Rockefeller's comments. However, there is certainly room for some disagreement, and a need for discussion of points which are raised. I am taking the liberty of doing so. My remarks will be appended at the conclusion of Mr. Rockefeller's article.

The editor

If improvement of the environment is actually the high national priority that recent polls suggest, then we should expect to find a general willingness to share the cost. Regrettably, this is not the case. Upwards of 85% of the Americans interviewed in one recent poll expressed the opinion that pollution is our country's No. 1 problem. But of the same sampling, fewer than one in four were realistic enough to face the clean-up cost, if any part of it had to come out of their own pockets.

When asked whether the price of a product should include the cost of its eventual pollution-free disposal, fully 25% of the New Yorkers who responded said that the producer should bear the cost of disposal and not pass it along to the actual consumer. They apparently ignored the fact that this would have the effect of penalizing the socially concerned manufacturer, who has built pollution control into his product, by allowing his polluting competitor to make a larger profit and possibly drive him out of business.

Conversely, a cash-register view of pollution control tends to see only those immediate dollars-and-cents costs that are reflected in the form of higher prices or lower dividends or mounting taxes. But this ignores the substantial longer-range costs in terms of the country's overall commercial and social progress.

Pricing Ourselves Out

Looked at from still another point of view, if we go about the business of solving our nation's pollution problem without regard to our competitive position in world markets, we could conceivably price ourselves out of certain important areas of world trade.

By the same token if we impose unrealistic pollution abatement costs on industry, many of the recently initiated minority enterprises that are still struggling with heavy start-up costs and low profit margins will be among the first to suffer. Costly job opportunity and training programs throughout industry, which are now developing new jobs for minority groups, will come under critical review as environmental costs mount.

None of us wants to see this happen, but the only way to prevent it is to ask ourselves some hard questions and come up with some good answers.

If we are to remain competitive in the world marketplace, create more jobs and have more viable minority enterprises, while simultaneously eliminating environmental pollution, it seems clear that we will be forced to step up our productivity through ever-improved technology. But this runs contrary to the expressed desires of some environmentalists who would prefer to see a world with less advanced technology. Once again we are faced with a dilemma and a choice.

To choose the good over the bad is easy enough. It only requires a bit of character. But choosing among several "goods," when not all of them are possible at once, is a great deal harder. It requires a careful assessment of costs and benefits. And it requires a calculated "trade-off" giving up what may be desirable for what is imperative.

If we are to make certain that the costs of pollution abatement are kept to a minimum, are allocated fairly and are wisely spent, it is going to require a much better understanding of the economics of pollution than we now have, as well as a coordinated agreement among all those involved—designers, manufacturers and consumers.

Despite the fact that popular indignation has made pollution pre-eminent among the nation's crises, far too many individuals still cling to the simplistic notion that "I" don't cause pollution—"they" do. Conversely, too few are prepared to make the individual sacrifices in comfort and convenience that will have to be made.

Is Father ready to turn in his high-compression automobile and drive a smaller model or walk to work by getting up 20 minutes

earlier? Is Mother prepared to turn in all her phosphate and enzyme detergents and rearrange her workday to use the washer and other heavy appliances only during evening hours to conserve electricity? Is Son going to trade his electric guitar for a regular model and resume his chore of toting empty soda bottles back to the grocery store? Is Daughter willing to skip the insecticide and put up with a few mosquito bites at her picnic? Or start fixing her hair a half-hour earlier so it will dry naturally?

At a time when the demand for electricity is doubling every decade, air-conditioners in urban centers are accounting for up to 35% of the peak summer load. And yet, how many individuals on a scorching summer afternoon are going to cooperate with the power companies by setting their thermostats above 75 degrees or turning them off altogether between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.? The question we should all be asking is not "Who will pay the costs?" but rather, "What is my fair share?"

Slow Down Production

A second and to me even more disturbing question has been turning up with regrettable frequency lately. It appears to be an outgrowth of the environmentalists' attack on modern technology. The question is: Why not stop pollution by slowing down production?

This proposal cannot be expected to raise many cheers in economically depressed areas, where the first concern, quite understandably, is to generate additional productive capacity to provide more employment and a higher tax base for the financing of badly needed regional development.

For example, a well-known Asian economist has calculated that it adds 30% to the installed cost of a power plant to remove 95% of the air particles emitted. For an area with limited resources it is a hard choice whether to spend the money for pollution control or for 30% more power. In a very real sense, a nation must be able to afford pollution controls.

I doubt seriously whether those who advocate an arbitrary stifling of our country's economic growth have considered the full ramifications. We would suffer a marked fall-off in our standard of living, going well beyond the personal inconveniences and voluntary restraints that I have mentioned. Our ever-increasing population would be dividing on a diminishing per capita basis the same quantity of goods and services, with all of the economic and social ills which that implies.

Forcing a shutdown of every factory that cannot meet strictly regulated standards of environmental purity within a limited time period might stop the smoke that comes from those particular chimneys. But it would be a Pyrrhic victory for environmentalists and for the country as a whole if in the process it resulted in what has been termed "environmental unemployment."

We sometimes tend to forget that for every

benefit there is a corresponding cost. When unemployed workers get extended benefits, taxes go up. When juries award larger settlements to plaintiffs in accident cases, insurance rates go up. When society demands and gets pollution-free power generators, the electric bill goes up. The underlying economic principle here is simple. There is no such thing as a cost-free benefit. And this applies to environmental benefits as well as all others.

The secondary effects of "environmental unemployment" and halted production are equally serious. They tend to erode the community's tax base. They also deprive industry and government of the economic resources needed to research and solve the wide range of environmental and other social problems.

Enforced stagnation, in addition to being a cure that is worse than the disease, is, in my view, entirely unnecessary. It is possible for us to pay for a cleaner environment out of the proceeds of continuing economic growth itself, provided we are willing to begin putting as much emphasis on productivity as on products.

Our Chase Manhattan economists have recently completed a study of pollution control efforts. We learned that something in the range of \$10 billion annually is now being spent on this nationwide. We anticipate that this will rise to about \$24 billion by 1975. During this same interval, our Gross National Product, the total value of goods and services produced in the nation, would normally grow at a rate of about 4-1/2% a year. This would supply enough new resources to meet environmental needs. However, in view of the major leaps forward in costly social commitments now being assumed by this country, I believe that we will experience substantial difficulty in maintaining the projected growth rate without a sustained cooperative effort at greater productivity.

Certainly, a total clean-up of the environment cannot be completed in only five years. Nor can it be purchased at bargain basement rates. It will require hard choices and genuine commitments on the part of each individual.

If we really dedicate ourselves to making those efforts we can look forward to a healthy and productive economy and the better living environment that we all want. We have only to arrive at a national consensus favoring patience and persistence over panic. And we must ask the right question: How much am I willing to give up in other areas in order to give more to improving the environment?

Frankly, I am hopeful that emotional sloganeering and extravagant proposals will soon subside as more and more people come to the realization that a cleaner environment really is up to each one of us. The wish-fulfillment approach, without a realistic recognition of the magnitude of the costs as well as a willingness to apportion them among all who will benefit, is no credit to anyone or to any cause—let alone a cause as vitally important as this one.

(Please turn to page 10.)



Unrestricted and unplanned development can further degrade man's environment. Unchecked human populations and the demand for more power, more things, and more free time to spend outside of cities have led to overwhelming demands upon our finite world. It may someday become a rich satisfaction to see such wild and free countryside as this western scene, with blue skies and clearly visible peaks amongst the clouds.

Wilderness Exists In Name Only

by Philip Fradkin

"A wilderness, in contrast to those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Public Law 88-577, otherwise known as the Wilderness Act of 1964.

On April 28 of this year, the Nixon Administration used the full resources of the White House to publicize its proposals for establishment of new wilderness areas.

The President issued a brave statement and Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton briefed reporters on the Administration's proposal to set aside 14 wild-life refuges or national parks in nine states as wilderness areas.

It made front page news. Preservation of wilderness, in one stroke, was raised to the level of presidential concern.

The largest such area proposed for wilderness status was 721,970 acres in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in the Sierra Nevada.

But a close look at the condition of the wilderness values of these two national parks, which are administered jointly, shows:

--Hikers into the remote back country are warned to boil their drinking water for 10 minutes or use purification tablets because the otherwise crystal-clear mountain waters might be contaminated by human wastes.

--Some glacier-formed lakes at the 10,000-foot level of the High Sierra have been closed to camping because of human pollution. Others have a one-night limit or numbered campsites similar to auto camp grounds at lower elevations because of crowding.

--The campfire is almost a tradition of the past because firewood has been stripped from most campsites. In their search for wood, campers are chopping down green trees. A boot can stir up dust where once vegetation grew in profusion.

--It is not safe to leave a fishing rod, camera, back-pack or sleeping bag unattended along the trail. They are often stolen.

--Wildlife is disappearing and rare species are becoming even rarer in the mountains which conservationist John Muir once called, "The Range of Light."

Such examples of overcrowding in wilderness areas are most evident along the popular John Muir Trail and within a one-day walk of most access roads, a hiking survey of four wilderness areas determined.

The problems caused by the growing impact

on wilderness areas are not confined to Sequoia-Kings Canyon. They can be seen up and down the Sierra Nevada in other national parks and national forests.

Although such overuse is most evident in California, which has the largest population and number of wilderness areas of any state, other sections of the country are beginning to experience it.

Hikers were turned back from the descent into the bottom of the Grand Canyon in Arizona over the Easter weekend if they did not have advance reservations for camping sites.

A limit of 10,000--the number which shot the rapids of the Colorado River last year in commercial raft trips--has now been imposed by the Park Service, which administers the Grand Canyon National Park.

Although permits are required for the first time this year in wilderness areas administered by the Forest Service in California, they have been needed for a number of years in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northern Minnesota.

In that wilderness area--which competes with the John Muir and Minarets Wilderness Areas in California for the distinction of being the most crowded in the nation--cans and bottles have been banned in an attempt to deal with the litter problem.

Areas which have been formally declared wilderness under provisions of the 1964 act comprise about 1% of the total land area of California and about 0.5% on a national scale.

These percentages will not change appreciably even with further scheduled additions to wilderness areas by the 1974 deadline of the act.

The implications of gross overuse of wilderness areas are broad. If there is overcrowding in such mountain areas, then where is there to go?

Has America, and particularly California, lost its last vestige of wilderness?

