

High Country News

Vol. 4, No. 4

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, Feb. 18, 1972

Montana Air Bartered

by Tom Bell

Montana Governor Forrest Anderson effectively sabotaged that state's air pollution program by refusing to sign the proposed implementation of federal standards. The implementation plans had to be submitted to EPA by Jan. 31.

The Governor steadfastly refuses to submit any plan which he says is stronger than those controls adopted by other states, or which "would harm industry."

The seven-member State Board of Health had defied the Governor and submitted their plan without his signature. Their decision was reached after receiving numerous petitions, letters, telegrams, and telephone calls.

Action chief of the air quality branch of EPA at the Denver regional office said he did not think the plan submitted by the Board would be accepted. Norman Huey said regulations provide that the implementation plan be submitted by the Governor.

However, the Missoula Gals Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) offered an opinion which said that transmittal by a governor is not necessary because there is no statutory requirement that a governor must sign, approve or submit anything. They said, "We believe that both the letter and spirit of the federal Clean Air Act would require that the plan be approved by The EPA even though not submitted by the governor."

The Anaconda Company and the American Smelting and Refining Co. had earlier petitioned the Board to lower the standards for sulfur dioxide emissions. The companies had asked for the standards to be no stricter than the federal standards which are much lower than those proposed by the Board. The Board rejected the petition.

The sulfur dioxide emission standard would require all smelters to remove 90 percent of the sulfur gas from the stacks by a mid-1973 deadline. This was the standard originally proposed by EPA under the 1970 Clean Air Act but seriously weakened by Nixon Administration proponents of industry.

Benjamin F. Wake, Montana's air pollution control director, says EPA standards are a "license to pollute" and could make Montana air as dirty as that of heavily polluted urban centers.

Anderson did not accept the Board plan, based on the stricter standards, on the grounds that they would jeopardize jobs in Montana. At a meeting with the Board, the Governor said that strict environmental controls would frustrate plans of the Upper Missouri Basin Regional Economic Development Commission. He said he supported air quality up to the best standards available but reiterated that "we're not going to shut down any industry in the state or in a portion of the state."

When he was reminded by a member of the Board that the Board did not have a history of shutting down plants, Anderson replied, "That's not the point. You don't have to shut down plants. But you do create in Montana a political atmosphere that makes it most unattractive for anybody who wants to put investment capital in this state."

In a lead editorial in *The Missoulian* (Feb. 10, 1972), Anderson was taken to task. The editorial said, "The Anaconda Co. and its lackey, Gov. Forrest H. Anderson, have won the latest round in their struggle to weaken Montana's air pollution control program." The editorial went on to review the history of the plan and the strict standards, including the fact that in all the time the standards were being considered not once had the Governor "expressed the slightest doubts or reservations about the 90 per cent

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Photo by Verne Huser

SUMMER SMOKE IN JACKSON HOLE - With the lower end of the Teton Range, including the Jackson Hole Ski Area, serving as background, a hot-mix plant operated for the paving of the lower end of the Moose-Wilson Road last summer. Does it violate the Wyoming Air Quality Act? This photo was taken during the Governor's Conference at Jackson Lake Lodge, a meeting hosted by Wyoming's Governor Stanley K. Hathaway, who talks about air quality but does little to insure the enforcement of the standards.

Poisoning Banned!

by Tom Bell

Poisoning banned! The news burst like a bombshell over the rangelands of the West. And repercussions are still echoing from Montana to Texas.

To conservationists generally, it was welcome news, and almost more than most could believe after long years of advocating strict controls. The presidential edict was more far-reaching than any had ever believed possible. And some seemed to see a period of enlightenment dawning in the President's words, "The old notion that 'the only good predator is a dead one' is no longer acceptable."

To sheepmen, it was stunning. *Western Livestock Journal* reported Vern Vivion, president of the National Wool Growers Association from Rawlins, Wyoming, as saying President Nixon lied to the nation's sheepmen and cattlemen. Vivion said the President had promised to let stockmen review findings of an Interior Department task force on wildlife management before taking action.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton had promised stockmen a chance to comment on the findings of his specially appointed task force on predators. In a speech before the National Wildlife Federation Conservation Summit at

Estes Park, Colorado, on July 9, 1971, he said, "Let me add that I absolutely guarantee that the findings of these experts will be given a full hearing and review by wool growers and cattlemen, as well as wildlife interests. The study already has received funding from Interior and the Council on Environmental Quality, and I personally pledge that performance will follow program so that our imperiled predators will not perish in a sea of platitudes."

Little has yet been said publicly about the contents of the report made by the predator task force. But President Nixon referred to it in announcing his executive order. The report reportedly said the government should abandon its "prophylactic control" in favor of a program which would selectively eliminate specific animals damaging livestock. The report also said it had found "little solid evidence of actual losses of livestock" from predators.

Vivion had told the National Wool Growers Convention in Phoenix late in January that "... we cannot and will not stand by in a vacuum and watch our industry be annihilated by predators or politicians who threaten our extinction through big city voters." At the time he spoke, his comments were undoubtedly addressed to

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

A new and unique dichotomy of purpose pervades the intent and thinking of many westerners. Suddenly, growth for growth's sake has become questionable. But there still remains the nagging problem of providing a way of keeping Wyoming young people in Wyoming, or Montanans in Montana.

Injected into all of this is the element of the young people themselves. Many of them who wish to stay will do so on much simpler terms than their parents would have done. No pie in the sky promises for them.

What they do want was exemplified by marchers outside of the hearing room at Helena, Montana, recently. There Governor Forrest Anderson was panned unmercifully for letting down the bars on polluting industry.

They and many of the older generation now see a threat to life itself in the on-going march of industry and progress. Thanks to world-wide TV communication, widespread dissemination of information in the printed media, and a plethora of sophisticated books on environmental matters, much of the public is better informed than their political leaders.

This is not to say that there is not yet a solid phalanx of ill-informed or misinformed citizens. Shortly following Montana Governor Anderson's action in rejecting the air implementation plan, a letter to the editor appeared in the Billings Gazette. The author, from Cody, Wyoming, said he applauded the Governor's actions. Said he, "It was the act of an able and courageous man."

But he went on to say, "What is needed is for those radical ecologists to have to walk from one end of Montana to the other - to realize just how little effect the amount of emissions has on the quality of the air."

What this man and many others have failed to grasp is that environmental degradation of the earth is a slow, insidious, subtle action. In some forms of cancer, the patient becomes a terminal case when he at last feels the pain. Just so with some forms of environmental degradation.

No one may know when the quality of air may reach a point of no return. Or maybe it will be the accumulation of PCB's or DDT which marks the threshold of life or extinction. Possibly, it may come as a synthesis of poor air, the subtle side-effect of chemicals, and the altered chromosomes from radioactivity.

All of these things are happening across the world. Most of them are being documented, each in its own place, but each has tended to remain compartmented in its own file. Only now is the information beginning to be correlated and fitted together. The results are sobering for those who discern.

Research has shown that sulfur dioxides from England are changing the acidic reaction of lakes and forests in Sweden. (The Swedes are concerned.) Smoke from brush fires in California hide the Rockies in Wyoming. Radioactivity from a Chinese nuclear bomb test settles over the U. S. one week later.

The man from Cody ought to walk outside and take off his rose-colored glasses. He ought to subscribe to ENVIRONMENT (Box 755, Bridgeton, Missouri 63044. \$10 per year). And so should Governor Anderson of Montana and Governor Stanley K. Hathaway of Wyoming.

Wyoming's Governor has pronounced in recent months that the state has a "magnificent opportunity" to manage its own destiny - and then qualifies that by saying that the importance of mining to Wyoming's economy outweighs possible ecological hazards.

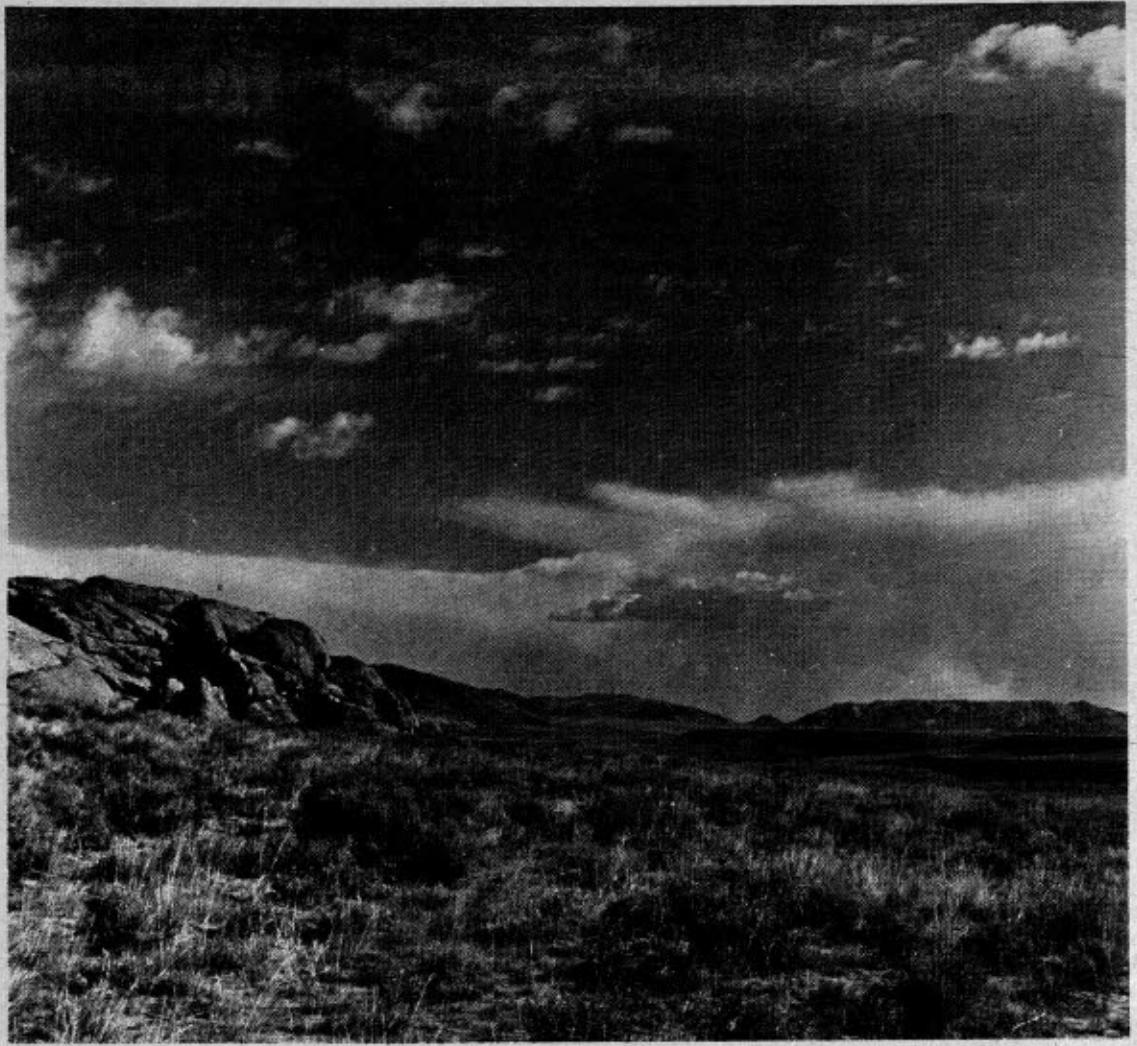
"Fortunately, the prime mineral areas of the state are not in recreation areas. With few exceptions they are in arid areas of the state where it does not, in my opinion, create environmental hazards," he sagely declares.

Would that he could be bodily transported to the middle of Appalachia, there to see the destruction of thousands of acres. And all in spite of reclamation laws which make Wyoming's act a laughing-stock in comparison.

There is hope. Out in the hinterlands, the people are restless. Even in rock-ribbed, conservative Republican strongholds in Wyoming, there is rebellion in the air against the Governor's plans.

Two coincidental news items recently appeared. The Billings Gazette (Feb. 3) carried a story about a young couple touring the country and reporting on what they found. They reported, "It was in Buffalo, Wyoming (pop. 3,394), that we first came across a phenomenon that we later found in most of the West, except California, and in the Northeast. People were wary of getting publicity. They liked the world the way it was for them, and they had visions of hordes from . . . California invading their community."

Four days later, it was announced that coal developments near Buffalo may more than double the population by 1980, and about quadruple by 1990. The placid little cowtown at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains will soon bustle with the pleasant rustle of progress. Smoke will fill the air and huge earthmovers will rearrange the landscape. And the sights and smells of money will please some - but not all.



The blue-vaulted skies of the West - for how much longer can they be maintained in the face of ever increasing compromises on their integrity and quality.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

I would like to know how may I help get the legislator to pass a bill to protect the Grizzly bear. I would also like to know what else I can do to help the Grizzly. I am only 12 years old but I, and I know others, would like to see the Grizzly bear when we grow up. I would hate to see it go like the passenger pigeon. Even though the Grizzly bear is a ferocious animal, it should be given the right to live free in the wilderness without being poisoned or shot. If my generation and the older generation doesn't do something about the advancement of the cement parking lot or roads, by the time I grow up there won't be anymore wilderness or animals for us to see. All we will be able to do is tell our children that there was once beautiful trees and animals that nature had created but man destroyed it.

Sincerely yours,
Kelly Santere
Arlington, Texas

Editor's note: Kelly, I don't know how to answer you. In spite of all my experience, the things I read every day, and the things I have tried to do, I do not have enough wisdom to answer a simple question from one concerned young man. It puzzles me that so few of the "older generation" don't have the clarity of vision that you have. Most of my generation is so involved with the Saturday afternoon ball game that they can't be bothered with any worrisome questions about the fate of the grizzly bear, let alone the fate of

Man himself. Yes, there are many people who do worry about you and about the grizzly bear, as you do. They belong to the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Audubon Society, Trout Unlimited, and other organizations. But they number in the thousands, while there are millions who sweat blood over who is going to win in the Superbowl. There are some encouraging signs, such as the President's decision to ban all poisoning of animals, guilty or innocent, on the public lands of the West. That will help the grizzly and other predators, and it indicates that maybe more men have come to recognize that you cannot eradicate all animals without eliminating Man, too. But you have asked some rather basic questions that only time will answer. I am sorry, I can't. Thanks for asking, though.

Editor:

The enclosed is a copy of some interesting thoughts from a book by Ernest Thompson Seton (ERNEST THOMPSON SETON'S AMERICA edited by Farida Wilzy) which I have read and am just now re-reading. It presents a unique evaluation of the worth of animals, and sound economic reasons for their preservation. Add to this the moral and esthetic reasons - wildlife has a strong case.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS is an excellent paper. Keep up the good work.

Years ago, I used to go to the Dubois area; really loved it. Was horrified at the changes when I returned after 20 years. Hope the tragic deterioration of the country (all country, not just Wyoming) can be reversed.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Harry E. Bell
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Editor's note: Thanks for your nice letter and the following excerpt from Ernest Thompson Seton: "Aside from sentimental or esthetic reasons . . . the extinction of a large or highly organized animal is a serious matter."

"1. It is always dangerous to disturb the balance of nature by removing a poise (a point which helps maintain balance-ed.) Some of the worst plagues have arisen this way.

"2. We do not know, without much and careful experiment, how vast a service that animal might have done to mankind as a domestic species.

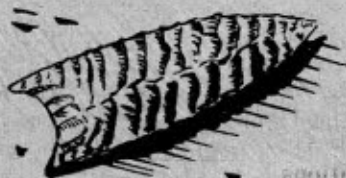
"The force of this will be more apparent if we recollect how much the few well-known domestic species have done for the advancement of our race. Who can decide which has done more for (Please turn to page 15.)

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Published bi-weekly at 140 North Seventh Street, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Tele. 1-307-332-4877. Copyright 1971 by HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, Inc. 2nd class postage paid at Lander, Wyoming 82520.

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Subscription rate	\$10.00
Single copy rate	35¢
Box K,	Lander, Wyoming 82520



Reprinted from THE DENVER POST, Dec. 19, 1971.

