

High Country News

Vol. 3, No. 25

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, Dec. 24, 1971

Merry Christmas

Stripmining Is "Warfare"

Senator Gaylord Nelson in testimony before a Senate Subcommittee spelled out a program to halt what he called "environmental warfare on our own country" by strip mining.

Sponsor of legislation since 1965 to deal with the abuse, the Wisconsin Senator said, from an environmental point of view he supports a ban on coal strip mining, by far the largest mining activity with the greatest impact.

Nelson was leadoff witness at the hearing on the issue by the Senate Interior Subcommittee on Minerals.

"Strip mining's permanent destruction of the values of the land has not only been a crime against the environment, but an incredible economic waste," Nelson said. "It levies a cost against the future far beyond any short term profit that has been gained."

This Congress, in addition to reintroducing his earlier legislation to set controls on all surface mining, Nelson introduced in the Senate the bill to ban coal stripping.

Nelson said that if in the committee's judgement it is concluded that meaningful reclamation in certain circumstances is possible, and an outright coal stripping ban is not adopted, at the very least, a strong, effective regulatory measure is essential.

He argued that with the great and rising public concern about strip mining that has been evident for the past year, "it is clear that the American people are not going to be satisfied with halfway measures."

Noting the accelerating strip mining pace, Nelson said the West is now in danger of becoming the next Appalachia in this country, with giant energy companies already obtaining Federal coal leases on vast acreages of the U. S. public lands in preparation for a strip mining boom in that region.

Nelson urged a halt to the Federal coal leasing and permits out West until the Interior Department does the comprehensive environmental studies on the Western coal plans required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Arguing for primary Federal authority over strip mining, Nelson said that in addition to traditionally weak controls in the Appalachian states, requirements in the Western states where the mammoth new strip mining is posed, are even more lax.

In Wyoming, only \$20,000 per year has been budgeted for all strip mining inspection; in Colorado, the performance bond for strip mine reclamation is at an extremely low \$100 an acre, and in New Mexico and Utah, also with big coal beds there are no laws to govern strip mining.

Nelson urged adoption of the following specific program if the Committee takes the position that reclamation is feasible and an outright ban is not adopted:

-- A ban on so-called contour mining for coal (on steep slopes where the damage is greatest). He said the twenty percent of coal production this would affect could be supplied by increased underground mining and other energy sources;

-- A prohibition of any surface mining without a

(Please turn to page 7)



Photo by Stan Rice

Rays of hope shine into a New Year through this symbol of Peace on Earth,
Good Will to All Men.

Eagle Shooters Charged

U. S. Attorney Richard V. Thomas of Cheyenne has charged four Utah men with killing a bald eagle and 12 golden eagles near Saratoga, Wyoming, in December, 1970. The charges are the first to be filed in the alleged killing of some 700-800 eagles in southern Wyoming and northern Colorado.

Gary Lee and Larry Lynn Haizlip, twin brothers and Henry J. Muzalski all of Murray, and Jack S. Howard of Salt Lake City are scheduled to appear in U. S. District Court on January 14. Three of the defendants are from the same Utah town as James O. Vogan, helicopter pilot on the eagle shooting missions.

Thomas told High Country News that the men were charged on selective counts based on their cooperation. He confirmed, "They are not the most guilty of the bunch."

He said he will file charges relating to a much larger number of eagles killed early in January.

Charges against the eagle gunners stemmed from testimony given by Vogan before a Senate subcommittee early in August.

The Haizlip brothers are charged with killing eagles on Dec. 6, 1970. Gary is accused of shooting two golden eagles and Larry, one. Both were charged under the federal Juvenile Delinquency Act since they were only 17 at the time of the alleged shooting.

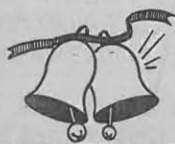
Muzalski stands accused of shooting two golden eagles on Dec. 18-19, 1970. Howard is charged with the killing of a bald eagle and seven golden eagles on Dec. 12-13, 1970.

All the eagles were alleged to have been shot from the skies over the Bolton Ranch owned by Herman Werner of Casper, Wyoming. Werner denies ever having ordered the eagle shooting.

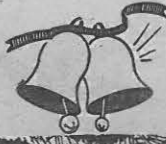
Vogan testified before Wyoming Senator Gale McGee's Subcommittee on Agriculture and Environmental Appropriations that he had participated in the shooting of nearly 800 eagles.

In his testimony, Vogan said he had kept records on a total of 570 eagles which were shot on the Bolton Ranch from November, 1970, into April, 1971.

(Continued on page 11)



And A Happy New Year



HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

"Man appears to be heading toward a calamitous Day of Reckoning. Unless his rapidly growing population and expanding industrial capacity is somehow brought under control, the earth's natural resources will be exhausted and the environment so polluted that the world no longer will be livable."

The words are from *The Futurist*, August, 1971, in introduction to an article entitled, "The Predicament of Mankind." (Because of the significance of the article, it will be reprinted in *High Country News* at an early date.)

Certainly not very reassuring words but terribly realistic. They can only be taken by a serious student of world conditions as being prophetic. For those of us who have been associated with the conservation and environmental movement for years, they come as no great surprise.

My training as a young biologist opened my eyes to those inexorable laws of nature which operate against all living things - including Man. Two of my top professors were nationally known ecologists in a day when the word "ecology" was years away from being discovered by Madison Avenue and industrial tub-thumpers. And so I consider myself fortunate in having been inculcated with enough knowledge and understanding of the natural world and its processes to qualify me for what I am doing now. At the same time, I am humbled and apprehensive because of what I know and understand.

It in no way means I have lost hope. Though there are many obvious symptoms of man gone amuck, of man fouling his own nest, and of man not fully realizing the uniqueness of his spirit and intellect, there is still hope. For without hope, we are all lost.

There is much for which to be thankful now. And much for which to be hopeful in the year ahead.

We do have a state of technology, which if brought to bear on our problems, can help to set us right. It is not a matter of our not being able to correct the environmental mistakes of the past, but a will to do so. However, we must understand that it will be one of the most difficult decisions Man has ever had to face.

It will mean imposing a self-discipline upon ourselves similar to that which the British accepted during the early years of World War II. We must accept the fact that the affluent American lives in a world apart from the mass of his fellow men on the globe. We are too affluent in a world filled with starvation, hunger, poverty and suffering for our own good, and we had better realize it or we will be brought to our knees.

Our self-centered fixation upon the accumulation of "things" must give way to more service to our fellow man. And in so doing, we must truly become our brother's keeper, and he ours.

It is not a matter of wanting to, but a matter of having to, return to such old-fashioned traits as thrift and frugality. And to such old-fashioned homilies as "want not, waste not."

It is a matter of recognizing that personal choice in the matter of family size is no longer a personal matter. Population increase is of grave concern to all mankind. We may have differences of opinion as to how we shall control proliferating people, but there can be no question that it must be done.

Some people may abhor the thought of abortion, but those who do must work diligently and rapidly to see that other and more preferred methods of birth control are perfected and implemented. In the meantime, they may have to accept the fact that as abhorrent as abortion may be, it is a necessary interim measure to slow our population growth.

The world is changing rapidly, including its ability to maintain our American style of life in its present form. We must be willing to accept changes in our own life-style. And these are not necessarily bad even if we lose in material things but gain in spiritual insights.

We cannot, if we wanted to, go back to the ignorance and intolerance of the past. Contrary to what some would have us believe, our great store of knowledge and technical competence would not be forgotten or put behind us just because we chose to live simpler lives.

Given the facts of our situation in this predicament of mankind, I believe the American people will make the right choices. Many young people are already showing us the way. They and those who are adaptable enough to make the drastic changes necessary for survival are our only hope.

In its own small way, *High Country News* fits into this scheme of things. We will be doing our best to present material which will help people gain an insight into our problems. We look forward to 1972 with great hope.



Winter scene in the high country of the West.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

I am not sufficiently informed about the proposal to establish an environmental studies center in Yellowstone Park to comment for or against it. I had hoped someone at the University of Wyoming directly engaged in conservation work would have replied by now to Verne Huser's "The Wild World" column of Nov. 26.

What shocked and distressed me was that Mr. Huser, whose columns I have applauded for the most part, fired his scattergun at the whole University of Wyoming without specifying any particular target.

Mr. Huser says, "Academic freedom suffers from political pressure at the University of Wyoming" and he views with alarm the idea of placing in the park the "University of Wyoming-controlled environmental studies center, run by the Wyoming politicians who are willing to use Yellowstone - exploit this great national park - for the sake of the tourist dollar". Who at the university is Mr. Huser referring to? What departments are under the thumb of politicians? For everyone at UW plugging for tourism (better than uncontrolled smokestacks), how many individuals and departments are engaged in scientific research on behalf of improving the environment?

I hesitate to draw him into a debate with Mr. Huser, but Rep. John Turner of Teton County recently praised University faculty members and students for helping promote environmental betterment and urged more such action.

My own experience is brief and limited but I have spoken out and written on occasion on controversial issues and never has anyone in an administrative position at the University (or in politics at Cheyenne, either) so much as com-

mented one way or another. Colleagues have disagreed with me on occasion, yes, but no one in authority has implied that I should be silent. I disagree strongly sometimes with views expressed by other University personnel but I don't say these views are totally wrong and dictated or motivated by politics.

Does Mr. Huser have information not available to me showing that University people are hell-bent on harming the environment? If so he has a responsibility now he has fired the broad salvo to name names and list specific offenses.

I cannot believe that the University of Wyoming is principally at fault because Wyoming does not protect the black-footed ferret or because eagles have been slaughtered in the state. University faculty members have worked courageously and tirelessly on behalf of improved range, forest and wildlife. And if academic freedom is restrained at the university let's have the specific cases.

Ernest H. Linford
Professor of Journalism

Editors note: Mr. Linford is only one of several University of Wyoming faculty members who have taken exception to Mr. Huser's comments in the November 26 "Wild World" column.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS stands to be corrected in this matter, and is glad to do so. If there are any other comments which would throw further light on the subject, the paper will welcome them for publication.

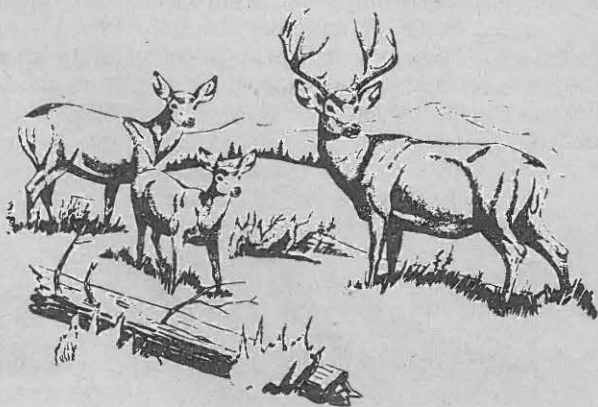
Our thanks to Ernie Linford who is known for his vigorous espousal of matters environmental - and without timidity. He was writing conservation editorials before *HIGH COUNTRY NEWS* was ever conceived, and winning a Pulitzer Prize for them.

Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the publicity you gave our organization in your November 26, 1971 issue of *High Country News*. It was quite a treat to open this paper to page 10 and have our bald eagle reward poster staring us in the face.

One correction that we feel must be made is where you stated in an adjoining column that our organization had joined the National Wildlife Federation in offering the \$500.00 reward. This statement is incorrect. It was our organization, back in August of 1969, which first brought forth the reward, for even at that time we felt that drastic measures need be taken to prevent the promiscuous killing of our national bird. It was not until after all of the publicity on the story of eagles in the West that the National Wildlife Federation decided to offer the \$500.00 reward. We would appreciate your advising your readers of this.

Our only regret is that we are not in the financial position to make that reward larger, (Continued on page 11.)



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Guest Editorials



Reprinted from the MAINE TIMES, December 3, 1971.

Deer Herds Are Dwindling

Maine Inland Fisheries and Game Commissioner Maynard F. Marsh made a distinguished move when he ordered a halt to the state's deer hunting season recently, and it's disturbing to listen to those residents and non-residents that disagree with Marsh's decision.

Both federal and state law define wildlife as a natural resource; not only was Marsh acting with wisdom, he was further administering the law by ending a threat to a dwindling natural resource. In a very short time, Maine's deer herd has been reduced from more than 200,000 to what may be less than 70,000. That's a dramatic reduction in any resource.

Yet there have been cries of petulance from some hunters whining about getting a refund on their hunting licenses because of the shortened season, and other complaints about the unpleasant economic effects on sporting camp operations and other businesses attending the hunting season.

Calling for a refund on your hunting license because the season is cut short is a bit like calling for a refund on your automobile registration because you have car trouble, or the Maine Turnpike is closed down because of bad weather. Other than that, it's greedy thinking, short-sighted, and smacks of plunder (as defined by the dictionary).

And if something isn't done to protect Maine's decreasing deer stock, those people making their living from hunting seasons might have to go into another business soon.

On the other hand, some very avid and responsible hunters and other sportsmen are saying they would agree with shutting down the deer hunting season altogether for as much as three years if it would help bring the deer herd back to reasonable levels. And they accept the facts that such a measure would take away their personal pleasure in hunting and reduce some hunting season income for a time.

This kind of enlightened thinking will go a long way in making sure that Maine's white-tailed deer doesn't become a rare or endangered species - a situation that is causing more and

more concern on the state and federal level for other species around the nation. California alone last year passed two laws in an attempt to protect endangered species, and is currently spending \$134,000 on researching the problem. California is looking into the status of 129 animals to find out if they are in immediate jeopardy from killing, over-exploitation, loss of habitat, change in habitat, competition, or disease.

Maine is hanging by its fingernails, trying to protect its natural resources against the unthinking onslaught of others "from away." Maine has very definite laws about the size of lobsters that may be caught by Maine fishermen, for example, while Massachusetts (fishing in the same waters much of the time) doesn't have such strict laws and even allows the wholesale dragging for lobsters.

Maine forms the Environmental Improvement Commission, passes a site selection law, and oil conveyance law, to protect its coastal natural resource - while inadequate oil refinery proposals, aluminum smelting plants, and what-all try to befoul the state.

The growth and marketing of Maine potatoes are tied up in quite complex quality standards - while the out-of-state potato futures market works its will upon the Maine farmer and his product.

And the same for blueberries, milk, timber and other Maine resources that some people still feel are just there for the commercial taking, without any notion of preserving, conserving, or improving.

To disagree with attempts to protect a resource is to be ignorant of the natural order of things. As a recent issue of Inland Fisheries and Game's magazine said: "Most modern Americans are only beginning to recognize their close bonds with the natural world." The more we insist on destroying what is natural, including wildlife, the more unnatural we become as a species. It can't be all Buck Rogers or Flash Gordon.



Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN,
Boise, December 1, 1971

How Much Growth?