A few hundred yards up the John Muir Trail from the parking lot a woman asked a hiker, "Aren't you afraid to go up there alone? I'd go up there with my husband, but not alone. It's too scary." What is there to be afraid of? No television? Oneself? Solitude?

While the use of wilderness tends to be concentrated along a few well-known routes, more people every year are getting out farther.

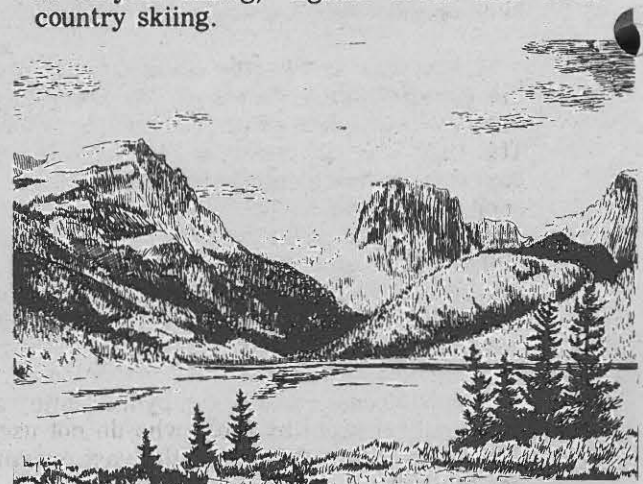
The sonic boom from military aircraft is ever present as are the faintest traces of human intrusion, such as footprints in a mountain meadow or charred stones from an old campfire.

It is almost impossible to get away from other people and find solitude.

Traffic along the trails is constant at the height of the season, which is from mid-July to the end of August, and it is a rare lake that does not have at least one camping party on its shore.

The Desolation Wilderness Area near Lake Tahoe has experienced an average 23% increase a year in backpacking activity in recent years and in Sequoia-Kings Canyon there has been a 100% increase in the use of the back country over the last five years, compared to only a 10% increase in total park visitors.

This year, judging from reports from retail stores, there promises to be a virtual explosion in backpacking into wilderness areas--a movement matching the back-to-nature aspects of the boom in bicycle riding, organic foods and cross-country skiing.



Ski areas and mountain roads which are frequently built to serve them are viewed as the greatest threat to wilderness areas. The Forest Service, which issues permits for ski areas, counts more wilderness users than ski-area users in the state--1.7 million as compared to 1.3 million.

The trail was covered with dust-like pumice, formed from an ancient lava flow. It climbed through a forest of red fir, silver pine, lodge-pole pine and mountain hemlock. The first steep grade was a catharsis. The tensions of city living flowed out of the hiker in the still heat. The first drink of mountain water was biting and sweet. The trees had a Christmas-time scent.

The public agencies which deal with the wilderness seem to be working at cross purposes without any common goal.

The State Department of Fish and Game objects to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors pushing a road into the Horseshoe Meadows area where the proposed Trail Peak ski area will be built with Forest Service approval.

Fish and game officials said that the rare Golden Trout will be wiped out by the larger number of visitors to the area which the new road will bring.

Yet the Forest Service sometimes objects to the department's planting trout in some lakes which are overused, thus encouraging more use.

The Forest Service first made wilderness areas more liveable by installing various facilities. Now the Agriculture Department agency is operating under a wilderness philosophy to match the "untrammelled" requirements of the act.

Such improvements as bridges over streams will be removed along with toilet facilities, picnic tables and fireplaces in the Inyo National Forest wilderness areas on the east side of the Sierra Nevada.

"Make it too easy and too many people come in and the wilderness experience is lost" is the current Forest Service thinking on wilderness area management.

Yet at neighboring Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, administered by an Interior Department agency, the wilderness proposal which the Nixon Administration approved calls for five enclaves of semi-civilization in the back country.

Into these 100 to 200-acre areas would be put toilets, tables and fireplaces. Wilderness visitors would stay in these areas in order to lessen the impact elsewhere.

The federal Department of Transportation wants to push a trans-Sierra Nevada road across from Minaret Summit near the Mammoth Lakes area. State and local residents keep resisting such a road.

Although authorization for the road still exists, funds for a 2.7 mile extension were deleted for this year. The road would bisect the John Muir and Minarets Wilderness area.

Norman B. Livermore Jr., who heads the State Resources Agency, used unusually harsh language in a recent speech to criticize the department's environmental impact report on the proposed road.

(Continued on page 7)



Charges have been filed in Lander, Wyoming, against a helicopter pilot for landing his craft in the Popo Agie Primitive Area. Alan Fry of Pinedale, Wyoming, set down at Washakie Lake to let Darrell and Sue Woodson, also of Pinedale, off for a day of fishing. When they wanted to leave, the aircraft could not lift off with the two passengers. They walked 14 miles to a roadhead and became the object of a search. This photo is taken from the trail which they had to take. Washakie Lake can barely be seen to the right of and at the base of the large, rounded promontory at right center. Washakie Peak, 12,524 ft., looms above the lake, at right in the photo. Such illegal use of wilderness areas can only lead to further degradation of the wilderness aspect.

Wilderness...

High Country News—7
Friday Oct. 1, 1971

He said the report is "the most inept, disorganized, biased and utterly troglodytic (the way cave dwellers lived) document I have even seen."

Livermore, who is Gov. Reagan's chief adviser on environmental matters, continued, "...Whoever compiled and released this report should be ashamed of themselves."

A Forest Service supervisor, told that officials in a neighboring National Forest had withdrawn from the back country all wilderness rangers for the July 4 weekend because they did not want to pay overtime, slapped his forehead in disgust.

One national park, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, can be in the forefront of wilderness management while at another, Yosemite, admittedly little or nothing has been done about back-country deterioration.

There was just barely enough wood around the granite-ribbed shores of Minaret Lake to keep the campfire going for a couple of hours. The talk was of society's ills, how to make government more responsive, the good life and poor marriages. One said, "You can trust anyone up here. You know if they walk this far there will be something in common. That is why you let it all hang out easily." The middle-aged pediatrician offered marijuana to his campfire companions. It seemed a sacrilege.

The wilderness is not used by an "elite" as is commonly thought by those who do not use it. The hardy Sierra Clubber is the vast exception, not the rule.

Bearded, long-hairs under 30, their girlfriends and dogs and middle to upper middle-class families are the rule.

A trip into the wilderness is now within the reach of anyone who does not have a physical disability.

Babies are lugged into the wilderness on their mothers' backs. Children as young as 3 hike in under their own power and many carry their own packs.

The technical revolution in clothing and equipment in recent years has cut the weight of backpacks and vastly increased the comfort of trips into the back country.

Freeze-dried foods, which are easy to carry and prepare, make it possible to dine almost sumptuously.

Pack frames are light, as are the jackets and sleeping bags which can weigh as little as two pounds, yet be warm at temperatures a few degrees above zero.

For this portion of the trip, we refer to a guidebook, the "High Sierra Hiking Guide to the Devils Postpile Area," published by Wilderness Press of Berkeley: "Fair campsites may be found around Shadow Lake, but there is no wood, and we would discourage camping here, to lessen human impact around the lake."

This July 4 weekend there are relatively few campers around Shadow Lake, the object of a pollution study by a Claremont College student. Around 70 campers are clustered around tiny Lake Ediza, a few miles farther up the trail and featured recently in the National Geographic magazine.

Parallel to the increasing recreational use by the public of the wilderness has been a growing effort by government administrators to manage its natural resources.

A Park Service official in Yosemite National Park said, "I can sum up our thinking in three words—managing for naturalness."

What the Park Service is doing in Yosemite is

using prescribed burning "(we write prescriptions)", chain saws and axes to return valley meadows, the back country and the Mariposa Grove of giant Sequoia trees to what photographs showed them to look like in the 1890's.

Without wildfires, which existed in the park before man began to manage it, small trees and shrubbery have infringed on meadow areas and under the giant trees.

So slow-burning fires have been set by the Park Service to cut back on some of this undergrowth. Axes and chain saws have been used on white fir trees in the grove of Sequoias to restore a pre-1890 look.

The Park Service no longer sprays trees for insect damage unless an epidemic is threatened. In Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon, the practice is to let lightning fires burn themselves out unless wide-spread damage is likely.

Yosemite Park Supt. Wayne Cone said, "The theory is that fire is a natural part of the ecosystem and that when man came he altered the natural environment. We are trying to re-create a natural environment."

Criticism of these management practices comes from those who fear additional air pollution.

"We could blow our whole program if we send up a cloud of smoke and it appears over Fresno," said one Park Service official.

Some fear the program may take the wrong course when those who originated it are transferred elsewhere and new personnel take over.

And at least one observer noted "the colossal conceit" it takes to presume to manage nature.

Aside from manipulating vegetation, such administrators fear effects of wilderness overcrowding on some forms of wildlife.

So they are proposing "Zoological zones" be set aside in the High Sierra where the shy Sierra big-horn sheep can remain undisturbed by back-country hikers.

Game biologists believe sheep have been lost in two of the five herds in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada because of human intrusion. The count of the rare species is down from a maximum of 390 in 1948 to a present 215.

The limit on golden trout, the state fish, has been dropped from 10 to five because of increased fishing pressures caused by easier access to their only native spawning grounds. A zero limit is being considered.

Vern Burandt, a game warden who has spent 18 years patrolling the High Sierra, said, "Wildlife is starting to leave the John Muir Trail because of man's impact."

"In the past 12 years I have seen the Mt. Whitney trail go from a wilderness to a crap pile. They used to have pine martin, blue grouse and deer along the trails. Now, not any longer."

A high count of 2,000 hikers was observed along the Mt. Whitney trail one weekend and 327 were camped at one time beside Mirror Lake, the major stopping place for a weekend climb of the highest peak in the contiguous United States.

He was just a brief flash out of the corner of the eye. Then the tawny smudge halted and each regarded the other with surprise—the marmot and the man who had paused by Garnet Lake. The small furry creature did not give ground. Showing no fear, he advanced slowly from a distance of 15 feet. A feeling of momentary peril swept the hiker, then foolishness, then the realization that he was the alien in an environment where animals are often unafraid.