A Predator Control Program

Given the public's interest in nature and wildlife, one might expect the subject of predator losses among Western livestock to be an open book. As hearings in Washington last week suggest, there is a great deal that is not known and needs to be known.

Testimony by those who have studied sheep losses suggested that ranchers are often wrong in blaming predators - coyotes, bobcats, eagles and others - for livestock losses. As one ecologist said before the committee hearings, some sheep simply wander away.

But he testified that there is killing of sheep by coyotes. Then, complicating matters, the scientist - Sander Orent - said some coyotes kill sheep and some don't.

Orent's report helps to explain differing reports from ranchers. Some ranchers argue in all sincerity that they do not suffer losses from coyotes; others say they suffer heavy losses. Where one lives and what time of the year the studies are conducted can have much bearing on the outcome of the recommendations.

Even the question of predator numbers is a foggy one. Public statements are abundant that the coyote is soon going to be exterminated. Yet biologists and outdoorsmen with no apparent axe to grind argue there are more coyotes today (in Colorado) than there were 20 years ago.

We believe enough is known to suggest that further killing of predators must be sharply limited. The danger of interrupting the whole ecological fabric over wide areas is too great to permit control to continue as widely as it has in the past.

The federal Wildlife Services Division, which handles predator control, for some time has limited its efforts. As present, it is controlling predators on only one-seventh of all Forest Service lands in Colorado. Possibly this approach can be extended into a general pattern of zoning. Only those areas where sheep are raised intensively would be open to predator killing of any kind.

The hearings conducted in Washington by Sen. Gale McGee, D-Wyo., chairman of a Senate subcommittee on predator control, are particularly timely for Coloradans.

The Colorado General Assembly earlier this year passed and sent to Gov. John Love a bill

setting up procedures through which private landowners might obtain poisoning permits from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The governor signed the bill but didn't like all its provisions.

As a consequence, he appointed a seven-man Predatory Animal Control Study Committee to recommend changes in the law. This committee soon will submit its recommendations; what suggestion the governor makes will depend in part on what is in the report.

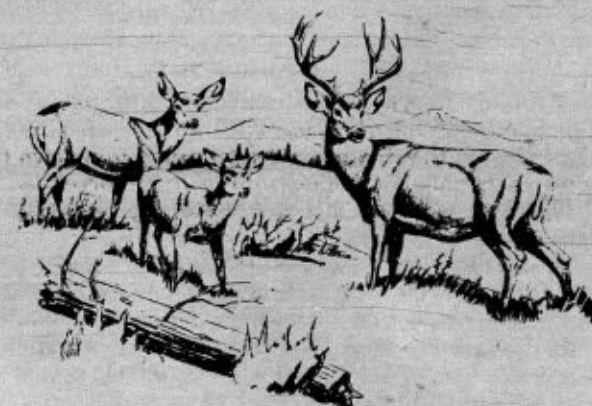
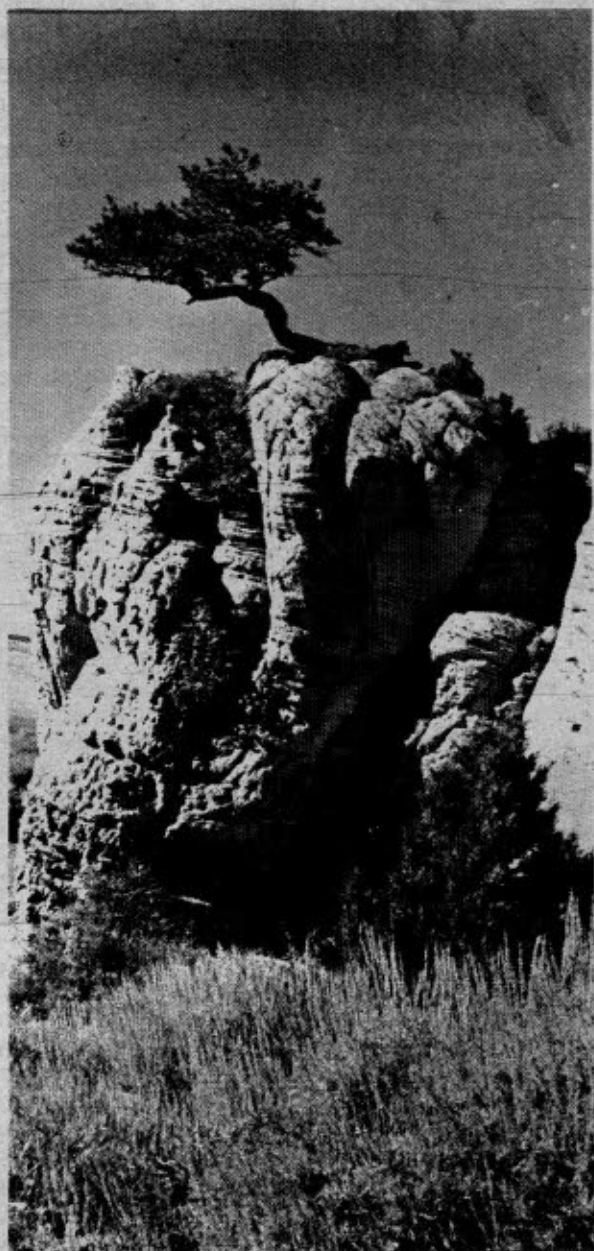
We hope, in general, that the assembly can keep dangerous poisons out of the hands of individuals. To do otherwise is a step backwards. It is far better to have control efforts in the hands of trained federal biologists.

In the long run, there is evidence that better studies are needed. Such studies will probably show that predators are not as costly to the rancher as tradition has painted them. But finding out the exact relationship might lead to more selective controls without running any future risk of wholesale killing of animal species and destroying entire ecological systems.

Editor's note: Since the above editorial appeared, the Predatory Animal Control Study Committee has submitted its recommendations to Governor John Love. The committee has recommended that thallium sulfate be banned, with misdemeanor penalties for sale, use, purchase or possession of the deadly poison. The recommendation came by unanimous approval of the committee.

The seven-member board has also recommended a change in the Colorado law, passed only last year, to return authority for issuing poisoning permits to the Colorado Game, Fish and Parks Division. The vote was split 4-3 with the livestock members of the committee voting to leave authority with the Agriculture Department.

The committee also recommended minor predator control laws. One of them had to do with substituting the word "control" in place of "destroy" and "eradicate" as they appear at several points in existing laws.



Reprinted from THE EVENING STAR, Washington, D. C., Feb. 3, 1972.

Administration Caves In On Clear-cutting

Let us all hope that the latest White House decision on clear-cutting U. S. forest lands does not truly represent the administration's courage under fire in the arena of environmental protection. Otherwise, the nation is in for a bad time.

The issue is one that has been building up for years. The timber industry has found that it can maximize production and profits through clear-cutting, which means cutting down all the trees in an area rather than selectively cutting only the trees that have matured. Gradually, the U. S. Forest Service has acceded to the practice. And it continues to lean toward industry's position despite the accumulation of public protest and plenty of evidence of abuse - widespread devastation of forest land with consequent bad effects on wildlife, soil stability and scenery.

The President's Council on Environmental Quality had drafted a set of restraints in the form of an executive order it hoped President Nixon would include in his 1972 environment message. But the timber industry's lobbyists reacted quickly. After meeting with CEQ Chairman Train, Agriculture Secretary Butz (the Forest Service is part of Agriculture), and Interior Secretary Morton, they got their way. The executive order was shelved.

Although the administration now is arguing that Agriculture and Interior have adequate safeguards coming along, what happened seems fairly clear. The administration caved in primarily because of the political influence the timber companies can bring to bear in the states of the Far West. This is, if nothing else, a very political year.

In saying all this, we do not put ourselves on the side of the wilderness purists who would lock the forest industry out of the public forests. Logging these forests is essential if the nation's needs for wood products, largely in the home building industry, are to be met. Moreover, in some kinds of forests, notably the Douglas fir,

there is even a case to be made for judicious clear-cutting.

At the same time, the timber industry's constant cry of timber famine would go down a lot better if it did not also insist on exporting its products or if it had not compiled such a dreary record of mismanagement in so many public and private forests, down through the years.

Reprinted from THE DES MOINES REGISTER, Jan. 15, 1972.

Timber Industry Wins Battle

The timber industry won another battle this week with the scuttling of a proposed executive order to limit clear-cutting. The order, suggested by Russell Train, chairman of President Nixon's Council on Environmental Quality, would have prohibited the practice in "areas of outstanding scenic beauty," or where it would damage wildlife or recreational use, or cause severe erosion.

After the U. S. Forest Service "leaked" the word to the timber industry that such a proposal was in the works, the lumbermen launched a successful counterattack. On Thursday, Train, Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz and Interior Secretary Rogers Morton agreed to kill the idea. A Butz aide said his boss led the fight against the proposal.

Clear-cutting is the stripping of forest lands of all trees, regardless of their maturity or suitability for commercial use. The timber in-

The public forests are there for use, including commercial use, but only at a level that will never result in their being used up. The Forest Service, and eventually the White House, bear the burden of protecting those lands for the benefit of all Americans. At this point, it appears they could use more backbone.

dustry argues that the time and expense required for selective cutting would reduce lumber production in the face of a strong demand for new housing.

Conservationists argue that exposing the land to erosion, the polluting of waterways and loss of wildlife cover - not to mention the conversion of scenic beauty to ugliness - is too big a price to pay to match the current demand for housing, especially since other building materials can be substituted for lumber.

Conservationists have been losing the battle steadily. Since 1950, the U. S. Forest Service has more than doubled the logging allowed on federal land, and has failed to meet its replanting schedule. The Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 requires that logging not exceed reforestation, but there are now 5 million acres of national forest in need of replanting.

Senator Gale McGee (Dem., Wyo.) is pushing legislation which would ban all clear-cutting until a blue-ribbon commission can study forest management practices. Conservationists might have better luck in Congress than they have had with the Administration. We hope so. The need for lumber is not so urgent that we must plunder our forests without regard to the needs of future generations.



Poisoning Banned . . .

Wyoming Senator Gale McGee who has been conducting hearings in Washington on the predator problem.

Shortly following the presidential Executive Order on February 9 banning the use of poisons, Vivion said, "Rule by presidential edict or presidential order is foreign to our thinking."

The president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, William Mau, said of the order, "It is most unfortunate that President Nixon has listened to the bad advice of some emotional and uninformed environmental and governmental agency people and by edict has sabotaged the sheep industry in Western public-land states."

Unfortunately, some sheep ranchers also seem to be slightly misinformed. State Rep. Walter Little, a former president of the Idaho Wool Growers Association and a director of the National Public Land Council, said the order "will be disastrous unless they come up with some other method immediately."

Little continued, "Nothing comes even close to 1080 - and it is inexpensive and one of the safest substances. Most people lack information about lethal baits. Actually, 1080 is very selective, affecting only members of the cat and dog families." (See accompanying article by Forest Baston.)

Not all Idahoans agree. Senator Len B. Jordan, a former sheep rancher in the Hells Canyon area during the 1930's, turned a deaf ear to protests. He said, "I never had to use 1080 when I was sheep ranching."

Many livestock spokesmen are raising a false spectre of damaging results to wildlife from unpoisoned predators. They are evidently in hopes of getting comfort and aid from unwitting sportsmen who could be led to believe predators are critically damaging to game herds.

Wyoming's Farm Bureau President, Dave Flitner, said an 11-state Western Farm Bureau meeting had adopted an official statement in protest of the ban. The statement said, in part, "We urge continuation of all present programs with adequate funding by Congress. . . . We believe the approach in the presidential executive order will create serious, irreversible problems for both wildlife and livestock management unless corrective modifications are initiated."

Wyoming's Senator Clifford P. Hansen, a former president of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, said that, "In addition to the problem faced by sheep producers, whose stock losses undoubtedly will increase to some extent with the ban of chemical controls on public lands, the (Senate Interior) Committee is going to have to be concerned with the effect predator population increases could have on herbivorous wildlife. . . . There is of course reason to believe discontinuance of present federal control programs will bring an increase in predator population - possibly so as to pose a threat to wildlife, including game animals, as well as to livestock."

Hansen said he had also noted that in Wyoming, the Game and Fish Commission has in the past used poisons on occasion to control the coyote population on the Teton National Forest in the winter months, for the protection of elk herds.

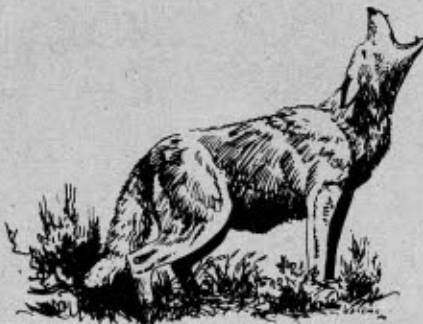
A check with the Teton National Forest by High Country News resulted in a statement that there had never been any approved poisoning programs involving thallium or 1080. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department had received approval to place a few "coyote-getters" (cyanide guns) on two localized, specific areas for protection of wintering bighorn sheep. The statement was verified by the Jackson district office of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The Department spokesman said the program had been discontinued two years ago.

In a position paper to the Montana Fish and Game Commission last September, the Fish and Game Department said, "The effect that predators have on established game populations is minimal. Contrary to popular belief, predator control to maintain established wildlife populations is not needed." The statement recognized rancher's needs to control coyotes but said that controls should be aimed at individual animals doing damage, not the entire species.

Writing in Wyoming Wildlife Magazine (Dec. 1971), William G. Hepworth, director of technical research for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, said, " . . . (predator) control is seldom necessary when game animals have adequate food and cover and breeding populations are not in jeopardy." He too observed that ranchers need some control of predators but said, "The methods used should be species specific. This rules out currently available poisons."

It now appears that stockmen will be forced to accept other measures in order to exert the predator control they feel is necessary. They have taken a defensive (though not factually defensible) stand on their claims to losses from predators and the need for control. And they still have powerful political allies in their respective states.

It is difficult to assess what new programs will be developed in the confusion and uncertainty which now reigns. As this is being written, the County Predatory Animal Control Boards in Wyoming are meeting to discuss the problem. It appears that those autonomous and powerful boards may become even more powerful and discretionary.



Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton has made no secret of the fact he would like to see all animal control activities divested from the Department of the Interior and put into the hands of the states. There could be great reason for concern if this is done, unless adequate safeguards were applied by the federal government.

Laird Noh, chairman of the Idaho Wool Grower's predatory animal committee, may have touched on the consequences when he said, "To eliminate use of carefully controlled toxicants for coyotes is to invite a pandora's box of state, local and private measures to protect private property and game species from the coyote."

The Idaho Legislature has already started taking action which may be indicative of trends. The House passed by an overwhelming majority (62-5) a bounty measure which will pay \$7.50 on coyotes. The bill now goes to the State Senate. Passage came in spite of a warning from Idaho Fish and Game Director Joseph Greenley that bounties had not proved successful in controlling predators. The sponsor of the bill told his fellow

legislators that, "If you vote yes, you are voting for an increase in wildlife in Idaho."

In the bitter and retaliatory mood which now prevails amongst stockmen, it is unlikely that reasonable and rational solutions will be accepted for the dilemma posed by the President's action. Nevertheless, conservationists have tried to present reasonable alternatives. Mike McCloskey, executive director of the Sierra Club, told the sheepmen at their Phoenix convention that the people he represented were not against predator control but only in how it was done. He recommended the consideration of the "Missouri plan" or workable modifications of it.

The Idaho Environmental Council, in a position statement last month, recommended that the mandatory 30 cents a head sheep tax levied by the Idaho Sheep Commission be placed in an insurance fund for sheepmen with demonstrated losses, and/or, that the annual \$12,000 now required by the Fish & Game Department Predatory Animal Fund be placed in such an insurance fund.