A zero population growth policy for the state of Idaho has been recommended by the Governor's Advisory Council on Comprehensive Health Planning. The idea is to have the legislature declare a policy of keeping population at the present level.

It would be an unrealistic goal. U.S. population may increase by 100 million in the next 40 years. Idaho could not avoid growth.

The question of a population policy is something a number of states are being asked to consider. Oregon Gov. Tom McCall has declared a policy of discouraging migration to the state.

What kind of a policy would the people of Idaho like? Recent election results and concern about such things as the volume of out of state hunters suggest that they don't want a great population surge.

If an all-out growth policy is not what people want and zero growth is unrealistic, the question is: how much population growth?

During the 1960-70 decade births added 87,000 to the Idaho population but the new increase was 45,817. That means about 41,000 people apparently mostly younger people, left the state.

Unless the birth rate declines, Idaho's natural population growth rate is in the neighborhood of 9,000 a year - if all of the young people choose to stay.

Recent research by Prof. W. LaMar Bollinger of the College of Idaho suggests that more of them are making that choice.

California has 19 million people and about 30 per cent of them indicate they would rather live somewhere else. Even a small migration of California people to Idaho could have a profound effect on this state's population growth.

Idaho does face a challenge to maintain the living qualities that its people prize in the face of prospects for very large population growth in the nation and the Western U.S.

The state ought to accommodate its own young people who wish to remain and it cannot prevent others from moving to Idaho. Perhaps it can have some influence over the rate of growth and the way it develops.

It shouldn't all be concentrated in a few areas. Perhaps consideration should be given to optimum community sizes, and the desirability of eventually establishing "new towns." Presently, though, there are many small towns which have been losing population - part of the general pattern of the rural to urban shift.

That pattern is changing in a few areas, like the Wood River Valley.

The idea of trying to establish a population policy which represents public sentiment is something for Idaho to consider. Something between rapid growth and zero growth may be what the people want.

America, the Dump ?

by James J. Kilpatrick

An American visitor to Athens stood a couple of weeks ago on a corner of Constitution Square, momentarily discomfited by one of life's uneasy decisions. His after-breakfast cigarette had now burned down to the filter end. The question was: What to do with the thing?

The broad and busy sidewalk, so far as the eye could see, was immaculate. The gutter looked as if it had just been combed and brushed. Everywhere he had traveled in Greece he had seen the same phenomenal tidiness at work.

With a small sigh, the American pinched out the cigarette on his shoe, dropped the butt in his camera bag, and subsequently returned to New York filled with admiration for the Greeks and contempt for his own countrymen.

Plainly the Greeks must love their country: They strive to keep it lovely. In this the Greeks are not alone. Go to Helsinki. Drive through Sweden and Denmark. Visit the small towns of Switzerland and Holland. Then come back home, and be ashamed.

The story is told of Vice Premier Pattakos - one heard it three times in a week - that his limousine once paused in traffic behind a taxi occupied by a British lady. She tossed an empty cigarette package from the window. Whereupon the outraged colonel ordered the taxi stopped, and personally escorted the lady back to the offending object. With a courtly gesture, he handed it to her.

"But I don't want it," she protested.

"Neither," said Pattakos, "do we."

The story may be apocryphal, but apocrypha have meaning. It is impossible to imagine the attribution of such an anecdote to Mayor Daley of Chicago. The dismaying truth, attested by every mile of highway, by every block of city streets, is that we are indeed ugly Americans.

We have inherited the house of our fathers, and made it a slum. Do we sing of America the Beautiful? We might with greater precision hymn America the Dump.

I happen to live in one of the prettiest areas of our land, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Ours is a small county, still blessed by

clear streams and winding gravel roads. But even here, where the very hills command man's tender care, the uglifiers wend their careless way: In a mountain run, a rump-sprung easy chair, its rusted coils obscenely sprouting; spring asters in a bed of beer cans.

Our county is not exceptional in this regard. The Virginia Department of Highways, incessantly engaged in the litter battle, probably does the best it can. The story is everywhere the same. Our affluent society, like some rough beast, slouches across the land and leaves its ugly spoor behind: beer cans, milk cartons, paper cups, brown bags, old shoes, plain junk.

I have heard it speculated, and pass the melancholy tale along, that one day in some ultimate madness man will blow this earth to smithereens, and leave a dead planet hurtling through space.

Ten thousand years will pass, and curious archeologists will arrive from some distant galaxy. Sifting the ashes, they will find the ruins of great highways; and along their desolate borders the visitors will observe a million sea-green totems of the civilization that once flourished here.

The archeologists will read a metaphysical meaning into the legend embossed upon these objects - a statement of man's fleeting impact on the eons: No Deposit. No Return.

These are somber reflections for a yuletide season, but they cannot be suppressed.

Our generation inherited oceans filled with fish; our greed is wiping out great species. Once our tidal waters teemed with lobsters, crabs, oysters, clams; their numbers steadily diminish.

In theory we oppose pollution, but this must be in theory only. On every hard, pollution overwhelms. By good luck or by God's grace, we Americans became trustees to a lovely land.

No breed of men could have deserved it less, or despoiled it more.

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Wreckreation In...

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS printed a column by Verne Huser (Nov. 26, 1971) in which he protested the building of a proposed environmental studies center in Yellowstone National Park. Huser said, in essence, that such a center, in his opinion, would do more damage than it would do good. That he was not against such a center, but in fact very much in favor of one, if it were not in Yellowstone. He also alluded to the fact that possibly economics in the surrounding areas were being more carefully considered in such a center than the environmental impact.

Recently (Dec. 16), the Wyoming Recreation Commission took issue with Huser's contentions. The Commission said, "We are in sympathy with the concern that parks be maintained in a natural, unspoiled state, but suggest that some people might be losing sight of the reason parks were created in the first place."

The Commission observed that parks were not created only for the self chosen few who judge themselves "qualified" to appreciate the wonders of nature.

The following article by Dr. Robert B. Ditton is reprinted here in order to present another point of view, even though it is mainly from the perspective of the U. S. Forest Service. It first appeared in *Parks & Recreation Magazine*, June, 1971, under the title, "Wreckreation in our National Forests."

Dr. Ditton is an assistant professor of leisure sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. He is also a director of the Scientific Information Staff of Wilderness Watch, Inc., a nonprofit environmental protection group dedicated to the sustained recreational use of our natural resources. The opinions he expresses are entirely his own and in no way reflect the position of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

The editor

by Robert B. Ditton

Recreation is usually considered an unlimited opportunity, the economic backbone of many states, the frosting on the American Dream, and rarely a problem. Yet the impact of providing for peoples' recreation activities has left and continues to leave its mark on our already beleaguered environment - often with the official blessing of the government agencies involved.

First, many recreation resources have been acquired by the federal government with little thought as to how they will sustain the massive human impact to which they are being and will continue to be subjected.

Second, we find that many federal resource development schemes sold on their recreation values are in fact ecological disasters. The true recreation values of many of our natural resources are being misused today in the brutal process of project justification. As a result, regional grassroots organizations are springing

into existence to prevent further destruction of the environment in the name of leisure and recreation.

It may be difficult to consider recreation as a pollutant, because we have been saying all along that recreation is the first to suffer from water pollution and other environmental degradations. But the increasing numbers of recreators engaged in diversified recreation pursuits (many with a high environmental impact such as camping, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle use, powerboating, and trail-bike use), together with many of the developments specifically planned for their use, are actually furthering the deterioration of natural resources.

Loving Our Natural Resources to Death

Madison Avenue advertising organizations, ecologically-insensitive resource planners, communities bent on economic windfalls from our public lands, conservation groups with narrow self-satisfying objectives, and the development-minded public are all actively promoting the leisure misuse of our natural resources. They are unknowingly encouraging over-use or improper use. In everyday language, we are encouraging people to love our natural resources to death. This was first recognized and reflected in the policy of the American Waterworks Association - a group of water supply administrators who restrict the recreation use of water supply reservoirs, regardless of treatment and enforcement levels. They recognize the leisure impact on water quality, but do not have the means to mitigate the impacts.

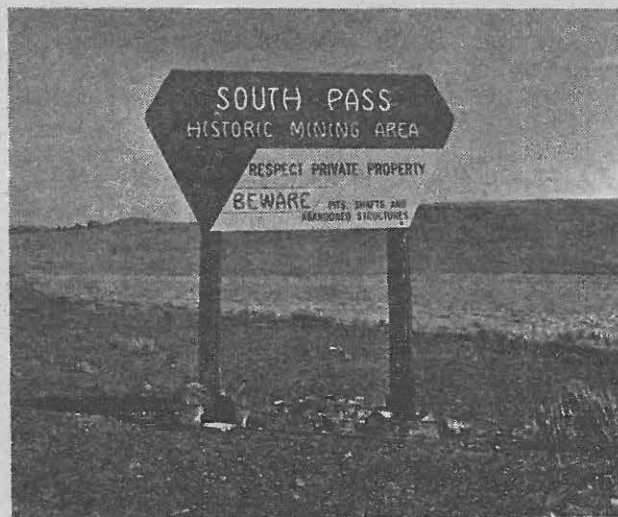
In his 1970 State of the Union message, President Nixon proposed new financing methods for purchasing open space and parklands "now before they are lost to us." In light of present "pork barrel" management of the public domain, the mere allocation of more recreation resources, or making those lands now in public ownership more accessible, is not the answer but often the beginning of the problem. Our nation's 200 million-plus population with more leisure on its hands is beginning to exert physical pressures on our natural resources that beyond the comprehension of many resource planners.

In the past, federal acquisition has helped to spare many of our natural resources from exploitation by private enterprise. But this is only part of the story. A number of areas have been spared defilement at private hands only to endure exploitation by the public resource management agencies to whom they have been entrusted. While unanimously supporting public acquisition, environmental protection groups have nevertheless become disheartened with many of the development and management activities being carried out by federal agencies. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has probably received the greatest attention in the past because of its impoundment procedures. The

emerging trend of the National Park Service toward mass recreation development has been recognized. Court actions have involved the Federal Power Commission and the U. S. Department of Transportation. The seemingly always-distant Bureau of Land Management is even beginning to come under scrutiny.

Trust in Forest Service Misplaced

But what of the U.S. Forest Service? Until recently, this agency has not received the attention accorded the other agencies. Through this agency's historic beginnings with Gifford Pinchot to its present day use of such altruistic images as Smokey Bear, the friendly Forest Ranger, and the Lassie television program, people have been led to believe that the Forest Service is the ultimate protector of our public lands, woods, and waters. But recent experience has shown that such thinking is naive and the trust misplaced. Because of their inability to predict and eliminate the environmental destruction of their holdings, environmental protection groups have brought several federal court actions against the U. S. Forest Service.



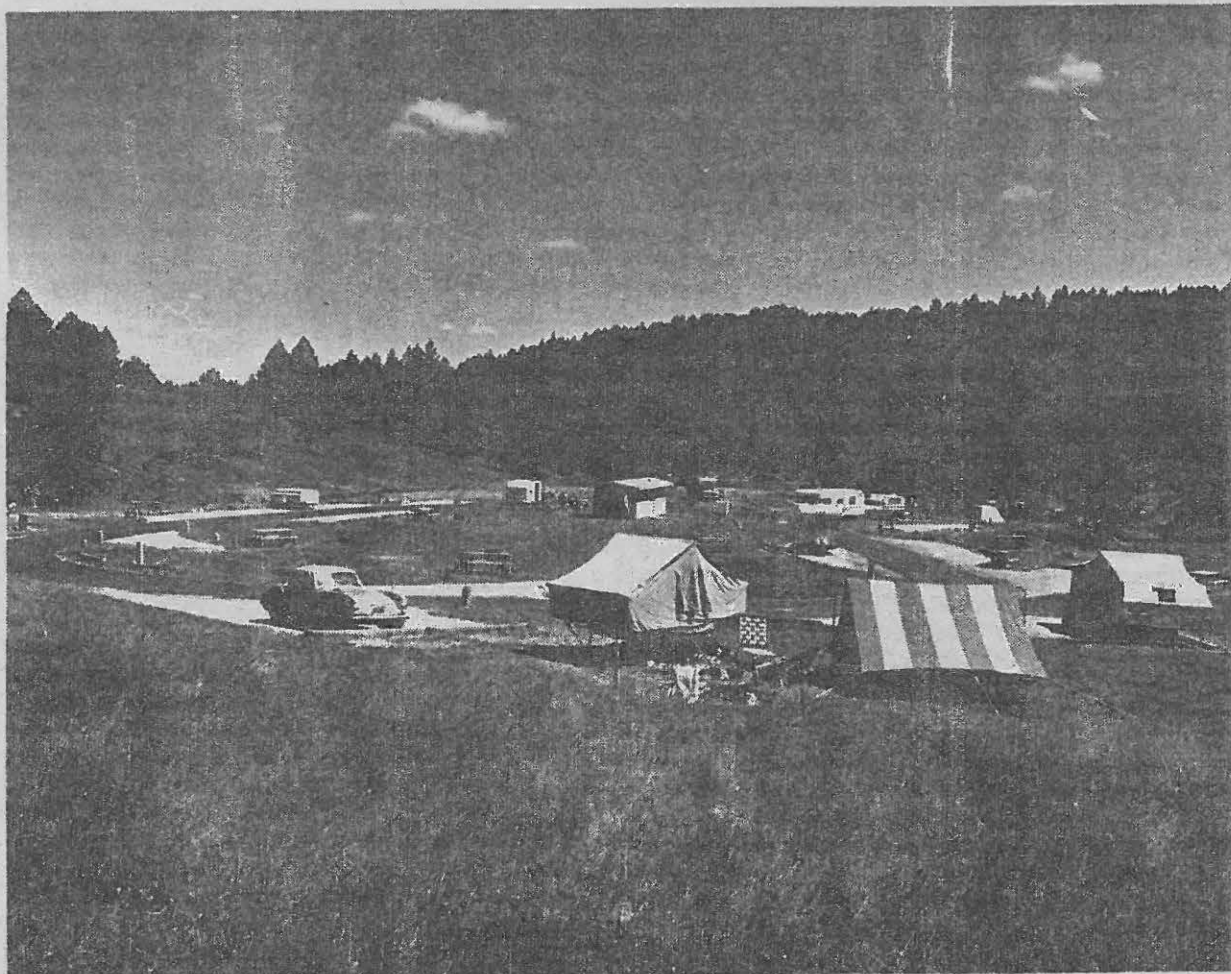
Many historic sites throughout the West are attractive to recreationists. Careful planning can protect historic values and accommodate the growing numbers of people.