Continued Next Issue

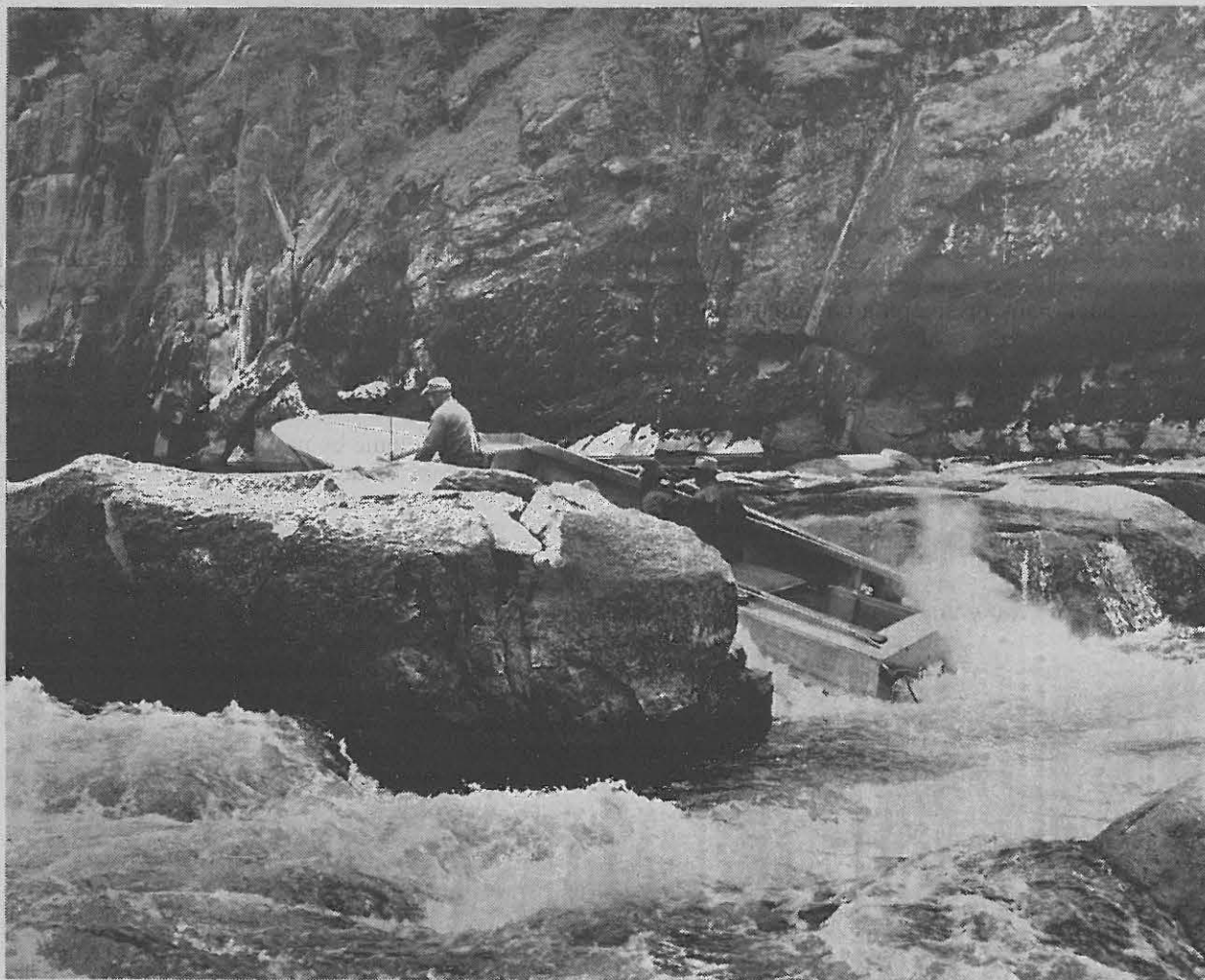


Photo by Ernie Day

Power boating on the Salmon River of Idaho. The question has been raised, should this use continue on a wild and scenic river.

Energy Policy...

mon grounds.

President of the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, and former Governor of New Mexico, Jack Campbell summed up the feelings of many westerners. He said there were great demands upon our land for the storehouse of natural resources, but at the same time we were facing increasing demands for more outdoor recreational opportunity. He called it "a great dilemma."

"We're not faced with restoration, we're faced with preservation - and that's a blessing!" he declared.

He called for regional ways of dealing with problems or "we will have difficulty in surviving."

In candid comments to both the conservationists and the utilities, Campbell said the "conservation movement must identify its leaders," if it is to have standing as a viable spokesman for the "public."

He cautioned both groups on the open-planning concept and said it would work only if it were "meaningful."

Environmentalists were told there was two areas where they could be of immediate help. He said they could be at rate hearings when companies were asking for legitimate increases or changes in the rate structure. He said they should determine if the increases were needed as a result of their demands for better environmental control, and if so to back the companies. Then they should see that the increased revenues were going into the research and equipment required.

He said they should also appear before Congressional committees to add their voices to the requests for more funds for basic research.

He said we should "quit pulling back on basic research and development," and that we must determine economic and social consequences of what is done.

He said industry was not free of blame, in that fairly recent figures showing the disparity between money spent on advertising and that on research was "frightening."

Campbell said we've got to find new ways of approaching our problems. That we have to

"break out of our traditional ways of doing things," and quit being trapped by our institutional arrangements and organizations.

In finding new ways of getting at the problems of a fast-changing world, Campbell said we must not forget that public decisions are made by people with broad and varied constituencies. He said if we are to represent the public, our constituency must be broad and varied.

In addition, he said we must not create new mechanisms of getting at problems that are so big and unwieldy decisions cannot be made.

He said, "We no longer have the luxury of time," and cautioned, don't add to public and private arrangements that contribute to dilution of decision-making. The decisions have to be made.

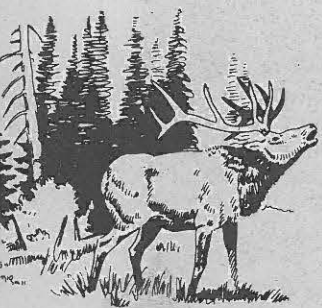
Some decisions are being made. A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency said in the area of air pollution that the government will push ahead "fairly, quickly and surely." It is estimated that 20 to 30 percent of all air pollution is attributable to industry.

LIVING TROPHY

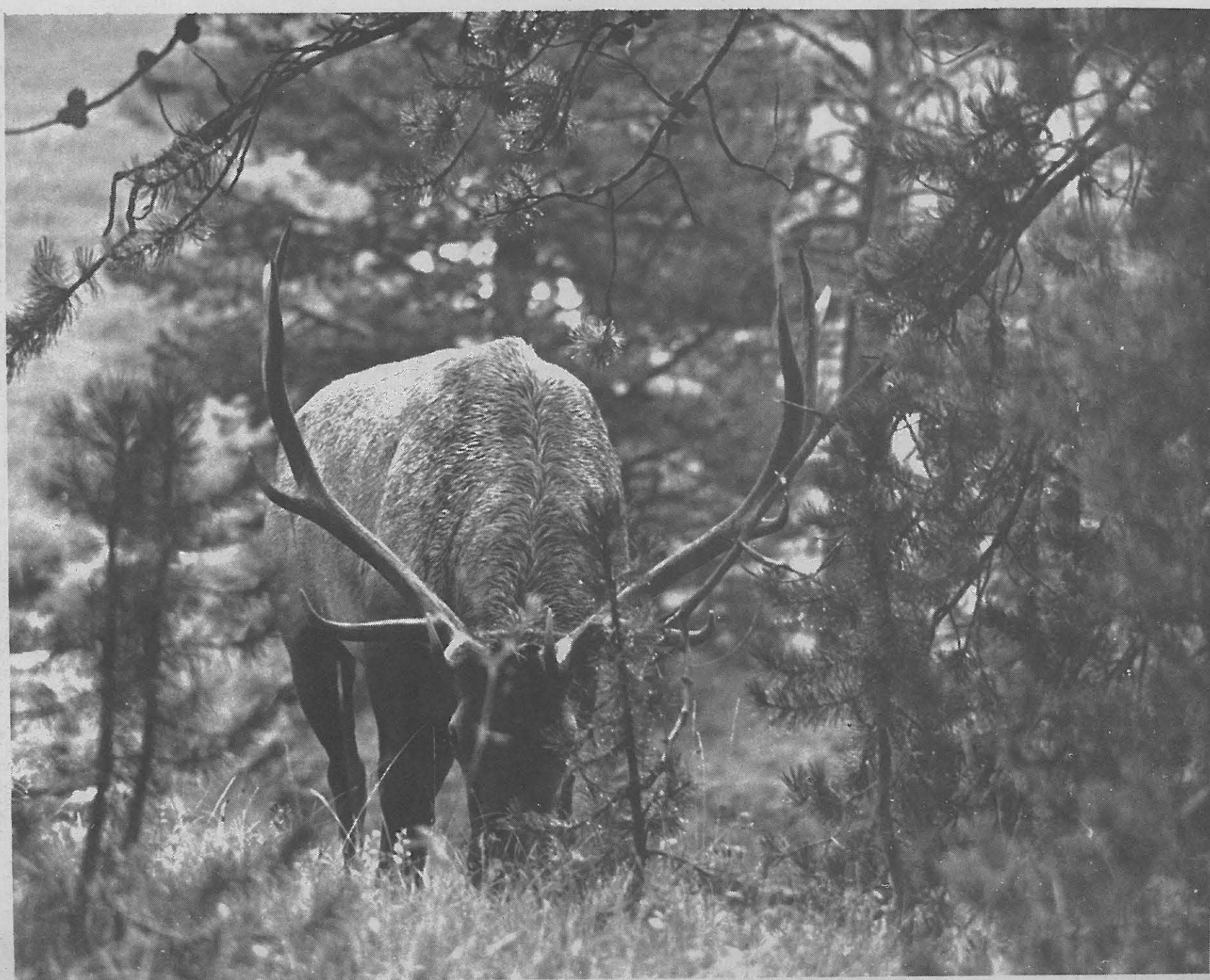
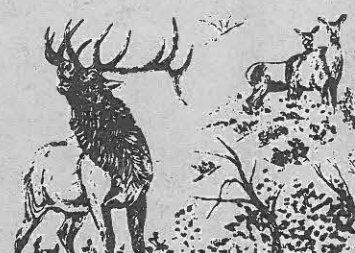
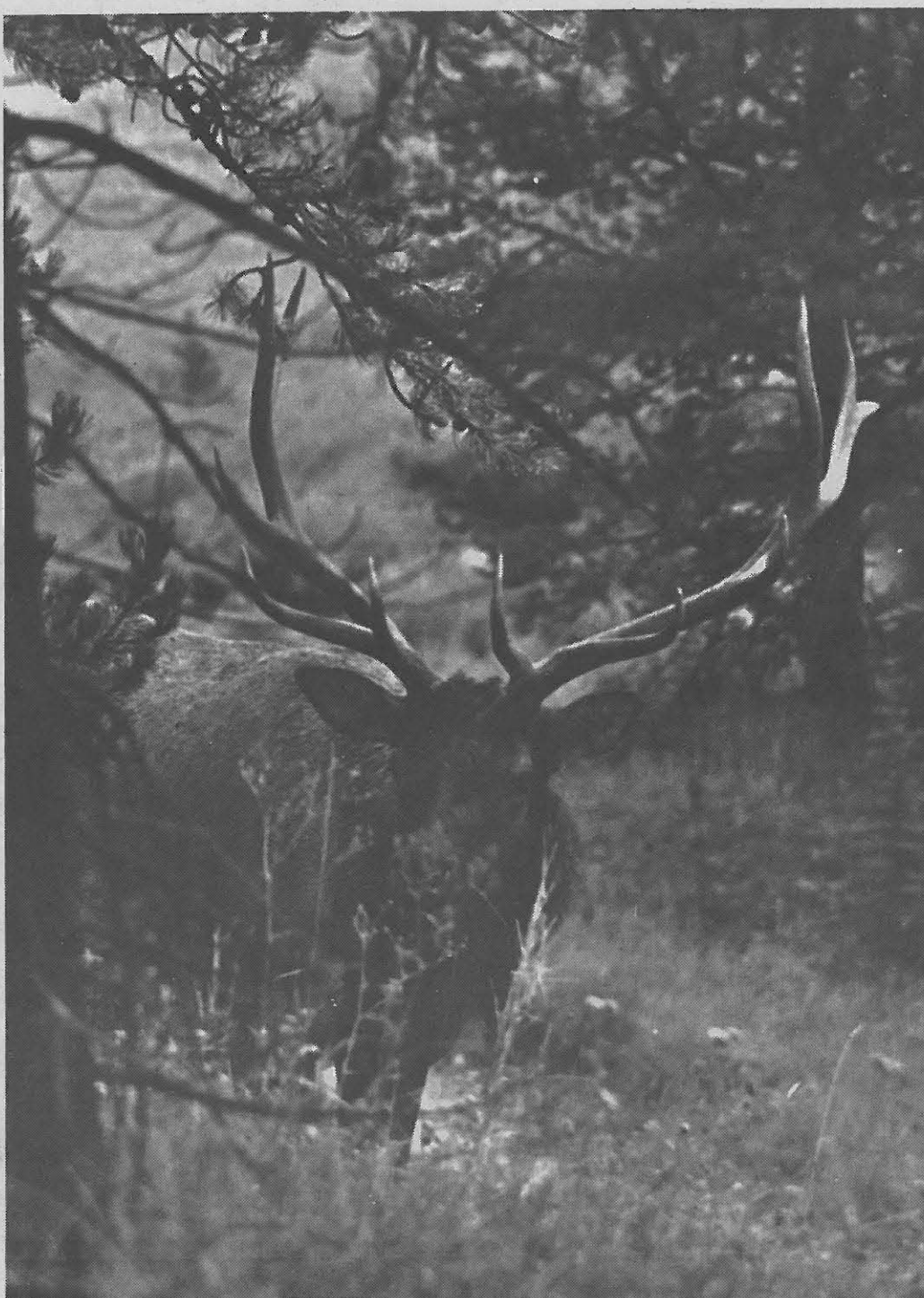