Hepworth, in writing on the predator problem (Wyoming Wildlife, Dec., 1971), probably best summed up what many feel. He said, "The problem of predator management should be faced squarely, intelligently and honestly by all concerned. Where serious predator-caused losses occur, controls may be necessary if other management practices cannot be implemented to prevent it. When predators must be controlled, efforts should be directed at offending animals within the damage area. . . . Until better methods are developed, trapping, denning, and shooting from the ground or aircraft should not be precluded. Whatever the methods, it seems only logical that management efforts should be assigned to responsible personnel who are answerable to a wildlife management agency that, in turn, is sensitive to the mandates of a well-informed public. Every effort should be made to minimize the impact that predator control will have upon the infinitely complex interrelationships of our deteriorating environment."

Reaction to the predator poison ban has been swift and massive by the livestock industry. News reports say the President may actually rescind his own order in the face of heavy opposition. Those concerned with the poison problem may now voice their opinions. Write immediately or wire your feelings to The White House, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20500.

More on Poisoning Problem

The following article, reprinted from the IDAHO STATESMAN, throws additional light on the predator poisoning problem. Mr. Baston of Idaho Falls is chairman of the predator control study committee of the Idaho Environmental Council.

The editor.

by Forest Baston

I wish to document for the reading public the misleading opinions expressed by Mr. Laird Noh concerning predator control in the July 19, 1971 issue of this paper.

Mr. Noh's premise is how should we eradicate our rapidly vanishing wildlife. Mr. Noh does not even consider the most appropriate question of should we be pursuing a program of wanton destruction?

Mr. Noh also does not discuss the alternative presented by Sen. Gaylord Nelson D-Wis., in his bill introduced into the 91st Congress S. 4486, suggesting the "Missouri Plan". The Missouri Plan consists of training the landowner to control the specific animal causing damage. This means that the other animals of the same species would not be obliterated to remove these few pest animals.

Mr. Noh suggests that the woolgrowers have been falsely portrayed as "rapacious killers, strewing venom about the landscape" and further calls for predator control to be "in the hands of responsible professionals." These are the words of a director of Idaho's Woolgrowers Association. What then are the actions of such a group. One can find several documentations of actions of individuals. However, let us consider the most recently documented case - that of the eagles in Wyoming. Certainly one would be justified in concluding that a president of a stockgrowers association would reflect the attitudes and positions of the represented stockmen. Mr. Van Irvine (prominent Wyoming stockman, president of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association) was arrested and charged with the killing of game animals out of season and of using these animals with lethal

poison in sufficient dosages to kill any and all carnivorous animals feeding on those carcasses. It would then appear that the charges of "rapacious killers, strewing venom over the landscape" and irresponsibility would be an accurate description of the actions of some of the association's members.

Mr. Noh further would have us believe that the lethal poison sodium monofluoroacetate (1080) used by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Division of Wildlife Services is "highly specific". Fortunately the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare publication "Clinical Handbook on Economic Poisons" corrects that myth in their description of sodium monofluoroacetate and I quote "Sodium monofluoroacetate is a nonspecific poison which is used to kill rats, mice, and other rodents, and predators in general." Furthermore, in the standard book "Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products" 1080 is given a toxic rating of 6 (super toxic) for species including homo sapiens.

Mr. Noh also seems to have neglected in his "informed" presentation "Vertebrate Pests, Problems, and Control" a committee report published by the National Academy of Science in 1970. The committee members represent government labs (e. g. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of Interior; Agriculture Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture), private laboratories (e. g. Hazleton Laboratories, Inc.), private industry (e. g. Shell Development Co.), and universities (e. g. Cornell University). Such a distinguished group can hardly be criticized as being "poorly informed." Therefore, I wish to quote from this publication:

"The methodology as well as the need for predator control are criticized by some as excessive. One of the most cogent arguments (apart from the biological) against government participation in predator control is the economic consideration. In some cases the cost to the government for protecting cattle and sheep exceeds the value of the livestock lost, although it might be argued that if there were no control

A Citizen's Plea

The following statement by (Mrs. Eldon) Elizabeth Smith of Bozeman, Montana, was presented at the Montana Board of Health hearing on a petition to revise state standards on sulfur dioxide emissions at Helena, Dec. 15, 1971. Her impassioned plea was made in the context of

Montana Air . . .

standard for sulfur oxides."

The Missoulian says the matter will probably wind up in the courts, and hopes that it will.

The editorial also points out that pollution control has added jobs. It said:

--Not once has the Anaconda Co. claimed that its cutback in zinc production in this state has been caused by any consideration other than the company's economic necessity.

--Not once has the forest products industry claimed that its job cutbacks have been due to air pollution control. These unemployment problems need attention, but they were not created by pollution controls and will not be cured by weakening pollution controls.

--And not once has the Anaconda Co. claimed that if it had to spend money to comply with the 90 per cent sulfur oxide emission standard it would have to reduce its work force in Montana.

A pollution standard is a goal, not an absolute. A company which cannot meet a standard may apply for a variance (exemption) from the standard. The State Board of Health has been generous in granting variance, and has clearly told the Anaconda Co. it would view an Anaconda variance request with sympathy.

That is the company's proper course. It was the course taken by Hoerner Waldorf in Missoula, which already has been granted two variances by the board and will be granted another this year while it installs its air pollution controls. If the board had been hard-nosed, HW would have been shut down months ago. The board is not about to do that sort of thing, and Anderson and the Anaconda Co. know it.

No, the company only wants to avoid the capital expense and lunch box filling which the installation of adequate pollution controls would require of it, and has garnered the support of its lackey the governor to do its bidding.

W. Anderson's support for the company's position is a disgrace.

The Billings Gazette also editorialized on the Governor's action (Feb. 14, 1972) under the headline, "The governor's meddling." It said:

Governor Anderson's efforts to undermine the pollution standards for air quality set by the state board of health are reprehensible.

The Gazette strongly supports the air standards, which are measurably more strict than federal standards, and are intended to prevent Montana air from reaching the cesspool quality of air elsewhere in the country.

The governor worries that the high standards would drive away needed industry, and endanger jobs in the state. His concern for the economy is valid, but his approach is wrong.

The way to handle the economic variables of pollution control is to grant variances rather than to weaken basic standards. It is up to the board of health to regulate reasonably, so that pollution control costs won't founder any enterprise.

But the governor's approach amounts to abandoning everything Montanans have fought for and struggled for by way of a clean and wholesome environment all these years.

W. Anderson's support for the company's position is a disgrace.

At a packed meeting of the Board in Helena Feb. 4, Anderson was hissed and one spectator shouted, "Impeach him." Outside, pickets with placards marched in protest. Their signs carried such comments as "Improve Montana air quality - Export Anderson," "\$ keep Forrest green \$," and "Copper collars for sale at the executive mansion."

Comments from around the state attacked the Governor's action. One Constitutional Convention delegate was attributed with a statement that the action "certainly will provide incentive to promulgate the strongest possible environmental provisions" in a new constitution for Montana.

A delegate to Montana's Constitutional Convention, Mrs. Louise Cross, told fellow delegates to resist pressures from those who are concerned solely with economics, employment and tax bases. She said the average Montanan "wants to protect his environment and conserve his natural resources."

the hearing, but carries implications far beyond that simple exercise in citizen involvement.

Americans have often been accused of ignorance and arrogance in their attitude toward nature and the biological essentials of life on earth. Until recently, I think, these accusations were valid. But no longer. For most of us, the awareness of danger and the sense of loss have been a crash course into knowledge and concern. And the well-spring of knowledge, the force of concern, have shattered our notions of lordly omnipotence.

So where are we now? All of us? No longer ignorant, no longer arrogant, no longer happy infants with the fatal illusion that we can disregard the realities of nature and supercede its laws.

We are disoriented. We are confused. We are frantically trying to compromise, to please everybody, to devise technological, sociological, and economic ways and means to have our cake and eat it. We are playing desperate games -- in the White House, the government agencies, the Congress, the legislature, the city council. We are refusing to relinquish our childhood comforts. We are evading the question.

The question is one for adults, and one that goes beyond technology or economics or even the physical well-being of ourselves and our children. It is a moral question, an issue of right and wrong.

We must decide, through our appointed officials, whether it is right or wrong, for any reason, to poison the earth and its community of life.

We must decide, if we judge poisoning to be wrong, whether it is less wrong because it is cheaper -- or easier. Whether it is less wrong because we don't yet know, in some cases, just how much poison can be tolerated, for how long, by whom or by what, before the life functions are damaged or destroyed. Whether it is less wrong because almost everybody else is doing it.

We must decide, through our appointed officials, whether it is right to submit to industrial demands that insult our basic values and degrade our environmental birthright.

Whether it is right to allow Montana to descend, with legal sanction, into the filth and misery suffered by other parts of our nation.

Whether it is right to ignore a local equation -- that lowering our state air standards to the national level would be no different than inviting a Montana crime rate or drug-abuse rate commensurate with the national average.

Whether it is right to discard our long years of effort and dedication, our hard-won gains, at the first organized attempt to subvert our accomplishments.

Whether it is right to be so hopeless or so cynical as to believe that all possibility for a viable future has already been lost -- that there's no point in trying to maintain our habitat or improve our chances for continuity as a species.

Now moral questions -- right versus wrong -- are delicate and complex and subject to dispute. Who is to be the arbiter? Whose ideology will prevail? But if, as creatures of intelligence and conscience, we refuse to pose these questions to ourselves, and to arrive at answers in the ethical context, what then is the meaning of the human story? What then is our evolutionary purpose, unless it be to serve as a negative example for some subsequent, more wise, and more self-respecting form of life?

I urge the Board of Health to reaffirm its previous intelligent and conscientious decision on the Montana standards for sulfur dioxide.

Bills Introduced

The Resources and Environment Committee of the Idaho State Senate has introduced two bills of interest to environmentalists.

One would eliminate the state predatory animal fund. Present law provides for \$12,000 to be transferred annually from the Fish and Game fund to the predator fund. The money is used for bounty payments and predatory animal and bird control.

The other bill would prohibit the use of nonreturnable beverage containers. It would require a five cent deposit for each container used for beverages. The prohibition would be against containers used for "any liquor, malt liquor, beer, ale or carbonated soft drink." The law would be effective July 1.

Last year, Oregon passed a similar measure banning sale of nonreturnables - the first in the nation. It is considered the most popular environmental protection bill passed by the Oregon Legislature.

High Country News—5

Friday, Feb. 18, 1972



Coalition Formed

A National Coalition Against Poisoning of Wildlife had its thunder stolen by President Nixon's executive order of Feb. 9. The Coalition had announced a press conference for Friday, Feb. 11, from 11 AM to 3 PM at San Francisco.

In a prepared news release, the Coalition said it was the first of its kind "in the fight against the wave of poisoning which has been visited upon our hapless wildlife species in the western United States. . . ."

The news release said, "The Coalition came into existence because time is running out on our rare and endangered wildlife species - we wish to speak up for those who cannot protest and complain and have to rely on human beings to watch out for them."

The address of the new group is 13 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94111.

More Poison . . .

the predators would increase in numbers, and the losses would likewise increase. In the case of sheep and coyote, this is not a direct cause-and-effect relationship. Instead, both predator and prey seem to fluctuate in synchrony. The reason for the pattern, as alleged by A. G. Etter (U. S. House of Representatives, 1966) is that " . . . it would appear that the take of coyotes has been more an indication of the numbers of sheep on the range rather than of coyotes, simply because the funds to trap and poison are dependent on numbers of assessable sheep."

This situation is further clouded by the fact that in addition to tariffs on meat and wool, the government is asked to support a sheep protection program whose merits are frequently and severely challenged . . . It is illogical for the government to support a private commercial endeavor where the cost of a protection program conflicts with other publicly owned natural resources. . . . When all the polite considerations are stripped from the controversy of livestock depredations, there remains the confrontation of the coyote as the predator and the sheep as prey. All socioeconomic conflicts of other species scale down from this end of the predator-prey spectrum.

To assess this situation, the following facts and positions must be understood and placed in proper perspective: (The publication lists 12 but to conserve space I will list only 6). 1. The cost of predator control for sheep exceeds the on-the-hoof value of the livestock killed by predators. 2. Sheep raising is of two kinds: as an animal crop in diversified farming (usually in the eastern half of the country); and as free-ranging sheep in single crop ranching (in western United States). It is the rancher who requests predator control. 3. Predator loss (including loss from eagles) cannot be accurately determined in most cases. Claims of stockmen that have been verified are usually few. 4. Not all coyotes (or eagles) take sheep. Coyotes scavenge on carcasses of sheep dead or dying from natural causes.

5. The use of herders and of lambing sheds is apparently too expensive for most sheep raisers, but losses could be cut considerably by this change in husbandry. Herding, however, tends to concentrate grazing pressure on restricted areas causing destruction of forage plants and producing trails that cause erosion.

6. Methods of predator control are at times excessive and nonspecific and are leveled against species that are part of a national natural resource complex.

Furthermore, Rep. Glenn M. Anderson in a recent Congressional Record stated "The Department of Interior is not the only poisoner of wildlife. Total sales of 1080 in the United States over the past three years have averaged approximately 2,600 pounds annually. Of this the Department of the Interior used less than 24 pounds - but, I might add, 24 pounds of 1080 diluted in bait is sufficient to kill 73.4 million coyotes." The obvious question is, who uses the other 2,576 pounds of lethal poison?

Therefore, I find Mr. Noh's position and lack of the most obvious alternative extremely disappointing.

The New ...

Photos and text by Thomas M. Baugh

A call from a friend living in the southern San Joaquin Valley of California alerted me to a situation which was staggering in its implications. He had just returned from a rabbit hunting trip in the hilly Temblor range. The Temblor range is located in the southwestern portion of the valley. He stated that he had seen numerous ducks and shore birds as well as other animals trapped in oil sumps. My friend, knowing of my interest in wildlife, felt that I should look the situation over. We made an appointment to meet in Bakersfield on Thursday of the following week.

Between the phone call and the following Thursday, I researched the background and area of the problem. I knew that oil was first extracted from the arid southwest side of the valley during the early part of the present century. Oil sumps and open waste disposal units have long been a part of the oil scene. Putting two and two together, presented a frightening picture of possible large scale wildlife destruction.

The following Thursday I left my home early and drove to Bakersfield where my friend and I discussed the situation over coffee. He mentioned not only seeing ducks and other forms of wildlife in the sumps, but also of finding piles of bird carcasses in the vicinity of the sumps.

An hour of slow driving brought us to the hillside community of Taft, a typical, small, valley community built around the oil industry. The outskirts of the town provide ample evidence of the town's dependence on oil. As you approach from the east, on the highway you are greeted by the oil fields and their attendant derricks and pumps. Some of the sandy washes are stained with oil seepage, streams of black waste coating the arid westside sands.

Driving east from Taft, we began to leave the asphalt road for short excursions on the dirt roads that led into the oil fields. The day was clear and beautiful. The blue sky hung like a dome over the semi-desert land. We came to our first open oil sump.

This sump like all of the others that we visited that day, was simply a rectangular pit gouged from the sandy soil. It was surrounded by a three foot chain link fence. Unfortunately the fence had an opening which was apparently meant to hold the gate. The gate was absent. Approaching the fence, we immediately noticed the recognizable remains of two domestic dogs which had been trapped in the oil, both were dead. They were floating bouyed up by the liquid mess which filled the sump. Dotting the surface of the sump were the remains of several dozen teal, giving mute testimony to this technological recreation of the famous LaBrea Tar Pits. As we surveyed the sump, we wondered at the number of birds and other possible forms of wildlife which were buried beneath the surface. Only by removing the oil-water combination and raking the bottom, would anyone be able to tell the true and devastating story of this pit. Quietly we walked back to the car.

From that first sump we continued to drive east and south until we were brought to a stop by a sludgy mass of oil and water flowing across the dirt road. We left the car and began to investigate. The oil flow appeared to originate in the vicinity of several silver tanks about 300

yards distant. We followed the black creek, walking toward the tanks. There was evidence everywhere of loss of wildlife. Cottontail rabbits trapped in the black ooze, song birds encased in an oily coffin.

