

High Country News

The Outdoor and Environmental Bi-Weekly

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, June 23, 1972

Decision Time For Rugged Land

by Tom Brown

I was on top of the world or so it seemed. Everywhere I looked was a wild, rugged, untamed land.

To the west stretched the jagged peaks and flat lake basins of the Absarokas.

To the north, the deep canyons of the East and West Rosebuds fell away, ending in the flat land toward Columbus and Billings, Montana.

To the east and south were hundreds of lakes and more tall mountains—nearly equal to Granite itself on top of which I sat.

I was alone in the wild, a good two-day hike from any markings of man.

My vantage point was from the summit of Montana's highest point of land, massive Granite Peak rising 12,799 feet above sea level. Granite is the monarch of the rugged Beartooth-Absaroka country of southcentral Montana and northern Wyoming.

It is a land of broad, alpine plateaus and deep rugged canyons. Nowhere else in our nation is there such an extent of land above 10,000 feet in elevation and from the high ridge which forms the backbone of the Beartooth country more than a dozen peaks poke skyward above 12,000 feet in elevation.

The Beartooth Primitive Area lies at the heart of the Beartooth portion of this vast de-facto wilderness. Geologically, the Beartooth can be divided into northern and southern portions with a high ridge in between.

The northern portion is an area of high, flat, alpine plateaus and deep canyons with walls often rising thousands of feet in sheer cliffs. Draining the region are a number of famous streams including the East and West Rosebuds, Rock Creeks and the Stillwater River.

The southern portion is a semi-flat basin with dozens of glacially-carved lakes divided in many places by semi-marsh land. Much of this area lies in northern Wyoming and is cut off from the rugged mountains east of Yellowstone National Park by Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and the Cooke City highway which winds its way from Red Lodge to Cooke City, Montana along one of the country's most scenic vistas.

The heart of the Absaroka is the Absaroka Primitive Area which lies just north of the Yellowstone National Park border in a region between the Yellowstone River as it flows north toward Livingston and the Boulder River to the west.

The Absaroka also contains tall mountains but they are not so rugged as the Beartooths and the land not so alpine and uninhabitable. Several lake-filled plateaus dot the Absaroka and rich, trout-laden streams flow from its heights. Most notable of these are the Boulder River and Slough and Mill Creeks.

The Beartooth got its name from a jagged piece of rock north of Red Lodge which Indians thought looked like the tooth of a grizzly bear. But it is in the Absaroka where the endangered grizzly finds its home. Numerous sighting of the bears have been made in the Absaroka and last summer several "problem" grizzlies from the West Yellowstone area of

(Please turn to page 4)

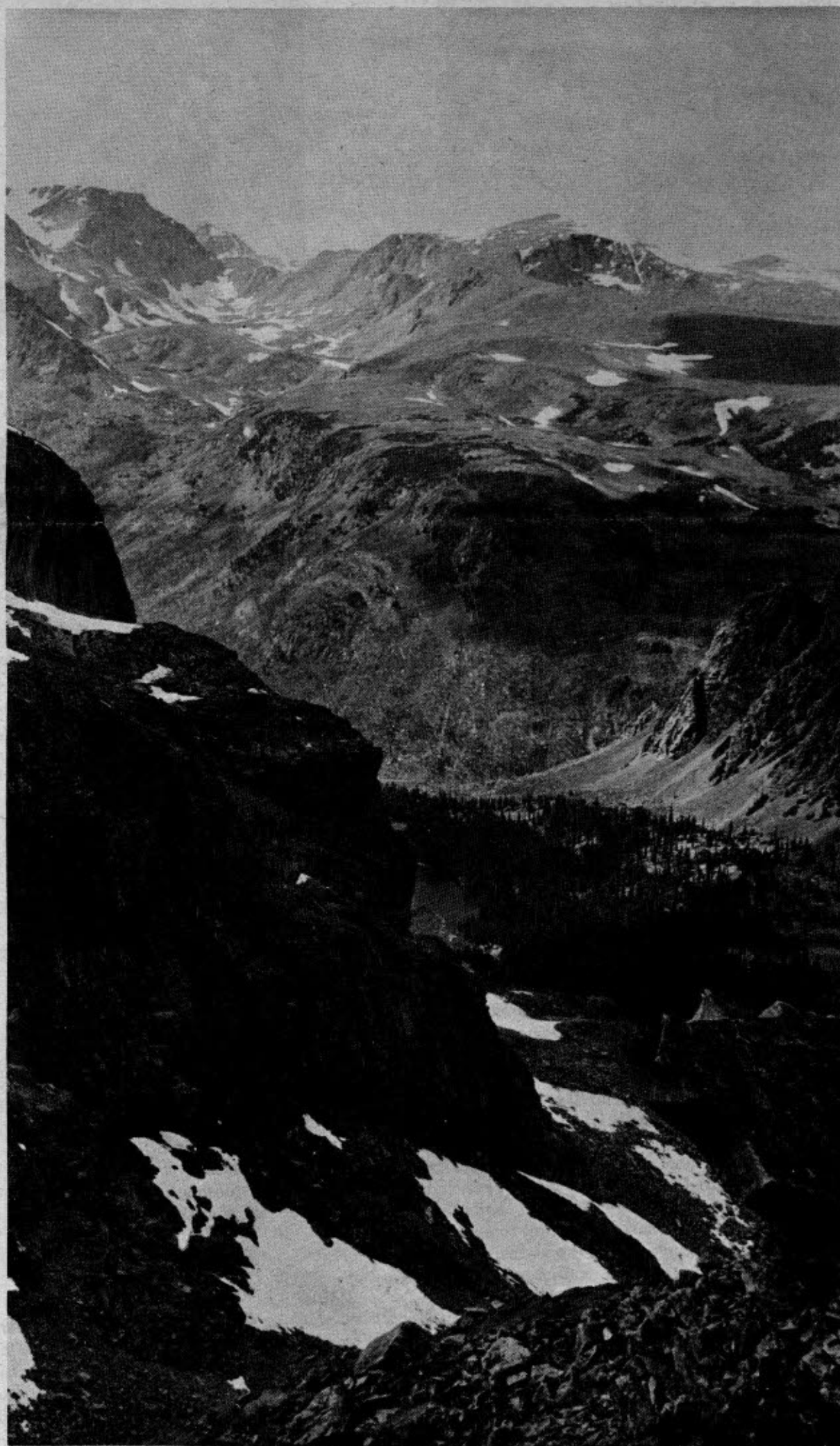


Photo by Tom Bell

A breath-taking view into the Rock Creek drainage from high on the Beartooth Plateau. This panoramic scene is from the Red Lodge-Cooke City Highway. Most of the scene shown here would be included within a proposed Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area in Montana and Wyoming.

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Land is a basic resource. And it is the ultimate source of most capital so necessary for the well-being of Man and his fellow creatures on earth. Add only the other necessary ingredients of air, water and sunlight and you have all of the basic necessities of life.

From the land springs the green, growing plants. And whether the plants reach the stomach of a grazing or gnawing animal or a human being, or whether they merely fall back to earth and add humus to the soil, they have performed a valuable function.

From the bowels of the earth come the minerals or the fossilized chemical remains of plant and animal life. These furnish us the metals and the fuels which have lifted us above the existence of the cave man.

Any rational, reasoning human can recognize the importance of this most basic resource—the land upon which we depend for life. But Americans particularly seem to have lost sight of this importance.

Aldo Leopold, one of the greatest conservation philosophers of all time, expressed it well. He said, "We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man."

At this historic moment in time, Americans have an unequalled opportunity to show we do have some love and respect for the land. We have the opportunity of devoting many more millions of acres to undeveloped wilderness.

In our haste to take from the land in order to develop, to progress, and to prosper, we have not always been kind to the land. We gave no thought to the capital assets which it represents in terms of continuing life. We used without knowing we were squandering the savings of millennia.

Conservative bankers get wealthy on the savings of other people. Such a conservative would counsel his clients and customers to keep some of their assets in savings. And this is not only so he might make more money, but also because it makes sense to have a capital account to fall back on in emergencies.

Just so, the human race should have a savings account for some future time of need. A savings account of the most basic capital resource makes as much sense as an account in a bank.

Those who would use our land capital down to the last iota accuse those who would save as "locking up" our resources. But it is no more valid to think of locking up land as it is to think of locking up a bank account. The land account will be there for future generations to draw upon if millions of acres are deposited in wilderness areas, national parks and wildlife refuges, or other types of withdrawals now.

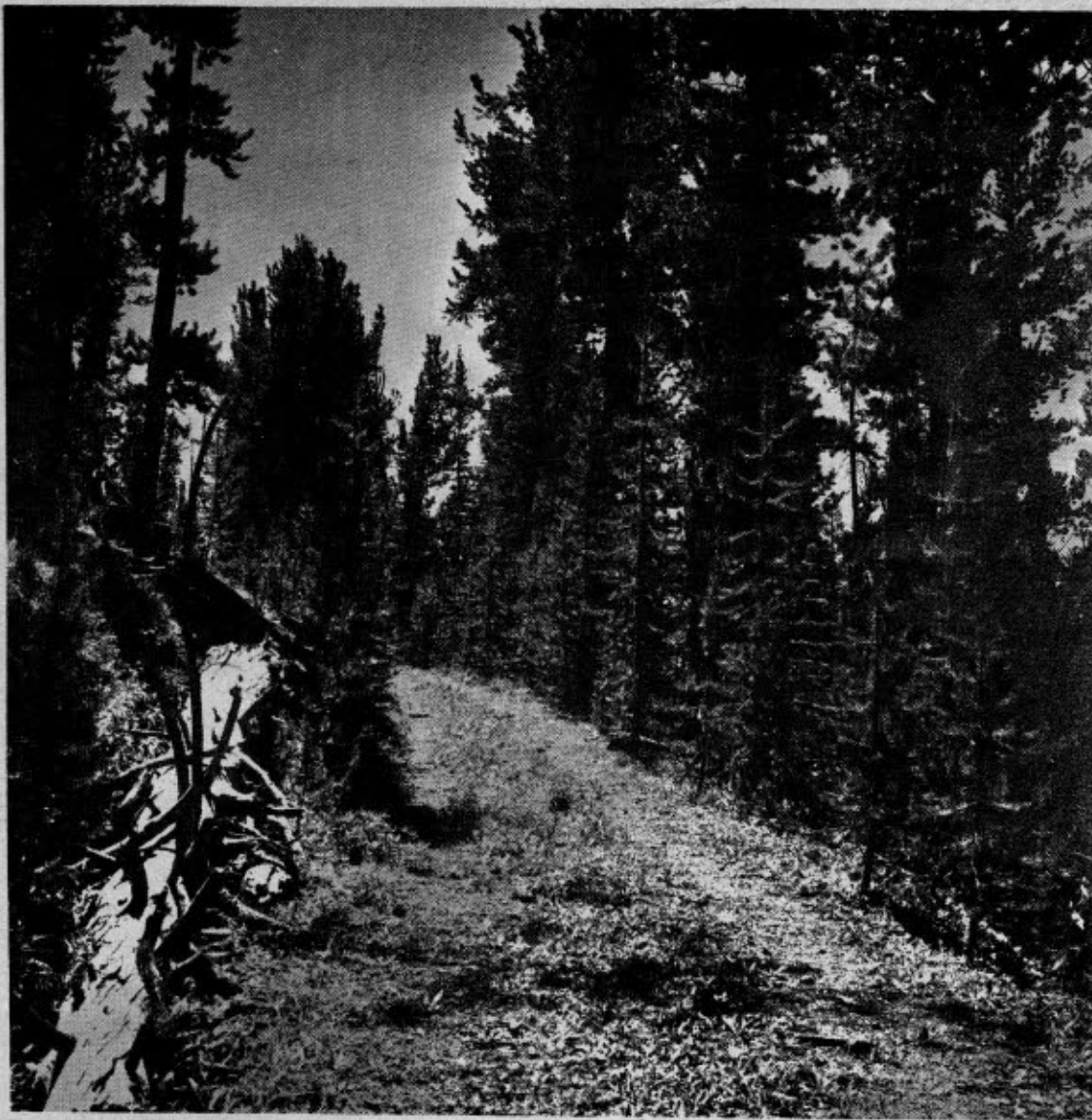
Many young people, even in Wyoming, evidently feel this same way. Senator Clifford P. Hansen took a poll, and, among the answers, he found young people favored wilderness areas over "multiple use management" almost two to one. In other words, they don't want the remaining areas of undeveloped lands used and abused as other lands have been in the past. They want an option, and the best option on the priceless unused lands of today are to fully protect them from the commodity users of today.