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Photos by Rusty Gooch



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Controversy on the Snake River

by Verne Huser

Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon—an environmentalist of the first order and a man who has seen Hell's Canyon from jet boat and from helicopter, has experienced it by kayak and rubber raft running the major rapids—has sponsored a bill (S. 717) that would create a 714,000-acre Hell's Canyon-Snake National River out of parts of three national forests: the Wallowa-Whitman, the Payette, and the Nez Perce.

The middle of September (17 and 18) the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, headed by Idaho's Senator Frank Church, held public hearings on the Packwood Bill in Washington, D.C. If you'd like to have your voice added to the hearing record, write to Senator Church (New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) and ask that your letter be added to the hearing record.

The northwest corner of Oregon has been seething with mis-information about the Packwood bill as officials of the Pacific Northwest Power Company, the commercial organization that wants to build dams in the free-flowing stretch of Snake River through Hell's Canyon, has been trying to cloud the issue.

In a meeting of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, featured in one local paper as a "Debate on Packwood Bill," PNP lawyer Hugh Smith tried to get the group to officially oppose the Packwood package. He called for "total development" of the Snake River in Hell's Canyon as an economic boom and attacked the 800,000-acre Packwood lock-up (his figure is a 12% exaggeration of the actual acreage).

Smith claimed that the proposed dams (Pleasant Valley and Mountain Sheep) will help solve the nitrogen poisoning problem in the Snake River, a problem created by the existing high dams. He further claimed that the proposed dams are necessary to regulate lower Snake River temperatures, another problem created by the existing dams.

The steelhead are just beginning to run strong in the Snake River in Hell's Canyon below the high Hell's Canyon Dam, the farthest upriver of the trio of impoundments built by the Idaho Power Company. Steelhead no longer run into many streams of northeast Oregon that once had great fishing. The salmon are gone too, gone with the wind that created the dams. Seventy percent of the steelhead smolts in one stretch of the Snake River died last year from nitrogen poisoning created by the existing dams.

But the power companies would have us believe more dams will solve the problems they created. The reservoirs behind the present dams are great fishing—for bass and catfish and squawfish and carp—but the quality fishing is gone forever. And of sturgeon fishing, Hugh Smith says "It's not really a sport. They're just tough to reel in." Ever talk to anyone who has caught a sturgeon on light tackle? They talk a different language.

Strangely sturgeon disappear from a river that has been turned into a lake or reservoir. They simply aren't caught anymore; they need free-flowing water to reproduce. If the dams go in, the sturgeon are doomed. And with people who know, the great white sturgeon ranks with the black marlin as a game fish.

And even though both Idaho and Oregon have made it illegal to keep a sturgeon (they are too rare), hundreds—perhaps even thousands—of fishermen float and jet-boat Hell's Canyon every year for the sole purpose of catching one of these magnificent creatures—sport fishing in the finest sense.

Concerning the proposed dams, Smith said, "We don't need this plant to provide power, but if we don't build this program your power will cost more and be not quite as dependable." Who's he trying to kid? People using the power produced by Idaho Power Company's trio of dams pay among the highest prices for power of people anywhere in the nation already.

"A hydroelectric plant doesn't consume anything at all," he said further. What about the wildlife habitat that would be inundated and destroyed? What about the fish that would be killed, generations and generations of them? What about the thermal pollution that results from the dams and the evaporation of water, which wastes water and concentrates the natural salts and the artificially-introduced phosphates and nitrates and pesticides?

Smith and the Pacific Northwest Power Company that he represents oppose the Packwood Bill (S. 717) because that piece of legislation would prevent the building of any further dams in Hell's Canyon. It would also prevent any major timbering in the area, most of which is too steep to log and basically too scenic to want to log. A third aspect of the Packwood

Bill would end mineral exploration in the 714,000-acre area but would not prevent the exploitation of existing claims.

This "locking up of our resources," Smith and the organization he represents object to. The exploiter philosophy can perhaps be well summed up in Smith's statement: "Everyday a hydroelectric plant is not in the river, we waste energy." Develop! Exploit! These power-mad abusers of the natural world would leave no river in Hell's Canyon.

But they are concerned about recreation: "We can take care of seven times as many people with a first-rate recreational development." He ignores the \$60 million in S. 717 for recreational development; he further ignores the Idaho Fish and Game study that reports free-flowing stretches of rivers receive twelve times the recreational use that reservoirs get.

He claims that "The areas around the Idaho Power Company's development attract 10 to 15 times more people than the stretch between Hell's Canyon Dam and the Salmon River." Paved roads serve the IPC developments; for the most part, no roads serve the area between the dam and the confluence (there are only two, one along the Imnaha River to Dug Bar and the other down to Pittsburg Landing, both basically 4-wheel-drive roads that the Packwood Bill would improve).

Compare the use of the Hell's Canyon developments, served by paved roads, with the Salmon River in central Idaho, served by dusty bumpy gravel roads. Compare the jet-boat traffic on the Snake above Lewiston, Idaho, and on the Salmon between Riggins and Salmon to the Hell's Canon Reservoirs, and you might get a better picture.

We can create more reservoirs any time we want or need to, almost anywhere we want or

need to. We cannot create free-flowing rivers. Yes, the Packwood package is designed to stop the dams. The Moratorium on dams in Hell's Canyon is a good stop-gap measure, but it doesn't solve anything really. The Packwood bill is much more far-sighted, far-reaching and environmentally sound. It leaves our positive options open. If we ever really need that power or that timber or whatever else may be found in the area, it will still be there to use. We won't have destroyed it forever by using it now for short-sighted, quick gains that never look into the future or consider our children or their



children. Are we so selfish, so greedy that we can't save some of the wonders of the world for future generations? Are we so rich we can throw away and waste such valuable resources as the free-flowing Snake River in the deepest gorge on the North American Continent?

Beyond Easy Answers...

Our response to the environmental crisis in this country is being watched closely by those in less developed nations as an example of what is possible. For if we cannot solve this problem with all of our vast resources, what hope can they see for themselves? The decisions we make will set precedents reaching far beyond our own borders and our own times.

For these reasons, I feel it is doubly important that we not allow ourselves to be discouraged by the incredible complexity of the environmental problem, nor become so enthralled with our own little corner of the canvas that we fail to see the whole picture.

Today, environmental pollution is one of the most critical human problems for which we are projecting a nobler vision. I am confident that we will achieve it because so many of us are now agreed that we have no greater obligation to ourselves, to one another and to future generations than to pass on to them a quality of environment that is worth living in.