We turned back toward Taft and on the way investigated several more sumps. One sump in particular was interesting in that apparently the oil company had made a futile attempt to reduce the wildlife hazard. Wire was strung across the sump from small upright poles around the perimeter. From the wire fluttered pieces of colored cloth. There were no ducks on this sump, however, a cursory check of the perimeter indicated that small birds of several different species were still falling prey to this nightmare of oil and water.

Continuing east, we encountered yet another sump. The surface was clean, too clean in fact to be believable. We walked around the perimeter levee and came upon a long row of carcasses of Teal and small birds. Someone had removed them from the sump. The oil soaked and coated remains of the birds left no doubt concerning their origin.

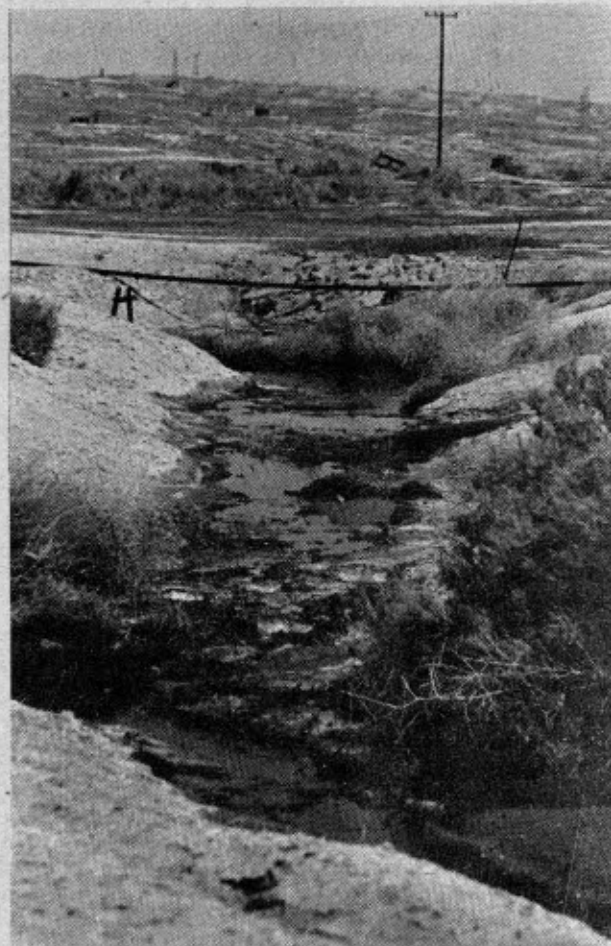
On the highway we came upon the evidence of recent oil spillage. The oil had escaped from a pipe line on the hill, possibly through a break, and flowed down to a culvert. Here it passed under the highway through the culvert to continue down the sandy wash. The oil had hardened in some places but in others had remained in a soft, tacky state. In one of these tar pools I found the relatively fresh carcass of a cottontail rabbit as well as the feathered remains of several species of small birds.

As we drove back to Taft for lunch, we considered what we had seen. In our short morning drive we had counted hundreds of carcasses representing many species of wildlife. In addition it was apparent that the oil companies were aware of the problem and had attempted to take some remedial action. It was also apparent that a few pieces of cloth, however well meant, were not going to make the open sumps and streams safe for wildlife.

During lunch we decided to investigate the area between Taft and Maricopa. Driving south from Taft we crossed many streams of waste oil and water flowing down eroded gullies. We stopped to investigate these streams and again found evidence of wildlife loss in the presence of the remains of small bird life.

Our explorations on the west side of Taft only reaffirmed our earlier observations. Wildlife in large numbers was being trapped and poisoned by the open disposal methods utilized by the oil companies.

During the afternoon we visited an area known as the Bellridge Complex. This area shows indications of recent oil development or possibly, redevelopment. One of the largest streams of waste oil and water runs through the hilly draws of Bellridge. This stream originates in the foothills of the Temblor range and flows toward the lowlands through Buena Vista Valley. Buena Vista Valley is presently the center of a study of the San Joaquin Valley Kit Fox. This study is being conducted through the auspices of the California Department of Fish and Game. The San Joaquin Valley Kit Fox is an endangered species. We followed this particular oil



Oily, gooey messes traverse the draws, trapping tumbleweeds, birds and animals alike.



stream on foot for several miles. Along the entire course of our hike we discovered the remains of the wildlife of the area. I remember one place in particular where the stream of oil laden water broadened and spread out in a miniature valley. The rabbits were mired in the sticky substance. Some of them were mere skeletal remains, others had only recently died. In the oil, we also found the remains of over a hundred small birds including many doves. Moving back from the oil stream and checking in and under the tumbleweed, we found many more casualties.

Relatively close to the Bellridge Complex are a series of oil impoundments known as percolation basins. These basins are supposed to function as separating devices to aid in the removal of the oil residue from the water. The several percolation basins we visited were arranged in a series of impoundments. The impoundments begin on the higher levels of a slope and drop in steps downward from one basin to the next. Pipes arranged in the bottom of the ponds are supposed to draw off the water which settles out of the oil and to the bottom of the pond. The oil residue is then vacuumed from the top and returned for processing. Theoretically this process should provide the lower impoundments with increasingly purer water. We drove past five basins filled with oily water and it was only at the last or sixth basin that the substance it contained appeared to have any resemblance to water. Even at this last basin an oily film was building up around the perimeter strongly concentrating in the corners of the impoundment. Beautiful Avocets were showing evidence of nesting on the levees of all of the lower basins.

It was late afternoon by the time we had checked the percolation basins and time to move
(Continued on page 7)



The remains of a hare, trapped in the new tar pits.

...Tar Pits

back to Taft. On the way back to town we stopped frequently along the roadside to check pools of oil which appeared to be randomly spreading out from the oil tanks dotting the roadside. It was the same picture repeated again and again. Here a cottontail, there a shore bird, a kangaroo rat so recently dead that the process of decay had hardly begun. One oil stream showed indication of a detergent additive as it spilled from a culvert pipe into a foaming mass below the culvert. Beyond the foam, circled by oily residue, floating on its back, was the raptorial form of what appeared to be a Red-Shouldered Hawk.

On the drive back to my home in Visalia, I tried to evaluate the enormity of what I had seen. The implications of the situation were disturbing.

In order to comprehend what is taking place in the southern San Joaquin Valley, it is necessary to understand a little of the history and geography of the area. The aboriginal inhabitants of this portion of the valley knew it as the home of multitudes of wildlife. Herds of Tule elk and antelope roamed the valley floor, as well as several species of deer. Wild game abounded throughout the region. On the westside, in the lowest portion of the valley, a system of lakes and waterways extended north for miles. The famous, and now almost non-existent Tulare and Buena Vista Lakes were a major part of this system. Yearly, the melting snows of the southern Sierra Nevada range replenished these vast waterways. And yearly, the annual north-south migrations of waterfowl darkened the valley skies in their passage.

The years of wildlife plenty were rapidly brought to a close by the arrival of another migrant, European man. The herbivorous game animals and their attendant predators were destroyed in vast numbers to be replaced by cattle, horses and sheep. The arrival of extensive agriculture sounded the death knell for a majority of the migratory waterfowl. The shape of the valley surface was rapidly changing. Patch-quilt networks of carefully tended fields replaced the indigenous flora.

As agriculture took hold, it became necessary to control the yearly rampage of the Kern, Kaweah and Kings rivers. These giants of the West were partially tamed. Land once inundated by the yearly runoff was slowly reclaimed and put to the plow. The valley, because of its climate and soil was found to be an ideal place for cotton. More land was reclaimed and felt the bite of the steel plow. The vast water system was contained within levees and its resource used to irrigate the blossoming agricultural lands.

The antelope were no more. The grizzly bear

to Taft and Maricopa and from there, east to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada range.

This huge expanse of territory is basically arid land. Much of it is badly overgrazed by flocks of hungry sheep. It is a place of strong winds and dust clouds, of blowing sand and bouncing tumbleweed and oil. A very conservative estimate places the number of open oil sumps within the area at approximately 1,500. These open bodies of polluted fluid range in size from that of a living room to the percolation basins, some of which are acres in extent. An aerial view shows them dotting the landscape and from the air they look more like water than water itself. A more ideal trap for high-flying wildfowl could not have been purposely devised.

To compound the situation it should be noted that two Federal wildlife sanctuaries have been established in recent years, in dangerously close proximity to the oil fields. The Pixley Wildlife Refuge is located several miles north of the Tulare and Kern County line. To the south, in Kern County, is the larger of the two sanctuaries, the Kern Wildlife Refuge aggregating some 10,000 acres. Both of these refuges were established to provide a resting place for migratory waterfowl. They play host as well, to numbers of other wild creatures. Both the Kern and Pixley refuges were placed within the traditional Pacific Flyway. The oil fields and their deceptively attractive sumps and basins are also located in this flyway.

When one combines oil sumps and basins with the Pacific Flyway, and then adds to that formula a period of approximately 60 years of oil development, the total loss of wildlife becomes uncountable. Another disturbing problem is the fact that the San Joaquin Valley Kit Fox, as has already been mentioned, is attempting to hold its own in a rapidly depleted range. This range is encompassed by the oil fields. I had seen and photographed domestic dogs trapped in the oil; why not the Kit Fox?

An analysis of the situation indicates several major areas of concern. First and foremost is the existence of the open sumps and percolation basins. They pose a demonstrable threat to wildlife of many species. They appear to be particularly attractive to migratory waterfowl and shore birds. The evidence indicates that the sumps have been, and continue to be a wildlife hazard of the first order.

The second major concern is the existence of running streams of oily water which pour from the pumping and storage locations to flow down to the lower levels of the valley. These streams function both as a direct entrapment and a poisoner of wildlife. They seem to exact a particularly high toll of small birds and rodents.

these modern age tar pits occur. What must the wildlife toll and ecological damage amount to on a worldwide scale? Is there any way to compute the degree of such a disaster? Something of this nature makes the Santa Barbara channel oil spill and the Torrey Canyon look like drops in the proverbial bucket.

Both the problem and an awareness of the problem exist. Unfortunately open oil sumps have become part of the landscape, and are thus not as dramatic a threat to the environment as a massive oil spill at sea. Dramatic or not, wildlife in significant numbers are being lost in these sumps and a solution to this problem must be found in the near future.



..Noted & Quoted..

"As an American vitally interested in the environment, I wouldn't trade you one level-headed, serious-minded, service-oriented Boy Scout for all the publicity-seeking environmental dilettantes the news media can dig up between now and Halloween." There are those "prominent Americans who believe that we must achieve zero population overnight, in every aspect of the environment, in every area of the country. They demand the most extreme measures imaginable, even if such a program means economic chaos and the pigeonholing of every other worthwhile project on the government agenda."

Spiro T. Agnew
Vice President of the United States
Speaking to Boy Scouts of America, New York City

"The environment has paid too high a price for the development of this country. In years gone by it was difficult to arouse any interest in pollution abatement even though the sanitary engineer repeatedly and over too many years tried to bring into focus and to the attention of the public, and both federal and local government the abuses and the seriousness of these abuses to man and the total community. The public is now aroused and aware of the seriousness of the situation and will gladly make sacrifices to win the battle if the public does not lose its confidence in government at all levels and its trust in the honesty and competency of the system that makes decisions and generates the laws and regulations."

From THE DIPLOMATE
The American Academy of Environmental Engineers



Waste ponds and pools of oil become death traps for waterfowl, song birds and small animals. Such traps can be found in conjunction with almost any oil field development throughout the West.

was gone. The Tule elk were restricted to a small, protected portion of their range and eventually contained on a refuge near the town of Tupman. The vast flocks of geese, ducks and shore birds depleted by man's predation and a vanishing habitat were reduced pitifully. The days of nature's multitudes had come to an end.

Around 1910 another treasure of nature was discovered in the southern San Joaquin Valley. It was a treasure which has become one of the mainstays of an industrial nation — oil. The development of the oil industry in the southern San Joaquin parallels the increasing national and international need for this substance. Today, in 1971, the exploited portion of the oil fields stretch, in a roughly boomerang shape, from near the town of Coalinga in the northwest, south

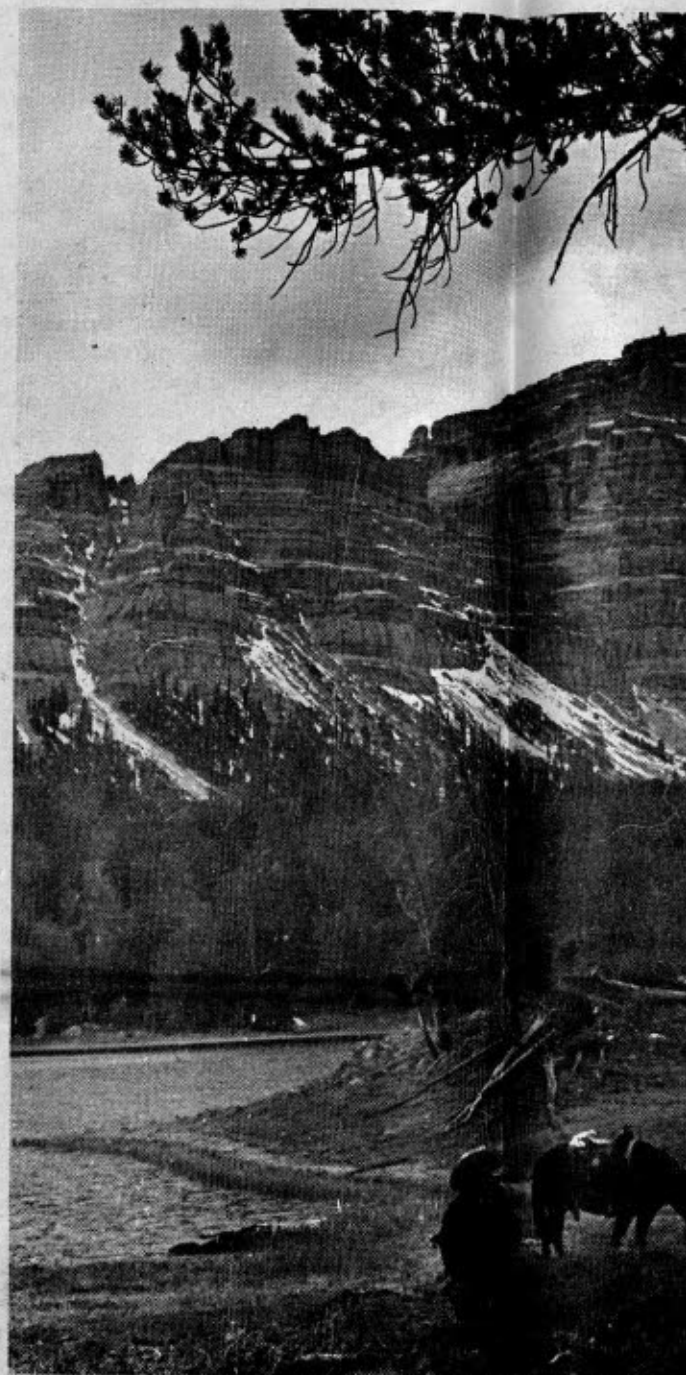
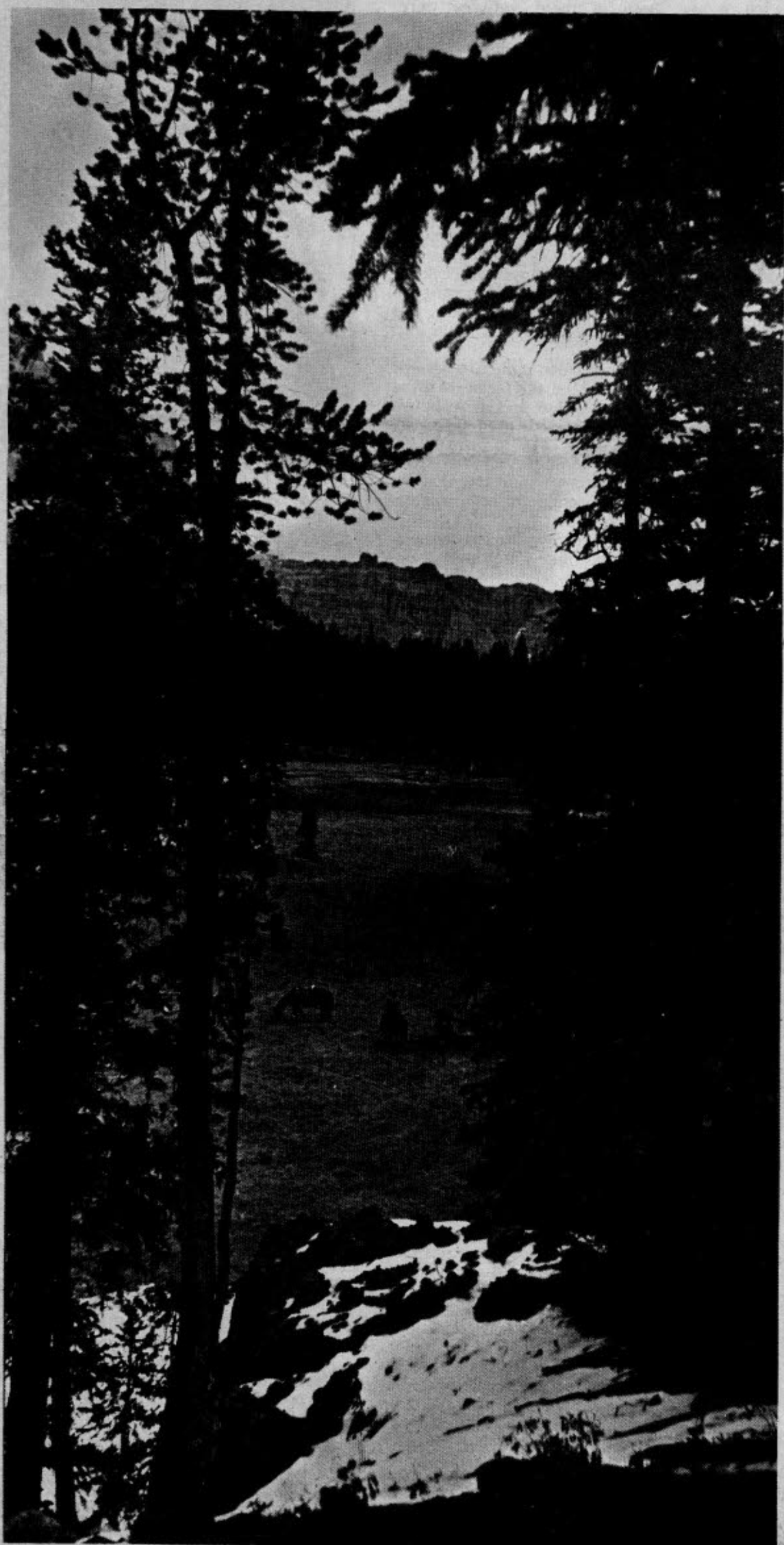
The third major concern is of course, the possibility of the irreparable damage which may be occurring to endangered species. As has been noted, at least one such species exists within the area encompassed by the oil fields.