There are approximately 26 million acres of "undeveloped" lands on the 187 million acres of the national forests. These are acres that for the most part were too remote, too marginal, or too uneconomical for commodity interests to have exploited up to now.

Prompted by reviews of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which were required before lands could be included in wilderness, we found we were down to the last vestiges of the land resource. We have now come to a moment of truth. Shall we continue to use as in the past, or shall we bank some of our assets against a time of future need?

It is absurd, in a country as rich as ours, to believe we would be bankrupted by using up our savings or capital assets until they are all gone. We have depleted our topsoil, destroyed many of our primeval forests and stripped most of the rest, strip mined millions of acres for iron, copper, coal and more, and now can see the end of all supplies of natural gas. The end is in sight for other materials.

It is folly to go on believing our earth is infinite in its resources. At some point in time, Americans will have to start living within their means. And it would be nice to know that within millions of acres of "saved" wilderness would be a store of emergency supplies.



Old logging roads such as this one in the proposed DuNoir area of the Washakie Wilderness in Wyoming are cited by the Forest Service as reasons for excluding areas from wilderness. Senator Frank Church has pointed out to both the Park Service and the Forest Service that Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act provides for such features when they are "substantially unnoticeable." The photo above was taken to show the old road in one of its most noticeable stretches. In many places the road has nearly disappeared where the forest has closed in upon it.

Letters To The Editor



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS has received several comments concerning the content of the paper. Some of our readers have suggested that we need more articles on fishing, camping, rock hunting, and other outdoor activities. On the other hand, we have received comments to the contrary. Following are excerpts of letters from two of our readers, one from Saint Louis and the other from San Francisco:

"Just a quick comment on your request for comments on sports articles vs. conservation articles—I can pick up a sports magazine for sports articles. Your conservation news is unique and the best general source of information in that field," and

"While I understand your desire to keep as many of your readers as possible as happy as possible, I do hope HIGH COUNTRY NEWS doesn't start to devote a lot of space to hunting and fishing articles. Magazine and news stands are groaning under the load of stuff that's published for sportsmen but high quality environmental information sources are not so plentiful."

* * *

Editor:

I've just finished reading every word of the April 28 issue of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, it is an excellent tribute to national parks and wilderness conservation. More than other issues, you have come on strong for wilderness areas—which is why I am writing.

This winter the local timber interests brought in the Eric Julber piece to use against the proponents of wilderness. They distributed copies all over Laramie. And now the May READERS' DIGEST (page 125) has printed it. At the time it appeared in the Laramie DAILY BOOMERANG, Colleen Kelly

was involved in her trip to Washington, so I took on the job of rebuttal.

If this can be of any good to you—all or in part—use it with my compliments.

And good luck.

Sincerely,
Joseph B. Orr
Laramie, Wyoming

Editor's note: Thanks to Mr. Orr for his rebuttal. Readers will find it on page 6 of this issue. And good luck to him and the many others who are dedicated to saving a few small pieces of this great country, undeveloped and unexploited, for the benefit of our posterity.



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Guest Editorials



Reprinted from The IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, April 16, 1972

Too Much or Too Little?

An invitation by the Forest Service for public comments on additional wilderness area designations has stirred a spirited debate. The forest industry has mounted a campaign against further designations.

There are about six million acres of roadless timber land in Idaho not in existing wilderness or primitive areas. The presently designated areas make up 4 per cent of the land in the state.

The Forest Service has long recognized designation of certain areas as wilderness as desirable. And this is fully consistent with the "multiple use" law under which the Forest Service operates.

Multiple use doesn't mean every use will be allowed on every acre. It means a variety of uses will go on in the total forest area.

Basically the questions are what areas, and how much will be roaded, and open to logging.

Obviously not all the six million acres of roadless area outside existing wilderness and primitive areas will qualify for wilderness designation. Nor is the Forest Service proposing that.

What the Forest Service asked was specific comment on specific areas. Some are already recognized as qualifying for wilderness study—the Clear Creek-Garden Creek area in the Salmon Forest, the White Cloud-Boulder-Pioneer Mountain area, and the west slope of the Teton Range among them.

Wilderness areas have value to people other than the growing numbers who hike in them.

A wilderness is a watershed undisturbed by roads. It's home for big game and other wildlife protected from the heavy hunting pressures of roaded areas. It may be a haven for fish undisturbed by excessive fishing pressure.

The nature of the terrain and the character of the soil itself should dictate that some areas will be unroaded. Roads in those areas can cause an excessive runoff of silt into streams.

In Idaho the South Fork of the Salmon River was nearly lost as a salmon fishery because of sediment from too many logging roads.

Generally timber cutting policies in the past were dictated not by what was good for the watershed and the land, but what was seen as the demand for timber.

A society which seems to be using more timber each year is also a society of people seeking more wilderness type recreation. Some wilderness areas are so heavily used that permit systems are being established to control the numbers. What may seem like too much wilderness today may be too little in 10 or 20 years.

Generally those who suggest the American people forego the "luxury" of wilderness areas don't also suggest that they forego manufactured luxuries. If we can feast on man-made luxuries can't we also leave as they are some of the best creations of nature?

Idaho's existing wilderness and primitive areas are an asset in many ways. Other areas deserve wilderness classification, but not all of the six million unroaded acres.

The Forest Service is caught between pressures for logging and wilderness. It also has an obligation to consider what is best for the land and the watershed. Good management involves more than responding to competing land use interests.

Good management of lands open to logging is important to assure timber in the future. There are limits to the volume of timber our forests can produce on a sustained basis.

If the demand outruns those limits, opening the wilderness areas might provide only a short-term solution. National policies should seek to preserve a wilderness base while bringing demand for timber products into line with the yield.

Reprinted from The IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, June 9, 1972

People Versus Mining

Does the Sawtooth-White Clouds area belong to the mining lobby? Or will the desires of the people of Idaho to protect that area for their recreational use be respected?

That is the issue posed in differences between House and Senate versions of Sawtooth Recreation Area legislation.

The mining lobby insists on the House version—to keep the door open to mining. To date, Rep. James McClure has served the mining interests faithfully to see that this is the outcome.

Senators Jordan and Church inserted anti-mining language in the Senate bill. It would at least close the door on all but existing valid claims.

An effort has been made to bamboozle the public into thinking that the House-approved bill would provide the protection this area needs. It obviously wouldn't. That's why the miners want it.

Al Teske of the Idaho Mining Association has written a letter to Chairman Wayne Aspinall of the House Interior Committee telling him, in essence, that the Sawtooth area belongs to the miners.

Teske insults the people of Idaho by saying those who want to protect the area from mining are only "small but highly vocal and articulate preservationist groups."

In the 1970 election, the people of Idaho had a chance to choose between a governor who advocated mining in the White Clouds and one who was against it. That was the primary issue of the campaign. The voters spoke loud and clear. They elected the first Democratic governor in 25 years in what has

usually been a Republican state.

The mining lobby had hoped to steer through Congress the watered-down House Sawtooth NRA bill, with McClure's help. They almost got it done. But Senators Jordan and Church recognized the desires of the people of Idaho, also recognized the weaknesses in the bill, and changed it.

Idahoans by the thousands use the Sawtooth country for recreation. This magnificent high mountain country forms the headwaters for the Salmon River. Its value to the people of Idaho for recreation use is tremendous.

It would be a shame to designate it officially as a recreation area—while planning all the while to convert it into a series of open-pit mines. This apparently is what the mining lobby and Congressman McClure have had in mind.

Man does not live for material wealth alone. Idaho's best scenic areas, its clear and unpolluted salmon streams are precious resources for the people, and for future generations of people in this state.

The "mine-anywhere" philosophy says that any area, no matter how magnificent or how highly prized by the people for recreation, must be regarded as a potential open pit—that mining must always come first over everything else, including the desires of the people.

It is time the mining lobby recognized that while mining is an important and welcome activity in this state, the people are not ready to surrender each and every area the miners covet. The Sawtooth-White Clouds area does not belong to the Idaho Mining Association. It belongs to the people of the United States,



including the people of Idaho who are the primary recreation users.

It is time for politicians like Congressman McClure to decide whether he will continue to be the faithful servant of the mining lobby when the mining lobby's desires conflict with the clearly expressed desires of the people of Idaho.

It is time for Congress to make a decision on the Sawtooth area based on the already well-established scenic and recreation values there. Thousands of people "vote" every year for the recreation use of the area with their presence there.

This Central Idaho Sawtooth-Sun Valley-Salmon River country deserves protection from mining desecration now. Let the Congress make a decision for the people of Idaho, rather than for the mining lobby.

Lands Purchased

Two significant actions involving the purchase of important privately owned lands have recently taken place in Congress.

On June 15, the Senate passed a bill to provide for federal purchase of the 485,000-acre Vermejo Ranch in northern New Mexico. The bill now goes to the House where a similar bill has been introduced. The ranch would cost \$26 million.

The House Appropriations Committee has cleared the way for a \$4 million appropriation to buy approximately 12,000 acres along the Snake River in Hells Canyon.

In both cases, the purchased land would be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service for management.

4-High Country News
Friday, June 23, 1972

Decision Time...

Montana were transplanted into the region. The Montana Fish and Game Commission considers the Absaroka an important grizzly habitat.

While the bears like the Absaroka, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and even a few moose inhabit the two regions. Goats are particularly fond of the scattered grass meadows which cling to the rocky sides of several of the Beartooth peaks. These meadows are completely surrounded by loose rocks providing the attentive goats with an early warning system against enemies who invariably knock loose some of the stones when making their sneak approaches.

Birds, including the golden and bald eagles, also make this region home. Wilderness backpackers often report sighting one of the rare eagles soaring overhead on strong wind currents which are frequent at the high altitudes of the mountains.

The streams and lakes of the Beartooth-Absaroka provide habitat for many species of game fish. These include the common rainbow and brook trout but also the more rare cutthroat trout and grayling. The latter two are known by fish and game officials to be easy marks for fishermen. They also have difficulty in competing with planted rainbows and brooks. This has led to their demise in many more accessible areas of the northern Rocky Mountains but they are still found in abundance here. Another rare fish found in the region is the California Golden Trout which was introduced into the region in the early part of the century.

Fish in many of the lakes are fattened on the rich, freshwater shrimp. Throughout the region backpacking fishermen find trout fishing sport at its best.

Now, it is decision time for this rugged, untamed land.

The federal Wilderness Act of 1964 designated the Beartooth-Absaroka as one of the many areas of public land in the nation which were to be evaluated for wilderness potential and possible inclusion in the system of protected wilderness areas provided by the law.

The law requires the Forest Service to make a recommendation on the area by 1974. With this in mind, the Forest Service, wilderness groups and business interests began studying the Beartooth-Absaroka several years ago and last fall the federal agency brought its findings together in a preliminary report. It contained three possible recommendations for use of the region.

Photo by Montana Fish & Game Dept.



Nanny and kid mountain goat in Beartooth Range.

Forest Service plans were to review the material over the winter, following a series of hearings with interested public groups and business interests which were held last fall. They were to make an official recommendation this spring. However, this timetable has now been delayed until the spring of 1973 due to incomplete mineral studies by the U.S. Geological Survey. The Survey was to have completed studies by this winter but had not done so, thus, forcing a delay in the Forest Service recommendation.

Photo by Mike Sample, Montana Fish & Game Dept.



The proposed Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area in Montana would adjoin similar wilderness in Yellowstone National Park. Such a wilderness would assure a large, undisturbed area for grizzly bears which now inhabit the region.