Comments By The Editor

Mr. Rockefeller makes the statement that if we "impose unrealistic pollution abatement costs on industry, many of the recently initiated minority enterprises that are still struggling with heavy start-up costs and low profit margins will be among the first to suffer." I do not wish to take exception to Mr. Rockefeller's better-informed knowledge of the effect on minority enterprises but I would wager that such enterprises constitute an infinitesimal percentage of the total polluting industry involved. And to make an exception for all industry on behalf of such a small segment is to do a disservice to all suffering society. It seems to me that at a time when government can come to the aid of Lockheed because it is purportedly in the public interest, that same government could well afford to bankroll minority industry. Government funds could be used to back low-interest loans for the purchase and installation of necessary equipment for pollution abatement. Such loans could certainly be construed as being in the public interest. All industry already gets the benefit of very liberal tax write-offs on equipment necessary to eliminate or abate pollution.

Mr. Rockefeller discusses the philosophy of a "slow-growth" economy. He then says, "I doubt seriously whether those who advocate an arbitrary stifling of our country's economic growth have considered the full ramifications. We would suffer a marked fall-off in our standard of living, going well beyond the personal inconveniences and voluntary restraints that I have mentioned. Our ever-increasing population would be dividing on a diminishing per capita basis the same quantity of goods and services, with all of the economic and social ills which that implies."

It seems to me that he has very simply

ignored the reality that "our ever-increasing population" is someday going to find that it lives on a finite globe, and that which ever way you want to cut it, those future generations will be "dividing on a diminishing per capita basis the same quantity of goods and services, with all of the economic and social ills which that implies."

We are simply applying facial cosmetics to a fatal skin cancer if we don't come to grips with the overriding issues of population on the one hand and the reckless squandering of finite natural resources on the other.

One way to bring that home to an affluent society such as ours is for government to take the lead in curbing production and consumption. It can be done in a number of ways within our system.

In addition, we desperately need a national commitment to an "environmental program" similar in scope and zeal to a "moon program." Let's use our technology, our unemployed physicists, engineers and blue-collar workers to develop practical, profitable means to recycle everything we use; to develop safe, sure and economic mass transportation; to re-educate our citizens for a technological society in which a stable population produces the goods it needs by machine and computer and spends more time at spirit-lifting leisure.

We may thereby be stifling the growth and consumption side of our economic dynamo, but stimulating the recycling and less environmentally damaging side. Let's redirect our efforts away from SST's, moon bases, and electrically-run everything.

We need to throw our support to the institutions of higher learning such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There, the administration and staff are committed to "changing the system." Already, a pittance in financing shows promise of technological changes which will go far in providing answers to environmental problems while using the trained expertise we have in this country.

Whether Mr. Rockefeller and others think so or not it seems to me we are in for a leveling off of our so-called standard of living. Mr. Nixon may not have had this in mind when he interceded on August 15, but the slowing of inflation is a drastic and necessary step which will have that effect. And what is so wrong with austerity and belt-tightening if it will give future generations a little longer lease on life? Or that the "standard of living" which many Americans enjoy includes a few of the old-fashioned amenities such as clean air and water?

But I certainly do agree with Mr. Rockefeller when he says "...too few are prepared to make the individual sacrifices in comfort and convenience that will have to be made." I ask my self if that does not include yours truly.

Lamb Losses Documented

The following letter was addressed to Roger Caras, the Today Show, NBC, New York. It was written by Dick McCutchen, executive director of the Ohio Conservation Foundation. It is self-explanatory and somewhat illuminating of the problem of lamb losses. McCutchen spends some time on vacations in the West. Like many others, he is interested and concerned with happenings in the West.

Dear Mr. Caras:

I hope that you didn't miss the appearance on Today of Vern Vivion, President of the National Woolgrowers Association appearing in rebuttal to your presentation in June about predator control. I was really angry about his flackish presentation, and appalled at the ingenuous way in which the erudite Garrick Utley and incisive Barbara Walters accepted that presentation as being "the other side of the story." I sincerely hope that Today won't allow the issue to end there, for while there is another side of the story, it isn't quite as Vivion gave it.

I'm not sure that I know what it is, but I do have some assumptions. However, they aren't the point of the rest of this story. I took my mad, harnessed it and chased down some statistics from the Columbus, Ohio, office of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. My assumption in chasing the figures was that there would be no significant difference in lamb mortalities in Ohio and Wyoming.

Let me preface all this by saying that I am not enamored nor deluded by the great national penchant for statistics. I doubt the accuracy of the raw figures on which they are based, and consequently can give little credence to the results. However, since governments and guilds spend millions in gathering them, it seems only



Eagle Briefs

Humor Crops Out

Humor, some of it rather grim, continues to emerge from the eagle shooting incidents in Wyoming. Signs have appeared along some of the interstate highways, "Watch for Fallen Eagles." Sheepmen find little to laugh about in bumper stickers which read, "Shoot a Sheepman - And Save An Eagle." Another says, "Make Sheep the National Bird."

In a parody on the Lander One-Shot Antelope Hunt, several bars across the state have advertised a "One-Shot Eagle Hunt." One version has even selected the team members and a victory banquet menu - filet of eagle and lamb-burgers. It is rumored that the Johnson County Woolgrowers will come back with their own version - a county fair float. The float will show a big eagle swooping down upon a lamb, with the title, "Eagles Like Lamb - Why Don't You Try Some?"

Research Approved

The Bureau of the Budget has approved release of \$125,000 for research into ways to reduce sheep losses to predators. Such research will look into the possibility of spraying sheep with repellants to keep coyotes away from the animals.

Steps Taken

Electrocution of eagles is being investigated by Rural Electric cooperatives in both Wyoming and Colorado. Some steps to alleviate the problem have already been taken.

Penalties Stiffened

The Nixon administration has endorsed legislation that would impose much more severe penalties on anyone convicted of eagle killing. New legislation would provide for increasing the penalty for a first offense from \$500 and-or a six month jail sentence to \$5,000 and-or one year. A second offense would call for \$10,000 fine and-or two years in prison. The Interior Department has also urged that the penalty include confiscation of equipment, including helicopters.

Cartoon courtesy Pat Oliphant and The Denver Post, August 8, 1971

High Country News—11

Friday Oct. 1, 1971



'WE FINALLY SOLVED THE EAGLE PROBLEM—I SHOT ALL THE SHEEP!'

just to use those figures to hoist the users with their own petards.

	Ohio	Wyoming
Lamb Crop (1970)	473,000	1,115,000
Lamb Deaths (1970)	55,000	129,000
Deaths as % of Crop	11.2	11.6

That means that there was a difference of four tenths of one percent between the mortality/ crop ratio in the two states. The national average was 11.4%.

After getting these figures, I checked with the Animal Health Division of the same USDA office, and was given the following information by the veterinarian in charge who did not wish to be quoted. Ohio predator deaths are not known in number and are regarded as being insignificant. Ohio's only predator is the domestic dog. The chief causes of death, once the lamb is out of the critical post-birth phase, are internal parasites, enterotoxemia, (a bacterially caused illness) and footrot. I asked specifically if there could be

any significant difference between the pathology of lambs in Ohio and Wyoming and was assured with an uncategorical, "No". However, two considerations would lead one to assume that lamb mortality should be higher in Wyoming than Ohio. The large sizes of the flocks and the large areas over which they are grazed would make human assistance to them there less available than here. Sheep and lambs are practically raised in the backyard in Ohio when compared to Wyoming ranges. The weather in Ohio is far more equable in Ohio than Wyoming, so one could attribute a higher proportion of deaths to that cause. So we do get a higher death rate in Wyoming. If that four tenths of percent is run out to raw numbers it amounts to 516 lambs. Being generous by ignoring the reduced availability of human care and the weather factors, let's assign that whole 516 figure to kills, not even kills by all predators, just coyotes. (Vivion was the newfound friend of the eagle, and those coyotes didn't attack sheep, "... just lambs, the little fellas." This in response to direct question from Utley.) Using the absurd expressions of statistics, that means 1. coyote killed one lamb per day in 1970 Wyoming or at the other limit of the absurd spectrum 516 coyotes killed one lamb each sometime during 1970.

Research Refutes Sheep Loss

Sheep ranchers' claims of serious economic losses to eagles have been refuted by all scientific investigations of eagle food habits, according to the National Audubon Society.

The 66-year-old conservation Society, which has local chapters in 40 states, released a summary of scientific studies in rebuttal of claims reported by federal and state agricultural agencies that 8,400 lambs and 200 adult sheep were killed by eagles in Wyoming during 1970.

It was in Wyoming that at least 570 golden and bald eagles were shot by hunters from aircraft and two dozen or more poisoned since last September in illegal operations paid for by Wyoming ranchers, according to testimony before a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

A prominent sheepman of Casper, Wyoming, pleaded no contest and paid a fine for violation of state game laws in the poisoning episode. The wholesale slaughter of eagles by airborne bounty hunters, as described in sworn testimony by helicopter pilot James Vogan of Murray, Utah, is still under investigation by agents of the U. S. Department of the Interior. Both species of eagles are protected by federal law.

"Department of Agriculture estimates of livestock losses to predators are secured by the unscientific and unreliable method of circulating a questionnaire to ranchers," the Audubon Society said. "Ranchers think it is in their interest to pad their loss figures for tax deduction purposes, and also to back up their demands for federal subsidies. The government collectors of such statistics make no effort to verify them."

As pointed out by state Legislator John F. Turner of Moose, Wyo., who is also a graduate wildlife ecologist, some ranchers may mistakenly believe eagles were the killers when the birds are seen feeding on carrion.

"Both bald and golden eagles take carrion readily. The bodies of stillborn lambs and lambs and ewes that have died of malnutrition or disease are commonplace on over-grazed ranges of the Western sheep country. Sheepmen also

prefer to blame their losses on wild animals rather than admit to mismanagement of their flocks and to overgrazing. For these same reasons, their 1970 report of 100,000 sheep killed by coyotes in Wyoming is equally fantastic."

The Audubon Society cited four separate studies as disproving that eagles are a major problem to sheep ranchers:

1. Dr. Walter R. Spofford, formerly of Syracuse University and now associated with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, went to Western Texas for the National Audubon Society in 1963 and 1964 to study eagle-sheep relationships. This was at another time when aerial shooting of eagles had become a national scandal. Dr. Spofford, one of America's foremost authorities on eagles, concluded that (1) there weren't as many eagles in Texas as the ranchers asserted, and (2) the eagles present were feeding chiefly on rabbits and rodents which are competitive with sheep for forage. (Audubon Conservation Report No. 1 -- The Golden Eagle in the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau of Texas, by Walter R. Spofford, Nov. 1, 1964).