If we are to sustain the magnificence of the public domain, federal management of recreation resources must insure that they survive the onslaught of being too accessible to humans. The Forest Service misses this point altogether and counters with "you are trying to lock up our resources for a few people." Rather than locking up our delicate resources, they need to be managed in such a way that unique ecologies are sustained. (The word "preserved" is avoided here because of the recognition that unique ecologies are naturally dynamic.) Resources can be sustained by determining the human carrying capacity of each natural area. Regulation of these human carrying capacity levels can be done, hopefully, through a management plan that recognizes man's collective impact on our natural resources - or the hard way, by restricting the number of users to an area and closing it daily when this limit is reached. The latter approach is particularly unsatisfactory in light of the dramatic increase in outdoor recreation predicted for the future. But we may have to endure this approach because many planners lack the imagination and tools to correlate numbers of people with the environmental qualities of our natural areas.

In addition to these increasing physical impacts, the Forest Service has shown little concern for the impact of their development and management decisions on peoples' recreation experiences. Many of these decisions are gradually reducing the number of recreation alternatives that can be pursued. Many management and development procedures have been conveniently tied to the wishes of majority interests rather than the maintenance of a wide number of user-groups, each with predictable recreation experience requirements. The results indicate that the public domain is being slowly fitted solely for those recreation pursuits involving the greatest numbers of people. The impact of these majority-focused management decisions on the recreation experiences of particular user-groups, such as wilderness users, has not been recognized to date.

Popularity of an activity should not be confused with its value. The fact that several federally funded studies indicate that driving for pleasure is the number one recreation pursuit in the country does not mean that we need more roads in our National Forests. Many planners, however, rely too heavily on these national trends as their development barometers.

(Continued on page 5)



Clean, attractive places to camp and something to see and do will garner the appreciation of those who travel. Less well-known parks and natural areas must be used to relieve pressures on the larger national parks. This uncrowded camping area is at Wind Cave National Park near Hot Springs, South Dakota.

... Our National Forests

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Friday, Dec. 24, 1971

Providing facilities for the most popular recreation activities is in itself a safe guarantee that they will be used. Even more so, it is a crass promotion of these very pursuits. With more demand generated, there must be further development. Not only is much of present recreation development closing environmental alternatives but, just as importantly, it is narrowing the breadth of peoples' available leisure opportunities. Many people are having to conform to the recreation developments provided because of lack of diversity. The impact of this "leveling process" on peoples' leisure opportunities is yet to be fully determined.

Federal agencies must interpret recreation and their authorized responsibilities for providing recreation opportunities for a variety of user-groups, e.g., hikers, snowmobilers, primitive campers, convenience campers, nature enthusiasts, hunters, canoeists, picnickers, motorboaters, fishermen, etc. These user-groups cannot be lumped together in the site planning process if resource management agencies expect to provide quality recreation experiences for any one group. Areas need to be planned for complementary user-groups if recreation is indeed to be a human outcome of resource use. With the United States rapidly becoming a nation of congested, frustration-ridden urban centers, it is imperative that our recreation resources maintain their ability to provide people with satisfying recreative experiences.

The provision of open space and recreation lands is not a sufficient goal for the federal government. They must insure through user-resource planning that 1) a balanced variety of human recreation needs are met, and that 2) environmental degradation of these resources is minimized if not totally prevented.

A review of ill-conceived federal recreation resource development projects reveals the growing role of the U. S. Forest Service in environmental destruction:

While not necessarily thought of as a reservoir builder the Forest Service has warmed to the task because "the need for water-oriented recreation opportunities is important in providing essential benefits to the public." But in providing for the public well-being, we should know what is being sacrificed. In the Shawnee National Forest (Illinois) the U. S. Forest Service has development plans which would sacrifice the unique ecology of Lusk Creek, a cool, clear free-flowing stream which contrasts sharply with the many other murky bottomland streams found in this locale. Lusk Creek is presently used for a number of recreation pursuits, mostly of an environmentally compatible low impact nature. With the wide variety of recreation lakes in Southern Illinois, it is incomprehensible why one more unique stream and woodland resource need be inundated to provide the same recreation experience that is now a common commodity. The future of Lusk Creek is presently in the hands of the Forest



Recreational use of the national forests is becoming more important each year. Yet, Forest Service planning and management, and congressional appropriations trail far behind. Lakes such as this one in Colorado have an important place in providing for those seeking an outdoor experience.

Service, but more importantly, Congressional appropriations.

In 1968 the U. S. Forest Service seriously considered a Disney-inspired resort area in the Mineral King Valley in the Sequoia National Forest. Planning was carried out in anticipation of 1.7 million visitors annually. To place this in perspective, we should note that Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park receives about 1.7 million visitors annually - only Yosemite Valley is seven times larger. With problems of environment impact readily apparent in Yosemite, the Sierra Club brought legal action against the proposed resort development - and won. Recently, however, the Sierra Club's right to bring this suit against the Forest Service has been challenged by a California Federal Court of Appeals decision and the battle continues.

With pressure from a number of national conservation organizations, the Sylvania Tract in Michigan's Upper Peninsula was acquired in 1965 by the U. S. Forest Service because of its wilderness qualities and its ability to provide people with a unique experience. Today the tract is knowingly or unknowingly being developed for high impact recreation pursuits with little concern for the environmental implications of access and resulting human impact. Ecologically inappropriate and uncontrolled use

is being encouraged creating further enforcement problems. Development is threatening the habitat and solitude of a rare but reproducing population of bald eagles in Sylvania. Even with partial restrictions instituted, remaining use (and management) of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles threatens to negate all previous conservation efforts in behalf of the vanishing bald eagle in the north country. Timber is being cut on the tract by the Kimberly Clark Corporation of Neenah, Wisconsin - further detracting from the quality of the wilderness experience. The uniqueness of Sylvania is being destroyed by the very thing it is capable of providing - recreation opportunities. It is being destroyed by the access roads that not only have led to the silting of boglands, but also make it overly accessible. Sylvania's destruction is entangled with the political process which places high priority on development for the public and low priority on wilderness.

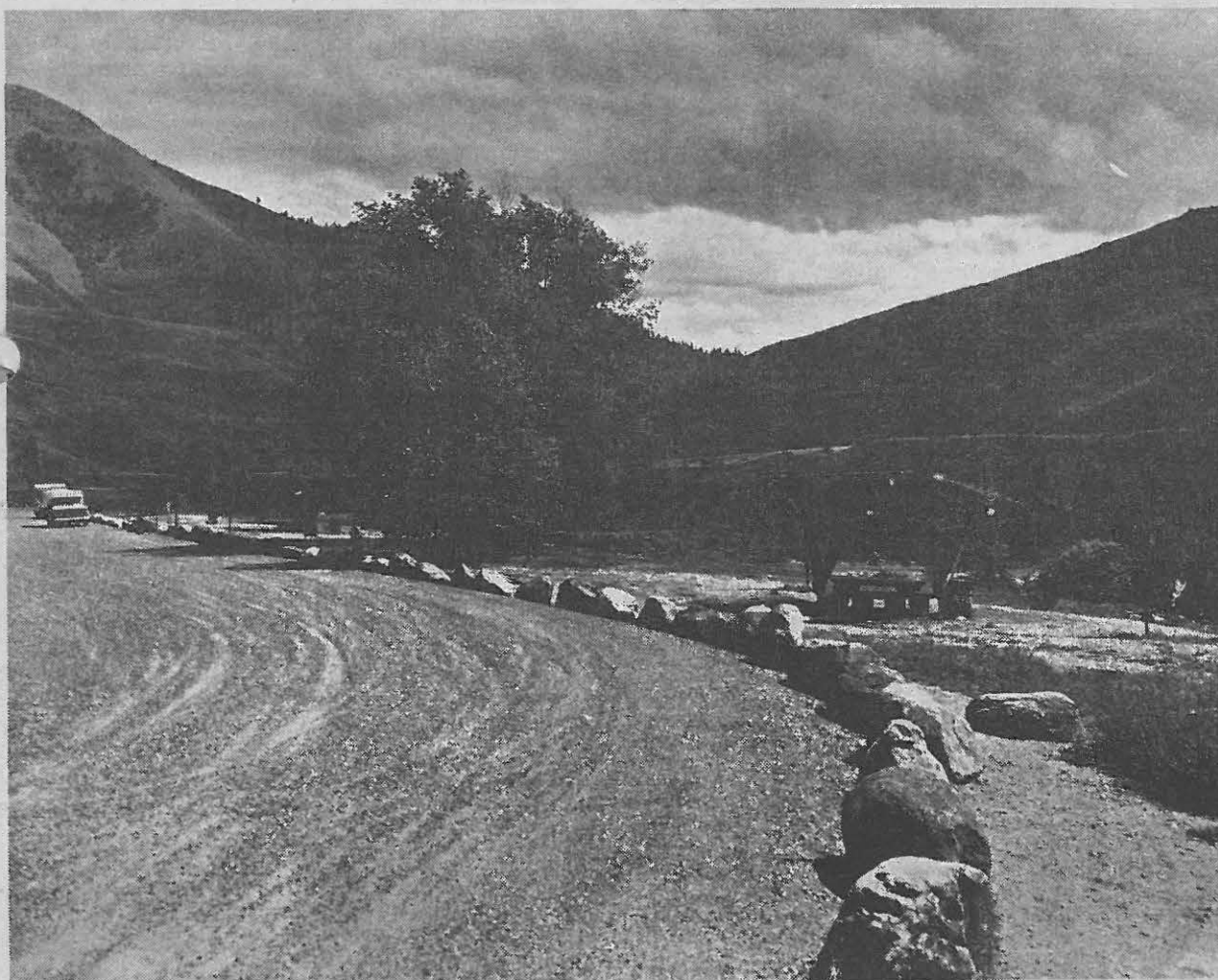
Dr. Ditton's article will be concluded in the next issue of High Country News.



"..Noted & Quoted.."

Before you take on the mission of patching up the environment, it might be a good idea to examine why some spots have worn embarrassingly thin. The environment might be compared to a garment, one which we indeed do wear around us. Pull one thread and the tugging may be felt all over. Pull enough threads, and a piece may fall off. And as a good garment, the environment wears fairly well, if properly used - but parts of it can wear out. Sewing a new patch on the environment may be neither simple nor cheap - if you can get a replacement at all. Where do you get a new land, a new river, a new ocean or a new atmosphere?

Until recently, most of us have been blaming 'the other guy', without really considering or even recognizing how our own attitudes, actions, and general living habits contribute to environmental problems. For example, whenever we drive our cars, we are contributing to air pollution and traffic congestion and are helping to create demand for more petroleum products and more freeway construction. Similarly, each time we use a device that operates on electricity, we are helping to create demand for construction of more power plants with their accompanying environmental risks. This is not to say that the responsibility rests SOLELY with the individual citizen, but each of us must share some of the responsibility with private enterprise and government.



State lands, like these in Idaho, and state parks have an important place in providing outdoor recreational opportunity. More emphasis on state facilities would help relieve pressures on the over-crowded national parks.

So You Want To Get Involved
U. S. Department of the Interior

Energy...

The following article which is a recent publication of Humble Oil Co. is reprinted in its entirety. Whether or not you agree with the points of view put forth by the company in this discussion, it contains much factual material and some serious food for thought.

The demands for energy and the environmental costs of producing or generating energy are going to pose a serious dilemma for the affluent American public in the years ahead. Nowhere in the following article, or in any similar industry publication, will the reader notice any questioning comment on wasteful or unnecessary uses of finite natural resources.

On the other hand, industry continues to pour out "eco-pornographic" advertising on a naive public.

Nowhere will the reader perceive the very valid question, 'what will fuel the internal combustion engine of my wheeled chariot when Humble Oil no longer has oil?' Oil companies, like much of the American public, refuse to

within America's capabilities; all that is needed is positive action.

In the United States, energy consumption is an integral part of economic growth. Energy is utilized not only in virtually every manufacturing operation but also in transportation, heating and lighting, cooling, in the conversion of energy sources into chemicals, textiles, plastics, and many other products.

Fuels Once Abundant

Historically, America has enjoyed a relative abundance of domestic fuels. Our increasing demands for energy have been quite readily met; consumers have been able to choose among a variety of low-priced energy sources. While in the past some petroleum has been imported, this has not been because the U.S. could not meet all its own needs. In fact, on two occasions in the last 15 years when interruptions of foreign supplies to Europe occurred, America was able to aid in meeting part of Europe's requirements

Available Fuels

The major fuels available to meet this demand are nuclear power, coal, natural gas, oil and synthetics. A look at the current status and outlook for these fuels will explain why a shortage of domestic energy supply is developing.

Progress in commercial applications of nuclear power has been far slower than was anticipated only five years ago. Unforeseen environmental and technological difficulties have occurred. But on the basis that these problems can and will be overcome, nuclear energy's share of total demand should rise from only a fraction of a per cent today to about 11 percent by 1985.

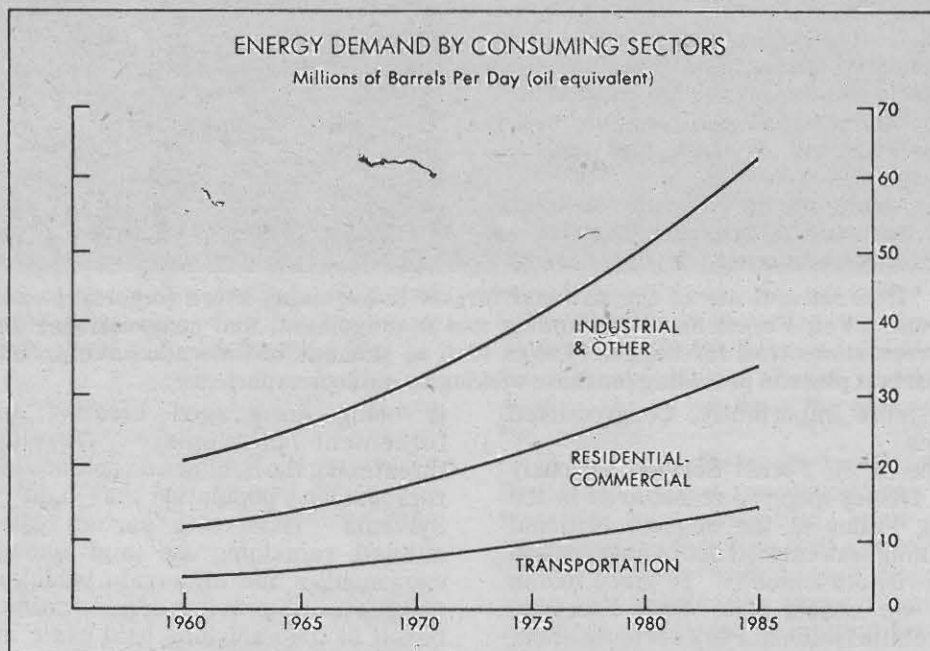
The ability of coal to contribute to energy supply today has been limited by a shortage of economic production capacity caused in part by over-optimistic nuclear forecasts. Although an adequate supply of coal is available, air quality regulations restricting the use of high-sulfur coals and recent mine safety regulations have further limited its market availability. While much of coal's future growth depends on development of feasible flue gas desulfurization technology and commitment of low-sulfur western reserves, coal consumption should double by 1985. At that time it will satisfy about 20 percent of our energy demand.