Plans now call for public hearings in the fall of 1973 following which a final report will be forwarded to Congress via national USFS headquarters. Congress then has the option of holding more hearings and, perhaps, introducing a bill to designate all or part of the area wilderness. Only an act of Congress can designate land as wilderness.

Wilderness supporters, meanwhile, are mustering their forces to convince the Forest Service and Congress to create a large wilderness in the Beartooth-Absaroka. There seems to be little doubt that some type of wilderness will be created. The question is how much.

The first of the three potential USFS recommendations contained in the report issued last fall has gained general support from wilderness and conservation groups. It would create a wilderness area of 538,310 acres including both the present Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive areas plus 250,000 acres of additional, neighboring land.

This proposal would tie the Beartooth-Absaroka area into one continuous wilderness via a corridor near the head of Slough Creek. It would also notably include the lake basin area of northern Wyoming.

Support for this plan has come from a host of conservation groups including the Audubon Society, Montana Wilderness Association, Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Montana Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited and the Sierra Club. Even Billings businessmen have backed wilderness, stating in a Chamber of Commerce resolution that "as large a wilderness area as possible should be created."

These groups, however, have one major criticism of the USFS proposal. They feel the corridor should be expanded to provide a better tie between the two wilderness regions. They question whether the small one proposed by the Forest Service would provide adequate protection for the wilderness and state that the area next to the corridor is also defacto wilderness and should be protected.

Other conservationists have asked that the study, and thus possibly the wilderness, be expanded to include the north side of the Absaroka Range which has been left out because of a requirement that the U.S. Geological Survey do a mineral study on all land being considered for wilderness. The Geological Survey has not had time to complete an evaluation of this part of the Absaroka area and will not by next spring.

A second alternative has been dubbed the "road" proposal by conservationists. This alternative is essentially the same in area as the first except that a road corridor is established between the Absaroka and Beartooth

wilderness. This would eliminate the tie between the areas.

The road system, as visioned by the USFS, would connect Big Timber and Cooke City, Mont. by a paved "scenic" type highway. (See map) Secondary roads would be built up Rainbow Creek to near Fish Lake, from the Cooke City road to Wounded Man Creek to the Yellowstone Park boundary and into heavily timbered areas to the west of Slough Creek. A fourth secondary road is planned from Jardine to Crevice Creek.

The USFS defends this road alternative saying that it would open up the area for more people who would come by car and motor-scooter as opposed to horse and riding. They also picture it as a popular tourist road providing a loop through Yellowstone Park from Livingston to Gardiner to Cooke City to Big Timber and back to Livingston. A second loop could run from Red Lodge, Mont. to Cooke City to Big Timber and Back to Red Lodge.

In essence this alternative would provide another route to Yellowstone Park making three from the southern Montana region. This has alarmed businessmen in Red Lodge who see a loss of summer tourist business on which they depend heavily.

Conservationists have also come out strongly against the road alternative warning that it would be damaging to the wilderness resource and the animal habitat—both fish and game. They also say the road is unneeded in that two other highways already connect to the park from Montana and note that the proposed road is not planned to be open in the winter so that it would not even provide winter access to Cooke City.

The USFS in its report admits the road would cause some disruption of grizzly habitat on Slough Creek, possible migration interruption for other big game animals and greater pressure on the wildlife from more hunting and fishing via better access.

"The Forest Service is spread thin now," stated Don Allen, president of the Billings-based Beartooth Chapter of Trout Unlimited in opposition to the road at last fall's hearings. He warned that additional roads would create a need to control the numbers of people using the area to protect fish and fragile alpine terrain of the region.

Even the National Park Service has backed the wilderness. Their resource manager Ted Bucknall asked at the hearings for wilderness to the head of Slough Creek, a seeming opposition to the proposed road system.

Slough Creek flows into the park and is a famous and important cutthroat habitat.

(Continued on page 5)

... For Rugged Land

High Country News-5
Friday, June 23, 1972

Photo by U.S. Forest Service

Bucknall worries lest the added fisherman pressure and resulting human pollution kill this important resource which they are trying to maintain in the park. He also added that it was "ridiculous to put a road through to the Boulder River just to reduce the traffic in the park."

Support for the road has come strongly from the timber interests. They want access to an estimated 64,000 acres of harvestable timber in the Absaroka area and the road system would give it to them. They oppose wilderness classification for much of the Absaroka on these grounds as it would prevent lumbering. Howie McDowell, representing the East Side Forest Practices Committee of the Western Wood Products Association at the November, 1971, hearings in Billings pleaded for nonwilderness in the Absaroka.

The final USFS wilderness alternative calls for a minimal wilderness area. This would completely eliminate the Absaroka area from protection and reduce the Beartooth side to a wilderness of 298,000 acres. The lake basin region of Wyoming would be excluded and only the rugged, high country of the Beartooths protected. Little support has been generated for this alternative.

The only remaining threat to the Beartooth-Absaroka area comes from the miners. But in reality they are not a threat to present proposed wilderness. Even that proposed by the Montana Wilderness Society is land on which they have explored and disrupted. It is therefore not eligible for wilderness. It lies mostly in a 30-mile long block at the northern edge of the Beartooth known as the Stillwater Complex. It stretches essentially from the Boulder to the Rosebud rivers.

The Stillwater Complex is a highly mineralized zone. It was the scene of frenzied exploration during the summer of 1970 by more than a half dozen firms when wilderness talk started to fill the air. Numerous claims have been staked out and Anaconda Co. has an apparently important find near old chrome holdings on the Stillwater River. They refuse comment on its value but have dug several exploratory shafts and purchased a nearby ranch for a slag pile.

But, as Ruth Koch, Beartooth wilderness study coordinator for the Montana Wilderness Society, explained, this land is really no longer wilderness under the law and so has been left out of our wilderness proposal.

Other mineral deposits are located in the Cooke City area and around Goose Lake, a small alpine lake above 10,000 feet elevation at the head of the Stillwater River and a few short miles from Granite Peak. Some bulldozing has been undertaken near the Goose Lake inlet stream causing potential damage to an important cutthroat trout population in the lake. Its location near the heart of the Beartooth Primitive area makes it a prime threat to wilderness should further activity take place.

Like the Stillwater complex, the Goose



Mining activity at Goose Lake, north of Cooke City, Montana, has excluded this area from wilderness consideration in the proposed Absaroka-Beartooth area.

Lake mining area has been excluded from proposed wilderness boundaries. Wilderness boundary maps are forced to take a sharp dip northward to avoid this area of disruption.

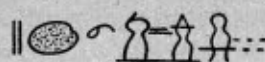
The mining activity appeared to quiet down during the summer of 1972. If this continues, and, if no new significant mineralized zones are found in proposed wilderness, mining should pose no additional threat. However, a sharp conservation eye must be kept on mining activities in the nonwilderness zones to prevent serious ecological damage to the Stillwater River and other drainages plus disruption of wildlife and their habitat. Ruth Koch says "we are lucky" that the main part of the Beartooth block appears to be without significant mineral value.

So that is how it now stands for wilderness in the Beartooth-Absaroka region. The next step is up to the Forest Service when they make their recommendation in preparation for public hearings. It will then be up to conservationists to make their voices heard.

Sitting on top of Granite last summer, I was having my experience with the wild. But I hope to have it again and I pray the children of my children have the same opportunity. There is very little wild land left—even if we in the Northern Rockies find many wild areas around us. We are lucky, for such is not the case in our country as a whole.

We have a chance in southern Montana and northern Wyoming to preserve a little bit of wild for ourselves and our children.

Let us not miss that chance.



Board Proposed

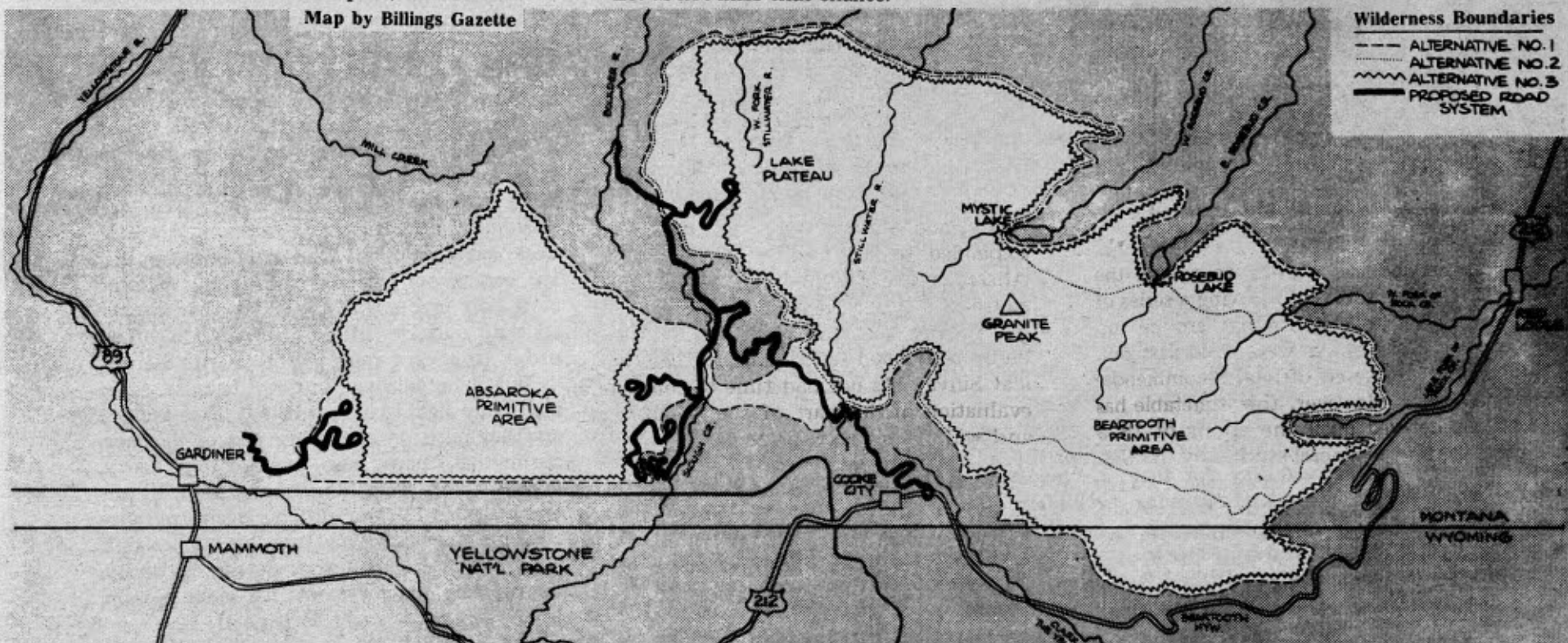
Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton and Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz have announced completion of a proposed charter for a nine-man national advisory board on federal regulation of wild horses and burros in Wyoming and other states.

Passed in December of last year, a law removing state regulation of wild horses and burros on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service stipulates the national board is to advise the secretaries of Interior and Agriculture on "any matter relating to the protection and management of wild free-roaming horses and burros."

Under the law, Butz and Morton are required to consult the board before designating any land for wild horse or burro ranges. Only two such ranges now exist—one in Nevada and one in the Pryor Mountain area north of Lovell.

The joint advisory board would also confer with Morton and Butz on the destruction of any old, sick or lame animals in any area found to be overpopulated.

According to law, the nine-member board cannot have among its membership any employee of a state or federal agency.



Julber Philosophy Rebutted

The opinions of Eric Julber have been widely printed and circulated in newspapers and periodicals, including amongst others the Reader's Digest, May, 1972. When the article by Julber appeared in the Laramie, Wyoming, Daily Boomerang (Feb. 27, 1972), Joseph B. Orr of Laramie was moved to rebut Mr. Julber. Of himself, Mr. Orr says, "The Medicine Bow Forest has been my home for 43 years; happily, there I have been a prospector, miner, logger, loafer." His eloquent rebuttal speaks for itself. It first appeared in the Daily Boomerang on March 5, 1972.

The editor.