A final concern which seems almost minor in comparison, is the damage which has already occurred and continues to occur to the ecology and geography of the area. The westside has been badly hit by the ravages of human exploitation. Hillsides suffering from the erosion caused by overgrazing are now stained by oil waste.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this problem is the fact that it is in no way a local phenomenon. Throughout the United States, throughout the world, wherever oil is found,

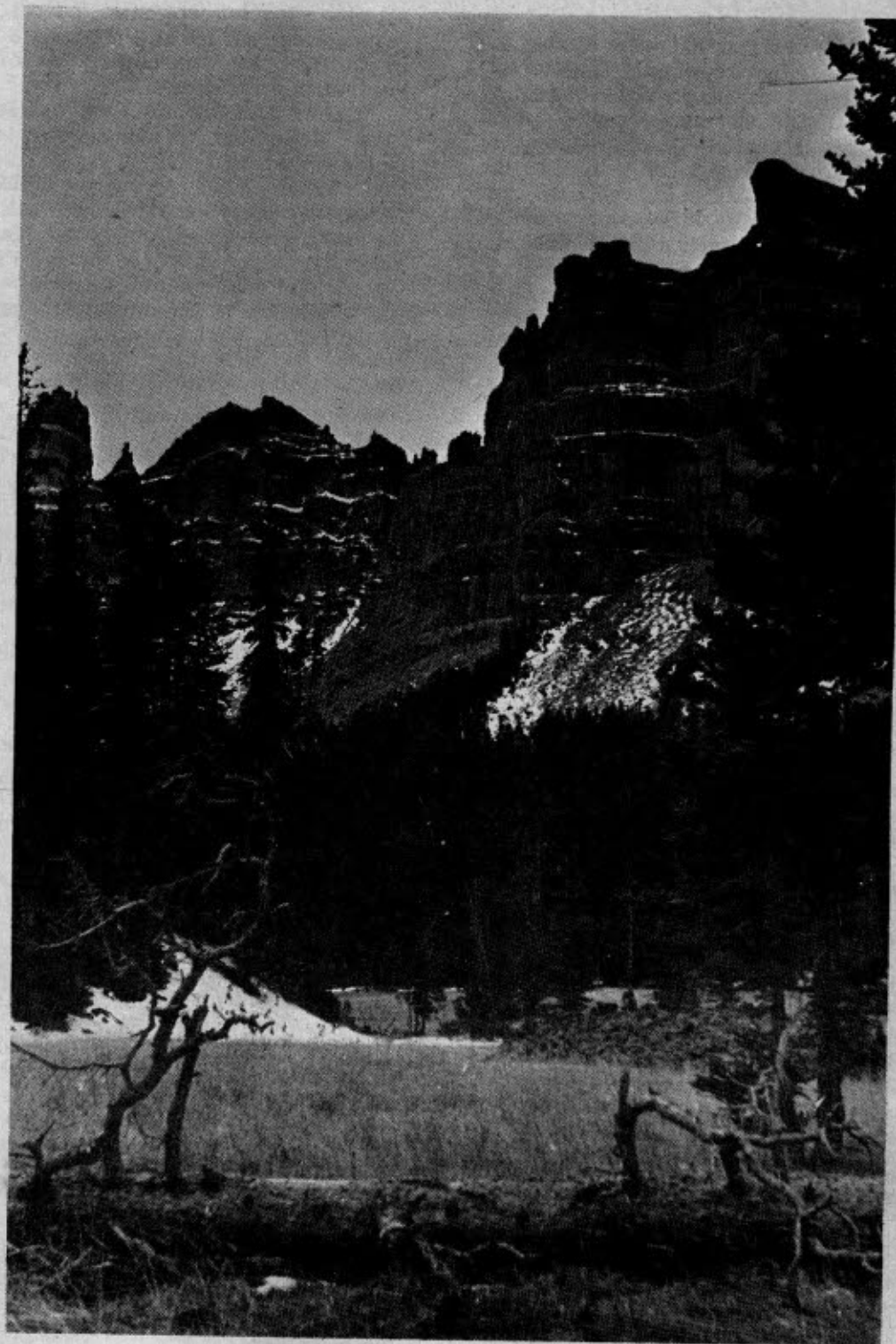
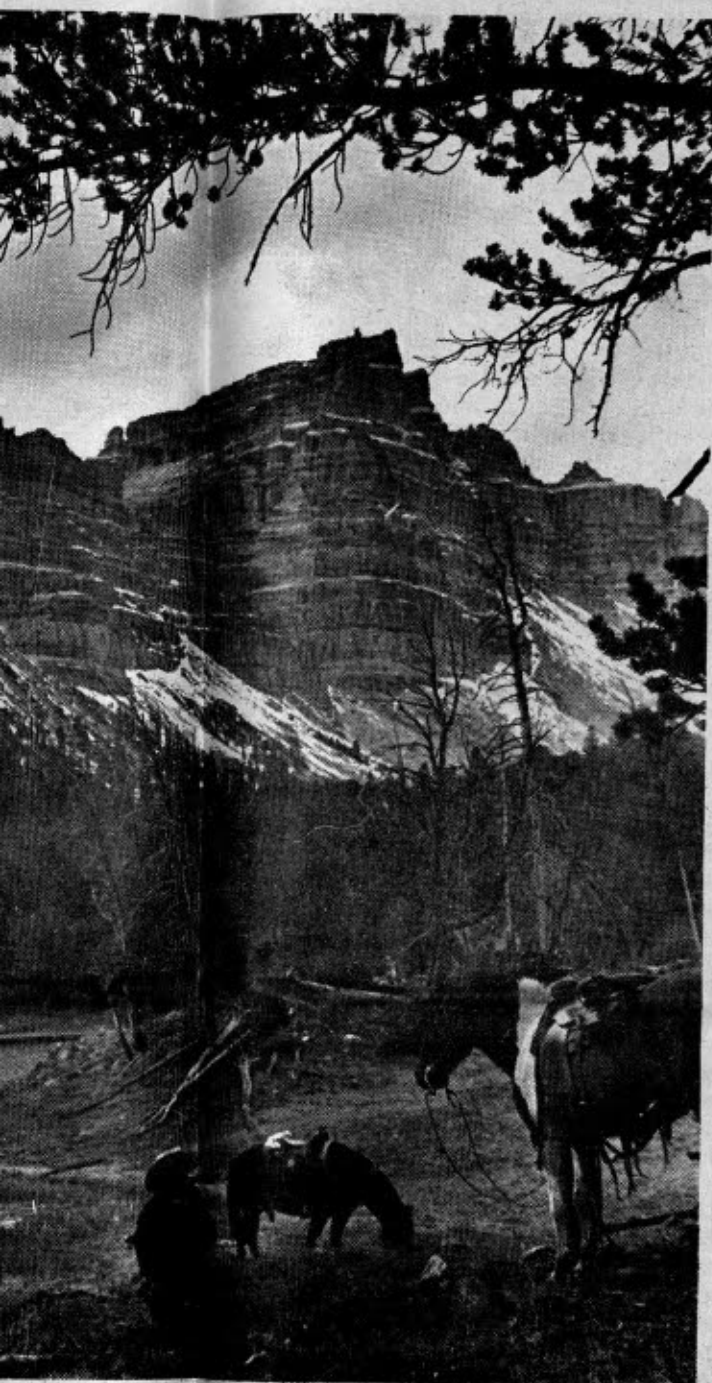
A NEW WILDERNESS

The Washakie Wilderness, a 721,000-acre area through which John Colter once tramped, has cleared one of its last hurdles. This great wilderness at the end of the Absaroka Mountain Range in Wyoming has been long in coming to fruition. Now, it has passed both House and Senate. But the last hurdle has yet to be accomplished — the inclusion of the DuNoir Basins, shown here, in the final conference agreement. The Senate did not include this 30,000-acre area because of tie-hack timbering done years ago. The House did not concur, saying man's intrusion had not substantially altered the greater area, and that it should hereafter be held inviolate. Conservationists are hopeful that the House version will prevail.



Photos by Keith Becker

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10—High Country News
Friday, Feb. 18, 1972

Nixon Nixes Clear-cut Ban

by Tom Bell

The Nixon administration went against the advice of its own environmental experts and refused to sign an executive order regulating clear-cutting. The storms of protest which resulted from uncontrolled clear-cutting of public forests have been to no avail. As the WASHINGTON STAR observed, the administration "apparently has bowed to timber industry pressure." It comes at a time when Mr. Nixon stands for re-election.

A timber industry spokesman said in a taped interview after rejection of the order that they thought Mr. Nixon would be acting against his interests to issue such an order in an election year. The timber industry is a notoriously big giver to Republican campaign coffers.

The executive order (see accompanying text) had been worked out by the Council on Environmental Quality. The Council had solicited the advice of a number of forestry school and natural resource department deans in formulating the policy. The order was backed by CEQ Chairman Russell Train and Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton. It was opposed by Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz.

Chief of the Forest Service Edward P. Cliff commented that the executive order would merely have reiterated what Forest Service rules now provide anyway. However, he also agreed that some of the rules are not being followed on some of the national forests. The proposed executive order would have forced better compliance.

The forest products industry was able to do what the livestock industry found impossible. The clear-cutting executive order was quashed. It was to have been announced at the same time as the ban on predator poisoning.

In the wake of that, Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming has served notice that he will probe the decision-making processes that led to the killing of the executive order.

McGee, who is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environmental and Consumer Protection and a member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee which handles funding of the U. S. Forest Service, said at a news conference later that Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, in particular, "will have some questions to answer about the proposed Executive Order when he appears for budget hearings this year."

McGee's remarks came at a news conference held jointly with the Sierra Club to make publication of the Sierra Club's Battle book Clearcut, which urged passage of McGee's bill calling for creation of an independent com-

mission to investigate federal timber management policies and imposing a two-year moratorium on clearcutting while the investigation is underway.

"One of the questions I will ask Secretary Butz," McGee said, "is whether or not it is true, as I have been told, that it was on his initiative that timber industry representatives from across the country were called to Washington for the meeting that led so quickly to the death of the Executive Order proposed by the President's Council on Environmental Quality."

McGee said he was interested in probing the processes of decision-making which "can provide for such decisive, almost overnight, action to scrap an important policy which was long in preparation."

"For my own part, I will want to know who else was consulted and whose judgment, other than the industry's, was considered prior to the decision to discard the clearcutting policy order," added the Senator. "These questions bear great importance, for the Department of Agriculture is asking this year for total budget authority in excess of \$11 billion. Forest Service expenditures alone will exceed \$600 million."

"Clearly, Congress has an obligation to ascertain that the administration of this vast amount of public money is carried forward in a responsible manner."

James R. Turnbull, executive vice president of the National Forest Products Association, said that industry representatives had told Administration officials that the order would drastically reduce the Forest Service's ability to sell timber from the national forests when those sales are already "seriously impaired."

Meanwhile, the Western Wood Products Association has since announced that lumber production for 1971 in the 12 western states was about 7 per cent above 1970. About 1 billion board feet more was cut in 1971 than 1970.

Turnbull said the Association had not been able to obtain a copy of the report submitted by the forestry school deans. But he said "it was our understanding that the reports were unanimously favorable (to clear-cutting) . . ."

Lee Talbot of CEQ said the report pointed out that "while clear-cutting is a valuable silvicultural tool under some conditions, it can be and has been misused, and that there are criteria which must be observed if it is to have a favorable rather than unfavorable impact on timber production and all other environmental considerations."

President Nixon's Task Force on Softwood Lumber and Plywood which submitted its report in June, 1970, said, "... it is estimated that annual demand for softwood timber, consistent

with the achievement of the housing goals, would be about 11 billion board feet higher by 1974 than it was in 1969. Even if the Forest Service is authorized to move ahead promptly with a program for greater intensity of management, with due regard to environmental objectives, the increase in the timber harvest from national forests for 1974 would be not much over 2 billion board feet."

The Task Force recommended that, "The Forest Service should be encouraged to push ahead with the development and implementation of programs to increase timber yields from the national forests. A goal of about 7 billion board foot annual increase in timber harvest from the national forests by 1978 is believed to be attainable and consistent with other objectives of forest management."

Those close to the scene say the recommendations of the Task Force are still in effect.

Executive Order

The following is the complete text of the proposed Presidential Executive Order on clear-cutting. The draft statement was dated Jan. 7, 1972. It was entitled "Environmental Guidelines for Timber Harvesting on the Public Lands."

We believe our readers should see the full text so that they might judge for themselves the effects which would have occurred had the order been signed.

The draft reads: By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and in furtherance of the purpose and policy of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528), it is ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The Federal Government shall provide leadership in the development and application of environmentally sound forest management practices. The Government shall ensure that environmental considerations are weighed fully in all decisions made on the public timber lands, in order to produce a high sustained yield of goods and services without harm to the long-term environmental and resource values of those lands. It shall formulate and maintain management plans with full public review, determining the range of multiple uses to be made of public timber lands consistent with protection of those values.

Section 2. Definitions. As used in this order the term:

(a) "Public timber lands" means all lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior, which produce or are capable of producing timber in commercial quantities and are not withdrawn from timber harvesting by statute or administrative regulation.