Domestic natural gas supply is no longer able to keep up with the rapid growth in demand for gas. Furthermore, the outlook for the future reflects poor experience in locating new deposits of gas except in Alaska and the offshore areas and the rising real costs of exploration. As a result, with present economic incentives, U. S. gas supply may have difficulty growing at a rate of more than 1 percent per year now through 1985 unless discovery rates improve. During this period, its share of the energy market could drop from 33 to 21 per cent.

Today crude oil is America's principal source of energy. In 1970, it provided 45 per cent of total energy supply. In the past, oil has been able to take up the slack when other energy sources have failed to live up to expectations. But it now appears that within several years there will be no spare crude oil producing capacity left in the United States. Americans are using up their crude oil reserves faster than the U.S. oil industry is able to replace them. In 1985, crude oil is still expected to be supplying 45 per cent of the nation's energy needs. But by then, unless we make a substantial effort to increase domestic supplies of all forms of energy, well over half of our oil will have to come from foreign sources, mostly in the Middle East.

What part can synthetics play? Synthetic hydrocarbon liquids and gas made from the nation's large resources of coal and oil shale could provide substantial energy supplies. The contribution of synthetics to total energy supply is not likely to be significant until the 1980's because of technical and economic problems in developing them.

(Continued on page 7.)



Over the next 15 years total energy demand is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 4.3 per cent. At this rate, total demand would nearly double from its 1970 level to 1985, when the U. S. would be consuming the energy equivalent of 63 million barrels of oil per day. Transportation should maintain its share of demand at 23 to 24 per cent. Energy requirements of the residential-commercial sector (primarily for heating, cooling, and operation of electrical appliances) will account for 30 per cent of demand in 1985. The largest and most rapidly growing portion of energy demand is the industrial sector which is expected to rise to 47 per cent of energy consumed by 1985. Industrial demand includes energy consumed for manufacturing and processing as well as consumption of raw material used in the manufacture of such products as petrochemicals and asphalt which are non-energy needs. Electric utilities' share of total energy demand is expected to increase from 24 per cent in 1970 to 32 per cent in 1985. All of the energy required to generate and transmit electricity is included in each of these sectors.

believe that there really could be an end-point in sight; that the best of technology cannot produce something from nothing; that there cannot possibly be a doubling and redoubling of energy consumption every decade without someday courting disaster.

This dissertation ends with the observation, "These are some of the specific obstacles standing in the way of the full utilization of America's energy resources." How much longer must we satiate an unquenchable appetite (demand) through "full utilization" before we have exhausted the supply?

When do we start seriously conserving the few remaining energy sources left on our small spaceship Earth?

The editor

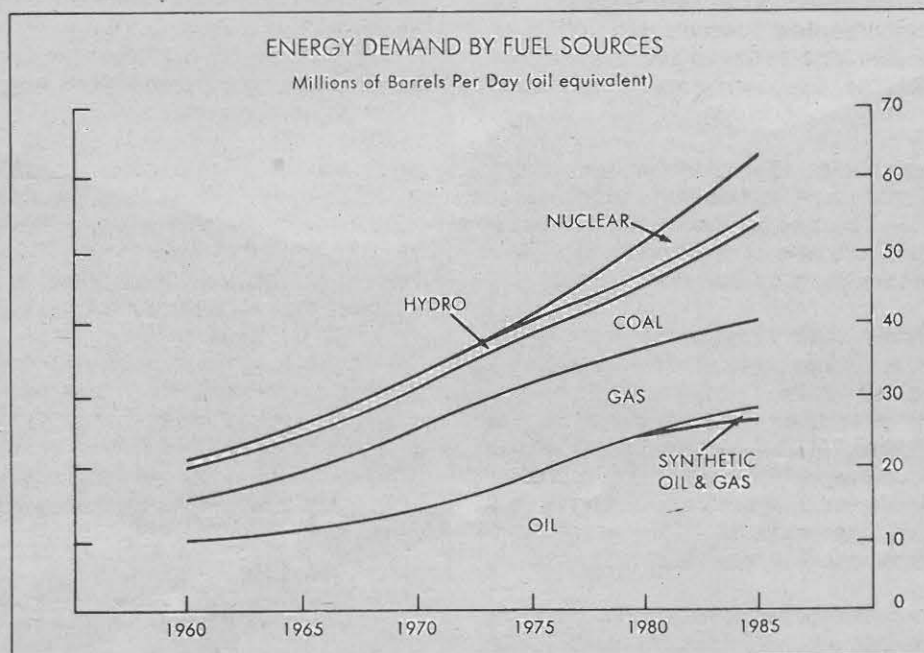
In his message to Congress on June 4, 1971, President Nixon called for new policies designed to supply America with the supplies of energy the country needs. "We cannot take our energy supply for granted any longer," the President said. "A sufficient supply of clean energy is essential if we are to sustain healthy economic growth and improve the quality of our national life."

The President observed that a broad range of actions would be needed on the part of both government and private industry to meet this challenge.

In a speech to an American Petroleum Institute audience in May, Humble's Chairman of the Board, M.A. Wright, placed his company on record as favoring a coordinated, consistent national approach to energy policies. "The objective should be," Wright says, "to provide an adequate supply of energy for both present and long term needs, at a reasonable balance between cost, dependability, and protection of the environment." Such a program is well

in addition to supplying domestic needs.

Today this situation has significantly changed. Choices available to consumers are becoming limited. The United States is no longer capable of being self-sufficient in energy supply. We are becoming increasingly dependent on foreign sources for our energy.



Growing demand for energy will require full development of all sources of supply if 1985 needs are to be met. Nuclear energy is expected to grow most rapidly. By 1985, it should be supplying 11 per cent of total energy, providing difficulties of siting are resolved and environmental problems overcome. Hydropower growth is limited by the availability of dam sites. Assuming that a way is found to remove sulfur from flue gas and that more low-sulfur western coal reserves can be brought to market, coal's share will grow to 20 per cent by 1985. Limited supplies of natural gas prevent this fuel from contributing more than 21 per cent in 1985 compared to 33 per cent today. While demand for oil will increase from 15 million barrels per day in 1970 to 28 million barrels per day by 1985, its share of total energy demand will decline slightly. Synthetic oil and gas manufactured from coal and oil shale will begin to come into the picture around 1980, providing technical and economic problems can be solved.

A Look Ahead

High Country News—7
Friday, Dec. 24, 1971

Effect of Foreign Supplies

The extent of our dependence on foreign supplies has a direct effect on national security. The concept of national security is not confined to national defense. The concept relates directly to the indispensability of petroleum to the nation's economy. It affects our ability to feed, clothe, and house ourselves, and as a nation, to live and compete in today's world. Political disruptions, wars between other countries, breakdown of distribution systems, all could interfere with importation of foreign oil. Even short-term interruptions of supply could result in severe limitation on our supplies of fuels for transportation, heating, and manufacturing. Painful economic consequences would follow. For these very practical reasons, Americans must give their most serious attention to the matter of expanding all sources of energy available within the United States so that the country will not have to rely unduly on foreign supplies.

To develop domestic supplies of energy, a number of issues must be resolved. Some of the most serious are these:

Nuclear Energy

1. We must sort fact from fiction regarding air, water, and thermal pollution, and learn all we can about the possible hazards of radiation. Real problems must be solved to the satisfaction of the public so that safe and reliable nuclear energy plants can be put into operation.

2. We must work out procedures for siting power plants that will provide an alternative to the confrontation tactics which have stalled the growth of the industry. At present, everyone wants power but no one wants the power plant.

3. Advanced reactor technology must be developed rapidly. Present light water reactors use only a small percentage of the energy potential in the uranium they use as fuel. We must accelerate the development of breeder reactors which can extract a much greater percentage of the energy potential of uranium. In the future controlled fusion reactors may provide an almost-unlimited energy supply.

Coal

1. Air quality regulations prevent consumers in the East and Midwest from using abundant supplies of coal because of its high sulfur content. In addition to increased utilization of low-sulfur western coal, we should increase our research and development efforts to perfect a practical method for removing sulfur from flue gas.

Oil and Natural Gas

1. We must step up leasing and exploration in the offshore areas for oil as well as gas. The Interior Department's accelerated offshore leasing schedule for 1971-75 is a good step, but the real key will be the number of acres made available.

2. Leasing policies, especially offshore, should be reviewed to assure that they are achieving an appropriate balance between revenue generation and the rate of exploration for oil and gas that is necessary to find new supplies.

3. We should work to resolve environmental and other questions which are holding up development of frontier areas such as Alaska and the Santa Barbara Channel. The U.S. has historically been able to find enough oil to keep up with its growing demand, but increased consumption is reducing our known reserves and we must find more new oil if we are going to maintain production at even current rates.

4. For the past 15 years the price of natural gas has been kept at an artificially low level by the Federal Power Commission. Recent steps taken by the FPC to increase the price of gas should increase exploration. Additional price increases should stimulate further exploration for this critical fuel.

Synthetics

1. A federal leasing policy for oil shale should be established. The Interior Department's plan to test lease some federal oil-shale deposits in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah is an indication of

concern on the part of the federal government. It is estimated that close to one-fifth of the nation's known fossil fuel reserves lie in oil shale, and about 80 per cent of these are on land that is in the public domain.

2. Additional funding should be provided for research and development work on coal liquefaction and gasification. Eventually, we will have to make oil and gas from coal; we need to develop better methods to enable us to do this cheaply and efficiently.

3. We must define the environmental problems associated with development of western oil shale and coal. Clear policies must be set forth so as to conserve the quality of the environment during development of these energy resources.

Finally, the critical ingredient in the intelligent administration of U.S. energy supply is the recognition that energy supply is one single problem and not the collection of unrelated problems many think it to be. As Humble has pointed out, the U.S. can no longer manage individual energy resources in isolation from each other. Shortage of energy is not an oil problem, nor a gas problem, nor a coal problem, but a problem involving all of these and their interlocking aspects.

These are some of the specific obstacles standing in the way of the full utilization of America's energy resources. Yet they needn't remain as obstacles. Nor is it necessary that current negative trends continue. They may be reversed. What is needed to reverse these trends is action based on sensible policy. The industry, government, and the public all must work together to assure the United States of adequate, dependable, and clean energy supplies for the future.

Stripmining . . .

permit issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, or, as in the tough water quality bill passed recently by the Senate, by a state if that state has a Federally-approved program;

--A requirement in the permits for the strip miner to adopt a reclamation plan that assures the land will be restored to a condition allowing its original uses and potential to be fulfilled;

--The moratorium on the Federal issuance of coal leases and exploration permits on the U. S. public lands out West until the comprehensive environmental reviews required by law are done;

--A national inventory and classification of all potentially strippable areas;

--Reclamation of abandoned strip mined lands, financed by a Reclamation Fund supported by Federal monies and by reclamation fees collected from the mining industry based on the environmental impact of their operations;

Establishment of underground mining controls similar to those for surface mining;

--Special Federal protections and aids to assure the restoration of any jobs that might be displaced by surface mining controls;

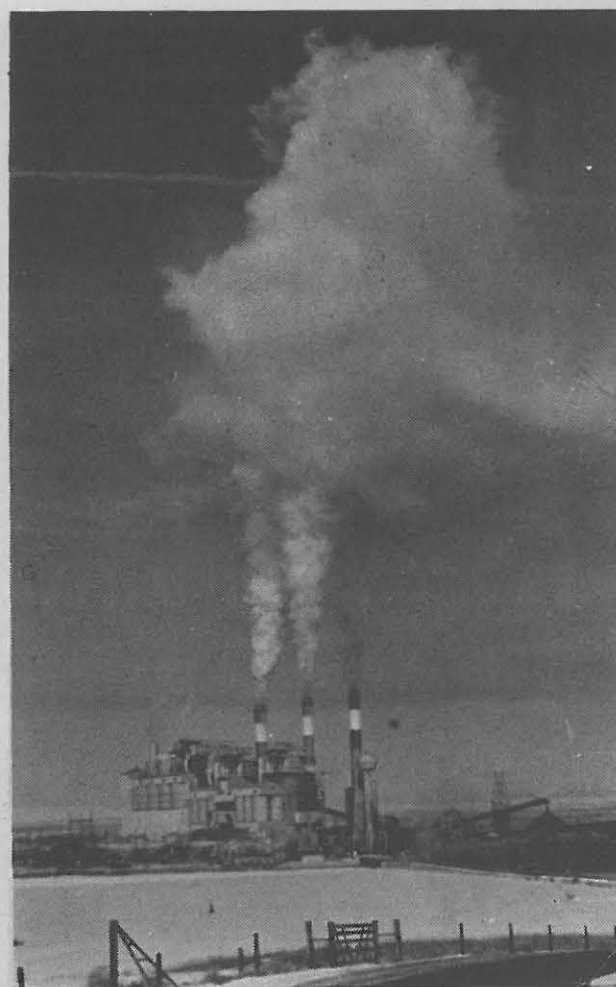
--Provisions for full public participation at every step of the process of regulations and controls, and for citizen suits.

The Wisconsin Senator, a leading environmentalist in Congress, argued that instead of being allowed to continue passing along to the American taxpayer the mounting damage bill, the strip mining industry must be required to internalize these costs, and must bear the burden of proof that reclamation of the mined land can and will be done.

He said that the strip mining "is a story of the destroying of a part of the earth and all its resources. Appalachia has been bought at bargain basement prices for the few. And for the people of that region and the entire country, no amount of money could pay for what already has been lost."

Rec Area Closed

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area Superintendent Arthur Sullivan announced that Yellowtail Visitor Center closed December 12 for the winter. The facility which overlooks Yellowtail Dam has hosted nearly 130,000 visitors since opening in April 1968. Sullivan also said that ice has begun forming on the upper end of Bighorn Lake. Horseshoe Bend is now completely ice-covered, but is not open to ice fishing because maximum thickness measures only one inch. For the benefit of ice fishermen, the National Park Service will issue weekly reports of ice conditions on the Lake.



An assumed demand for staggering amounts of "clean" electrical energy will put an increasing amount of fine particulate matter and poisonous gases into our western air. Vast coal deposits which can be easily and cheaply strip mined make the placement of huge steam generating plants in Wyoming and Montana inevitable unless our appetite for more energy can be curbed. This relatively small plant is at Glenrock, Wyoming.



DDT Promoter "out of date"

Nobel Prize winner Norman E. Borlaug, father of agriculture's Green Revolution, has "splendid achievements" to his credit, but when it comes to the effect of DDT on the environment, "his expertise is either nonexistent or 25 years out of date," charge two scientists in the forthcoming January issue of AUDUBON, magazine of the National Audubon Society.