* * *

Mr. Eric Julber, a Los Angeles attorney, once a backpack enthusiast, has testified that he lost his faith in the wilderness cause on a visit to Switzerland where he found the country to be beautiful and accessible to everybody by some form of comfortable transportation. His excerpted testimony before the Senate subcommittee on parks and recreation appeared last November in the Chicago Tribune and was reprinted in the Laramie Daily Boomerang, February 27.

In Switzerland where the automobile cannot go (he says) railroads will take you if it is too steep for cogwheel trains, you can get there by aerial cable. Backpack "purists" have no right, he insists, to ask people to walk into American wilderness areas who would rather ride and, with the Swiss as an example, everybody could and should have access to all scenic hinterlands without disruption to their natural beauty by a system of aerial tramcars running on cables strung from peak to peak.

What he says about universal accessibility in Switzerland is not true. There is at least one wilderness area or national park near the Engadine Valley below St. Moritz which travellers can enjoy only by walking. Whole communities live in the higher valleys where backpacking is their usual mode of transportation.

Doctor Jean Mayer, professor of nutrition at Harvard, became interested in these people for their diet consisting of a high intake of saturated fats from dairy foods and their low mortality from cardiovascular disease. He selected and investigated the village of Blatten-dorf in a remote valley in the Southern Swiss Alps that "is several miles away from the nearest road usable by automobiles, trucks, or carts."

Doctor Mayer writes. "All distances have to be walked. The people carry hay, wood, milk, and building material on their backs: Men frequently carry loads of one hundred pounds or more and elderly women carry loads of 50 to 60 pounds up and down the mountain paths."

Talk about your backpack "purists"—the people of Blatten-dorf make us American packers look like a bunch of pikers. Incidentally Doctor Mayer's comparative studies revealed that these people, in spite of their high-saturated fat diet, because of their general and intense physical activity, had levels of serum cholesterol much lower than we do here in the United States.

The system of "accessibility," suggested by Mr. Julber, might work if America were populated by the serene Swiss whose national disposition has been tempered and stabilized by measured and gradual industrial development, non-wasteful austerity, and a hundred years of peace and conservation. While in this same time our people have been convulsed by almost constant wars, hectic expansion, turbulent displacement, rapid urbanization, and ruinous exploitation of the vast landscape. In 2000 years the Swiss have learned how to stabilize and to perpetuate beauty. We Americans, in historical time mere infants, have not learned how to curb the ugliness of our exploitations.

What might be termed accessibility for the Swiss cannot pass for accessibility for the present American. When you speak of access for Americans you are talking about the greater access of 200 million people. And of access to our wilderness areas, first off, by admitting 1.2 million four-wheel-drive vehicles, 1.4 million



Eric Julber says the mountainous wilderness areas should be made more accessible by means of such highways as the Trail Ridge Road in Colorado. A news release from Rocky Mountain National Park, through which Trail Ridge Road goes, gives some interesting information on visitor records for 1971. The release, from Superintendent J.L. Dunning (January 28, 1972) said, "One of the most significant use increases occurred at camp sites reached by trails with 27,192 persons packing into the back country compared with 21,058 in 1970."

pick-up trucks, 200,000 dune buggies, 2 million trail bikes, 1.1 million snowmobiles, and 25,000 all-terrain vehicles which are described by Time Magazine as "a new breed of vehicles that are unbounded by roads or rules" and whose "users tend to ride in deafening packs."

Needless to say, the Swiss do not have our problems with off-road vehicles, with trail bikes which, according to Senator Alan Bible of Nevada, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee of the Senate Interior Committee, race on trails and "scatters hikers like quail." Snowmobilers in Maine "have unwittingly flattened entire plantations of snow-covered seedlings." The Bureau of Land Management, in charge of 451 million acres of federal lands across the U.S. reports: "In one area alone, the Riverside District of the California Desert—450 major crimes, including rape, murder, and burglary, were committed in 1969 as the result of off-road travel by recreational vehicles."

This is what is meant by initial accessibility in America. Eventual accessibility is by automobile, and most Americans will settle for nothing less. They further demand that they get where they are going at 70 m.p.h. You will not convey the vast hordes of Americans, who seem to take their vacations all at once, into our scenic backlands jammed into aerial tramcars creeping along a cable. It is too slow. This mode of conveyance cannot satisfactorily handle even the ski population as attested by the intolerably long tow lines at all major ski areas.

There is only one way to make a place accessible to the American: bring in the bulldozers, gouge through mountains, fill ravines, slash down trees, — and make a road. The narrow, crooked road must too soon give way to a new and wider right-of-way for the straighter road. The two-laner eventually must be replaced by the four-laner; the four-laner by the six-laner. This is the inevitable pattern of accessibility into our natural scenic areas.

Because some of us wish to spare certain areas—those few places left in America that can be termed wilderness—from the devastations of this kind of accessibility, we are called "purists." We are also called snobbish. Mr. Julber says we purists are too rich and too well educated, that we are promoting a sort of country-club elite of clutter-booted cliff-hangers who contrive to keep out ordinary Americans.

Nonsense! Ordinary lazy Americans stay out by their own choice. The Wildland Research Center at the University of California has concluded from its studies that "wilderness use is not so much dependent on high income as it is related to taste preferences in recreation."

Backpackers are the most convivial people you will ever know—a conviviality uncontained and indiscriminating for anyone who happens into a wilderness area. Why is the backpacker so friendly? Because he has left the capitalistic arena behind him, and more than any place in life, here in the wilderness he feels like a liberated soul. Unmolested, unhampered by his usual mechanical junk, he is heady with freedom.

It is very flattering to be told by Mr. Julber that we are rich intellectuals with advanced degrees and all that—but it doesn't seem to fit. Me, I am a mere peasant for whom backpacking is an extension of my present ways. I also backpack because it is the cheapest way to go, often outside of the wilderness area where it is not even necessary because I prefer not to pay a \$2 campground fee to be accommodated by a rest room reeking of disinfectant, an empty firewood bin, a tilted tent site, traffic dust, and the usual hubbub of moaning car motors, popping motorbikes, and squawking transistor radios. My whole family backpacks and we are part of the government statistic that claims "more than one-tenth of the overnight visits to the National Forest Service system take place in the open in undeveloped areas" because we have no nearby wilderness area in the Medicine Bow Forest.

Mr. Julber does not honor the backpacker movement to toughen up soft bodies. We have no business inflicting our spartan and monk-like austerities, as a passport to wilderness travel, on others who wish to remain soft. He berates our personal philosophy, flaunted as a holy credo, that impells us backpackers to strip ourselves of civilization's comforts in order to seek a pure moment with Nature.

But if he dubs us "purists" because, aspiring to go light, we do without, then there is another purist at the other end of the spectrum—that camper who, aspiring to go heavy, does so with everything he can haul: by the truckful—his TV, his radio, his electric refrigerator, his inner-spring mattress, his kitchen sink, his shower bath, his flush toilet, his electricity, his pressure water system, his sewer system,

(Continued on page 11)

Citizens Speak Out on Wilderness

High Country News-7
Friday, June 23, 1972

The following letter was addressed to the Supervisor of the Manti-La Sal National Forest at Price, Utah, under dateline of April 1, 1972.

The letter is a well organized expression of citizen opinion, and could be considered as representative of many comparable letters from concerned citizens throughout the West. It was signed by 17 men and women from Moab, Utah, including High Country News correspondent, F. A. Barnes.

* * *

Dear Sir:

With respect to the current review of management objectives for undeveloped areas within the Manti-La Sal National Forest, we, the undersigned citizens of southeastern Utah, respectfully submit the following contentions, opinions and recommendations.

CONTENTIONS AND OPINIONS

1. We believe that the law enacted in 1872 concerning the development of mineral resources is antiquated, no longer consistent with present national goals and needs, no longer in the best interests of the American public, and inconsistent with recently enacted laws which more clearly express current needs and philosophies.

2. We believe that the National Environmental Quality Act, the Wilderness Act, and to some extent the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, more nearly represent current public desires and needs than do laws enacted to resolve the drastically different problems of many decades ago, and that the principles outlined in these acts should be given priority over older laws, such as those related to mineral resource development, during any reformulation of Forest Service management policies.

3. We believe that, under the mining and multiple use laws passed in the last century, the resources of publicly-owned lands have been "developed," used, and abused for entirely too long by the mining, logging and grazing interests, without due regard for the overall needs and desires of the American public. We contend that such usage has frequently caused the general deterioration and depletion of the public lands and has, in all too many instances, ruined the land for the more neglected aspects of "multiple use," that is, wildlife preservation, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment.

4. We contend that such local users of Federally administrated lands as miners, loggers and stockmen tend to lose sight of the fact that these lands belong to the entire nation; are not truly a part of the state in which they lie; are not, by any stretch of the imagination, or by local needs or desires or past usage, their own private property or preserves, and that local monetary gain and economic welfare can seldom, if ever, be equated directly to overall national need or benefit. We believe that the Federal agencies that administer the lands that they hold in trust for the American public should give greater weight in their administrative policies and decisions to overall public need, both in the present and foreseeable future, than to the desires of local users of that land, especially those who would tend to make personal profit from the "development" and use of the lands.

5. We believe that, in the case of the undeveloped lands under consideration for inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System, top priority should be given to their preservation from any form of further economic development for the following reasons:

a. The percentage of total land that these represent is so minute that closing them to "development" and multiple use could not conceivably harm the general economic welfare of the nation as a whole.

b. To the contrary, the minute percentage of land that is still undeveloped and worth preserving as wilderness is, in itself, a strong argument in favor of setting aside what little remains.

c. Public pressures and needs for unspoiled, undeveloped areas for recreational and aesthetic enjoyment are growing rapidly and deserve major consideration when it comes to the revision of public land usage policies.

d. Morally speaking, those who have already benefited economically from the development and use of public lands, have less claim to further use than do those who have not. Commercial mining, grazing and logging interests can be said to have "used up their share" of public lands long ago. It is thus time for the rest of the American public to be given priority on usage, especially on those few areas as yet unspoiled by "development."

6. We believe that the National Environmental Quality Act applies to all actions of the U.S. Forest Service and to actions and usages within National Forests by commercial interests that are permitted or licensed by the Forest Service. We further believe that, where this act conflicts with earlier laws, such as those concerning mining and multiple-use, the principles of the Environmental Quality Act and the Wilderness Act should govern, especially in light of the fact that, even now, mining and other older laws related to the development and use of public lands are being studied for revision by the U.S. Congress.

7. We believe that all Federal agencies charged with the administration of public lands should establish a moratorium on multiple use and mineral development, especially within undeveloped lands, until the Congress has had ample opportunity to respond to changing public needs and desires, and to current

national priorities.

8. We believe that, under existing multiple use laws, too much emphasis has been placed on economic usage, and too little on other usages such as recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, wildlife preservation, and the reservation for future use of mineral and other non-renewable resources. We believe that every possible measure should be taken by Federal agencies responsible for the administration of public lands to correct this massive imbalance, while some small remnant of unspoiled wilderness still remains. We believe that while the long-range value of land for such non-economic uses may be difficult to assess, especially in relation to short-term and obvious economic gain, that value is still there and the American people, through the enactment of Environmental and Wilderness laws, have expressed a desire that these values be given major consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend that all seventeen of the areas within the Manti-La Sal National Forest that have been designated by the current study as potential wilderness areas be recommended by the Forest Service to the Congress for preservation under the Wilderness Act.

2. We recommend that during this interim period while Congress is considering these recommendations, every possible means be used by the Forest Service for preserving these seventeen areas intact, undeveloped and unspoiled.

3. We recommend that during this interim period, the principles and provisions of the Environmental Quality Act be used to the fullest extent to stop or delay any mineral resource development, exploration or claim patenting.