(b) "Respective Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public timber lands under the jurisdiction of each.

(c) "Clear-cutting" means any method of timber harvesting by which all or substantially all timber is removed from the harvest area at one time: **Provided**, that it does not include methods of even-age management by which a significant amount of timber is maintained over the harvest area at all times.

Section 3. Limitations on the Use of Clear-cutting.

(a) In order to ensure that timber harvesting on the public timber lands will be consistent with maintenance and enhancement of the environmental and resource values of those lands, and except for limited experimental and research purposes not associated with commercial timber sale, the respective Secretary shall not permit clear-cutting on public timber lands except under the following conditions:

(1) Clear-cutting for the particular tree species and specific area in question must have a silvicultural justification.

(2) There will be no clear-cutting in areas of outstanding scenic beauty, nor in areas where clear-cutting would adversely affect existing or projected intensive recreational use or critical wildlife habitat.

(3) Clear-cutting will not be used on sites where slope, elevation, and soil type, considered together, indicate severe erosion may result.

(4) No area will be clear-cut unless there is assurance that the area can be regenerated promptly.

(b) If the conditions of (a) (1)-(4) have been met, clear-cutting in the particular area will be further constrained by the following limitations:

(1) The area to be clear-cut will be kept to a size that will minimize harm to the biota, in-

(Continued on page 11)



The proposed executive order on clear-cutting said, "There will be no clear-cutting in areas of outstanding scenic beauty, nor in areas where clear-cutting would adversely affect existing or projected intensive recreational use or critical wildlife habitat." This particular area is situated along the Continental Divide in Wyoming's Teton Forest. The stream at lower left drains into the Gros Ventre River and thence into the Snake River in Jackson Hole. The mountains in the background are in the newly created Washakie Wilderness Area. The area now cut asunder in this photo was once a part of the summer range of a large and thriving elk herd. The executive order would have prevented the desecration of such areas as this in any future timbering operations.

Executive Order . . .

cluding diversity of species, and will maximize total resource management benefits.

(2) To minimize aesthetic impact, clear-cut areas will where possible be shaped to blend with the landscape.

(3) Adequate precautions will be taken to assure protection of water quality and biological productivity in neighboring streams and lakes.

(4) Adequate attention will be given to the impact of road construction which would be necessitated by the timber harvest.

(c) The respective Secretary shall develop and make available to the public within one year regulations or guidelines giving further detail to the restrictions in subsection (a) and (b). These

followed and resources adequately protected, and make available sufficient trained personnel to carry out this responsibility.

(3) Encourage the development and use of new technology for removal of wood, including skyline, balloon, and helicopter methods.

(4) Complete as soon as possible the process now underway of developing and adopting management plans for all appropriate units of the public timber lands. These management plans shall classify the various parts of each management unit, specifying the types of uses permitted in each part within the framework of multiple use. The plans shall be revised from time to time as appropriate. All plans, including

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Game Range Full

Severe winter storms which moved across Yellowstone National Park have caused large numbers of animals to move onto the northern winter range along the Lamar and Yellowstone Rivers in the northeast portion of the park. Such movement has resulted in an outstanding opportunity for visitors traveling the road from Gardiner to Cooke City, Montana, to view the wildlife from the comfort of their vehicles.

The winter range supports six species of grazing animals which include elk, deer, bighorn sheep, moose, pronghorn antelope and bison. Elk and bighorn may be observed throughout the area while deer and pronghorn are best observed between Mammoth and Gardiner. Moose and bison are readily seen between Tower Junction and Cooke City.

The winter range is equally important to scavengers and predators who rely upon the carrion from the larger animals for food. Coyotes and ravens are readily seen throughout the area. The golden and bald eagle are often observed though more difficult to spot. Other predators present, though rarely seen, are the cougar and gray wolf. The grazing animals which die during the winter or are weakened to the point they are easily killed by predators, provide the necessary food to maintain the population of predators and scavengers. Therefore, it is necessary and desirable for some of the grazers to die each winter. One must die so that another may live. This relationship between the grazers and their predators has existed for thousands of years and is maintained in Yellowstone where the objective in land use is to retain the natural environment. Yellowstone is unique in that in no other place in the world can one find all the previously named animals still existing together in a wild, free ranging natural community.

Mornings and evenings are the best times for viewing wildlife. Binoculars and cameras add to viewing enjoyment. Visitors are encouraged to remain in their cars. Attempts to approach wildlife are not only dangerous, but result in frightening animals from roadside areas, thereby reducing opportunities for the next visitor.

Gas, food, and lodging are available in both Gardiner and Cooke City. Information on road conditions may be obtained from the Ranger Office in Yellowstone National Park. Visitors are reminded that snowmobiles are permitted only on the unplowed roads in the park.



Clear-cutting on Wyoming's Medicine Bow National Forest

regulations shall reflect the differences among the forest cover types in soil, elevation, geography, climate, and ecology.

Section 4. Criteria for Timber Harvesting.

(a) In furtherance of the policy of this order, the respective Secretary shall issue or revise regulations within one year as necessary to ensure application of the following criteria to all timber harvesting on the public timber lands:

(1) All timber sale contracts will prescribe cutting methods and will contain standards and specifications for related operations, including site preparation, road building, slash disposal, use of machinery, timber removal, and site treatment. Each contract will require the posting of a performance bond in an amount sufficient to ensure restoration of the area in the event the contract is not followed: **Provided**, that the respective Secretary may exempt from the requirements of this paragraph classes of sales that, because of small size, will have no significant effect on environmental or resource values.

(2) Timber sale contracts will contain detailed road building specifications, covering road type, location, and maintenance.

(3) Timber sale contracts will require maximum realization of merchantable timber and reduction of the amount destroyed as slash or otherwise wasted.

(4) The cutting method prescribed in each timber sale contract will be appropriate to the particular species and tract, taking into account any peculiar characteristics of the tract.

(5) Cutting, skidding, or yarding will be carefully controlled adjacent to streams or lakes. To prevent damage to water quality, fish, and wildlife, a vegetative protective strip will be maintained adjacent to streams and lakes. The width and other characteristics of the strip will be determined by local conditions and must be sufficient to ensure sustained protection of the waters.

(6) Timber sale planning procedures will make adequate provision for obtaining and taking into account the views of citizens.

(7) Purchasers who have willfully failed to perform contract obligations, causing significant environmental or resource damage, will be debarred from further purchases for an appropriate period.

(b) The respective Secretary shall:

(1) Review the organization of his land management agencies to assure that harvest decisions are made by qualified personnel. If necessary to accomplish this goal, more experienced personnel will be assigned to the field level.

(2) Strengthen timber sale administration and inspection procedures and intensity, in order to ensure that contract requirements are

use classifications, shall be based on the importance of maintaining and enhancing the various individual forest ecosystems taking into consideration the importance of their role in the hydrological cycle and in the production of wildlife, forage, and timber; and on aesthetic and recreational considerations. In developing and adopting management plans, the respective Secretary shall draw upon all relevant disciplines and all available sources of information, and make adequate provision for obtaining and taking into account the views of citizens.

(5) Identify within 18 months fragile areas that are unable to withstand timber harvesting or other intensive uses without significant environmental or resource damage. Once identified, these areas shall be protected, to the extent permitted by law, until methods are developed that will permit use without significant damage.



The proposed executive order also said, "Timber sale contracts will require maximum realization of merchantable timber and reduction of the amount destroyed as slash or otherwise wasted." Here, on Wyoming's Teton Forest, great rows of whole trees were piled for eventual burning.

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Yellowstone National Park

Master Plan and Wilderness Proposal

by Verne Huser

Frankly, I'm impressed with the work of the Master Plan Advisory Team. Most of them I met several summers ago on a Barker-Ewing float trip in Grand Teton National Park, when—as part of their survey of the park—the members floated the Snake River at dusk. During the past few years I have grown impatient at the slow work of this group and wondered if they were merely putting the public off.

Now I know what a thorough job they did. They have faced basic issues, and they have made far-reaching recommendations. They have developed what I consider to be a sound philosophy. If it can be implemented, we may yet save the parks from the people who use them too heavily, save them for future as well as present generations. But even in saying this, I am merely parroting the advisory team.

In the prologue to the Yellowstone Master Plan, the advisory team said, "As a monument to man's earliest realization that the natural wonders of the planet are perishable, Yellowstone, the first national park, is a spiritual as well as natural landmark in the relationship between Americans and the land in which they live." The prologue goes a step further in saying that, "If Yellowstone is to survive the next 100 years, a new equilibrium must be achieved—the irreplaceable park resources must be weighed against the human impact upon them and a new balance struck. To this end the master plan speaks."

The purpose of Yellowstone National Park, as the advisory team sees it today, is "To perpetuate the natural ecosystems within the park in as near pristine conditions as possible for their inspirational, educational, cultural, and scientific values for this and future generations." This may seem a bit ambiguous at first glance, even weak with the as near as possible wording. But I believe any ambiguity is cleared up by the statement (on page 16) that, "The public must be made to recognize that there is a limit to the ability of the park to withstand open-ended overnight use. Parks are not for people, if it means that public use will be permitted to the point that park values are destroyed."

A further indication of the Park Service's awareness of serious problems of over-use and of their willingness to take positive steps to try to solve the problems is the statement on page 14: "Recognizing that we may have already come too far, a moratorium on stopgap expansion has been declared. The master plan calls for holding the line on accommodations and support services in the park and thoroughly considering the alternatives . . . All planning for public use of national parks must give priority to the preservation and maintenance of the natural values for which each park was established."

The master plan calls for continued regional planning with all agencies that administer the public lands. It calls for an integrated solid waste disposal plan on the regional level and for a comprehensive transportation plan; it calls for management guidelines for rare and endangered species (some of which are still persecuted in states surrounding and adjacent to Yellowstone National Park).

Even the tradition of catching and killing fish is being questioned in light of the importance of sustaining the integrity of the national ecosystem, and the catch-and-release concept is growing. The removal of tourist accommodations and services at West Thumb and Fishing Bridge is recommended as well as turning the Old Faithful area into a scenic day-use area, phasing out all overnight accommodations—how's that for breaking tradition?

"The Service must reject the bigger-and-better-road syndrome," says the master plan. "Any major expansion . . . will be at the expense of the park resource." The answer, suggests the advisory team, is to develop alternate methods of transportation within the park "evolving supplemental interpretive 'vehicles' rather than developing new and better roads." In other words, develop some sort of mass transit system that will enable park visitors to leave their cars outside the park.

This concept goes hand-in-hand with the proposed ceiling on tourist accommodations ("overnight accommodations will not exceed an aggregate total of 8300 pillow count"), and the encouragement of "the PROPER development of its peripheral gateway towns as primary visitor hubs, and the management of the surrounding national forests as multi-use forests."

Further, "ultimately freed from having to provide the mass terminal creature-comfort facilities and services within its prime resource zone, Yellowstone National Park can begin to

expand its interpretive, educational, and environmental functions." This seems to suggest the ultimate phasing out of tourist accommodations and amusements in the park, but this is nowhere spelled out. I personally would like to see the end of all such development within the park, however impractical that may seem at present. In my mind, this omission is one of the few weaknesses of the master plan.

And while I'm not too sold on the expansion of interpretive, educational, and environmental functions of the park—which, in my mind, suggests further development at the expense of the resource—still this may be the only practical way to handle the projected visitor increase, which could easily double in the next ten years. If such expansion destroys the park experience, then we should move toward a visitor ceiling, and as much as I'd hate to see a reservation system for visiting Yellowstone, we may come to that if we fail to curb our population growth.

Another concept I disagree with is the wilderness threshold community, which embraces the practice of using buffer zones in the wilderness proposal. The in-park developments at Lake Village and Grant Village are based on "the supposition that if we truly want to get the visitor off the road and into the park, we must create people-oriented or social spaces to accommodate him." Perhaps this seems a practical answer, but to me it is a perpetuation of development in the park that erodes rather than enhances park values.

The suggestion by the advisory team that "the Service must come to terms with the legitimacy of the recreational vehicle as the basis for the traditional camping experience," is a bold and essential move. The modern campers and trailers that take up more space in the park every year and bring into the park every modern convenience, in my opinion, do not belong in the park as a home away from home. Such vehicles detract from the park experience for others and insulate the users from Thoreau's "true recreation," that to some extent the national park idea may have been based upon. (Thoreau suggested in 1858 that "we have our national preserves in which the bear and the panther may still exist for inspiration and our true recreation." Certainly, several of the men who sat around the campfire at the junction where the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers join to form the Madison and developed the national park idea were familiar with Thoreau's writings, as were numerous members of Congress who passed the bills establishing Yellowstone National Park).

The advisory team has not outlawed vehicle campers; they have merely suggested that the concept be examined. The master plan calls for research in several areas: mass transportation possibilities, carrying capacity for both back-country and developed areas, waste disposal and water treatment systems, the role of wildfire in the park's ecology, the behavioral sciences as well as the natural sciences.

Restoration of the natural regime becomes more and more important as man's impact upon the park increases. "As a natural area, Yellowstone should be a place where all the resources in a wild land environment are subject to minimal management," says the Advisory Team, and "fire must ultimately be re-introduced into the environment" as "insect populations should be allowed to play their natural role in the park environment," and the artificial relationship between "bears and man should be eliminated."

One resource management concept that I must take exception to concerns the fishery resource: I agree that it should be managed toward the goal of preserving native fish populations, but I disagree that high-quality angling should be a goal. Fishing is a consumptive use in the park that has become traditional, but is it really part of what should be the park picture? Perhaps it is, but I have my doubts.

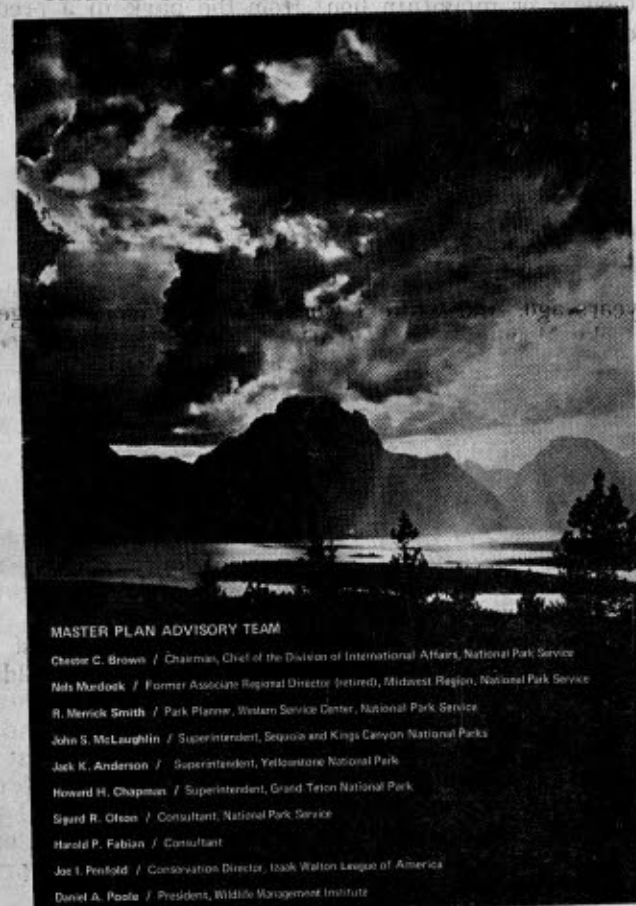
And on the same level, while marina facilities in the park have been frozen at present levels, I question the existence of marinas within a national park. Perhaps an extreme position, but certainly power boats have no place in a national park, tradition be damned. Pleasure boating outside national parks—fine, but they are not part of the natural values of the park and should, in my opinion, be phased out, the sooner the better.

(And for that matter, snowmobiles could also be phased out if the Park Service developed—as an alternate mass transit system—a raised monorail system, that could operate throughout the year without snow removal problems or expense). It is my considered opinion that motorized recreational vehicles do not belong in national parks.