2. Jerry McGahan, doing graduate research under Dr. John Craighead at the University of Montana, analyzed eagle pellets collected at 38 Golden eagle nests within 1,260 square miles of southern Montana foothill country. He found that 80 percent of the prey species were lagomorphs (rabbits). Whitetail jackrabbit remains occurred most often, with desert and mountain cottontails nearly as common in the eagles' diet. Also present were evidences of marmot, black-billed magpie and blue grouse. In Area A of the investigation, where from 26,000 to 28,000 sheep were grazed and 18,000 lambs produced, not a single sign of sheep was found in 702 prey items. The remains of one lamb, which could have been taken as carrion, were found at the foot of a nest in Area B. (Auk, January 1968, Pp. 6, 7 and 8. Also National Geographic, September 1967,

(Please turn to page 14.)

Thoughts from the

Distaff Corner

By Norma R. Hentges

This is the last in a series on Forts and Historical Sites Along Old West Trails by Norma Hentges.

Turning north at Casper, the Bozeman Trail can be picked up northeast of the town of Sussex. The "Bloody Bozeman," as it was called, ran through the Powder River country of Wyoming. This part of the land was rich with buffalo and had been assigned by treaty to the Indians. When gold was discovered in Montana, the nation ignored the treaty and infringed upon the Indian lands.

In June of 1866, the peace council was held at Fort Laramie. Several thousand Indians came to join the council, only to find that the War Dept. had sent out an expedition that was to open the Bozeman Trail through the Powder River Country of Montana. Col. Henry Carrington and his troops arrived at the Powder River, June 26, 1866.

Chief Red Cloud, gave the following speech at the council: "Great Father sends us presents and wants new road, but white chief goes with soldiers to steal road before Indian can say yes or no. I will talk with you no more. I will fight you. As long as I live, I will fight for the last hunting grounds of my people." The chief left the fort meaning to keep his word. With Red Cloud to lead them the Indians fought for ten years to close the Bloody Bozeman.

The U.S. government built three protective military posts along the Bozeman, between Fort Laramie and the gold fields of Virginia City, Montana. The three were, Forts Reno and Phil Kearny, located in Wyoming and Fort C. F. Smith in Montana.

Fort Connor had been set up at or near where Col. Carrington established Fort Reno. The fort, built of cottonwood logs with earthen roofs, had a stockade for protection.

The Indians kept close watch on the fort. In order for the post to get hay, 25 miles up-river, it took 50 men, with 4 days rations, 40 rounds of ammunition per man and 4,000 rounds in the wagons.

Carrington left two of his eight companies as a garrison at Ft. Reno and took the remaining six companies north to Piney Creek. (About 15 miles north of Buffalo.)

On July 13, 1866, Col. Carrington arrived and assigned four companies to build and garrison what would be Fort Phil Kearny.

The remaining two companies were sent to establish Fort C. F. Smith on the Big Horn River in Montana. This fort was most isolated. From Nov. 30, 1866, until June 1867, no message got through.

One hundred-sixty-five men and their families lived in the 300 foot square that was Fort Smith. Built on a plateau so that it had a clear view of the country, the fort had a stockade wall of 10-12 foot logs, stood up-right in a trench. Cannons were mounted on the northwest and southeast corners.

The Indians hated the white men and their forts, especially Fort Phil Kearny, for that fort sat in the heart of the buffalo country.

One of the most disastrous fights fought from Fort Kearny happened on Dec. 21, 1866, after a wagon train engaged in hauling wood for the fort was attacked by many Indians. Capt. Wm. J. Fetterman, with a force of 3 officers, 67 men and two civilians were dispatched to relieve the wood train. The detachment passed over a nearby ridge and not a single man was ever seen alive again. It is estimated that 1,800 Indians attacked and killed the men. Today there is a monument on the hill where the battle took place.

The stories of bloody fights, gallant deeds and army records give an exciting story of the 10 years of war on the Bozeman Trail.

In the year 1868, a new treaty was signed with the Indians. The U. S. government agreed to close the Bozeman and abandon all forts.

Dismantling of the three forts was ordered on May 19, 1868. In August of that year the last wagons left Fort Phil Kearny. One story says that Little Wolf rode from the hills and burned the fort before the last wagons were out of site.

Today, the prairie grass grows over the land. At the site of Fort Reno there stands a granite marker in the field where the fort stood overlooking the giant cottonwood trees along the

Powder River.

At Fort Phil Kearny, there is a stockade fence and cabin that had been erected to show its location. Fort C. F. Smith is but a stone marker with a plaque located at the center of the parade ground. Mounds of earth are visible where buildings once were.

Let your imagination go. Walk the ground once walked by shoes of pioneers, boots of soldiers and moccasins of Indians. Although the winds that blow and the grass that grows have erased nearly all traces of our country as it was over one hundred years ago, it is still possible to pick up the trail and find Early America, our heritage!



A lone building marks the site of Fort Phil Kearny near Story, Wyoming. In December, 1867, thousands of Sioux Indians held forth in the hills looming in the background. They completely surrounded the fort and kept the garrison as virtual hostages. Portugee Phillips rode out in a blinding snowstorm to evade the Indians and made it to Fort Laramie to summon help.

Land Policies Questioned

by Linda Lintz, AP

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - Wyoming conservation groups have launched an attack on what they call the "secretive and special interest" approach to management by the State Land Board on some four million acres of range and grassland owned by the state of Wyoming.

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation, representing 13 local conservation groups, last month passed a resolution calling for a county grand jury investigation of land board policies regarding the sale, leasing and management of state-owned lands. The federation also asked for a moratorium on the sale of state land until an investigation could be completed.

The land board consists of five elected state officials and is headed by Gov. Stan Hathaway. The board directs and administers the sale and leasing of reserved mineral rights from grazing, oil and gas, mineral and other special uses.

What the federation wants, according to secretary Richard Wagner of Casper, is "more information about what the land board is doing and some kind of explanation for why they're doing it."

The wildlife group contends there have been many "questionable" land transactions by the board and that much of the state-owned property has been sold or leased "for no apparent reason."

The environmentalists want more advance notice of proposed sales and other transactions and public hearings on transactions that involve wildlife habitats, game refuges or water storage areas.

The group also alleges that the board has allowed private ranchers to deny fishing and hunting access to leased lands.

State Land Commissioner A. E. King said the board provides all the public notice of sales required by law—an advertisement for four weeks prior to the transaction in a newspaper in the county where the land is located.

He contends that land sales in the past few years have been kept at the "very minimum" and the State Land Board administers the land in keeping with the best interests of the public.

"Certain of these environmental groups want to take over administration of this land and that is the sole province of the State Land Board as provided by law," he said.

A provision of the state grazing leases, King said, reserves hunting and fishing access to the public and provides for easements for telephone, utility, road and other needed services through the land.

King said private ranchers cannot prohibit hunters and fishermen from entering leased

Unique Area Is Set Aside

A 430-acre tract on the Boise National Forest six miles southeast of Idaho City has been set aside for protection of its unique ecological characteristics for use by scientists and educators.

Designated as the Bannock Creek Research Natural Area, by Forest Service Chief Edward P. Cliff, the tract lies within the Idaho Batholith. Most of it is underlain by fractured granitic bedrock that supports two timber types, as well as a shrub-forb-grass plant cover. Consequently, the area merits preservation for its scientific as well as educational interest.

Although the timber stands on the area could be classed as commercial, these stands have not been cut or affected by fires in recent history. The area contains several large ponderosa pine trees—the largest being 158 ft. tall. Portions of the tract receive moderate use by deer as summer range.

The new Natural Area offers valuable opportunities for ecological research by Forest Service scientists as well as other scientists. The area possesses varied soil and vegetation conditions, and disturbances will be kept to a minimum in future years.

The new Research Natural Area is located within the Boise Basin Experimental Forest and the Forest Service is charged with responsibility to insure that its fragile character is retained. Use of all Natural Research Areas is limited to observation and research on such ecological aspects as plant and animal succession, habitat requirements of species, insect and fungus depredations, soil microbiology, phenology, and related phenomena and require that such activities be essentially nondestructive in nature. Studies that require timber felling, seedbed modification, or extensive soil excavation, which are permitted on Experimental Forests, cannot be done within Natural Areas.

state land.

The wildlife federation resolution has been endorsed by representatives from the Sierra Club and the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, which includes most of the statewide environmental groups.

Tom Bell, editor of the conservation-oriented High Country News and a former executive director of the outdoor council, said the public is entitled to a hearing on the disposition of the state land because "it is public land and there's some hanky-panky going on."

Bell said the board ought to give consideration to conserving the land now owned by Wyoming "because there is so little public land left in the nation."

He has specifically objected to two proposed sales on the grounds that public interest "hasn't been taken into consideration."

One of the protested transactions, the sale of 7,800 acres of land southeast of Cheyenne to Nielsen Enterprises, was approved by the land board last week.

King said the board approved the sale because the return to the state from investing the purchase price will be several times greater than that now realized from grazing fees on the land.

The tract was sold for an average of \$43.87 an acre and King estimated that investment of the money will yield \$19,785 in interest and \$1,815 in property taxes a year compared with the nearly \$3,500 now returned in grazing fees.

Bell, however, says the price for the land is "unrealistically low" and the sale will establish a precedent in the demand for state land purchases.

He estimates the land in question will appreciate in value considerably with the growth of the area and contends the board ought to set valuations on the basis of prevailing prices rather than grazing fees.

The other protested sale involves land near Pinedale, which Bell contends will be sold to Texan John Christmann as part of a plan to "acquire or completely control all state lands within his sphere of influence."

Bell said Christmann has denied the use of state lands for a winter elk-feeding operation of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. He said the sale also will isolate national forest lands beyond the state property.

The State Game and Fish Commission has said it will enter no protest to the proposed purchase.

King said Christmann has made a valid application to purchase the land, although no action has yet been taken on the proposal.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

If your grandchildren someday would care
To visit the desert, so rare--
They might peek at the scene
Betwixt and between
The power plants being built there.

The rare eastern cougar is threatened by a proposed highway intrusion into its only known breeding area. The highway would penetrate the last bit of wild habitat in the Canadian province of New Brunswick. The animals have already been disturbed by large-scale logging operations. Scientists who have been studying the cougars in this natural sanctuary for 24 years have never before revealed the exact location of the breeding area.