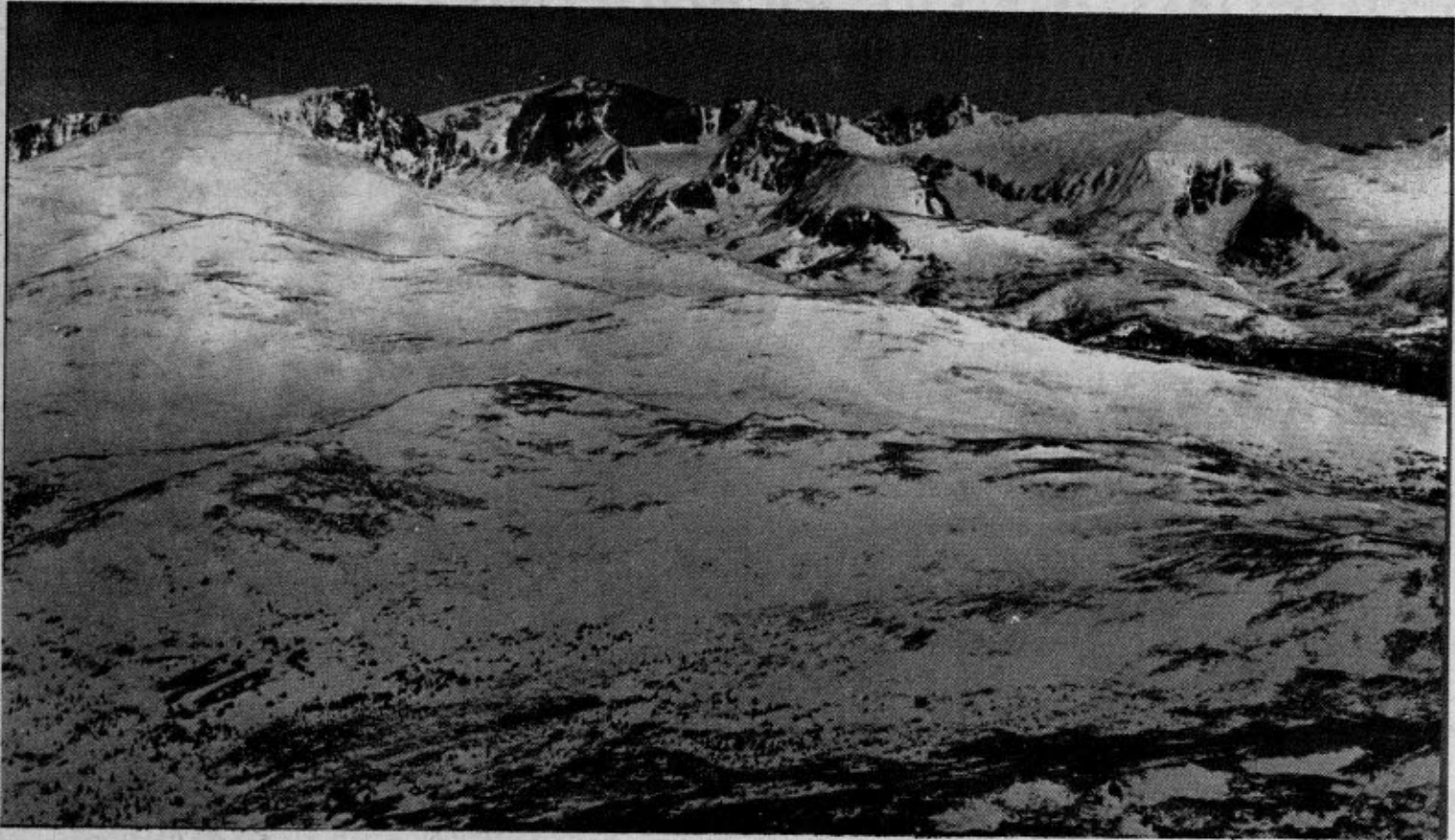
(Please turn to page 15.)



Photo by F. A. Barnes

Colorado Plateau redrock strata thousands of feet thick lie on the lower flanks of the La Sals and Abajos, thus blending the scenic splendor of 12,000 foot mountain peaks with the unique and incomparable beauty of multi-colored sandstone canyonlands. Here, several La Sal peaks are seen from the vantage point of Porcupine Rim, the 12 mile long vertical wall of Wingate sandstone that bounds spectacular Castle Valley on one side.

8-High Country News
Friday, June 23, 1972

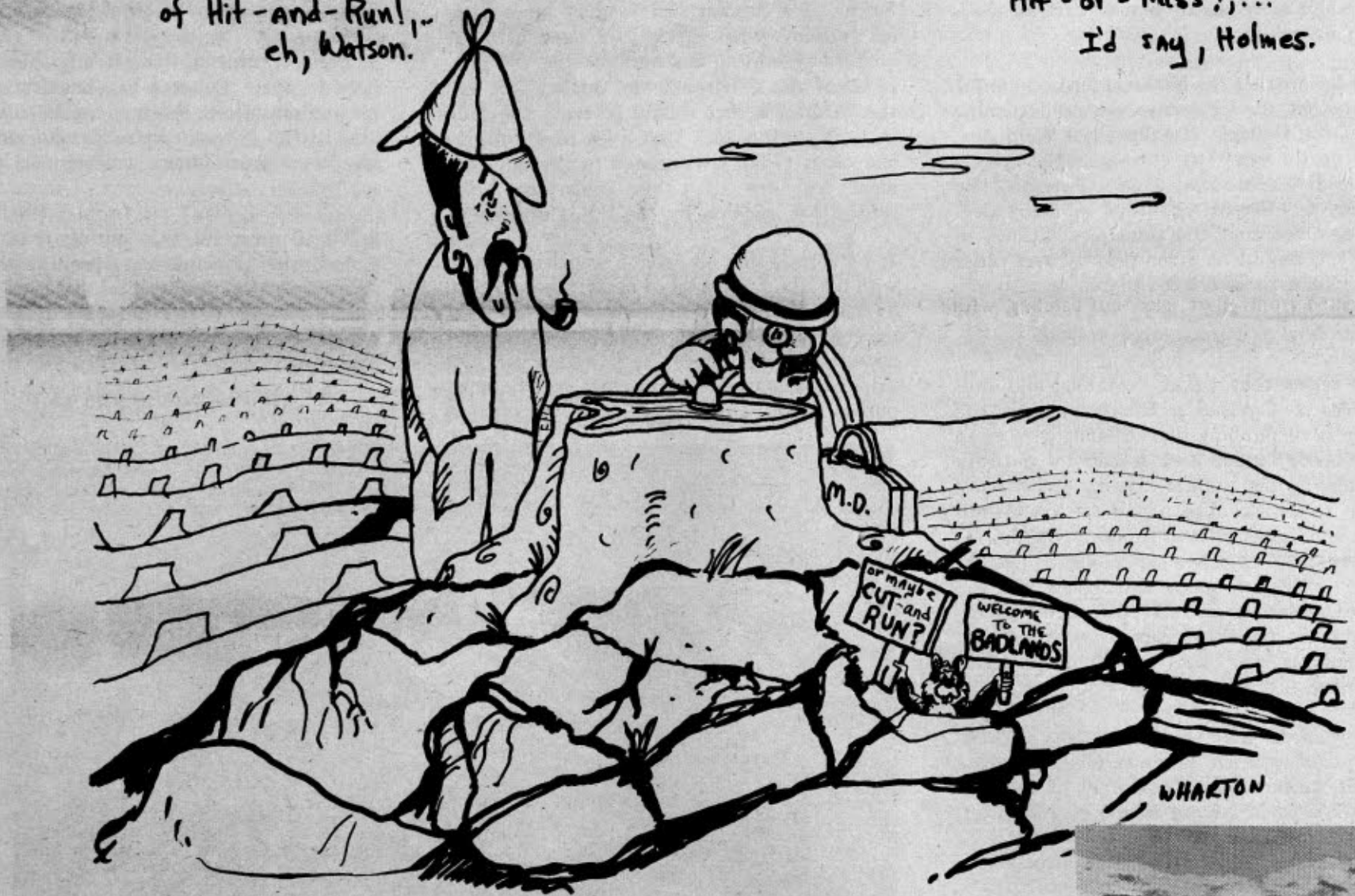


TIM-B-

Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains a
mountain ranges. When these aerial pho
Black Tooth (shown at left) were still
elevations along U.S. Highway 16 (at rig
cutting was starkly revealed, including
devastation from the eyes of those wh

OBVIOUSLY!... A
CLEAR-CUT case
of Hit-and-Run!...
ch, Watson.

ummm, ... more like
Hit-or-Miss!,...
I'd say, Holmes.



But at
revealing mo
had all but
it remained
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And while t
creases the
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- B - R - R - R !

s Big Horn Mountains are not unlike many other western
es. When these aerial photos were taken, Cloud Peak and
shown at left) were still swathed in snow. Even the higher
g U.S. Highway 16 (at right) were snow covered. Here, clear-
arkly revealed, including the thin mask left to hide the
m the eyes of those who travel the by-ways.



Photos by Art Fawcett

High Country News-9
Friday, June 23, 1972

But at lower elevations, the snow was going — and
revealing more of the work of the timber industry. Snow
had all but disappeared from giant, clear-cut patches, while
it remained in the timber. Research has shown that roads
and timbering increase sedimentation of streams and rivers.
And while timbering may increase water flows, it also in-
creases the rate at which water comes off the mountain.
Photo at lower right clearly shows the effect of clear-
cutting on snow-melt.



Cartoon courtesy of A Friend of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

10-High Country News
Friday, June 23, 1972

Western..... Roundup

Photo by Ernie Day

Miners Opposed

The Idaho Mining Association opposes the Senate version of a Sawtooth National Recreation Area Bill. The mining group says the bill "clearly discriminates against mining."

Under the terms of the Senate bill, the entire 750,000-acre area would be permanently withdrawn from mineral entry. It would also prohibit the patenting of existing claims. A House bill provides for a five-year moratorium on new mineral claims, and would allow patenting of pending claims.

Senate and House Conferees must now try to resolve the differences.

In the meantime, Vern Hamre, Regional Forester at Ogden said the Forest Service is proceeding with management plans for the new recreation area.

Hamre said, "The Senate and House have expressed their desire that the Sawtooth-White Clouds area be protected from indiscriminate mining and subdivision. The Forest Service shares this concern and is prepared to promptly carry out the provisions of the new legislation."

Site Reviewed

The China Meadows reservoir site in Utah and the alternate Bridger site in Wyoming were personally inspected by Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Ellis Armstrong recently. He said he would make a decision by early July as to which site to recommend.

Conservationists, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife have all recommended against the China Meadows site. Residents of Wyoming's Bridger Valley want the China Meadows site because they say it would be the most economical for them.

Researchers have pointed out that only about 60 families would benefit from the \$5.1 million project. Each family would be subsidized to the extent of \$80,000 exclusive of interest charges.

Briefly Noted...

Colorado State University is drafting a model water law for the western states. The model would permit environmental considerations being included as beneficial uses. The model is to be ready in early 1973.

Wyoming Senator Clifford P. Hansen polled approximately 19,000 young people in his state. Of the ten per cent who responded to a question as to whether they favored more wilderness or classifying the land for multiple use, 1,234 favored wilderness and 672 favored multiple use.

Phoenix, Arizona, received no measurable precipitation in the first five months of 1972. Conditions are so dry in the Southwest that parts of Grand Canyon National Park have been closed off. Stream flow in New Mexico's Pecos River at Santa Rosa were the lowest in 56 years, and near San Ildefonso on the Rio Grande the lowest in 71 years.

Friends of the Earth have called for the dismissal of National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr. In a letter to Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton, legislative director George Alderson cited a number of points in which FOE finds Hartzog working against the public interest. Alderson said Hartzog "is intentionally letting the national parks be destroyed through piecemeal development."



The scars of mining exploration mark the high mountainous areas of Idaho's White Cloud Mountains. A Senate-passed Sawtooth National Recreation Area Bill would protect this scenic area from any further mining disturbance.

Ranch Put On Probation

Illegal spraying of sagebrush on public lands in central Wyoming earned the Diamond Ring Ranch a probation but no penalty. In the third of a series of illegal incidents involving the ranch and its owners, Van Irvine and Herman Werner, the ranch was placed on a three year probation of federal grazing leases.