Dr. Borlaug, at an international conference in Rome last month, attacked "hysterical" conservationists for their efforts to curb the insecticide. But the fact is that "excessive use of pesticides could destroy the Green Revolution Dr. Borlaug himself helped to develop," according to the article by Dr. Charles Wurster, air environmental scientist, and Dr. Robert van den Bosch, an entomologist.

"In two regions of Mexico, near Dr. Borlaug's own laboratories," says the article, "severe insect problems created by insecticides caused abandonment of the cotton industry and collapse of the associated economies." Broadly toxic insecticides like DDT also kill insect predators and destroy other natural controls, so the plant-eating pests often come back stronger after the spraying than before, it was explained; furthermore, pesticide-resistant strains of pest insects have developed. So what Dr. Borlaug advocates is "poor advice for a starving world," according to the article.

"No responsible scientist stands against all pesticides and fertilizers, as Dr. Borlaug asserts," the two scientists continue, "nor have conservationists through anti-DDT legislation attempted to stop the export of DDT to developing nations that cannot afford alternatives for malaria control." Rather, they say, the issue is a question of what pesticides should be used for what purposes: "excessive dependence on pesticides for insect control is an ineffective, costly and destructive method that is rapidly being replaced by sophisticated and effective integrated control techniques."

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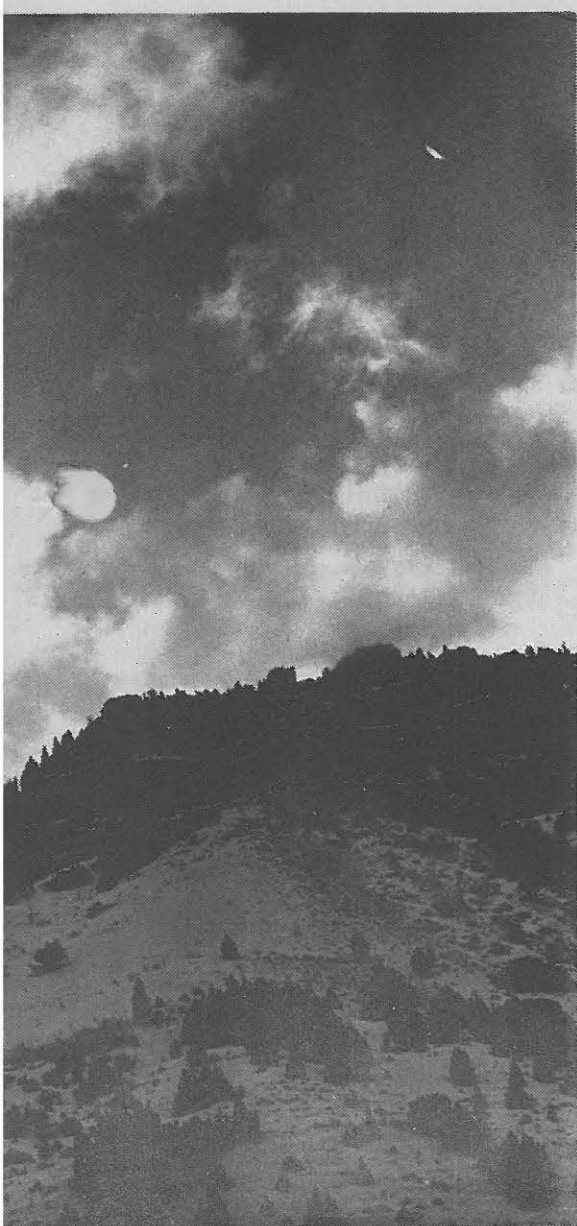
EAGLES FLY

High Country News—9
Friday, Dec. 24, 1971



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Sheep Just Wander Off

A large proportion of missing sheep aren't killed by predators - they simply wander off and become lost. That is the conclusion of a 15-member study team from the Predator Ecology Laboratory of the University of Michigan.

The team, directed by a young scientist, Sander Orent, spent three months on the Routt National Forest of Colorado in a sheep grazing area. By keeping close contact with herders and direct observation of sheep bands, the team concluded that there were some losses to coyotes but most of the loss attributed to the predators could not be confirmed.

Orent said, "It is perhaps natural for a rancher to blame missing sheep on predators, but we believe there is good cause to question such assertions."

He appeared before Senator Gale McGee's Subcommittee on Agriculture and En-

vironmental Appropriations. In praise of the study, McGee said, "It may be the most significant single piece of testimony submitted to this hearing."

The Routt National Forest in northwest Colorado was selected for the study because it was a public land area with no predator controls, and with complaints from sheep ranchers of high predator losses. The Routt National Forest is separated from the Medicine Bow Forest of Wyoming only by the state line separating the two states. Sheep ranchers from Wyoming graze on both forests.

A parade of witnesses appearing before McGee's subcommittee questioned the veracity of Wyoming Woolgrower losses to predators. As reported by the Wyoming Cooperative Crop and Livestock Reporting Service for 1970, those losses came to 30,600 sheep and 99,600 lambs, or a

total of 130,200 head.

Interior Assistant Secretary Reed called reported losses of 200 sheep and 8,400 lambs to eagles in 1970 "absolutely and outrageously large."

Robert C. Hughes, chairman of the Sierra Club's Endangered Species Committee, compared the loss figures to eagles in Wyoming during 1968 with those from Colorado - 6,700 to 9.

"Either Wyoming has an exceptionally large and skilled eagle population or an exceptionally large and skilled population of liars. These figures are beyond comprehension," Hughes said.

Dr. Oliver K. Scott, a Casper, Wyoming, physician and president of the local Audubon Society, said that the claimed losses to predators "have been so greatly exaggerated as to be totally worthless." Dr. Scott is also a cattle rancher.

Dr. E. Raymond Hall, mammologist and professor of ecology at the University of Kansas, pointed to a method of predator control in Kansas which costs only \$19,921 per year. By comparison predator control programs in Oklahoma cost \$268,402 and in Colorado, \$496,786.

Despite what Senator McGee called a "credibility gap" in reported livestock losses to predators, Wyoming sheepmen continued to maintain the reliability of the figures.

Vern Vivion of Rawlins, Wyoming, president of the National Woolgrowers Association said, "We know this is questioned by people." But he suggested that any doubters "come out to Wyoming and see."

Senator Proposes Changes

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Sen. Gaylord Nelson has urged Congressional action for a "drastic revision" in the 56 year old Federally-managed predator control program out West.

And he said if Federal agencies have not completed a comprehensive environmental study required by law on the wildlife poisoning campaign by early next year, he will urge that Congress delay further appropriations until the full and complete report is submitted.

The Wisconsin Democrat also said he will introduce a measure in January for a pilot program for direct compensation to ranchers out West for any livestock losses from predators.

The pilot projects could lead to a full scale insurance or compensation program to substitute for the current Federal-state war on coyotes and other wildlife with deadly poisons.

Senator Nelson proposed the pilot program in testimony Dec. 14 before a special overview hearing on the predator control issue by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environmental and Consumer Protection.

He said that by providing "no poisoning" test areas, the pilot projects would also prove whether the current anti-predator crusade is really effective and whether it is needed at all.

The national outcry over the recent slaughter out West of more than 500 bald and golden eagles by private individuals demonstrated, Nelson said, that "these senseless campaigns of death" have rapidly become a major environmental issue.

For the past two Congresses, the Wisconsin Senator has introduced a measure to put a halt to the use of the poisons out West and drastically reduce the present predator control program.

He said that the fact that the predator control war has been allowed to continue and expand over the decades "is a sad monument to the indifference of Congress and until recently, an apathetic American public."

Nelson pointed out that despite recommendations of a high level scientific commission seven years ago that the poisoning be cut back, the Federal share has increased nearly \$900,000 over that period and the total monies from all sources for the Federally run program now top more than \$8 million a year.

A year and a half ago, Nelson asked the President's Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of the Interior when an environmental review of the program required by the National Environmental Policy Act would be done.

As yet, such a report has not been filed. However, Nelson said his office has obtained a "draft" environmental impact statement prepared in the Department of the Interior and dated November, 1970.

This preliminary statement claims "no permanent adverse environmental effects have occurred or are anticipated" from the widespread wildlife poisoning carried out by the Federal government in the West. The 1964 scientific report, known as the Leopold report, was in direct contradiction to this statement.

Besides direct compensation for losses, other possibilities for a substitute for the predator poisoning might include the so-called "Missouri Plan," which uses extension service agents to teach trapping methods, or the development of repellants, fences, and scare devices, or hunting, or the use of less toxic poisons.

As an example of the massive, unselective killing out West by the present campaign, Nelson pointed out that in a recent year, a conservation organization reported the killing of 74,199 coyotes, 8,478 bobcats, 380 bears, 142 mountain lions, 4,098 badgers, 10,374 foxes, 4,651 opossums, 2,147 porcupines, 6,507 raccoons, 7,732 skunks, 586 beavers, and 582 other animals.

He called the program "a tragic abuse of the public trust, and a shame on the Federal agencies that have served as enthusiastic accomplices and actual promoters in the destruction."

"Impacts" Improved

by Jim Rathlesberger

The Department of Interior has published its final regulations for the preparation of its environmental impact statements. Much improved over the draft regulations, they go far towards meeting the desires of conservationists, many of whom had criticized the draft version. The draft regulations provided for "preliminary" statements which would not have been made public. They also said that written responses from the public would only be "summarized," rather than printed in full in the final environmental impact statements. Finally, the draft regulations spoke of "special situations" in which no impact statement would be issued. According to the final regulations, there will be no "preliminary" statements nor any "special situations," and written comments from all "responsible" private organizations and "recognized" experts will be printed in full.

New York Has Environmental Bill of Rights

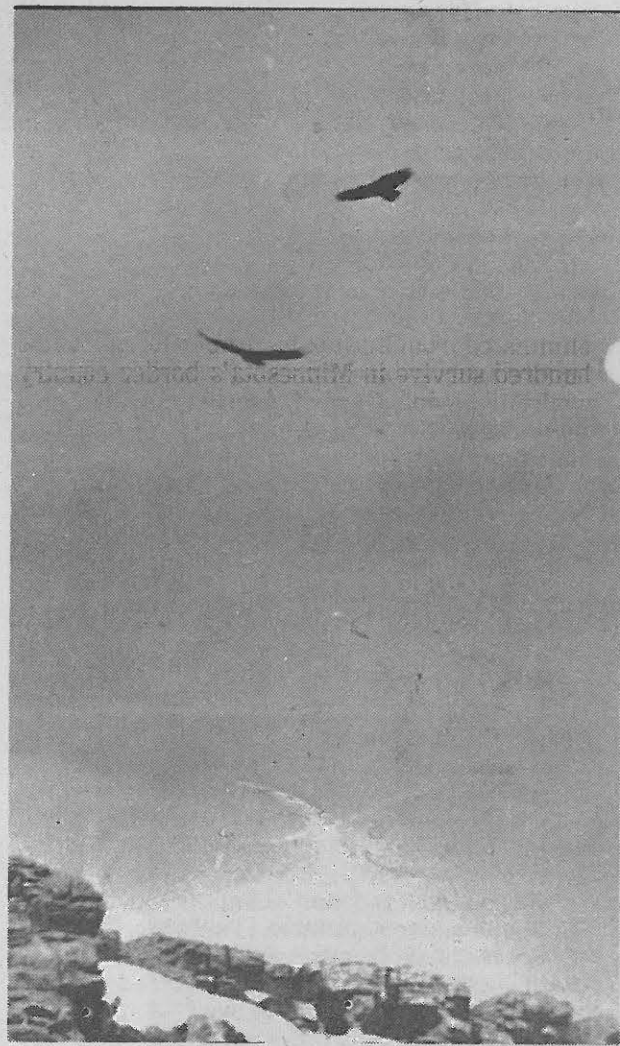
The people of New York State amended their constitution in 1969 to include an Environmental Bill of Rights. It is to provide for the conservation and proper management of the natural resources, while at the same time recognizing the economic and social significance of those resources to the people.

Since then, two other states have amended their constitutions to provide for greater recognition of the environment and the values of natural resources, Illinois and Rhode Island.

For those who might be considering action leading to an environmental bill of rights in their own respective states, the New York amendment is as follows:

Section 4. (Conservation of natural resources and scenic beauty; pollution abatement; acquisition and preservation of lands as state nature and historical preserve.)

The policy of the state shall be to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty and encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural lands for the production of food and other agricultural products. The legislature, in implementing this policy, shall include adequate provision for the abatement of air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise, the protection of agricultural lands, wetlands and shorelines, and the development and regulation of water resources. The legislature shall further provide for the acquisition of lands and waters, including improvements thereon and any interest therein, outside the forest preserve counties, and the dedication of properties so acquired or now owned, which because of their natural beauty, wilderness character, or geological, ecological or historical significance, shall be preserved and administered for the use and enjoyment of the people. Properties so dedicated shall constitute the state nature and historical preserve and they shall not be taken or otherwise disposed of except by law enacted by two successive regular sessions of the legislature.



National legislation seems sure to protect dwindling numbers of eagles from indiscriminate shooting and poisoning. The killing of hundreds of golden eagles, like these floating high over a Wyoming cliff, brought much needed attention to a growing problem in the West.

Eagle Bill Stalled

Senator Gale McGee says he sees little hope in Senate passage this session of a bill to give added protection to bald and golden eagles. His bill to increase penalties could be heard early in the next session.

A House subcommittee has cleared similar legislation and sent the bill on to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Sponsored by Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., the bill would not only increase penalties for killing eagles substantially but makes other significant changes.

Such changes include making it possible to prosecute persons who set out poisons for other reasons that accidentally kill eagles. This would cover situations such as the incidents in Wyoming where antelope were illegally killed and loaded with poison, ostensibly for bait to kill coyotes.

The bill also provides that a prosecutor would not have to prove "willfulness" on the part of a violator, but only that eagles had knowingly been killed.

Wolf Should Be Game Animal

High Country News—11
Friday, Dec. 24, 1971

by Gregory Paul Capito

No animal has been more maligned than the wolf, *Canis lupus*. Our pioneer history is filled with hair-raising stories of besieged trappers put to bay by bloodthirsty beasts, commonly known as wolves. Gruesome accounts of isolated settlers defending themselves from ravenous packs of wolves are an integral part of our American heritage. Fictional literary tales have further distorted a true picture of the wolf.

In this country, the war against wolves began in earnest with the founding of the first colonies on the Atlantic seaboard. Massachusetts Bay initiated action against the wolf by instituting a bounty in 1630. By 1850, the wolf was exterminated from most of the territory east of the Mississippi. The pace of the "war" was accelerated with the opening of the western frontier and the subsequent slaughter of the great bison herds on the plains. With its natural prey greatly reduced and with the ensuing introduction of cattle in the west, the "Buffalo Wolves" made the necessary adaptation to the only suitable prey remaining - domestic livestock.