The Tucson Daily Citizen has reported that more than 2.4 billion honeybees have been exterminated in Arizona in the past five years, and that before 1971 is over, the entire bee industry may be eliminated from that state. The losses are attributed to the widespread and frequent spraying of insecticides. The loss of the bees will result in extensive losses in agricultural crops dependent upon pollination by bees.

Environment, the official publication of the Scientists' Institute for Public Information, has become the first national magazine to use completely recycled paper in all of its inside pages. The magazine says that the recycled paper in ten numbers published in a year will keep the axe from some 680 trees on about 140 acres of forest land. The paper for the magazine is called Ecology Book, produced by Allied Paper Incorporated, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Census Director George H. Brown says world population is growing so fast that it will double within 30 years in spite of lower growth rates in the industrialized nations. Brown says studies indicate that even if births were to decline to the point where families were barely replacing themselves within the next decade, the population would continue to grow for another 60 years. He said in an interview that the subject of population growth is "a matter for serious attention and serious concern." He said the question of limiting population "deserves study and debate."

The Soviet Union, which prohibits the killing of polar bears, has complained to the U. S. State Department about the killing of migrating bears by hunters in Alaska. The bears are hunted primarily by aircraft, usually involving two planes, one of which herds the animal to the other. The State of Alaska says it will ban this type of hunting next year.

A pesticide dissolved in rubber can be released slowly to maintain a low level of the chemical in the environment for months or years. The "time-release" pesticide method has the advantage of killing unwanted pests by much lower dosages extended over a period of time. Nonpersistent chemicals can be used.

Chemists have reported a new water treatment system which may prove to be the "greatest breakthrough in water-treatment technology of this century." It is a process by which magnesium carbonate is used in place of alum to clarify or soften water. The chemical can be recovered and recycled endlessly. The process can substantially reduce the costs of water treatment as well as eliminate a nationwide pollution problem.

Oil To Japan

by Dale Jones

In campaigning for the trans-Alaska pipeline, officials of the Nixon Administration and representatives of the oil interests have argued that Alaska's oil is important to the national security of the U.S. An Alyeska brochure, "Questions and Answers," states:

"We import crude oil from overseas sources--primarily the Middle East. We have the choice of increasing our dependency on other nations or developing our domestic reserves."

Putting aside the inaccuracy of this statement (four-fifths of U.S. oil imports come from the Western Hemisphere, mainly from Venezuela and Canada), it is hard to reconcile this supposed national security concern with certain indications that the companies that make up Alyeska may be interested in selling Alaska oil to Japan.

In an interview with *National Journal* on July 20, Edward L. Patton, president of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, indicated that as of 1980, 25% of North Slope oil is targeted for sale beyond the U. S. West Coast, which is the major market for Alaska oil under present plans. This 25% diversion is necessary because the West Coast is not expected to be able to absorb all of the North Slope oil until 1985, according to Patton. (Absorption rates are predicated on an assumed oil output of 2 million barrels a day by 1980. However, some sources--including officials of the National Petroleum Council--have estimated that output might reach 3 or even 4 million barrels a day.)

Patton's figures are quoted from confidential estimates submitted to the Department of the Interior by the seven oil companies which participate in Alyeska. In these documents, he said, the 25% surplus--500,000 barrels a day--is lumped under the heading "Panama," which is a catchall listing for oil to be marketed outside the West Coast. According to *National Journal*, "Patton estimated the sales to Japan might amount to 100,000 barrels a day in 1980 . . . A 100,000-barrel-a-day business with Japan would account for only 5% of North Slope production, Patton noted."

As a basis of comparison, figures from the Oil Import Administration, Interior Department, indicate that no single nation in the Middle East or Africa sold more than 50,000 barrels of oil a day to the U.S. during 1970. Total imports from twelve Middle East and African nations averaged about 300,000 barrels daily.

Granting the fact that oil sales to Japan are at present only a possibility and not a known commitment (there is no question that the Japanese are interested), these figures make it rather difficult to believe in the oil companies' "concern" with U. S. security. The companies know perfectly well that there are several potential sources of more oil to meet increased demand (some of these are discussed in a report by an Alaska official, Harold T. Jorgenson, Bureau of Land Management, to the Department of the Interior: see the *Congressional Record*, Feb. 18, 1971.) That is why they can traffic with the idea of sending Alaskan oil to Japan, while publicly arguing that the immediate opening of the North Slope reserves is vital to U. S. security. Of course, the whole national security argument has always been a double-edged sword: if you use the oil now, you won't have it in the future, when the need for it might be much greater.

Dale Jones is Northwest Coordinator for Friends of the Earth, an international conservation organization.

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Oil On Ice

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has dashed any hopes for early approval of the Alaska pipeline. In an interview with *U. S. News and World Report*, Morton said he could not make a decision based on the facts he now has at hand. It was earlier believed he might give the go-ahead sometime in October.

Morton said that besides having to study and evaluate a large mass of material on environmental implications, there was also a question of where the pipeline should go.

"There is about to be an application for a gas-pipeline corridor in Canada. We know that the natural gas from the North Slope of Alaska has to go through Canada, because compressing the gas and transporting it by ship is not practical," he said. "Now, if there is going to be a gas pipeline through Canada, that raises the question: Why not bring the oil out that way, too? So we have to look at the economics of that."

Morton went on to say that he interpreted the law to require him to delay approval "until every political, environmental and economic consideration of an alternate route through Canada has been fully explored and compared with the route through Alaska from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez."

He said he sensed the urgency of getting the oil to the lower 48 states, but is trying to "resist the pressures for a decision that could be premature - to make sure that in the end we get the right system."

Hotline To St. Louis

A recent publication says a utility group is studying a plan to bring electric power 1,000 miles across three states to St. Louis and other Midwest cities. Power would come from as many as eight plants of a million or more kilowatts, each located at coal fields in Wyoming. Transmission to the Midwest would be by 765,000-volt lines. Wyoming coal was selected because it has a low sulfur content and because the coal fields are far from major population centers.

Takes EQ Post

Fletcher Newby is the newly appointed executive director of Montana's new Environmental Quality Council. Newby has been a regional supervisor for the Montana Fish and Game Department at Billings for the past eight years. The 45-year-old professional is a 20-year veteran with the fish and game agency.

Newby took over the \$16,000 a year position on Sept. 9. The new agency was created by the last Montana Legislature. Its main duty is to gather and analyze environmental information for the use of the legislature. Eight of the 13 members of the council are legislators; four are members of the public appointed by the governor who is also a member.

Reservation...

than we used the year before. The spiraling demand for electrical energy is not inevitable. We are not committed to go on requiring power in larger amounts until the land is laid waste, the air poisoned and the waters barren of life. No matter what the power companies say, some things could be done to bring some balance into play.

A governmental agency not beholden to utility stockholders could be given the responsibility of planning actual power needs and the best means of power production. The Atomic Energy Commission could do much more than it has to encourage the development of safe, low-cost nuclear power stations. The mining laws inherited from the 1870s could be rewritten to eliminate the mining industry's first priority on the land. State legislatures could more strictly control the operations of dredgers and strip miners and require the rehabilitation of disturbed lands and water ways. Public schools could begin teaching the economics of survival, including at least one course in the true cost of electricity and another in the high cost of reproduction. The new stratum of young voters, most of whom are less hobbled than their fathers by the economics of the industrial revolution, could focus their political power on the issue of land preservation and make it count. And the Indians of the western plains, whose treaties grant them more control over their lands than most of us have, could stop signing strip-mining leases.

The last may be crucial. If the reservations aren't safe from the power shovel, what chance has the rest of the country got? - L. H.



A bull moose in the rut, his newly-rubbed antlers gleaming in the autumn sunlight, is too busy looking for a cow to bother with browsing. Several hundred moose spend their summers along the Snake River beneath the towering Tetons in Wyoming's Jackson Hole.

Research Refutes...

"Sharing the Lives of Wild Golden Eagles" by John Craighead, Ph. D.)

3. Biologist Leo G. Heugly, in research supervised by the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit of Colorado State University and financed in part by a grant from the National Audubon Society, spent 1,130 hours on western Texas ranches trying to observe eagles capture prey during lambing seasons in 1967, 1968 and 1969. During this entire period he did not witness any eagle kills of lambs, although on three occasions apparent eagle kills occurred where his vision was obscured. Heugly calculated the actual loss of lambs due to eagle predation at between 1 and 2 per cent, or only about 5 per cent of all range mortality. (Technical Paper II, "The Golden Eagle and the Livestock Industry in West Texas," by Leo G. Heugly. Colorado State University, Fort Collins. 1969).

4. An even smaller estimate of lamb losses to eagles emerged from a 1968 field study sponsored jointly by the National Audubon Society, the National Wool Growers Association, and the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Each of the three agencies put up one-

third of the cost. The field investigation was carried out under contract by Texas Technological College with Dr. Robert L. Packard and Dr. Eric G. Bolen as project leaders. In a western Texas area where 249,000 lambs were reared, the researchers estimated the loss to eagles at between six one-hundredths and three-tenths of one per cent. This survey, like the others, found rabbits and rodents to be the principal food of golden eagles. Bald eagles, generally found near water, are known to feed chiefly on fish. ("Golden Eagle-Livestock Relationships: A Survey." International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies. Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas. 1969).



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

NOTICE

(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.

s/ Thomas A. Bell

October 1, 1971



I've spent the past couple of weekends in the Eagle Cap Wilderness of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in northeastern Oregon—great country just west of Hell's Canyon. It also happens to be the home of Joseph's bank of Nez Perce Indians before the whiteman crowded them out and forced them into the 1877 war.

The Wilderness itself comprises roughly a tenth of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, totalling 220,416 acres—with a proposal for the addition of 60,000 acres along the Minam River northwest of the Wilderness currently pending. My first hike into the Eagle Cap barely touched the southern surface, though I hiked twenty miles. My second hike took me into the northeast corner above Wallowa Lake, a deeper dent but still hardly more than a start.

There's a lot of country—forest and glacier and lake, steep-sided river-cut gorge and darkly-intruded white granite, open meadow and deep conifer woods, pockets of last-year's snow and expanses of blue sky. The Imnaha River has its head in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. So do the Minam, the Lostine, the Wallowa rivers and several sizable creeks, lovely in their cascading descent from the high snow peaks through the forests of fir and pine and spruce and larch.