The ranch constructed 64 miles of unauthorized, sheep-tight fencing, on public lands in the mid-60's. No penalty was invoked and the fences were subsequently authorized where they remain today.

One year ago, Van Irvine; his son, Lee; Mike Ryan, a federal trapper, and another ranch employee were charged with killing some 25 antelope. The carcasses were then loaded with poison to kill predators. The poisoned animals were believed to have caused the deaths of eagles found in the vicinity. Irvine pleaded no contest and was fined a total of \$679.

In early June, 1971, Irvine hired the Buffalo Flying Service to spray sagebrush. The spraying was supposedly to be done on private lands but resulted in the spraying of some 3,600 acres of public land within the area enclosed by the illegal fencing of 1965. The ranch was subsequently paid \$2,500 for the spraying by the federal Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

A Bureau of Land Management hearing examiner, L.K. Luoma, said that even though there had been a trespass offense, the spraying had resulted in a benefit to both livestock and game animals. He said specifically, "The wildlife habitat suffered no damage." Such findings are of course contrary to research findings of qualified wildlife biologists. Antelope, which are the chief game animal of the area, depend quite heavily on sagebrush for feed.

BLM range managers had recommended a severe reduction of grazing privilege for the ranch. Luoma found the recommendations to be "inordinately disproportionate to the gravity of the violation committed."

The ranch was put on probation until it commits a similar violation.

Sage Added

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO — Sagebrush added to cattle feed reduces the odor of cattle excretions, according to researchers at Colorado State University.

Certain oils in sagebrush affect bacteria in the digestive tract of cattle, reducing the number of those organisms responsible for odor. Published in the Farm Quarterly (February), the study reported no ill effects to the cattle, nor did the sage affect the taste of the meat.

System Studied

Montana's Advisory Council for Comprehensive Health Planning is studying a proposal that would require any future development in the state to assess the environmental and social impacts on a community or the state. The proposal is patterned after a similar plan pioneered in Maine two years ago.

The Environmental Site Permit System would include commercial, industrial and residential development. The study of the system assumes that land is Montana's most important resource, and that it will become even more important. The site system would require that development could take place only where the environmental and social impacts would be the least, and where it fit the best land use pattern.

Reprinted from the WILDERNESS REPORT, May, 1972.

High Country News-11
Friday, June 23, 1972

Senator Reviews History

The National Park Service may be going "back to the drawing board" to improve its newest wilderness proposals after a history lesson about the Wilderness Act from Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho) at a hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands on May 5.

At issue were a number of major national park wilderness proposals, sound in a general way but each seriously marred by non-wilderness enclaves, non-wilderness buffer zones and huge exclusions along park roads and around developed sites. Because Park Service wilderness-excluding policies arbitrarily restrict the extent of wilderness designation within parks and weaken the protection given park wilderness, they have increasingly frustrated and alarmed wilderness supporters.

In the national parks it is not the timber interests, the stockmen and the miners who oppose wilderness—too often it is the Park Service itself.

ITEM: In Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California a proposed wilderness area is peppered by more than 30 non-wilderness enclaves ranging from nine to 482 acres, leaving the wilderness like a slice of Swiss Cheese. These proposed enclaves, like 19 in North Cascades, lie in the very heart of the wilderness, virtual beachheads for future destructive development.

ITEM: Huge exclusions of wildland around even the smallest developed site in Isle Royale National Park in Michigan and Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, leaving so-called "wilderness threshold zones" unprotected against encroaching development which would chew away the critical fringes.

ITEM: A blanket Park Service policy of excluding a 1/8-mile wide "buffer zone" along park boundaries, with no specific justification offered. Such zones could split park wilderness from adjacent potential wilderness on lands outside the park.

In comments on these Park Service policies, Senator Church reviewed the intent of Congress embodied in the long-fought-for 1964 Wilderness Act. As floor manager of the wilderness bill when it first passed the Senate in 1961, Senator Church is in a unique position to speak regarding Congressional intent. Thus he cited specific legislative history as he proceeded to demolish, one by one, the array of erroneous Park Service policies which have grown up since 1964 to frustrate protection of park wilderness.

Senator Church spoke first of the value of the Wilderness Act in giving Congress the ultimate decision on what is or is not to be designated as wilderness. He noted that the Park Service, with other land-managing agencies, has arbitrarily developed policies for excluding lands from wilderness which have no basis in the policy declared by the Wilderness Act itself. Much of this has resulted, he said, from a fundamental misunderstanding. The proper test of whether an area is "suitable" as wilderness is whether it measures up to the definition of wilderness found in section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. Agencies, however, are misapplying provisions of Section 4 dealing with management and use of wilderness. Senator Church declared:

"It was not the intent of Congress that the section 4 management provisions be applied as criteria and standards for adding an area to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The test of suitability of an area for wilderness designation is simply and solely in the definition of wilderness in section 2(c), which is a reasonable, flexible definition, resting basically on a balancing judgment of the imprint of man's work being 'substantially unnoticeable' within the proposed wilderness. . ."

This is a crucial point, misunderstanding of which has led to such a policy as the exclusion from wilderness of enclaves around such a management feature as a fire tower in the middle of the back-country. (A useful reference source is A Handbook on the Wilderness Act, available on request from The Wilderness Society.)

Senator Church then proceeded to deal specifically with a variety of the Park Service non-wilderness policies:

On non-wilderness "enclaves" — "I am especially concerned about the non-wilderness 'enclaves' which seem to pepper all of these national park wilderness proposals. There are more than thirty separate swiss-cheese-like enclaves within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. I find no convincing rationale for this practice....In summary, the concept on non-wilderness enclaves...is undesirable, dangerous, inconsistent with the letter and intent of the Wilderness Act, and altogether unjustified."

On "buffer" zones and "thresholds" — "Now, we see that the National Park Service is, again as a matter of blanket policy, setting the boundaries of its proposed wilderness units back from the edge of roads, developed areas and the park boundaries by 'buffer' and 'threshold' zones of varying widths. There is no requirement for that in the Wilderness Act."

On inholdings — "What the Act intends and contemplates is that small private inholdings, mineral claims, grazing areas and the like, which constitute established private rights or privileges, may be encompassed within the boundaries of a wilderness area, and need not be specifically enclaved or otherwise segregated from the wilderness area within which they lie....Upon termination of these various private rights, the land will already be a part of the wilderness within which it lies, with no need for further procedures or legislation."

On necessary management activities within a wilderness area — "I call your attention to the phrase in the prohibition of uses in Section 4 of the Wilderness Act which states 'except as necessary to meet minimum requirements

Julber Rebutted...

his trail bike on the front bumper and his jeep fastened behind to a tow-bar. He is what I term the "machine purist" or the "gasoline freak" who can go nowhere in life without an attendant gasoline engine to serve him.

The machine-purist advocates that you never use your body when you can use a machine, that you never walk when you can ride a tote-goat, a mini-bike, a power wagon, a dune buggy, a jeep, an all-terrain crawler, or a snowmobile. He is the sort who will not paddle the smallest craft on the smallest lake but use an outboard motor, who will disturb the inhabitants of a campground by using a baby chain saw to cut a few pieces of firewood. At dark he will start up a baby gas-driven generator to power a couple of trailer lights and his TV.

Is this who you want us to give entry into the wilderness areas? Provide the go-heavier or the machine-freak with access, and he brings in so much more than just himself.

Of the two—the "go-lighter" or the "go-heavier"—which makes the greater environmental demand upon our overburdened forest? Obviously the go-heavier because he needs more room to use and park his machinery. He causes more noise and more polluted air. The go-heavier also commits the greater desecration upon one of society's best resources—himself—by not using his body more, to forestall a coronary attack.

Our critic further produces a deceptive picture of the backpacker enjoying himself in an unpeopled wilderness, frolicking in selfish solitude, forcing those outside to crowd up. I gather that Mr. Julber has not visited a wilderness area lately. Wilderness recreation is the fastest growing form of forest recreation. Between 1946 and 1967 the number of visits to Forest Service wilderness areas increased over 1200 per cent. Last summer, in the Bridger Wilderness, if he had taken any route into the area he would have joined an almost constant file of hikers walking up the trail past a steady file of hikers coming out. He would have found a tent city at Island Lake, in the heart of the



Senator Frank Church confers with Porter Ward of the Interior Committee staff at hearings on public land policies.

for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act' such uses are prohibited. This provision fully allows for necessary management functions to occur within wilderness, without need for exclusionary enclaves. We intend to permit the managing agencies a reasonable and necessary latitude in such activities within wilderness....The issue is not whether necessary management facilities and activities are prohibited; they are not—the test is whether they are in fact necessary."

During the hearing citizen spokesmen from Idaho, Washington, Colorado, Virginia, California, Michigan and Florida applauded Church's strong statement, recognizing that his initiative represents a turning point in wilderness policy and a start by Congress toward regaining full control over the process of saving America's wilderness.

area, and tent sites at a premium. This summer the Forest Service will regulate the condition of over-demand in the Bridger to cut down the traffic. Where will the shut-out hikers go?

Indeed, all of us are overcrowded—backpackers in the wilderness areas, campers in the developed campgrounds, picnickers in the picnic areas, and motorists simply driving through. In 1964 there were 133.8 million visits to the National Forest System. There will be, according to their recreation survey, 250 million visits in 1976, and 636 million visits by the year 2000. Where and how will we find room for everyone?

Wilderness areas in the long run will handle more campers per square foot than by any other means. A backpacker with his pup tent does not take up as much room as a car-trailer and the roads to wheel them in. Obviously, to accommodate more campers everywhere in the entire forest the backpack way of camping may be the only kind that some day will be considered equitable. Authorities may decide in the future that it would be unfair to allow vehicles, trailers, cars, parking lots, and roadways to crowd people out.

I know a backpacker, one of Mr. Julber's weirdo intellectuals, who claims that by the year 2000, the walking crowds in the forests will be so teeming and erosive that anybody let in will be required to walk barefooted... while most of the population, waiting their turn to go in, will be permitted only to go around outside the forest boundary and look in.

But what of the old, the hurried, the timid, the out-of-shape or just-plain-lazy, all of whose taxes maintain the wilderness areas? If we consider the alternative of building them an expensive road into the wilderness, it will take more taxes from everyone and we, the backpackers, will then be taxed for an accessibility that we did not elect. Although we are the predominant users of wilderness areas, we do not complain that our taxes support the vast majority of lands outside the areas.

(Continued on page 15.)

12-High Country News
Friday, June 23, 1972

"Go-to-meeting-night" in St. Anthony

Tom Baugh attended the National Forest "undeveloped area" meeting at St. Anthony, Idaho, in March. Following is his account of it. The meeting was somewhat out of the ordinary in that special-interest user groups were not only out in force but also put on quite a display. But it was not unusual in the sense that many local-area interests attended similar meetings throughout the West to vehemently oppose wilderness.

Throughout most of the public meeting process, it was painfully evident that many who spoke against any more wilderness were not aware of the provisions of the Wilderness Act itself. And their ignorance and misunderstandings were nurtured and fed by well organized special interest groups, led by the timber industry.

No attempt was made by the well-orchestrated opposition across the West to discriminate in the areas opposed. For instance, in the case of the Targhee National Forest hearing at St. Anthony, the town is virtually in the shadow of the west slope of the world famous Teton Range. Few people seem to know that Grand Teton National Park goes only to the crest of the Teton Range, and that the west slope of the Tetons are unprotected by any special management provisions.

A fact sheet from the Targhee National Forest says of the west slope, "This area receives more recreation use than any other back country area on the Targhee. There are no roads into the area; however, it is netted by a series of trails that vary from very good in some of the major canyons to unusable in some of the more rugged and remote areas."

Certainly, this area, if no other in the world, should be given some type of special management. Many wilderness advocates in both Idaho and Wyoming have requested a wilderness study and the Forest Service has responded by designating such a study area. However, the area still falls into the "roadless" or "undeveloped" category, and was therefore opposed by the special-interest users.

The editor.