Naturalists Young and Goldman relate vivid accounts of the "wolf wars" of the late 1800's. "Entire communities sought the renegade wolves by every means such as the use of dogs, traps, poison baits, or set guns, despite which these wolves carried on for many years. To terminate their depredations necessitated all the ability of the most experienced hunters. The use of strychnine poisoning that covered an empire was hardly exceeded in North America unless by the slaughter of the passenger pigeon, the buffalo or the antelope. There was a sort of unwritten law on the range that no cowman would knowingly pass by a carcass of any kind without inserting a goodly dose of strychnine in the hopes of eventually killing "one more wolf." So intense was this mass extermination program, that by the late 1930's the wolf was just a memory in the American West.

Thus, a product of hatred, misunderstanding, and a drastic change in land usage and development, the wolf in America has been eliminated from most of its former range. A few hundred survive in Minnesota's border country while Michigan's Upper Peninsula may harbor a dozen. A scattered remnant might still exist in our American West.

With the dawn of the environmental era, objective, scientific research has helped shed some light on the ecology of the wolf. Figments of literary imagination have been laid to rest as researchers investigate the social order, food habits, reproductive physiology and behavioral patterns of these predatory animals. Some of their findings are quite interesting. For instance, documented, unprovoked wolf attacks on human beings in this country are extremely rare. Researcher Stanley Young states that "in the twenty-five years that the Fish and Wildlife Service has aided in the cooperative wolf control, no incidents have come to the notice of the Service or any of its personnel indicating unprovoked attacks on man." Jim Curran, editor of the Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Daily Star, lives on the border of wolf country. For years he has had a standing one hundred dollar reward for anyone who could prove a bonafide wolf attack. The reward has never been claimed. Gruesome tales by north woods hunters simply could not be substantiated. Most accounts of wolf-man confrontations were grossly exaggerated and did not stand up to thorough, in-depth investigations.

The brash statements of uninformed sportsmen, who for years claimed that wolves decimated wildlife populations, are not compatible with the facts. David Mech's classic study of predator-prey relationships on Isle Royale National Park graphically illustrates the importance of the wolf in maintaining healthy ungulate populations. On this two hundred and ten square mile island, about twenty-three wolves and approximately six hundred moose are coexisting in a state of dynamic equilibrium. The wolves are actually helping to maintain a healthy moose herd by culling out or eliminating diseased, parasitic or otherwise inferior animals, while at the same time keeping the herd commensurate with its food supply. In truth, the wolf is a far more efficient predator than the trophy seeking sport hunter.

There is no question that the wolf is an opportunist when it comes to food getting. In the wild, he will eat just about anything to sustain life, including livestock. However, this predatory characteristic should not be the sole determining factor when considering future wolf management in this country. There are vast primitive areas where a carefully planned re-introduction of the species would not materially affect man's economic activities. The more

inaccessible wilderness areas would provide an excellent opportunity for man to undo the years of ignorance and prejudice, while at the same time helping to establish some order of ecological balance in our national parks.

The recreational value of the wolf is in some respects incalculable. By its very presence, the wolf adds excitement to wild, primitive country that defies quantitative description. Recently, eight hundred campers, backpackers and tourists gathered in Ontario's Algonquin Park for an opportunity to hear wolves howl. Because of keen public interest, the program has grown. Park naturalists now conduct regular "wolf sings". And last year, over three thousand people assembled to hear the wolves howl.

As Americans become more informed, more

involved in the ecological movement, they must also become realistic about the role of the predator in nature's scheme. Violent hatred and prejudice based on children's fairy tales and pioneer myths must be replaced by clear, objective reasoning substantiated with biological facts. Where the wolf remains, it must be elevated to the status of a game animal. In this way, with regulated seasons and bag limits, populations may be maintained by selective control. Where this animal has been exterminated, suitable primitive areas must be studied for possible re-introduction.

Four hundred years of ignorance was our sole justification for the extermination of this magnificent predator. Today, we have no such excuse. The wolf must be maligned no more.



The wily and adaptable coyote has been blamed for most of the losses of range sheep incurred by sheepmen. Many witnesses at recent Senate hearings questioned the purported losses. Except for the woolgrowers, most agree that the losses are highly exaggerated, while agreeing with the sheepmen that coyotes do kill sheep.

Judge Rules In Favor of Dam

A U.S. district judge has ruled in favor of the controversial Lower Teton Dam in Idaho. The decision means the Bureau of Reclamation is free to allow construction to begin.

Judge Fred M. Taylor denied a preliminary injunction sought by Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, the Idaho Environmental Council, and others. The environmental groups brought suit on the grounds the dam would cause irreparable harm to the environment.

The judge would not allow evidence on the advisability of the dam and reservoir on economic grounds. He said Congress had made that determination in 1964 when it authorized the project.

Fences Get Antelope

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has reported that severe winter blizzards on the vast Red Desert may have already caused the deaths of as many as 1,000 pronghorn antelope. Most of the deaths were caused as the animals tried to cross fences in order to move ahead of storms and reach open feeding areas.

Department field men made surveys from the air and on the ground. They estimate that as many as 400 more antelope may be severely injured by the fences. They said they found hair and blood around fences where the animals had tried to go through or over.

Eight antelope carcasses were found hanging in the fences along one two-mile stretch.

Letters...

but perhaps if more individual states would follow our example it would create more of an awareness against this senseless killing.

Sincerely yours,
Ace Extrom
Executive Secretary

Editor's note: Thanks for the correction. Glad to be of help in pointing out the public service performed by the Illinois Wildlife Federation.

Morrison-Knudsen Co., one of the prime contractors along with Peter Kiewit Co., announced immediately it would begin preliminary construction of the 300 foot, earth-fill dam soon after the first of the year. The companies were awarded a \$39.4 million contract by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Shooters Charged...

Vogan said Werner had paid \$15,000 in bounty money to the Buffalo Flying Service of Buffalo, Wyoming. According to Vogan, Werner paid \$50 for every coyote killed and \$25 for every eagle.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed, testifying before Senator McGee's subcommittee on Dec. 16, 1971, said there would be more charges filed shortly.

Reed said, "I apologize for the delay in the investigation, but we expect the principals in the case to be charged in January."

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"Hell of an experience!"

by Jeane Wagner

They're tough and they've had a lot of experience with horses, some of it in competition, but the consensus at the end of the wild horse roundup was, "It was a hell of an experience!"

This was not to say they didn't enjoy it, these eight hand-picked professional cowboys, delegated to handle the BLM's touchy job of culling the Pryor Mountain wild horse herd before winter. It was just "totally different" from anything they'd done before.

Willie Peterson, who headed the operation, called it "the greatest experience you can get into."

"There sure wasn't any of it dull," drawled Lynn Taylor.

And, "It was the best three weeks of my life," Ron Hall, BLM wildlife biologist now permanently assigned to the Pryor Mountain wild horse range, declared. "There was never a better bunch of guys to work with."

They worked hard and put in long hours, but they sure had fun, they agreed, and although there were a lot of frustrations, ("Every miss is a big frustration") they managed to rope, tattoo and deliver to a new location some 45 horses.

Fifteen of those were colts, now living in a corral in town. Of the others, the first few were trucked to Pryor, Mont., where a representative of the Crow Indian tribe received them. Later, Sam McDowell, Billings range technician, introduced an easier and more humane way of getting the captured stallions to the reservation.

It was a method of trying, taught him by his father, Sam said, which slowed them down so they could be driven afoot to their destination.

"Those horses are as good on three-and-a-half legs," Mickey Obert of Belfry said, "as ours are on four!"

So good, in fact, that one of the stallions jumped a six foot wall, while having his legs tied in this way.

The BLM cowboys brought their own saddle horses, 18 of them, each as hard working and experienced as its rider, but because of the rough terrain and unusual difficulty of pursuing the hard-hooved little mustangs, there were lots of casualties.

No permanent injuries, Gene Nunn, a quiet spoken, articulate man said, but sprained ankles, rock bruises and a sprained shoulder put all the horses out of commission at one time or another.

"They learn quick, though," he said, and after they were fitted with "bell boots" on the

front feet and "skid boots" on the hind legs, the horses found the going a little easier.

The men didn't escape injury entirely, either. Bill Stewart of Carson City, Nev., took a bad fall when his horse slipped on a "big slick rock" of which there are many in the area they were working. He suffered a hurt knee and a skinned jaw as a result.

Although their work in the Pryors was just another job to be done as quickly and efficiently as possible, most of the men seemed to develop a personal interest in what they were accomplishing by removing the horses from the range.

"It will help the range," one said, "Forty-five head of horses eat a lot of grass!"

Another disclosed that he had been up to check on the colts several times since their removal and all indicated pleasure at how well the orphans are doing in their new surroundings.

"They're not jugheads, they're better horses

than we figured," Peterson said, and someone else added that some of the horses delivered to the Crows have already been broken and are being ridden.

As to the long-range picture, no one pretends to have the answers. If there's the same problem of over-population every year, it can't be handled in the same way.

"Economically, the BLM could not do this every year," BLM district manager Rex Cleary said. There are other options, such as water trapping and selling permits to people wanting to rope a mustang for sport. "No amateurs need apply," was the general opinion of the latter, however.

But for now, the herd has been thinned by 45 head and the men who did it wouldn't have missed the chance for anything. A last facetious remark summed up the outlook on the whole project. "It was easy," someone said, "after all, they were on foot and we were on horseback!"



Wild horses in the Pryor Mountains of Montana and Wyoming are restricted to a range set aside for them. Too many animals threatened the existence of the entire herd. The Bureau of Land Management which administers the wild horse range removed 45 horses to relieve the pressure.

Reprinted from THE BILLINGS GAZETTE

Wilderness Study Bias Charged

by Tom Brown, Staff Writer

The Forest Service's Beartooth-Absaroka study is biased against wilderness.

That is the opinion of Vernon Waples, life-long resident of Red Lodge, the last 23 years of which have been spent as a game warden for the Montana Fish and Game Department.

As a warden, Waples has roamed over the Beartooth-Absaroka area enforcing Montana game laws.

He feels this experience plus many earlier trips into the Beartooth wilds with his parents as a small child, make him qualified to speak on the subject of wilderness.

And he is convinced, after an extensive reading of the Beartooth-Absaroka study, that the Forest Service is misleading and scaring the public on wilderness.

Waples first complaint against the study is its very size.

"It is as large as two department store catalogues," he says. "This is rather discouraging to the average person. All of the relevant information for the layman could be presented in a much more concise form."

Waples, for example, doesn't feel extensive information on varying ecosystems such as rock outcroppings are necessary for the average person, although of use to professional managers.

From there, he goes into a series of examples of what he feels are misleading or contradictory facts within the study.

For example:

The report lists several hundred million board feet of sawable timber in the Absaroka. But then breaks the statistics down into types of trees and only about 19 million board feet turn out to be sawable. The remainder are mostly lodge pole pine and alpine fir, which are chipable trees but not sawable.

The report says a number of lakes could be dammed with small hand constructed dikes to increase storage capacity by 19,000 acre feet.

Sounds impressive, Waples says, until you consider that Cooney Reservoir stores 27,515 acre feet.

In addition, damming the alpine lakes would hurt fishing, Waples says, by destroying the top layer of nutrition.

The Forest Service says that any such dams could be constructed by hand. Waples remains doubtful since he feels that cost of hand construction would be enormous.

On trails, the Forest Service report says there would be an extensive trail system developed under small wilderness alternatives but not under alternative one, which calls for a large protected area.

But, says Waples, there is no reason under wilderness law the same trails couldn't be built under a large wilderness designation.

And in alternative two, the small wilderness proposal, the Forest Service says there could be a trail built from the East to West Rosebud to a capacity to handle motorized vehicles.

That is a very irresponsible statement, Waples counters. Since in several other spots in the report the Forest Service talks about the extreme delicateness of the high alpine meadows which could easily be damaged.

What will keep the motor scooters on the trails? Waples asks.

On hunting, the report states that under alternative one, which includes a large Absaroka wilderness, hunting there would probably not increase and likely decrease.

The Forest Service, says Waples, has no basis on which to suggest hunting would decrease. No access would be removed and hunting use of the area has been on the increase not decrease.

Another bias, he says, is a lack of Forest Service plans for development of areas

surrounding a large wilderness for motorized and campground type recreational use while listing development plans for a smaller wilderness.

There is no reason such developments couldn't also be added to a large wilderness proposal but their lack scares people interested in that type of activity from wilderness classification.

The Red Lodge game warden says the small corridor proposed to connect an Absaroka and Beartooth Wilderness in alternative one is so small as to make it impractical.

"What the Forest Service is trying to do, in my opinion, is present a corridor which can be easily removed by Congress on the premise that it is so small so as not to matter."

The Forest Service argues against a larger corridor on the basis that private lands in the area prohibit its expansion.

Not so, says Waples, "The Forest Service is in effect saying that about 18,000 acres of wilderness must be left out due to some 500 acres of private land."

And, he adds, the people who own the private land are pro-wilderness, have told him they do not plan to develop their land and would be willing to listen to Forest Service proposals on agreements they could sign to assure wilderness in the area.

"These people are so concerned about maintaining wilderness that they use horse teams to get to their ranch lying some 12-14 miles from the Yellowstone-Cooke City highway so as to preserve the primitive nature of the area," he says.

And besides, he says, there is nothing to prevent the Forest Service from surrounding the private land with wilderness.

Slough Creek, the area Waples wants added to the corridor, is important Grizzly bear and

(Continued on page 13.)

THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

If you've ever seen the devastation brought about by mining, you may understand why conservationists remain concerned about the mining loophole in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Placer mining along California Highway 49 just west of the Sierra Crest has left vast areas so devoid of soil that nothing has grown there since 1862 when the mining took place. Much of Colorado's Front Range has been scoured for gold and left looking like a bombed-out war terrain. What Kennecott Copper Company has done to parts of Utah shouldn't happen to the moon, much less to the planet earth, yet Kennecott remains a constant threat to Glacier Peak Wilderness in the state of Washington's North Cascades, as does American Smelting and Refining Company to the White Clouds in central Idaho.

A few years ago, at the height of the White Clouds controversy, I had an ASARCO engineer on a float trip, a man who bitterly tongue-lashed all conservationists. He told the story of ASARCO's cleaning up a river in northern Idaho, a river that hadn't supported fish for thirty years but that now was producing catchable fish after only two years of expense and effort by ASARCO. I asked him two questions: why didn't the stream support fish for thirty years? and, why did Asarco decide to clean it up? It seems that an ASARCO mining operation had poisoned the river in the late '30's, killing all the fish, and they cleaned up the situation only after the Federal Water Pollution Control Act was passed by Congress.