I have dwelled in such detail on the Yellowstone Master Plan that perhaps I should say less about the wilderness proposal. Actually, many of the concepts incorporated in the wilderness proposal are practical applications of the philosophy expressed in the master plan. Indeed, recognizing that "Parks do not exist in a vacuum," the Park Service has made a practice of developing a master plan "to guide the use, development, interpretation, and preservation of each particular park."

As early as 1963—a year before the Wilderness Act became law—the National Park Service and the U. S. Forest Service formalized a joint effort to "analyze the resources and visitor needs and develop cooperative plans for the accommodation of these requirements which will best insure the achievement of both of our missions."

Six classes of land use were set up as follows: Class I, high density recreation areas (visitor accommodations, administrative facilities, etc.); Class II, general outdoor recreation areas (formal campgrounds, roads, etc.); Class III, natural environment areas (used for preservation, interpretation, management of irreplaceable resources such as motor nature trails, research facilities overlooks, nature trails, buffer zones, informal picnic sites); Class IV, outstanding nature areas (unique natural features such as Old Faithful or the Yellowstone Canyon); Class V, primitive areas (pristine and undisturbed by man, usually those areas designated for wilderness protection); and Class VI, historic and cultural areas (such as Cades Cove in the Smokies or the Cunningham Cabin in Grand Teton).



MASTER PLAN ADVISORY TEAM

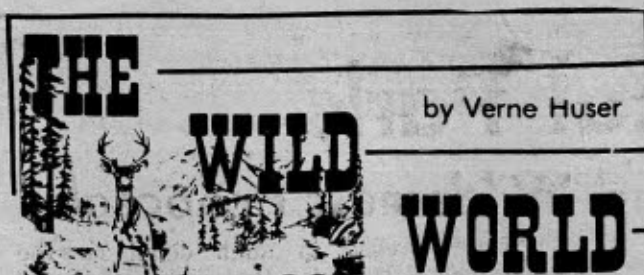
Chas. C. Brown / Chairman, Chief of the Division of International Affairs, National Park Service
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Jack K. Anderson / Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park
Howard H. Chapman / Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park
Seymour R. Olson / Consultant, National Park Service
Harold P. Fabian / Consultant
Joe I. Penfold / Conservation Director, Isaac Walton League of America
Daniel A. Poole / President, Wildlife Management Institute

I argue most often with class III and class IV designations; much of what I would like to see given wilderness protection is omitted through minor technicalities. A statement in the Yellowstone Wilderness Study says, "It is a fundamental tenet of national park policy . . . that where other uses have impaired wilderness values, the national parks and monuments are managed to restore the wilderness character of these areas by the removal of adverse uses."

If this be true, most Class IV land could be included in the wilderness proposal, and even some Class III could qualify if the developments were removed. Of course, many parks created in recent years have had adverse uses that we must accept, at least temporarily. This is also the case in Yellowstone where early management mistakes have created problems that we are still living with. Perhaps the class III and Class IV lands excluded from the Park Service Proposal can some day be included under wilderness protection though at present they could not pass the test of Rep. Wayne Aspinall's purist philosophy. The master plan philosophy to some extent allays my fears that such lands will be further destroyed by future development (such as Senator Clifford P. Hansen's proposal to build a 2 1/2-million-dollar research facility in Yellowstone National Park).

Basically, however, I would like to see the buffer-zone concept (class III) eliminated from the wilderness proposal. To be sure, the 17.8-mile strip along all roads and development areas

(Continued on page 13.)



Yellowstone National Park will be one hundred years old March 1—a century of trying to preserve a wilderness, as Superintendent Jack Anderson recently suggested. Clover-leaf highway patterns and snowmobile tracks mark the wild world of Yellowstone that once felt only the pad and hoof of wildlife and the soft tread of Indian moccasins.

As our oldest and largest national park reaches the century mark, the national park idea it embodies reaches farther in time and space than the past hundred years, or the spread of streams that have their source in the Yellowstone country. It reaches into the infinite future and around the globe.

If the first shot fired in the American Revolution was heard around the world, so was the idea expressed around an 1870 campfire in what two years later became the Yellowstone National Park.

The national park idea goes back to George Catlin, who in 1832 suggested "A nation's park, containing man and beast, in all the wild and freshness of their nature's beauty," and to Henry David Thoreau, who in 1858 echoed Catlin's plea: "Why should not we have our national preserves in which bear and panther, and some even of the hunter race, may exist for inspiration and our true recreation."

Thoreau-speaking of our true recreation—must have meant re-creation, a spiritual uplifting, for it was Thoreau who suggested that "in Wilderness is the preservation of the World."

Bears and panthers indeed. In a 40-year period beginning in 1931, the Park Service killed more than 1200 bears in Yellowstone National Park in control measures (necessary to protect the herds of people who came to the park to feed the bears). And in a similar period ending in 1935, the administrators of the park practically eliminated the panther (cougar or mountain lion) from the park in a predator control program.

But those were mistakes, generally recognized as such by the public and the Park Service, and we can learn from mistakes. Since Yellowstone is our oldest and our largest park, many of the mistakes that have been made in our national parks have been made in Yellowstone. The National Park Service has learned some valuable lessons in Yellowstone, lessons that can be applied to the future and to other parks.

A parks-are-for-people craze swept the nation a few years ago. And while I worked as a seasonal ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park, we took surveys to see what kind of camping facilities the public wanted so that the Park Service could plan accordingly. Now the Park Service has taken a new turn: educate the public, cut down on camping in the parks and encourage the development of camping, both public and private, outside the parks.

Parks may be for people—though there is some argument there too—but they certainly aren't for people's machines: the automobile, the snowmobile, the airplane (as the people of Jackson Hole struggle with the proposed extension of the airport runways in Grand Teton National Park).

Nor were they originally meant for tourist accommodations. Both Catlin and Thoreau stressed the wild and natural aspects of their proposed parks. But as we cater to the whims of the mobile tourist today, the wild and the natural have often taken second place in the quest for convenience and comfort: grocery stores and service stations, bars and cafeterias, laundromats and hot showers, even swimming pools and golf courses and tennis courts, and the ultimate—convention centers—have sprung up in national parks. Why?

What a warping of the national park idea! As we erode the wildness of the national parks, taming them for the casual tourist, we reduce the park experience by providing a sameness that is hardly worth leaving home to experience. National parks should be great peaks of unique experience, but if they become motel bedrooms and shoulder-to-shoulder campsites and bumper-to-bumper traffic, what's different about them?

With the modern means of transportation available, there is no need for anyone to spend the night in a park, even one as large as Yellowstone (though there is tremendous need for the wilderness experience—and greater demand with every increase in population). Why don't we learn to leave the wild world alone to replenish us when we are worn out by modern civilization?

A hundred years of trying to save a wilderness: the national park idea, and what have we done with it? Now is the best time I can think of to re-evaluate that idea born 140 years ago this year. Let's take it out and examine it and decide which way we want to head in the next hundred years.

If parks are for people, let's create more parks where the people are—an impractical idea but one that we can develop if we want it badly enough. But let's not turn the scenic parks, the natural beauty spots over to the people to use and over-use and abuse as Yosemite Valley and parts of Yellowstone have been used and abused. The kind of desecration has never been part of the national park idea, nor should it be perpetuated.

The Yellowstone Centennial, as I see it, should be a re-dedication to the basic principles of the national park idea: containing man and beast, in all the wild and freshness of their nature's beauty, for inspiration and our true recreation.

"Progress" Pondered

by Anthony Lewis

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London—Anyone who reflects these days on the relationship of man and Earth must eventually find himself operating at two levels of awareness.

He worries about his house and his car, his income and his possessions in the usual way. He gets angry at politicians when the power fails and his air conditioner stops. He hopes his union will get that wage increase, or the company whose stock he owns will sell more of its new gadgets.

But all the time he knows that the premises of that life are false, that before long it must give way. For even a little serious thought will have made him aware that all the "progress" and "growth" of modern economic life are based on the plundering of a finite environment. And the thin crust of Earth and air and water that sustains us is near its limits.

A coincidence of events recently showed how our political life deals with the unpleasant reality of environmental crisis in the same way, by operating in separate compartments.

In London, 33 distinguished scientists supported a "Blueprint for Survival" to avoid ecological catastrophe in our children's lifetimes, if not ours. Instead of industrialization and growth, it said, we must move toward a "stable society" with limits on population and the use of resources. We must learn to think of everything we do in terms of effects on the environment.

In the same week it became known that the Stockholm Conference on the Environment, long planned for next June as the first great worldwide event of its kind, was in danger of foundering on a diplomatic issue. At the insistence of West Germany and its allies, East Germany was being excluded—and the Soviet Bloc therefore threatening to stay away. And this exclusion despite the fact that East Germany is a major industrial power and is likely to be a U. N. member by the time of the conference.

"Diplomacy against biology," one scientist said. "It is absurd." He might better have said: Politics against life.

Politicians are like the rest of us enlarged. They underestimate, or perhaps they hide from



Master Plan . . .

is better than the 1/4-mile buffer most previous wilderness proposals have used, but I simply reject the whole concept of a buffer zone: if that 1/8-mile strip were part of the wilderness, it would be protected from encroachment and at the same time serve as a buffer.

Certainly the wilderness acreage proposed by the Park Service (1,963,000 acres out of 2,200,000 acres) is a generous addition to an area already primarily wilderness, but the 1/8-mile strip amounts to hundreds of acres. For example, the smallest of ten roadless areas in the park, unit 9, consists of 11,500 acres of which only 7,500 have been recommended for wilderness. This is an area of relatively heavy visitor use. Then let's look at the largest area, unit 8, consisting of 440,300 acres, of which only 415,900 are recommended for wilderness. Even area 6 including the wild Lamar Valley has 430,000 acres with 418,600 recommended for wilderness. How much of the total acreage lost from wilderness is constituted by the 1/8-mile strip? It may seem hardly enough to argue about in the total picture of nearly two million acres, but it is the basic principle I oppose.

Still the Yellowstone Master Plan is a good one and deserves serious consideration as does the Wilderness Study. If you can, plan to attend the public hearings in Jackson, Wyoming March 11, Idaho Falls, Idaho March 13 or Livingston, Montana March 15. If you can't, at least write a letter to be included in the hearing record to the Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 83020, and ask that your letter be made a part of the hearing record, which will be kept open for 30 days following the conclusion of

the gravity of the ecological crisis, and the speed with which it is coming.

They tinker with this pollution or that, they pass a useful law, but they do not face the essential truth that a revolution of attitudes is needed.

The Ecologist, a British magazine, published the "Blueprint for Survival." First it set out the reasons for urgency. For example, resources are running out under the pressures of exponential growth. Ecological demand will multiply by a factor of 32 over the next 66 years at present growth rates: Can anyone imagine the Earth meeting such a requirement? Even if we stop population growth completely in developed countries in 30 years, and the rest of the world in 70, world population will stabilize at more than four times present numbers. One may argue over this figure or that, but it is impossible to resist the conclusion that a crisis is coming.

The Blueprint proposed an integrated program to meet the crisis. It rested on a call for abandonment of some basic human ideas: The instinct for fertility, the worship of economic growth, the tendency of our culture to become more industrialized, urbanized, centralized.

Those are demands for the most immense changes in human attitudes. Consider the matter of "growth" alone: How easy is it to imagine politicians giving up their promises of faster growth and higher incomes and heavier investment, and instead promising work for all at lower levels of income and productivity and investment and resource-use? But that is a minimum part of the necessary future.

Barry Commoner, in his new book, "The Closing Circle," puts it honestly and in moving words:

"The world is being carried to the brink of ecological disaster not by a singular fault, which some clever scheme can correct, but by the phalanx of powerful economic, political and social forces that constitute the march of history. Anyone who proposes to cure the environmental crisis undertakes thereby to change the course of history."

What makes "The Closing Circle" such an impressive book is that Commoner rejects pessimism. He does so not by fleeing from reality, or by responding to facts with despair, but by thinking in hard terms of what has to be done. He says calmly and quietly, for example, that over the next generation the United States must spend more than \$40 billion annually on ecological reconstruction. That would mean almost all of our capital investment.

Can it conceivably be done? If we begin to think about it, begin to read the newspaper stories and the blueprints and the books, a sated and weary society might even welcome the challenge. Commoner would say that America, richest and also most inventive of countries, offers the world its best hope. The first step is for politicians to take the issue seriously: The whole problem, the philosophical challenge. Who will begin?



Hawks Protected

LINCOLN, Nebr. — Nebraska supports a high, wintering population of birds of prey and gunners should take care to avoid killing them, reminds the Game and Parks Commission.

Of the birds of prey commonly found in Nebraska, all but one are protected by federal or state law. Nebraska statutes provide for fines of not less than \$10 nor more than \$25 for the shooting of hawks and owls, except the great-horned owl. Federal law specifies fines up to \$500 or 6 months in jail or both for the killing of an eagle.

Red-tailed and sparrow hawks are common fall and winter raptors, ranging throughout the state. The rough-legged hawk is the most common winter resident in the western grasslands, and the marsh hawk is most often sighted adjacent to croplands and marshes. Golden eagles are found primarily in the western counties but occur statewide during migration. Bald eagles congregate near the Platte and Missouri rivers and along other watercourses.

Some species have been greatly reduced in numbers, in part as a result of hard pesticides. Rabbits, rodents, and various pest species provide the mainstays in the diets of most eagles and hawks. Therefore, the birds of prey provide a benefit to man.

Protection has been provided for the first time this year to the goshawk, Cooper's hawk, and sharp-shinned hawk thanks to legislation passed by the 1971 Legislature.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

I rather hesitate to refer to the days of my childhood as the "old days." The last time I used that expression, granddaughter Lisa asked, wide-eyed, "Gramma Marge — did you wear a hoop-skirt in the olden days, when you were a little girl?"

Amused (and maybe a wee bit chagrined), I explained to her that even fifty years ago, many little girls spent their summers in blue jeans, and the dresses they wore to school were not hoop-skirts! She seemed somewhat skeptical, and it occurred to me that, to a child, fifty years could seem forever. (After all, it is half a century!) With that horrible thought, I determined never again to mention the "old days." In fact, I wasn't even going to think about them.

But right now, I am looking at a silver napkin-ring, which was a childhood present from a doting aunt. Tarnished and rather battered, it has been stored away for years at my mother's, and only recently did she unearth and return it to me. It brings back memories of a long cloth-covered table, each place marked by a napkin rolled more or less tidily into a napkin-ring. A white cloth napkin, mind you — not a paper one. Three times a day. In the "old days" paper napkins were a rarity used only for picnics, if at all. (And for picnics we packed up tin plates and forks — not paper plates and plastic spoons.)

Well, I now have my napkin in the napkin-ring. It's not linen (I hate to waste time over the ironing board), and it happens to be yellow instead of white, but it is cloth. Terrycloth finger towels make dandy napkins. And in this day of diminishing natural resources, it's a matter of satisfaction to know that they are not made from trees — nor do they fill up the garbage can.

That poor garbage can is already overflowing with useless plastic bottles and other flimsy, non-reusable containers. Those things were not yet in use in the "old days," when milk came in glass bottles instead of cardboard cartons, and everything that could be used again was considered worth saving.

Cut flowers were placed in glass or china vases — not in receptacles of styrofoam or plastic, to be thrown out with the fading blossoms. All those non-disposable things were cherished and cared for and put away for future use, or for future generations.

Now I am certainly not a collector of antiques. I treasure my grandmother's cracker jar because it's pretty and because it was hers, but not necessarily because it is old. In this day of throw-away everything, it's comforting to have some things that create a feeling of historical continuity with our forebears. How ghastly to think that perhaps the heirlooms of tomorrow will be derived from the cardboard and plastics of today!

When she's a little older, I think I shall probably give Lisa the silver napkin-ring.



Pass The Word Along!

A concerned public is necessary if we are to have a quality environment. HIGH COUNTRY NEWS strives to present facts on environmental matters in the mountain west — but a newspaper can get the message only to those who read it! We need many more readers.