Photos and text by Tom Baugh

Tuesday, March 21, 1972 was "go to meeting" night in St. Anthony, Idaho. Over 500 people turned out to attend a meeting called by Targhee National Forest Supervisor Robert H. Tracy. The purpose of this meeting was to allow the public to state their views concerning the controversial "roadless" area issue.

By 7:00 p.m. it was obvious that the meeting would be well attended. Long lines of visitors and participants passed the lumber trucks and corrals of sheep placed outside the auditorium doors by the Sawtell Chapter of Outdoors Unlimited. These displays were apparently intended to impress the public and Forest Service officers with the multitude of benefits derived from non-wilderness oriented, multiple-use management of National Forest lands. The lines filing past the registration desks also passed a large statue of a mountain lion the symbol of South Fremont High School and also ironically, a symbol of our vanishing wilderness.

The meeting had been scheduled to begin at 7:30 sharp, but the registration desks were still crowded at that time and it wasn't until a quarter of an hour later that Forest Service Recreation and Lands Branch Chief John Combs called the meeting to order.

In his introductory statement, Combs mentioned that over 65 persons had requested time to make statements. Combs then introduced Targhee National Forest Supervisor Robert H. Tracy.

Tracy pointed out that the personnel of the National Forests of the United States have been directed by the Chief of the Forest Service to prepare an inventory of "all areas of National Forest lands greater than 5,000 acres in size that are currently in a basically undeveloped state." The results of this inventory on the Targhee National Forest indicate that 895,000 acres, divided into some 26 units of land, fall into this "undeveloped" category.

Tracy emphasized, at the start of the meeting, that the undeveloped area study on the Targhee was not yet to a point where the Forest Service could definitely recommend concerning the future management of any of these 26 roadless areas.

In discussing the purpose of the public meetings, Tracy stated, "We are particularly interested in recommendations for areas that appear to have wilderness values significant enough to warrant further study and consideration as possible additions to the national Wilderness Preservation System." In his summation Tracy singled out the burden of responsibility of the United States Forest Service when he stated, "It is our responsibility to try to determine the management alternatives which are within the capabilities of our society. We hope we will have your support and understanding in this tremendous undertaking."

Without a doubt, a majority of the statements presented at the meeting favored the continuance of multiple use management excluding any consideration of wilderness areas.

Lowell Rudd, speaking for Senator Ray Rigby, pointed out that 64% of the land of Idaho is under Federal land management of one type or another. On behalf of Senator Rigby, Rudd requested that the resources of the Targhee National Forest "could and should be managed on a shared basis."

Robert Litton, speaking for Representative Ralph Litton, called for non-wilderness management for the Targhee National Forest. In a

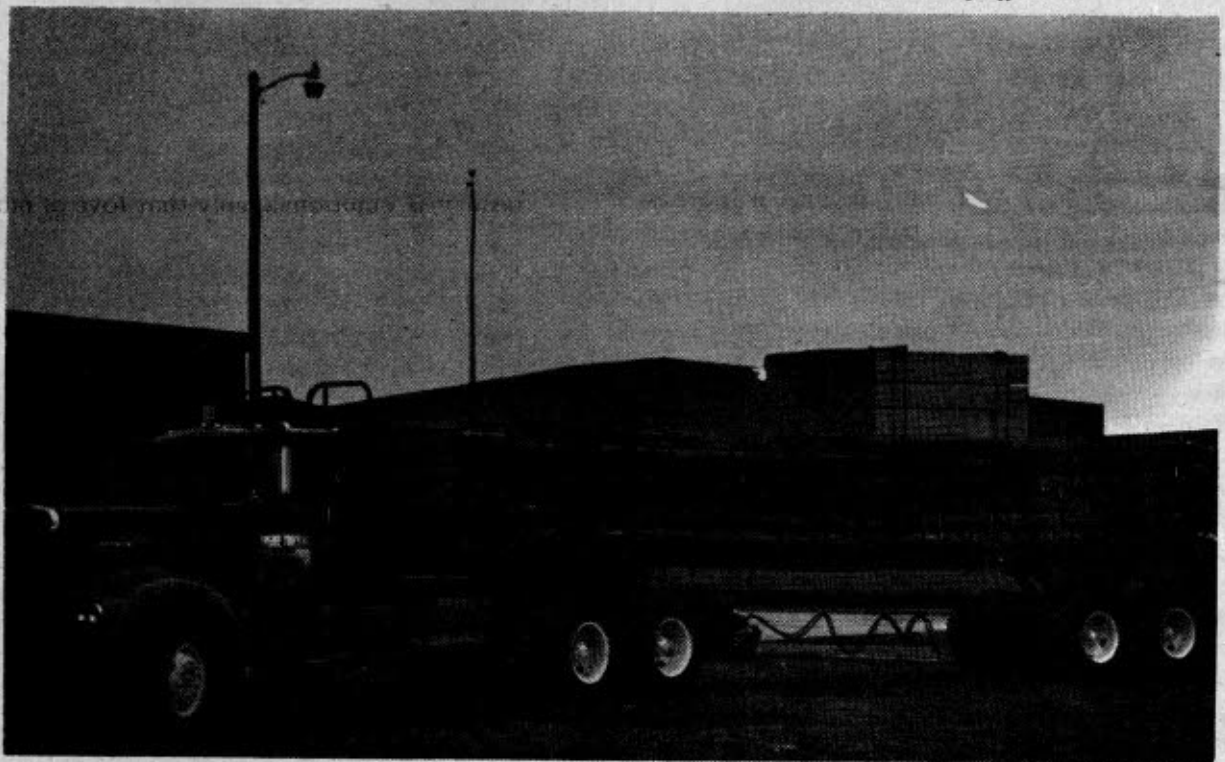
dramatic presentation, Rich E. Orme, representing the Idaho Cattlemen's Association, stated his organization's opposition to wilderness on the Targhee. Orme contended that extensive wilderness would convert Forest Officers into "negative preservationist policemen."

The comments continued in much the same vein, opposing wilderness and supporting other aspects of multiple use management until Carl Hocevar, of Idaho Falls, took the floor. Hocevar made issue of the fact that once wilderness is lost, it cannot be regained. "We can only save the wilderness we have left." Hocevar made a plea for a "correct decision for the land as well as for the people."

The environmentalist cause was also presented by Jerry Jayne who stepped to the mike, categorically stating, "I'm a preservationist." Commenting concerning the anti-wilderness sentiments expressed by many of the preceding speakers, Jayne said, "I feel a little like the Lone Ranger." Jayne pointed out that "wilderness is compatible with the multiple use management" of forest lands. He requested a several year extension before a final decision is made concerning wilderness or non-wilderness on the Targhee. In summation Jayne counseled that "we go slow on any decisions which are irreversible...let's not be in a rush."

The majority of opinions expressed during the meeting were obviously in opposition to the establishment of wilderness areas on the Targhee National Forest. Many of the speakers

(Continued on page 13.)



Lumber trucks and sheep brought to the doors of the meeting place were intended to demonstrate the special interests on the national forests. For the uninitiated who do not know that grazing, where it is an established practice, normally continues in designated wilderness, it is a clever ruse. Timbering is definitely excluded from wilderness to protect the relatively insignificant percentages of remaining virgin timber.



THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

What is wilderness? The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness, as most of you readers already know, as an area where man is merely a casual and occasional visitor, an area that has not felt the permanent impact of man.

Why, then, all the controversy over what should and what should not be protected as wilderness? The anti-wilderness forces have become the purists, excluding from wilderness designation anything that remotely resembles any activity of man. (E.g., the tie hack operations in the Washakie Wilderness during the 1920's: isn't it interesting that Senator Cliff Hansen sees that as a non-wilderness intrusion but calls for the continued use of his cow camps in his proposed Gros Ventre Wilderness?).

The National Park Service has finally gotten around to making some wilderness proposals this year, eight years after the process began and just two years shy of its proposed completion. And now, with the deadline approaching, two aspects of almost every Park Service proposal for wilderness stick in the crop of practically every conservationist worthy of the name: the enclave concept and the buffer-zone concept.

The enclave concept was used in the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park wilderness proposal: any area that has experienced any development by man—such as the climbers' hut on the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton or the ranger cabins in the Yellowstone backcountry. The acreage isn't great, but without wilderness protection, it is possible that further developments might be made that would erode existing wilderness values.

The buffer zone concept, especially in such areas as Shenandoah National Park in Virginia that is badly cut into small segments by roads, involves many, many acres. The concept calls for a strip of non-wilderness land surrounding the wilderness. In Grand Teton National Park the wilderness proposal called for such a buffer even on the west boundary adjacent to de facto wilderness that may eventually become wilderness.

It seems to me that the buffer zone concept defeats the purpose of wilderness in many ways. Wilderness starts at the edge of the road or development, and the farther you get from whatever development or road, the wilder it becomes. (But it's like the old question: how far can a rabbit go into the woods? Only half way because after that, he's going out of it again.)

If a ridge constitutes the wilderness boundary, theoretically a car might drive to the top of the ridge, but if that car can be seen from within the wilderness because it drives to the top of the ridge, then the wilderness character of the protected area is eroded. The boundary should be below the ridge—that is, at the edge of the road, with 4-wheel drive vehicles prohibited.

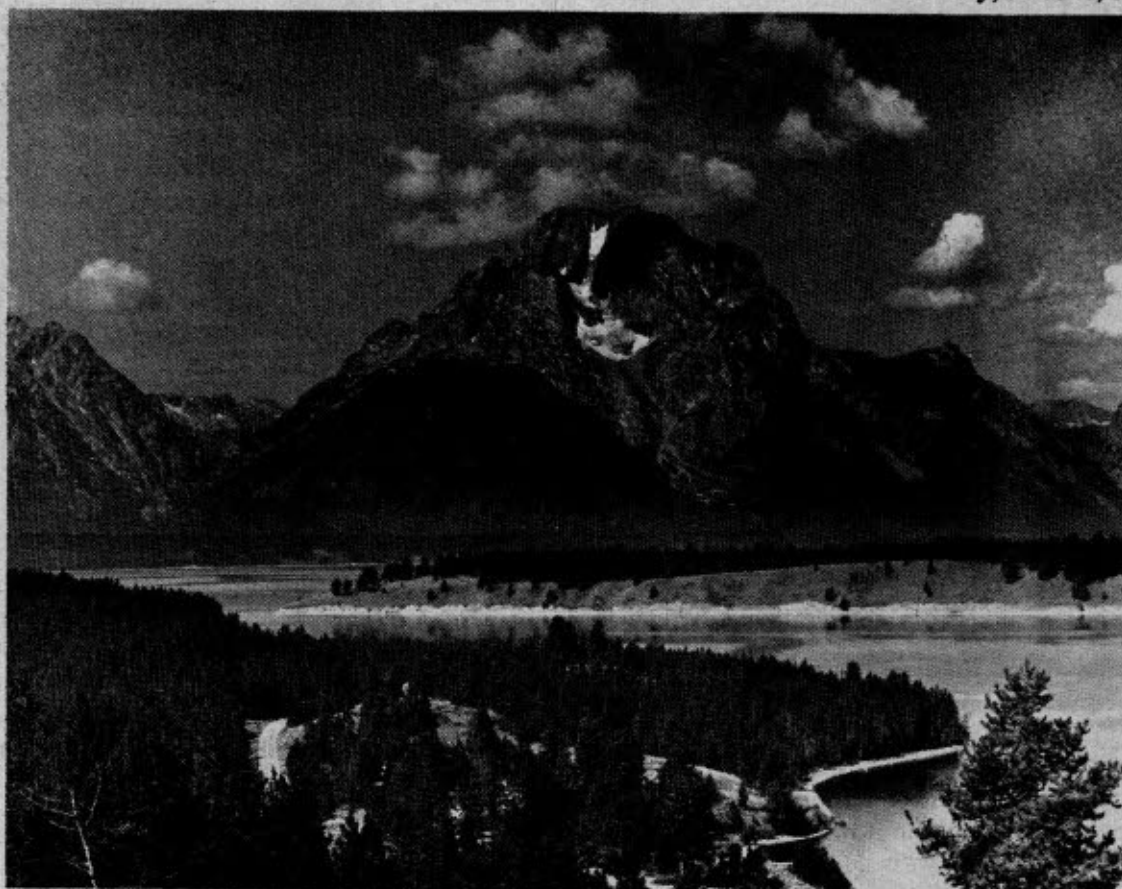
In California's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks the Park Service has recommended 722,000 acres as wilderness, but local conservationists who know the area well have suggested 830,000 acres of the total 847,000 acres. The difference—some 110,000 acres—is primarily tied up in enclaves and buffer zone.