My impressions: a one-armed shepherd with a battered canteen, riding a horse through dusty sheep on the approach drive up Eagle Creek, a fringe of timber and a dusty trail, hornets and a hermit thrush, tall feathery larch, white fir, ponderosa pine, huge Douglas fir, a covey of grouse (yes, a covey—ten or twelve—most I've ever seen together).

And up a switch-back trail on a hot southern slope through chokecherries and alder and elderberry and mountain maple, through green and yellow and blue and red grasshoppers, up and up, ten, twenty, thirty switchbacks—climb a thousand feet on one open ridge, dusty trail, hot, but Clark's nutcrackers wheeling overhead and deer tracks in the dust and robins in the shrubbery, a half-moon dropping toward Castle Peak and the sun bearing down.

Oregon grape and turning leaves—reds, mauve, yellow and orange, pink. Beat-up paintbrush, salsify with their balls of tiny parachutes, aspen and broad-leaved cottonwoods; dry mule ears and a deer darting across a clearing; mint, autumn color on high distant open hillsides, pale green of larch, darker spruce and fir. Steep country. Mountain bluebells and wild celery, cinquefoil and mountain ash, the squeak of a pika, the whirr of a tiny hummingbird (calliope?), a flock of pine siskins. Shade at last, and honeysuckle and deep dust through deep woods, sky pilot and stinging nettle, a break in the cool of the dense forests, a handful of gorp and a drink of water and rest awhile, reading Old Mali and the Boy (fitting).

Lichen on trees, pearly everlasting, photographing autumn color, switchbacks over a steep rock slide and topping out above the rim, a tiny dying lake, a cool breeze, more autumn color and dragon flies on the reflecting lake, pussy toes and limber pine (or is it white-bark? Elevation about 7500).

A pleasant surprise in the deep purplish-blue gentian and heather in the white granite. And then Crater Lake (7600) drawn down by nature to its original level leaving mud flats to frown at man's attempt to regulate its water. I meet a back packer catching nice Eastern brook trout (8 to 14 inches) and a family of horse packers headed by an enlightened sheep rancher who has learned to live with the predators—good talk around the evening campfire as the light fades and the stars tumble out, alpine glow on Red Mountain, fish jumping in the lake.

I was up with the sun next morning for a cool hike to the divide overlooking the Pine Lakes (and there are the distant Seven Devils Mountains the other side of Hell's Canyon). More bright, white granite, coyote tracks in the trail dust, waterfall out of the alpine basin of Red Mountain, golden-mantled ground squirrels, frost in the still-shaded areas, a pika's cheep and the glide of a red-tailed hawk—and the fantastic dikes on Red Mountain.

White-crowned sparrows and raspberries, a doe mule deer, and distance and time and the mind of God.

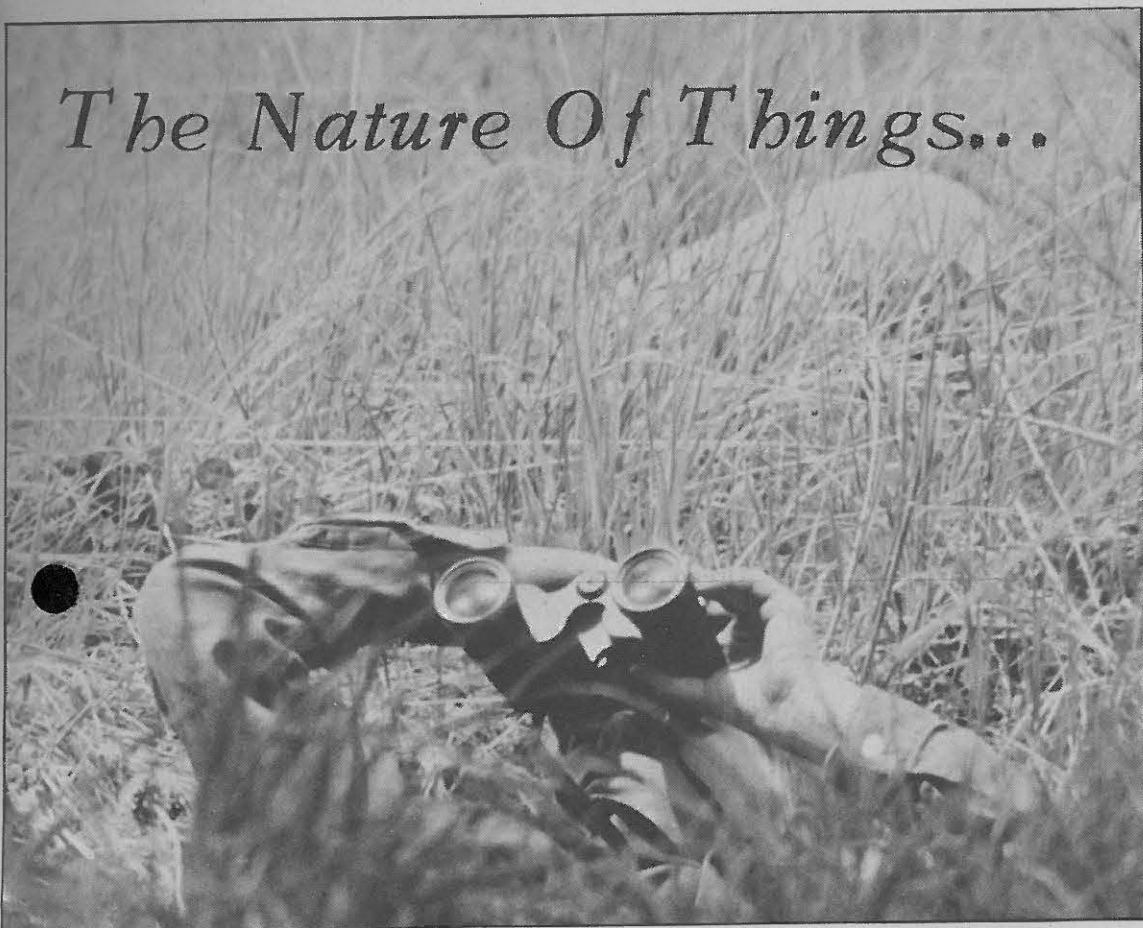
A week later and fifteen miles father north, coming in from the lovely Wallowa Valley after taking in the Pendleton Round-Up I hiked up to Aneroid Lake (7500) on a crisp autumn day (not officially yet, but ice clung to well-watered rocks in the shade, and the colors of autumn were already dead from a hard freeze). I can't get over the steepness of the country, and the constant cascade of every stream or the abundance of trout in the lakes. Both rainbow and Eastern brook are in this lake, and the dark dikes in the pale granite and the lack of people (only three other hikers, four horsemen) are remarkable.

Why wilderness? If you'd been with me you wouldn't have to ask. I can't explain it to people who have to ask. If you've experienced wilderness, you know.



Between Carbondale and Basalt, Colorado; along the banks of the Roaring Fork River is a new educational facility called the Outdoor Education Center. Since it's beginning almost a year ago, the center has grown and in the past week has seen activity in the form of students from the area having "A Field Day With Nature." The program, directed by Don Zippert, is aimed at bringing the students closer to their environment. By actually observing and studying nature on the ten acre tract of land, the students learn firsthand about our other residents; both plant and animal.

The Nature Of Things...



Shown here are the students of Class 6-4, sixth graders and students of Darrel Stanley of Glenwood Springs. Photographs by Jeff Clack.





Whale's Head State Park is situated along coastal Highway 101 in southern Oregon. Hearings were held in Washington last week on S1977 to establish the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area along the coast of central Oregon. The 32,250-acre recreation area would stretch

along 40 miles of scenic coastlines. The major feature of the area is the Oregon Dunes, "a unique and scenic natural phenomenon consisting of massive, shifting sand dunes sprinkled with fresh water lakes and fringed with forests."

Teton Reprieved

Lower Teton Dam in eastern Idaho has been delayed for at least 30 days. The Environmental Protection Agency says Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton has agreed to postpone the offering of construction contracts for at least that long.

EPA says that further inquiry is to be given to possible alternatives. The government agency which is charged with protecting the environment has strongly opposed the construction of the Lower Teton Dam.

The dam, if constructed, would inundate 17 miles of excellent trout fishery, as well as winter range for deer and elk. Opponents say the projected benefits for irrigation, flood control, and power cannot be demonstrated.

Moratorium...

Earlier in September, Idaho Rep. James A. McClure took a special poll of his constituents on the matter of the Snake River and Hells Canyon. Of 11,000-plus persons answering his questionnaire, 71.8 percent said they were opposed to any dam construction. Sixty-seven percent favored a wild river designation for the Middle Snake, and 54.8 percent favored preservation of Hells Canyon even if that meant water use upstream would be limited thereby.

Research being done further upstream on the Snake could have some implications on water uses downstream. The Idaho Water Resource Board, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation and the U. S. Geological Survey, is doing a pilot research study on possibilities of recharging the Snake River plain aquifer. The pilot project will divert up to 400 cubic feet per second of surplus floodwater onto the lava beds west of Idaho Falls. Water could also be recharged through old gravel pits near Blackfoot. There is an estimated 100 million acre feet of water stored in the aquifer now.

A spokesman for the Water Resource Board said that considerable irrigation water is currently lost through evaporation in above-ground storage reservoirs. He also noted that new sites for storage reservoirs are limited.

Fish Losses Could Be High

The Report, "Nitrogen Supersaturation in the Columbia and Snake Rivers," has been released by the Seattle Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The report recommends a coordinated effort by the governmental agencies concerned to develop a nitrogen control program for the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The report also recommends that the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho initiate immediate action to establish a water quality standards criterion for dissolved nitrogen in the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

In urging prompt implementation of these recommendations, James L. Agee, Acting Regional Administrator for EPA cited the finding in the report that up to 90 percent of the Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead could be lost in the next three years if remedial actions are not undertaken.

"Control of nitrogen levels in the rivers is a complex matter, and no single control activity

will reduce nitrogen to safe levels during spring spilling periods," stated Agee.

Supersaturation of nitrogen occurs as annual flood runoff must be passed over the spillways at the many dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Further, the nitrogen entrained in the river water does not escape since the river now flows placidly through the reservoirs created by the stair step series of dams.

Copies of the Report, "Nitrogen Supersaturation in the Columbia and Snake Rivers" may be obtained by writing: Environmental Protection Agency, Region X, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle Washington, 98101.



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