Have you a friend who would enjoy HIGH COUNTRY NEWS? Send us the name and address, and we will gladly send a sample copy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



To him who in the love of nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language: for his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile
And eloquence of beauty, and she glides
Into his darker musings with a mild
And healing sympathy that steals away
Their sharpness, ere he is aware.

William Cullen Bryant: THANATOPSIS

We Debated Whether or Not —

We welcome suggestions from our readers. (We don't always follow them, but we do welcome them!) Several of you have asked why we don't include in each issue some news of our current Wyoming weather.

The first such suggestion came to us a little more than a year ago, on a glorious spring day. We discussed the matter, and after due consideration, arrived at this conclusion: Wyoming is not exactly over-populated, and that's just the way most of us Wyomingites like it — so why should we let everybody know how great our weather is? We tabled the weather-report idea — for the time being.

Another reader brought up this subject in the middle of a busy week when the whole staff was eager to put the paper to bed so we could go fishing, or just loaf under the hot summer sun. So we by-passed the proposal — for then, anyhow.

The next "tell-us-about-your-weather" letter arrived in the autumn, when the sun was bright, the sky was blue, and the leaves were red and gold. By mutual consent, we ignored that letter.

Now it is February, and here comes that suggestion again. This time we've decided to act upon it. We will try to keep you posted on our Wyoming weather by the astute use of what is known as a "Poor Man's Barometer." This is a wooden cut-out of a mule, nailed securely to the outside of a building, preferably at the north-west corner of the barn. A tail, made of a frayed piece of hardtwist, is tacked to the southern end of the mule, and on his side is printed this legend;

If tail is: dripping . . . RAIN
 white . . . SNOW
 hanging limp . . . HOT
 frozen . . . COLD
 waving . . . WIND
 frozen & waving . . . BLIZZARD
 gone . . . LIGHTNING

To summarize briefly this past few months of Wyoming weather, that poor mule's tail has been everything but limp and gone, since the last day of October.

From now on we will carry in each issue a short report of our weather conditions for the first three days of each printing week. But please bear in mind — the weather changes mighty fast out here, so if you decide to move to Wyoming

because of our wonderful weather reports, think again. By the time you would arrive, that mule just might be buried under a ten-foot snowdrift! Herewith, this week's report:



	High	Low	
Sun.	48	20	Bright & Sunny
Mon.	35	9	Breezy
Tues.	38	10	Sunny

The hillsides are still white, and even in town there are still deep drifts which were piled high by the strong January winds.



Goodbye, Wyoming!

by Ginger Bensman

Goodbye, Wyoming!

No, I'm not leaving, I only wish I knew how to find the words to tell you what is coming. How to ease this sickening feeling of helplessness over the ignorance of the would be Judases of your hills, valleys, and blue sky. How can I explain to your people: the great herds of wildlife, forests and streams that their world and perhaps their lives stand in the way of my politicians and the greedy money belts of my people?

How can I defend our values when we've sold your very soul to run the air conditioners and electric dryers of cities far away. When we've cut great gashes in your side to strip away what we can sell.

I'm so sorry. I wish that I could help but I'm just a little voice in a great mass of people who are too busy to care right now, and when they do, it will be much too late.

Goodbye, Wyoming. I'm sorry.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"A precipitator's expensive," Joe said—
"Might I outsmart them, if I use my head?
Each stack may emit
Just a small, measured bit.
I'll put up more smokestacks, instead!"

Marin County, California, voters by a 9 to 1 margin balloted to put a limit on future growth by limiting the water supply. Opponents to growth had argued that water from a proposed aqueduct would cause undesired growth and development.

The Idaho Division of the American Association of University Women has endorsed legislation which would repeal restrictions on birth control advertising in that state.

The Chinese not only freely distribute The Pill but discourage marriage until couples are at least 27 years old. As if that were not enough, abortions have been made available to any woman, without cost, and sterilization operations are available to men. Even so, with all emergency measures, the population of China is expected to reach more than a billion by the year 2000.

A poll by Opinion Research Corp. of New Jersey reveals that approximately two-thirds of the American public views population growth as a serious problem. The respondents also said: the government should make information about birth control available to all men and women who want it - 87 percent; voluntary sterilization should be the right of any individual - 79 percent, and birth control supplies should be made available by the government to any interested person - 67 percent.

An Idaho state senator, Reed Budge of Soda Springs, says, "the biggest and most important issue to the Idaho citizens" in the 1972 legislative session is whether "to hand that water over to private power companies to make billions on, or keep control of it for Idaho and its citizens." His call for action on Idaho's water resources included the taking over of power facilities when utilities' permits to operate generating plants expire.

Four female black-footed ferrets, kept in captivity for breeding purposes, died suddenly at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Two males of the rare and endangered species are still robust and healthy. The animals had been trapped last fall in an attempt to raise ferrets in captivity and release them back into their former haunts.

The President's Water Pollution Control Advisory Board has informed Mr. Nixon and EPA that water pollution from livestock wastes is a problem of growing magnitude. The report said, "... it is urgent that the nation exert major efforts to control animal waste pollution before the situation becomes critical."

New Booklet on Air

Those concerned with the quality of the air they breathe, or even might have to breathe someday, may be interested in a new booklet. It is entitled, "A Citizen's Guide to Clear Air."

Published by the Conservation Foundation, free copies may be obtained by writing the Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20036, or from regional offices of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The 95-page publication gives a wealth of information about all aspects of the air pollution problem.

Letters to the editor...

mankind, the cow or the steam engine, the horse or electricity, the sheep or the printing press, the dog or the rifle, the ass or the loom? No one, indeed, can pronounce on these, yet all on reflection feel that there is reason in the comparisons. Take away these inventions, and we are put back a century, or perhaps two; but further, take away the domestic animals, and we are reduced to absolute savagery, for it was they who first made it possible for our aboriginal forefathers to settle in one place and learn the rudiments of civilization.

"It is quite possible, though of course not demonstrable, that the humble chuckie barn fowl has been a larger benefactor of our race than any mechanical invention in our possession, for there is no inhabited country on earth today where the barn fowl is not a mainstay of health. There are vast regions of South America and Europe where it is the mainstay, and nowhere is there known anything that can take its place, which is probably more than can be said of anything in the world of mechanics.

Now, if the early hunters of these our domestic animals had succeeded in exterminating them before their stock was domesticated, the loss to the world would have been a very serious matter, probably much more serious than the loss of any invention, because an idea, being born of other ideas, can be lost temporarily, while the destruction of an organized being is irreparable."

Editor:

Congratulations on your article (center spread) "The Homestead Artist", page 8-9 of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, Jan. 21, 1972.

It is gratifying to see recognition of an artist who paints honestly and convincingly the land he knows so well.

We were pleased to be joint exhibitors with Thomas Connell at the Wind River Valley National Art Exhibit, last summer.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS is our particular favorite as it keeps us informed about our adopted state. All of you there do a great job.

Our subscription to HIGH COUNTRY NEWS comes as a Christmas gift from our good friends Joe and Mary Back of Dubois. We have known them and admired their work for many years.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,
Sideny Lee Courtney
Birmingham, Michigan

Editor's note: It was our real pleasure to show a few representative samples of artist Tom Connell's work. We couldn't do them justice in black and white but we wanted to show our pride in him. Thanks for your good letter.

Editor:

Enclosed is my check for \$10 for another year of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS. It is about renewal time according to my records.

For a relatively small newspaper, your environmental bi-weekly is jam-packed with pertinent information. I depend on it to get the facts about the great West.

Yours very truly,
Marion Byrne
Liverpool, N. Y.

Editor:

Ya gotta be careful about how you read what you read.

In "Environmental Eavesdropper" HCN, 7 January, you give an implied pat on the back to Ohio's state Senator Harry Armstrong for his comment that road builders ought to come under the same reclamation requirements as strip miners. That sounds commendable but... After six months of hard committee work, the Ohio House Environmental Committee introduced a fairly tough coal-stripmine regulation bill (Sub. H. B 928) onto the floor. It passed with only two dissenting votes, and was sent to the Senate. The Senate Rules Committee referred the bill, not to the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee, but the Urban and Highway Affairs Committee. A key member of U & H, Oakley Collins, happens to be a notoriously bad stripminer, but also the Chairman of the Educational Affairs Committee, and it is he who cuts up the educational funds pie. His buddy is Harry Armstrong. The Federal prosecutor is investigating criminal and civil violations by Collins mining company in Wayne National Forest, so it wouldn't be very politic for Collins to oppose the basically sound House bill, but it is being attacked by good old Harry. The strategy is to hand the stripminers all the allies

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possible in opposing 928 by turning it from a coal strip mining regulation bill into an omnibus surface mining bill. Can you imagine trying to write a bill covering the controversial aspects of five different kinds of surface mining plus highway construction?

Oakley and Harry know how impossible it would be, hence Harry's efforts to amend 928 by adding clay, gravel, shale, limestone, highway construction and anything else he can logically or illogically toss into the pot.

Sorry, but Harry Armstrong is a damn weak environmental reed to lean on.

Sincerely,
Richard S. McCutchen
Executive Director
Ohio Conservation Foundation

Editor's note: Oops! I goofed. Sorry about that, Dick, but glad to be straightened out. I picked up the item from a number of news clippings sent by another reader in Ohio. Boy, did I pick a winner. Will try to be more careful in the future. Thanks for setting the record straight.

Editor:

Enjoyed your Jan. 21 issue, as I do all issues of High Country News, but couldn't resist writing to comment on your cover picture of the mistletoe tree and clearcut in Robbins Gulch in the Bitterroot National Forest.

The photo is of the precise location where CBS filmed its interview for the Cronkite show with G. M. "Brandy" Brandborg - and it is also precisely the spot where one week after we were there doing that filming that the Forest Service closed the road to through traffic because of what was termed erosion danger due to spring runoff (April of last year). More likely, the closing was due to Forest Service concern that we (and the nation through the CBS Show) might see the situation of excessive and improper clearcutting on the Bitterroot for what it really is - a very sad state of affairs.

Sincerely,
Dale A. Burk
State Editor
The Missoulan
Missoula, Montana

Editor:

\$10 enclosed for one year subscription to High Country News.

I just read about you in "The Living Wilderness" and will be glad to read and learn something about the high country states that is going to teach me that there are other folk in them than sheep ranchers, government poison pushers, and sadists. ... (sorry, but I have just been reading "Slaughter the Animals, Poison the Earth" and decided too hastily - that I don't ever want to hike or backpack or even drive through Wyoming - or the other high country places I've often dreamed about).

So - welcome to your newsheet - and I hope to keep in touch!

Cordially,
Ruth C. Douglas
St. Helena, Calif. 94574

Editor:

Thanks is due Verne Huser and the HIGH COUNTRY NEWS for elaboration on Mr. Huser's opposition to locating an environmental studies center in Yellowstone National Park. I agree with the general principles set forth by Mr. Huser in the column titled "Huser Answers" in the Feb. 4 issue of The News.

I know of no good reason why such a center should be located inside the oldest and one of the most over-used of the national parks. However, I am not acquainted with the details of the proposal.

The time is certainly late for all who are concerned about what is happening to the wildlands to join forces and hold the line against those who seem to think that nature's grandeur is for business exploitation.

To Mr. Huser and editor Tom Bell I say, keep up the excellent work. If anyone at the University of Wyoming disagrees with me in subscribing to most everything espoused by HIGH COUNTRY NEWS nobody has made the slightest move to prevent my freely expressing my views.

Sincerely,
Ernest H. Linford
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

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Photo by Rusty Gooch



A MONARCH OF THE MOUNTAINS, this mule deer buck and many other game animals are threatened on game ranges across the West. Severe winter conditions

have driven animals from normal winter ranges and concentrated them in areas where they are even more subject to starvation, disease and predation.

Wilderness Provides Game Habitat

After more than five years of study, preservation of nearly 700,000 acres of wildlife grazing and calving areas as well as migration routes may be saved.

The United States Congress, which has been considering re-classifying areas in and around the Stratified Primitive Area in northwest Wyoming, has been studying the proposal since early 1967.

The bill, which is to combine areas of the Stratified Primitive Area with the South Absaroka Wilderness Area, is expected to go to an early House-Senate conference committee following House passage of the bill Feb. 7.

Game and Fish officials, concerned with further losses of wilderness habitat for moose, elk, bighorn sheep and grizzly bear, have been pushing for establishment of the Washakie Wilderness Area, as the section is to be called, since January, 1967.

The Western Association of Game and Fish Commissioners concluded in July, 1966, that "increased public use of rough terrain vehicles has resulted in excessive harassment of certain species, habitat damage and increased fire danger."

In adopting a resolution on the problem, the association urged federal agencies to "strive for a proper balance between increased public access and . . . proper management of fish and wildlife resources."

One of the problems, as outlined in a Game and Fish statement to regional Forester David Nordwall in 1967, is that moose, elk, bighorn sheep and antelope are all wilderness species reliant on remote, unrestricted habitat for survival.

" . . . Access provided by roads associated with logging operations has resulted in a drastic reduction of use by summer resident elk herds in several areas of the Wind River Drainage," according to the statement.

Game and Fish officials say this has forced elk into less accessible areas for summer range and has threatened elk calving and resting areas.

In testifying before the Senate Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands in 1968, a Game and

Fish Department spokesman said that while timbering operations in the Shoshone National Forest are not in themselves injurious to wildlife, the access provided by logging roads has greatly altered wildlife use of the area.

Pointing out changes in the Wiggins Fork, Horse Creek, Upper Wind River and Warm Springs areas, the department said wildlife harvest patterns have drastically shifted.

In 1959, when the area was still relatively undeveloped, elk harvests were spread over the entire season, whereas by 1967 hunters found elk only at the end of the season.

Extensive access roads have also significantly altered the total elk harvest in the area according to the department.

During 1963 and 1964, for example, the Warm Spring Creek, Lava Creek, Sheridan Creek and Brooks Lake Creek Drainage areas accounted for about 27 percent of the entire Wind River elk harvest. In 1967, however, elk harvest in this area declined to 9 percent.

One of the areas which has long been disputed is the DuNoir River area.

Inclusion of this area is apparently still causing conflict between House and Senate versions of the Washakie Wilderness bill.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department, as well as numerous conservationists, want this area included in the bill, since migration studies have shown that animals reach summer ranges and return in fall through the low passes at the

headwaters of the East and West Forks of the DuNoir River.

The Forest Service, however, has said it does not want the area included in the bill as wilderness, since the DuNoir area was logged between 1920 and 1926.

The Forest Service contends the area cannot be classified wilderness since " . . . evidence of timber harvesting is still plainly noticeable. . . "

Testifying on the 30,000 acre unit in question, Harry Crandell of the Wilderness Society said: "no one denies that portions of the DuNoir area . . . were impacted by some of the hacking operations in the early 1920's or that there have been some limited vehicle intrusions in the past."

But the real question," he continued, "is the one of broad judgment. Certainly the area qualifies as wilderness under the . . . 1964 Wilderness Act."

Whether this and other adjoining areas are included in the bill will be determined by the House-Senate Conference Committee.

The official Commission statement concluded " . . . we may very well be experiencing our last opportunity to preserve, in their pristine state, our few remaining wilderness areas."

"Our past is carved into every butte and bend of ranges like the Wind River," it continued. "God grant us the wisdom to use our lands and waters wisely so that we may leave a legacy which will be a credit to all of us, not a shame."

Nebraska Deer Fall To Poachers

LINCOLN, Nebr. — During 1971, some 1,515 Nebraska deer are known to have died from causes other than legal hunting, according to figures compiled by the Game and Parks Commission.

A breakdown of mortalities shows that 1,347 deer were killed on the highways, 84 animals were taken by poachers, and various accidents accounted for most of the remainder. Most such deaths occurred in October and November, as has been the case in past years, and mortalities were reported in every county of the state except

Perkins.

Reported figures represent only the minimum losses known, as many deer mortalities are not reported. The actual loss to poaching is not known, but it is generally believed that only a small portion of such occurrences is reported to law enforcement authorities. Only when citizens are willing to become involved and report suspected incidents of poaching can authorities begin to reduce this illegal kill.