Exploitive interests continue to oppose the establishment of wilderness areas throughout the nation, led in many cases by the mining companies, the timber companies, or such amalgamations of abusive users as Outdoors Unlimited, Inc. Yet even when the wild areas are set aside as wilderness ("locked up" claim the developers who would exploit the natural resource for private profit, the great American goal), they are open to mineral exploration until 1984 (a propitious date), twenty years after the passage of the Wilderness Act.

How did such a loophole ever come to be? Colorado's Representative Wayne Aspinall, chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, comes from northwestern Colorado, a land of mining and sheep raising. In his powerful position, Mr. Aspinall can (and does) impose his personal prejudices (and the whims of his constituents) upon the whole nation.

For five years Aspinall simply sat on the Wilderness Bill. To get it out of his committee, the conservationists had to accept the mining loophole or it would still be stuck right there in Aspinall's committee—as more than a dozen wilderness proposals are right now.

We're stuck with the mining loophole in the Wilderness Act, and the mining interests are losing no time in either established wilderness areas or in de facto wilderness. In Jackson Hole during the past year there have been two major threats of mining along the Snake River, one in Grand Teton National Park and the other in the Corridor between Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Mining is currently going on in Mt. McKinley National Park and in a number of the national monuments, and vast areas of preserved lands remain open to mineral exploration.

The Three Sisters Wilderness in Oregon is currently being threatened with pumice mining, and both Oregon Senators (Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood) and Representative Al Ullman have introduced legislation to prohibit the mining, another example of fighting brush fires when what we need is a major overhaul of the 1872 mining laws and a rejection of the Aspinall loophole in the Wilderness Act.

The Nixon Administration, which had supported the legislation to prohibit the pumice mining in the wilderness, suddenly withdrew its support the day before public hearings on the Senate Bill last month. Perhaps it was because U. S. Pumice Company of Los Angeles says it will be bankrupted if it cannot mine its Oregon claims. And what does Oregon get out of the mining operation? Additional tax dollars? Hardly. Only silted streams that will no longer produce fish, big holes in their mountains, and roads into the wilderness with the resultant erosion of wilderness values.

President Nixon's comments at his recent press conference in Detroit suggest once again that the Almighty Dollar rules his administration, and the Environment can look out for itself. If the economy comes into conflict

with the environment, the economy must not be allowed to suffer. Why must Republican politicians in power be so short sighted? Why do they insist upon the immediate gain at the expense of the wild world?

I'm generalizing now, because some Republican politicians are responsible and responsive to the voting public they are supposed to represent. Environmental issues are too important to become bogged down in partisan politics. Aspinall is a Democrat; there are wolves on both side of the fence.

But when are American voters going to make their political representatives—from the President on down—accept the responsibility for the husbandry of the earth? It's the only planet we have, and we are devouring it in the name of profit, leaving few of our positive options open for future generations.



1972 will be a year of decision for many wilderness and de facto areas across the West. Not only are recognized Primitive areas to be considered but also many undisturbed areas of 5,000 acres or more in the national forests. Consideration of wilderness areas in national parks has not even begun. Hearings will come thick and fast in the months ahead in order to meet the deadline of the Wilderness Act. Wind River Peak in the Popo Agie Primitive Area of the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming is one of those slated for early hearings.

Wilderness Needs Are Now Urgent

The need for review of all potential wilderness lands in the United States is increasingly urgent. The Forest Service has started studies of defacto wilderness under their jurisdiction, with decisions to be made as quickly as possible as to whether such lands will remain in a protected condition or be exploited for their commercial resources. Other regions, including landtypes of such varied nature as prairie, desert, mountain, coastal, and the like, which are still undeveloped, can qualify for a status which will leave them natural, and help in preservation of a balanced and healthy biosphere.

Information on these varied regions is essential in developing proposals for their protection as wilderness or such other status as will insure that undesirable development not take place. Studies to develop this information are conducted by the Wilderness Classification Study Committee of the Sierra Club. Research on various areas, including all such landtypes, is conducted. Field studies of each of these are a significant part of the work. These are begun when conditions are appropriate for the area in question, by whatever mode suits the region, from very strenuous back-packing to car camping with short day walks, and may include conferences with administering agency personnel. The research includes studies of published material on the geology, botany, wildlife, and other characteristics of the area. It is followed up with the preparation of a detailed report.

Join us in saving America's wild lands from overuse and destruction. Volunteers are continuously needed to help in all phases of this work. Write the Wilderness Classification Study Committee, care of Francis J. Walcott, 3500 Fulton Street, Apt. 14, San Francisco, Calif. 94118. (No telephone calls, please.) Tax-deductible contributions to the Sierra Club Foundation, specifying use for Wilderness surveys will also help save wilderness.

How long can we let the 1872 mining laws rape our land? We set aside wilderness areas, then stand by and watch them crumble before the mining industry "which is vital to our economy." Is money the only value we can see or hear? Have we so little sense of pride in the wild world that we will let it be destroyed in the name of progress?

I'm not opposed to progress, but progress must be controlled by wisdom. Have we learned nothing from the past. I stand with the Sierra Club: "Not blind opposition to progress but opposition to blind progress." We've had enough of blind progress; it's time we began planning that progress. If we don't, we may lose more of the wild world than we can afford to lose. We may already have.

Bias Charged...

cutthroat trout habitat which, he feels, would be threatened by development.

Waples offers other examples of what he feels are inconsistencies in the study but saves a special blast for Red Lodge District Ranger Gary Wetzsteon.

Wetzsteon, he says, has been scaring and misleading people during public meetings.

One example Waples lists is a failure to tell Red Lodge chamber members of the proposed Cooke City-Big Timber road in alternative three.

He produces a letter from Red Lodge Chamber President Clayton Gappert to prove his point.

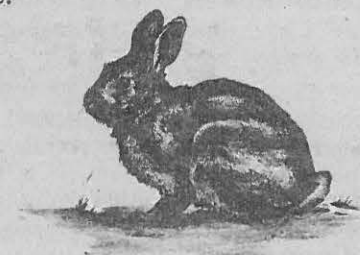
"I don't recall a road proposal mentioned in any of the three alternatives proposed by the Forest Service when the C of C voted to go on record for multiple use of forest land," the letter from Gappert states.

The Big Timber road would hurt Red Lodge by siphoning off Yellowstone Park traffic, Waples predicts.

He says Wetzsteon has also told groups that severe restrictions would have to be placed on the number of people using wilderness and, perhaps, that some trails would have to be removed, both of which are not true in the management of other wilderness areas around the country.

Waples feels the Forest Service is trying to set up a compromise situation in the Beartooth-Absaroka area whereby alternative one sounds like a lock-up to development, type recreationists while alternative two sounds like a complete sell-out to wilderness interests.

The result, he says, will be a tendency to compromise at alternative three where most of the wilderness proposed in alternative one is maintained but with a road for the development people.



Air Standards Hold

Montana's fears that its state air standards would be lowered to present federal standards have been allayed by EPA. Regional Administrator John A. Green, in a statement to the Montana Board of Health, affirms that its air pollution controls can be stricter than those of the federal government.

Green said, "Several states, including Montana, have recognized they do have unique conditions and have enacted standards accordingly. EPA recognizes that some enjoy clean air now and may wish to protect it. The option of affording cleaner air to its citizens is left to the states, but the EPA would be reluctant to see the national standards used as a justification for allowing significant deterioration of existing air quality."

Two of Montana's large smelting companies, Anaconda Co. and American Smelting and Refining Co., have been pressing for a lowering of the Montana emission and ambient air standards on sulfur dioxide. They contend that the federal standards, which are far less stringent, are more reasonable and economically feasible.

The EPA statement also said it believes that a restriction of actual emissions from smelters will probably be needed, as opposed to set restrictions on the amount of sulfur dioxide allowable in the ambient air.

The Montana Board of Health recently held meeting to consider a petition from the dustries to lower the Montana standards federal level.

Commentary On Air

The various states are now holding clean air conferences in preparation for compliance with new federal regulations. Among them, the State of Maine held a two-day conference at Colby College. The MAINE TIMES reported on that meeting in an article entitled, "There's more to air pollution than meets the lungs . . ." It was written by staff writer William Langley.

One of the participants was Dr. Bertram W. Carnow, a physician in the department of preventive medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago.

The following is excerpted from the TIMES' article (Dec. 3, 1971) in reference to air pollution, energy, and the effect on human life. Dr. Carnow's remarks are addressed to those factors.

by William Langley

Throughout the conference, a theme developed that challenged the validity of some areas of progress and profit at the expense of a reasonably clean environment and a "quality of life."

The New York office of the Mobil Oil Corporation sent James B. Rather to the conference to point out that: "The oil industry is faced with continued pressures from the public that

damage and death. Bronchitis and emphysema are the fastest growing diseases in the U.S., accounting for increasing totals in deaths and absenteeism. Lung cancer killed more men in this country last year than all other cancers. Lung diseases double on days of high air pollution levels in Chicago. There are four times as many deaths from respiratory diseases on high pollution days. There are 30 times more lead deposits in the bodies of those people living in the city as opposed to those in rural areas. Our studies show that if we reduce the air pollution in the cities by 50 percent, it would reduce lung cancer by 20 percent. People live longer in 23 other countries than they do in the U. S."



The black smoke which issues from a smokestack is only the most obvious air pollution. Many fine particles and invisible gases are more insidious and more dangerous to human health. These are the ones which are causing massive increases in respiratory diseases.

Describing man as a biological time bomb, Dr. Carnow predicted that the world may not wake up to the dangers of air pollution until a "massive and tragic accident" occurs one day in one of the planet's major cities where 100,000 people die as the result of pollution and air inversions.

"And all this has to do with acquiring things. We reach a point where we're surrounded by toasters but never see a butterfly. We've got to mount an effectively massive campaign against this ideology or we're going to disappear. And it's going to take incredible amounts of money and a restructuring of our lives. A change in our life styles is a must.

"Industry, for example, must start to research in a realistic way, not just for the sake of production and profit, but asking itself if what it is producing and profiting by is any good. Industry can't be allowed to continue to produce things just because it wants to, anymore than you can put a city where it doesn't belong. We've all got to do some planning and that means industry, too.

"My hope is in the young people, because I think my generation has become corrupted," Dr. Carnow said.

Pesticides Cost

The cost of inadequately controlled pesticide use is going up, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. This was evidenced recently when an indemnity payment program for beekeepers whose bees are killed by pesticides was announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The program was made retroactive to cover bee losses dating back to January 1, 1967.

The honey bee is essential to the production of over 50 agricultural crops. Experts say that without these crops, "the nation's dinner tables would be poor indeed." The full costs of programs in which large quantities of hard pesticides are used may be much higher than originally anticipated. USDA's exotic fire ant control project is an example. Fire ant control is being attempted by repeated aerial spraying of large areas in the Southeast with mirex, a DDT-like poison.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

For a New Year's Resolution
Let's all help fight pollution
If each does his part
'Twill be a small start
Toward reaching a final solution.

A deputy assistant secretary for population and family planning in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Dr. Louis B. Hellman, says he believes the husband or wife in 20 percent of the nation's families will have been sterilized for birth control reasons by 1975. Hellman also disclosed that HEW has issued a policy statement to Congress saying most state abortion laws are antiquated and restrictive, and only lead to a vast number of illegal abortions.

Florida's 103-year-old abortion law has been declared unconstitutional because it violates the privacy of women. The law now forbids abortion except in cases where the mother's life is endangered. The ruling came in the case of a University of Florida student charged with publishing a list of abortion referral agencies in the student newspaper.

A study done for the Health, Education and Welfare Department says most states are shirking legal responsibility to provide birth control information and devices for women on welfare. The study said, "There has been little directed effort on the part of the states to comply with federal guidelines to initiate programs aimed at preventing illegitimacy."

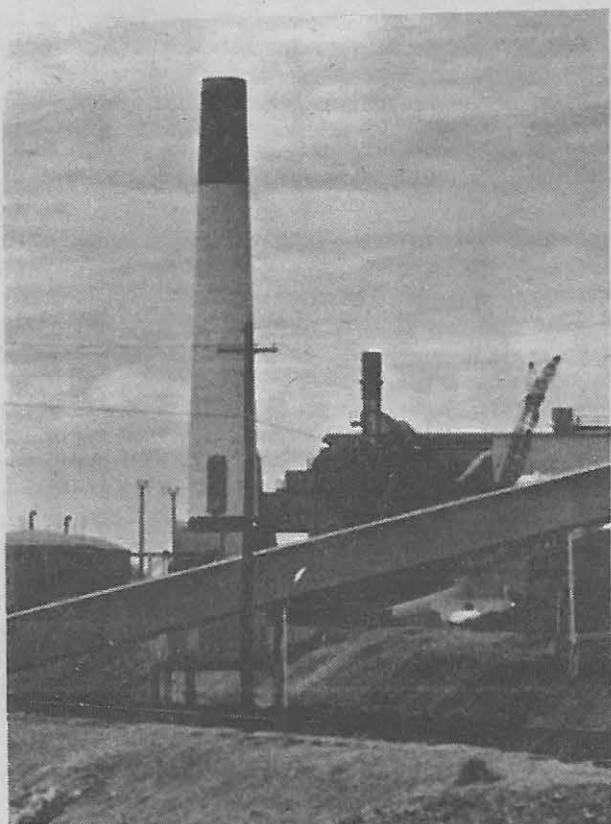
A private foundation doing population research has found that the safest period for an abortion is apparently between the 8th and 10th week of pregnancy. In a report compiled from studying 42,598 legal abortions in 12 states, other conclusions reached were: that abortions after the 13th week of gestation are three to four times more risky than earlier ones; outpatient operations produce fewer complications than cases where the woman is hospitalized, and a general anaesthetic appears preferable to a local one. Most of the abortions studied involved "a young, single, white woman pregnant for the first time."

The U. S. Supreme Court has heard two women attorneys on test cases involving the abortion laws of Texas and Georgia. The women argued that state anti-abortion laws invade a woman's right to privacy and interfere with her doctor's right to practice. Only four states - Alaska, Hawaii, New York and Washington - have removed all criminal penalties for abortion.

A University of Montana professor, Dr. Clancy Gordon, advocates putting polluters in jail. Gordon says those who pollute are no different than thieves and robbers. He says, "I don't think you'd have to put too many corporation directors in jail before you'd have a clean environment."

The World Health Organization has reported the existence of rats which are completely immune to a specific poison, warfarin. The new strain of rats pose a threat of disease and food spoilage which WHO calls "an international menace."

Scientists are now using sex attractants in new efforts to control insect populations. A Cornell University associate professor of chemistry, Wendell Roelofs, says synthetic insect "pheromones" are being successfully used in orchards to trap males of insect pests.



Industry can clean up as shown in this photo of a smelter in Missouri. We need not commit "technocide" by allowing technological by-products to destroy us.

simultaneously demand more energy from oil and more environmental concern. Every year the demand for energy goes up. It is essential that all Americans strike a balance between the environment that we want to preserve and the energy we want to use up."

Charles E. Monty, vice president and manager of production operations for Central Maine Power Company, said that electrical energy consumption is growing at the rate of seven per cent annually.

But others at the conference questioned the need for such growth in relation to its effect on the environment. Author, conservationist, lecturer William C. Clark challenged the need for so much energy to support such modern gee-gaws as electric toothbrushes, electric shoe shine kits, etc.

"I just don't think they're that important," he said.

Dr. Carnow, citing a resplendent series of biostatistics, said flatly that man is "committing technocide," and called on industry to give new priorities to its production efforts.

"Technology has become the master and we've become the slaves," he said. "Man is now in a closed biological system, and although the world will survive, we just may destroy ourselves as a species. We don't seem to have any vision. We have a lot of things but we're losing our souls. Our power to reason seems to have driven us away from nature."

He said that many U. S. cities are "dead," and that unless "you're vigilant in Maine your cities will die, too." According to medical studies in which he's been involved, Dr. Carnow said that human beings are dying from a whole group of new diseases as a result of pollution.

"We're putting 500 to 700 new compounds into the atmosphere every year that we don't know anything about. One of them by itself may not be so bad, but when they become mixed they cause

Snowmobiles Affect Crops

Compaction of ground due to snowmobile use may reduce crop yields to approximately one-half normal, according to preliminary tests run last winter by Dr. James Whittaker, assistant professor of the school of forest resources at the University of Maine at Orono. Whittaker used one square foot samples from the center of test plots then multiplied the grams to their equivalent difference in tonnage. The plot run over most, 300 times, produced 10 tons less per acre than did the plot least run over, and 12.7 tons less forage crops than did the control plot.

Whittaker emphasizes that five compaction plots were set up last year to find out if snowmobile compaction warrants more study. It does, in detail, he said. However, these results could be caused by chance alone and thus they are scientifically inconclusive. Whittaker said that experimentation and comparison on 50 to 100 plots would bring more valid results.

This year, for the second year in a row, the Maine Snowmobile Association has agreed to fund the experimentation. Currently, four dairy farmers have agreed to allow the university to use their land for testing, Whittaker said, and another plot is available at the university. Each location will afford some 20 to 30 sampling areas of heavy compaction and of test plots left uncompacted. Altogether, Whittaker expects to have 120 compacted and uncompacted plots this year.

Reprinted from Maine Times, Dec. 3, 1971.

Forests Studied

The Forest Service has unveiled results of a study involving six western National Forests designed to provide improved methods for classifying National Forest lands for their best use.

Robert W. Harris, Director of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, described the study as a step toward greater refinement of methods and criteria for quality planning and management of National Forest land.

The study of "Forest Land Stratification" was made by Intermountain Forest & Range Experiment Station in cooperation with the six western Forest Service Regions. The Station analyzed timber data and the data-gathering processes of six National Forests—one Forest in each of the Regions.

Director Harris said the results examine possible methods that might be used to determine if proper consideration is being given to watershed and wildlife habitat protection, recreation, and other values in setting up timber management plans. The study concludes that new means are necessary to improve information gathering that will meet the increasing complexity of setting up coordinated management programs, for National Forest lands.

The study points out that additional data are needed to determine soil characteristics and steepness of slopes as vital first steps in decisions of whether they can be logged and reforested and that more information is necessary before decisions can be made to withdraw areas from timber production when other uses might have greater value to the Nation.

Based on this study, the indications are that the acreage of forest land suitable and available for timber growing on the six National Forests studied is somewhat smaller than previously estimated. The six Forests would have 22 percent less land for timber growing than had been estimated before. However, the report emphasizes that many of the acres of land suggested for withdrawal are not high timber producing areas. Their values are often much higher for other purposes such as wildlife habitat, esthetics, or water production, the report says.

"Our prime purpose," Director Harris said, "was to explore possible forest management guidelines that will develop the kind of data required for sound land management decisions. The recommendations made in the study," he continued, "will be distributed to Forest Service land managers for consideration in setting up their own guidelines."

"The report does not reflect a new policy," Director Harris emphasized. "It is just another step in the direction of more refined criteria for judging the multiple use values of the 187 million acres of National Forest lands to insure that the proper balance of these values is achieved."

Copies of the report (USDA Forest Service Research Paper INT-108) are available from Intermountain Forest & Range Experiment Station, 507 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401.



Snowmobiling as a winter sport is growing by leaps and bounds. But so is the environmental impact of too many machines or irresponsible operators. Damages to wildlife and environment have already caused tightening restrictions. Those who value the sport must become more aware of the side effects of machines which are unrestricted in their mobility.

Refuges Off Limits

MINNEAPOLIS -- Snowmobiles and other off-road vehicles will not be allowed on national wildlife refuges or any other unit of that system, including waterfowl production areas Regional Director Travis S. Roberts of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced.

In announcing the restriction, Roberts said it is the Service's intent to prevent any vehicle use on refuges that would "in any way harm wild animals or disturb their habitat."

National wildlife refuges are basically established as wildlife sanctuaries, Roberts said. He indicated that snowmobile use now is allowed on only three national wildlife refuges in the Service's 11-state north central region and that this use is being studied carefully.

The question of the environmental impact of snowmobiles and other off-road vehicles on wild lands is currently under study by government agencies, universities and private organizations.

"Possible future use of snowmobiles on other refuges will depend on the outcome of these studies as well as other considerations," Roberts said.

"We must treat the use of off-road vehicles on wildlife lands in the same way we treat the introduction of new chemicals into the air or water: they must be proven harmless before we will allow their use."



Fluorosis Found

Fluoride emissions from the Anaconda Aluminum Co. near Columbia Falls, Montana, have caused visible damage to vegetation on more than 69,000 acres. A two-year study by the Forest Service also showed that vegetation on 214,000 acres of mixed private, state and federal lands had fluorides in excess of 10 parts per million. Earlier research has indicated that vegetation containing more than 35 parts per million will cause fluorosis in livestock eating it.

Insects taken from the area of contaminated vegetation were also found to contain high concentrations of fluorine. Pollinating insects contained the highest concentrations, 406 ppm.

Included in the damaged areas were sections of Glacier National Park.

"Data indicated the fluorides were carried by air movement through a saddle in Teakettle Mountain to Glacier National Park, following the pattern of the prevailing winds," the report stated.

The study also said that continued pollution in the area would mean the southwestern portion of Glacier National Park would continue to sustain chronic levels of injury.

Anaconda Co. says it has reduced fluoride emissions from 7,500 pounds per day to 2,500 pounds.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

A few days ago I had a letter from a friend who has lived for many years in one of the country's balmy climates. There, the seasons change so subtly that winter passes into spring, to summer, to fall, and back again into winter almost unnoticed.

"My sweetpeas are blooming like mad," my friend had written. "Don't you wish you had some of them, right now?"

In my imagination, the fragrance of fresh-cut sweetpeas filled the room, and as I looked through the window at the snow-covered lawn, I did feel a small twinge of jealousy. Then my glance came to rest on the little snowberry bush at the corner of the house. Hanging on the slender, bare branches, the white berries stood out bravely against the dark evergreens in the background. The aroma of sweetpeas faded, as did the pang of envy. This is December, and Wyoming winters are filled with the smell of snow, and the spicy tang of juniper and spruce! I'm glad I live here in the High Country, where each season has its own special flavor!

For instance, it may come early or it may come late, but when Spring happens, we know it. Suddenly, one day, the air feels soft. Water from melting snowbanks runs down every wash and gully, and winter-quiet streams become swift-flowing rivers. The hillsides are covered with tiny pastel spring flowers, and bare tree branches burst forth with pale green leaves. (Is there anything in the whole world that smells fresher and cleaner than new aspen leaves?) Oh yes -- we KNOW when spring arrives!

We recognize Summer, too. The air lies still and heavy. The pale flowers of spring are replaced by larger summer blossoms, in vivid hues of yellow, blue, red, and purple. Streams flow quietly through green mountain meadows. A rain shower freshens the hot dry air, and brings out the pungent odor of wet sage.

It would be almost impossible not to notice the coming of Autumn. Summer's green leaves turn first to gold, then to flamboyant shades of orange and red. Hillsides display a fantastic assortment of bursting seed pods, -- some of Nature's most beautiful handiwork. (Surely, here is the fulfillment of that soft green promise of spring!) The mountains appear bluer, and seem to retreat into the distance. The crisp cool air carries the scent of wet leaves, and a hint of snow in the higher mountains.

Winter, like spring, may come early or it may come late. This year, it happened early, and there was no doubt as to its arrival! I awoke that morning and knew, even as I lay in bed, that it had snowed during the night. There's a certain stillness -- not exactly a silence, but each sound is muffled when everything is covered by a deep blanket of snow. Admittedly, over two feet of snow all at once can cause problems. It can also create incredible beauty. Snowdrifts, like frozen ocean waves, curl over at the edges and make dark shadows on the sparkling white expanse. Symmetrical spruce trees look like someone has spread sugar icing with a lavish hand. Sometimes, on a cold winter morning, the black-trunked cottonwoods along the river are covered with shining white frost, and remind one of black-and-white etchings against the blue of the sky.

I'm sure my friend will enjoy her sweetpeas at Christmas. Me? I'm perfectly content to wait until July for mine!



Youth Camps Set

Announcement has been made of two Youth Conservation Corps Camps to be established in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in the summer of 1972.

Each camp would accommodate a minimum of 24 young people between the ages of 15 and 18.

One camp would be for boys only, located on the Teton National Forest near the Hoback guard station. A co-ed camp is also planned near Jackson on the National Elk Refuge.

The Departments of Agriculture and Interior jointly administer the program. It is to provide an opportunity for young people of different races and economic backgrounds to work together. Their jobs are all related to conservation and management of natural resources in an outdoor setting.



Winter visitors on a "snow coach" excursion to Old Faithful stop to view elk grazing.

Winter Travel To Yellowstone Is Popular

Winter travel to Yellowstone National Park is expected to rise again this year in pace with the popularity of snowmobiling and in anticipation of next year's 100th anniversary celebration of the nation's first national park.

Yellowstone Superintendent Jack K. Anderson says that the park is rapidly becoming a year-round vacation retreat with over 19,000 visits recorded during the 1970-71 winter season, December through April. The number of snowmobiles entering the park has tripled in the past four seasons.

An expanded program of winter activities gets off the ground this year about mid-December. For the first time in the park's 100-year history, complete food services and overnight lodging are being made available at Old Faithful. A new visitor center, completed this month will be open with a Park Naturalist on duty.

The major portion of Yellowstone's 250-mile road system will be turned into snowmobile trails once the snow has accumulated enough to be compacted. This year, snow crews will be using two new pieces of equipment designed to prevent a "washboard effect" common under snowmobiles in heavily travelled sections.

Wildlife in Yellowstone is still abundantly evident in winter. Some animals, such as the bighorn sheep, are easier to spot after migrating down from the mountains and away from the heavier snows. Elk, antelope, moose and bison are sighted more clearly against a thick blanket of snow.

Many large animals favor the hot springs and thermal pools near Old Faithful and in the Hayden Valley where many species of waterfowl also make their winter home.

The thermal effects themselves are heightened in the cold winter air as hot vapors from the ground turn to steam and rise to tremendous heights. A Park Ranger will be on hand at the visitor center to interpret the winter wildlife scene.

This winter snowmobilers can enter the park through the East Entrance, South Entrance, West Entrance and Mammoth. The road from the North Entrance at Gardiner to the Northeast Entrance at Cooke City will be kept open, as usual, to conventional wheeled vehicles.

"Snow Coach" excursions to Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone in large snowbuses will be operated by the Yellowstone Park Company from the north, west and south

entrances to the park. Snowshoes and skis will also be available for use in the Old Faithful area.

Individual snowmobiles for rent are usually available outside the park.

Birdwatchers On Annual Count

Birdwatchers from Hawaii to Newfoundland, from Nome to the Florida Keys, are busy these days planning their annual assault (by binocular and telescope) on North America's bird life, scheduled for the period December 18 to January 2.

The seventy-second annual Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, promises to top last year's record of counts in 903 local "count areas" and a total of 16,657 qualified participants.

The count, called by some the world's largest cooperative, all-volunteer, long-term, semi-scientific endeavor, will see birdwatchers afield from before dawn to long after dark, trying to see and hear as many species and individuals as possible in their group's designated count area, limited to a circle exactly 15 miles in diameter. Some groups have been counting in the same areas for thirty years or more, yielding an unrivalled mass of data on the changes in abundance and range of the North American birds.

Counting for each group is limited to one 24-hour calendar day, although the group may select any day within the specified count period. Many devoted birdwatchers thus can take part in more than one local count; often in more than one part of the country.

Although the annual Christmas count is not truly competitive, since warm-winter states like Florida, Texas, and California always amass the longest lists, intense rivalry has developed between some adjacent counts, and birdwatchers eagerly await the April issue of the bimonthly journal AMERICAN BIRDS, wherein all the results are printed.

Last year Cocoa, Florida, led all the groups with 205 species, although it didn't threaten the all-time record of 224 set in 1969 by San Diego. Meanwhile, last year, another type of record was set by Vancouver, B.C., which managed to

deploy 163 observers in 42 parties, all within its 15-mile circle.

Fishermen Warned

"Lots of warm, dry clothes, tire chains, shovels and plenty of food will be needed by sportsmen planning Christmas Holiday trips to Flaming Gorge" reports John R. Glenn, Forest Ranger. "We have had snow over the entire area for nearly two months. Side roads are heavily drifted by strong winds, and temperatures are dropping below zero at night."

Roads into Firehole, Buckboard, Lucerne, Cedar Springs, Dutch John Draw and Antelope Flat are plowed periodically, but they can't be plowed on windy days. Highways in the area are generally clear with patches of ice or packed snow. Side roads are unplowed requiring 4-wheel drive vehicles with chains.

The only campgrounds available for use are Deer Run, and one loop in Mustang Ridge. These, however, may be blocked by drifting snow. Pit or vault toilets are open at Firehole, Buckboard, Sheep Creek Bay, Deer Run, Mustang Ridge and Dutch John Draw. Flush toilets are open at the Lucerne and Antelope parking lots. The marina remains open year-round at Buckboard as does the service station at Dutch John.

For ice fishermen, Firehole is now safe with 10 inches of ice. Ice is forming at Buckboard, Henry's Fork and Sheep Creek Bay. None of this ice, however, is safe for fishermen. Open water for shore anglers can be found at Lucerne, Cedar Springs, Dutch John and Antelope at the present time. Shore ice could begin forming anytime if the cold weather continues. Some very nice fish are taken this time of year as the reservoir water cools.