Shenandoah National Park's eight units of recommended wilderness constitute less than 40% of the park's total area because of the enclave and buffer principal. Conservationists again recommend 112,687 acres or nearly 60% of the park for wilderness protection. They feel that since this eastern park is so near several population centers, there is greater need for protection to preserve its wilderness quality.

In Washington State's North Cascades National Park conservationists recommend 571,600 acres for wilderness protection, more than 57,000 acres more than the Park Service recommends. Conservationists oppose 18 enclaves as well as the buffer zones; they also oppose snowmobile use of this newest national park.

Michigan's Isle Royale National Park, the island famous for its wolf-moose ecology story, has 120,588 acres recommended by the Park Service for permanent protection as wilderness, but there again the local conservationists—with the support of all ten of the Senators from the five Great Lakes States—recommend 132,700 acres, considerably more than the Park Service because of the buffer zones and enclaves.

The Flat Tops Wilderness in Colorado (where the spruce bark beetle devastated thousands of acres of mature Englemann spruce a few decades ago and left a natural area larger than some eastern states) has been



The wilderness plan for Grand Teton National Park proposes a number of enclaves, including one at Leigh Lake at the base of Mount Moran.

..Noted & Quoted..

"We enjoy the world's highest standard of living. And we have it because Americans use eight times more energy per capita than others do to create these tremendous benefits and values."

Dr. Richard Gonzalez
Economist and former treasurer
Humble Oil Co.

* * *

"When anyone tells you that your love of beauty is emotional, reply that love of money is an emotion too."

Dr. Daniel B. Luton
Professor, University of
California

* * *

"An environment must be suited to the species; if it isn't, the organisms either die or go elsewhere. But what is an optimal environment—one that satisfies or one that stimulates? While it may be true that pearls come from aggravated oysters, you can only get milk from contented cows. Pearls and milk each have their uses, and people will continue to exercise their preference for one or for the other, but it would be a pointless exercise of freedom to insist on milking oysters."

G. Stern

Wild World...

proposed for a mere 142,230-acre wilderness by the timber-oriented Forest Service. But conservationists, backed by the Colorado Game, Fish and Park Commission, calls for 235,000 acres of wilderness.

So the debate goes on: you might want to pledge your support for the larger wilderness area by writing to the members of the Senate Committee of Interior and Insular Affairs that represent you to support the following bills: S. 3541 (for a larger Shenandoah National Park Wilderness), S. 2539 (for a larger Isle Royale National Park Wilderness), S. 1441 (for a larger Flat Tops Wilderness).

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Mark O. Hatfield (Oregon)
Henry Bellman (Oklahoma)
James L. Buckley (New York)

Trail Endorsed

South Dakota Governor Richard F. Kneip has endorsed establishment of the Lewis and Clark Historic Canoe Trail that is expected to gain national prominence among Boy Scouts.

The canoe trail extends from Pickstown, S. D. to Sioux City, Iowa, on wild stretches of the Missouri River and scenic Lewis and Clark Lake. The trail will be opened officially during ceremonies at Pickstown, June 2.

Gov. Kneip said he heartily endorses the trail. "I would like to encourage all Boy Scouts to take a voyage on the Lewis and Clark Historic Canoe Trail in this summer activities," he said.

The governor remarked that he has traveled a portion of the trail by boat, "and I can say that an extended trip would add to the enjoyment and excitement of being on this great waterway."

"... meeting-night"

expressed the concern that the withdrawal of any significant portion of the Targhee would adversely affect the economics of those areas dependent upon forest products for their financial well being.

Where will the Forest Service go from here? Forest Supervisor Tracy stressed, in his situation statement, that the recommendations made during the public meetings will be considered by him and his staff prior to their recommendations to Regional Forester Vern Hamre. By June 30, 1972, Hamre will submit his list of areas proposed for further study for possible inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System.

The one thing which this meeting pointed out above all else is the extremely difficult job which faces the U.S. Forest Service in the management of the national forest lands. View points expressed in public meetings are generally polarized. On one end of the spectrum a segment of the public is calling for a specific type of management plan, while at the other end, a different group is demanding an entirely different approach. The Forest Service must evaluate all of the requests which stem from a concerned and aroused public. It must evaluate these requests and demands in relation to the guidelines provided by the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

14-High Country News
Friday, June 23, 1972

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

I hope someone remembers to remind me next year NOT to take a vacation in mid-May. My flowering crab bloomed during my absence, so I failed to behold its short-lived moment of rose-colored glory.

But it was a wonderful vacation! In the company of two of my very favorite people, I was privileged to spend a week in the beautiful state of Hawaii. In those seven days, I saw more flowering trees, bushes, shrubs, and vines than I ever knew existed.

The moment we stepped off the plane we were greeted with flowers—the traditional Hawaiian lei. Ours were made of plumeria blossoms, and were so sweetly fragrant that we were reluctant to discard them, even when the pale yellow blooms started to turn brown. Later, we were to see this bush blooming along roadsides and in gardens almost everywhere we went. The flowers are white, pink, yellow, or lavender.

I had the distinct impression (not exactly 100% correct!) that there were bright blossoms on every plant in sight, from the dainty white spathiphyllum (looked it up later!) growing around the doorstep, to the tall, red-splashed tulip trees on a hillside in Kauai.

Hawaii's state flower is the red hibiscus. We saw hibiscus everywhere, in all sizes, shapes and colors. Another popular cut flower is anthurium, or flamingo flower. I first saw these in a vase on a cafe table, and wondered why, with all the real flowers available, would they use plastic ones on the table. They were, in fact, real live flowers—so vivid in color, so waxy in texture, and with leaves and petals so perfectly heart-shaped that they looked artificial.

My companions, who live in California, were familiar with many of the tropical shrubs and flowers, such as oleander, bougainvillea, jacaranda, and many others. To this mountain-grown native of Wyoming, the names were familiar, but the bright splash of colors were new, and breathtakingly beautiful. It was a thrill for me to see bird-of-paradise and fragile-looking orchids blooming, not in a hothouse, but at the side of a path which led through a maze of strange, unfamiliar trees. I did learn later that the trees with the symmetrical cluster of roots above the ground are pandanus, or hala trees; the round, umbrella-shaped trees are monkey pod; while the umbrella tree has blooms like an octopus, which it is sometimes called!

Kauai is aptly named the "garden island." Here we saw growing sugar cane, pineapple, coconuts, bananas, taro, and mangos. (And some other odd-looking crop which we were unable to describe accurately enough to ever find out its name.) The mangos were not yet ripe, so we didn't get to try them, but we did enjoy the fresh papayas. We bought some at a grocery store and ate them sitting under a palm tree on one of the beautiful sandy beaches.

It was there that we got to talking with a sun-bronzed couple and discovered that they were from Jackson, Hole, Wyoming! At a beautiful sandy beach on the other side of the island I visited with a couple from Texas. I decided that he must be a retired rancher, when he looked out across that wide expanse of blue water, shook his grey head, and said "Man oh man—that is one big water hole!"

We saw mountains, beaches, and croplands. And everywhere, high on the mountainsides, at the edges of the beach, and along country lanes, there were flowers.

It was a wonderful vacation! Just the same, I think I'll stick around here next May—at least until the flowering crab has "done its thing." It deserves to be admired, after surviving another tough Wyoming winter. Besides... I planted it with my own two hands!



Until we love beauty enough to create it, preserve it, and maintain it everywhere, we do not deserve our beautiful country.

What I Wish for America: PEARL S. BUCK

CONCERN is for Environment

Concern, Inc. (2233 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007) is a national association whose purpose is to make consumers aware of the environmental impact of household products and practices; to encourage manufacture of products less damaging to the environment; and to investigate and promote better methods of pollution abatement.

The following is excerpted from its recent fact sheet on Solid Waste:

TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE FUTURE

Numerous research projects are now being developed and tested as possible overall solutions to the garbage and trash disposal problem. Some of these are:

1. The Bureau of Mines at Edmonston, Maryland, has developed a pilot plant which treats the residue from incinerators. The process shreds, screens, grinds, and magnetically separates the residue into nonferrous and ferrous metals and glass fractions separated by color.
2. The Black-Clawson Process separates raw waste (not just incinerator residue) into reusable materials by using a hydropulper system. Even waste paper can be recovered by this method. A pilot plant is in operation in Franklin, Ohio.
3. The Power Combustion Company of Palo Alto, Calif., is testing a system to burn waste to generate power.
4. A high temperature incinerator which burns at temperatures of 3000 degrees F. is being tested at Whitman, Mass. This incinerator reduces the volume of trash by 94 to 96%. The residue is a clean frit which can be used in building bricks, in construction, or as a covering for fireproof shingles.

5. The method of pyrolysis is now available to communities. Waste is burned in the absence of oxygen. The gases which are separated out can be used to generate electricity. Landgard is the trade name for one such pyrolysis system.

6. Hercules, Inc., of Delaware, is designing a combined Digester-Pyrolysis-Residue Separation Process which will accept and reprocess into useful materials both raw refuse and sewage sludge.

PROBLEMS WITH REALIZING THESE TECHNOLOGIES

While the technology for separating trash into paper, metal, and glass now exists, the present economic system does not favor recycled goods. Some of the changes which might be made are:

1. Some encouragement comparable to the depletion allowance for producers of raw goods should be given to the secondary materials industry.
2. The ICC freight rates should be equalized so that raw materials will not be transported interstate at rates which are cheaper than for scrap materials.
3. Purchasing attitudes must be changed toward using recycled materials. Government agencies as well as businesses and private citizens must use more recycled products.
4. A tax on all items which end up in solid waste might be necessary. It has been suggested, for example, by the New York Board of Trade, Inc. that the "cost of disposal (1 cent a pound) be included in the price of all potential waste-packaging, glassware, clothing, refrigerators, bedding, washing machines, television, automobiles, etc."

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Public lands—they belong to you and to me.
There, some folks (for profit) harvest a tree,
Or let livestock graze,
Or dig ore that pays.
Let's SAVE some, and just "let it be!"

* * *

The senior resident geochemist at Caltech in Pasadena, California, says lead poisoning is one of civilized man's greatest killers. Dr. Clair Patterson is one of the world's authorities. He says "...everyone is carrying an abnormal amount of lead—many times the normal." It is estimated that about 2,000 infants are lethally poisoned every year in the United States. Another 200,000 or so suffer irreversible brain damage.

* * *

Connecticut is trying one solution to the solid waste problem. The state is offering \$40 million to \$60 million in state contracts as rewards for novel approaches. Companies bidding on contracts will have to observe several guidelines intended to recover, recycle and make maximum use of waste products.

* * *

The top legal officer of the Environmental Protection Agency, John R. Quarles, Jr., says the 1899 Refuse Act is bogged down in legal tangles. As a result, Quarles says control of industrial water pollution may be in danger.

* * *

Dr. Charles Greeley Abbot, 100-year old scientist, inventor and lay minister, patented a device for converting solar energy into electricity in April. He hopes the device will produce pollution-free electric power for automobiles. Dr. Abbot was secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from 1928 to 1944.

* * *

Officials of the National Science Foundation meeting recently in Boulder, Colorado, have concluded that research must concentrate on the nation's needs in transportation, new energy sources, and control of air and water pollution. The officials also said there will be increasing emphasis on the social sciences.

* * *

Miami, Florida, officials have charged that industrial smoke pollution from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee was the cause of a recent smog invasion. They said weather satellite photographs showed the air pollution was funneled south by north winds that prevailed for several days.

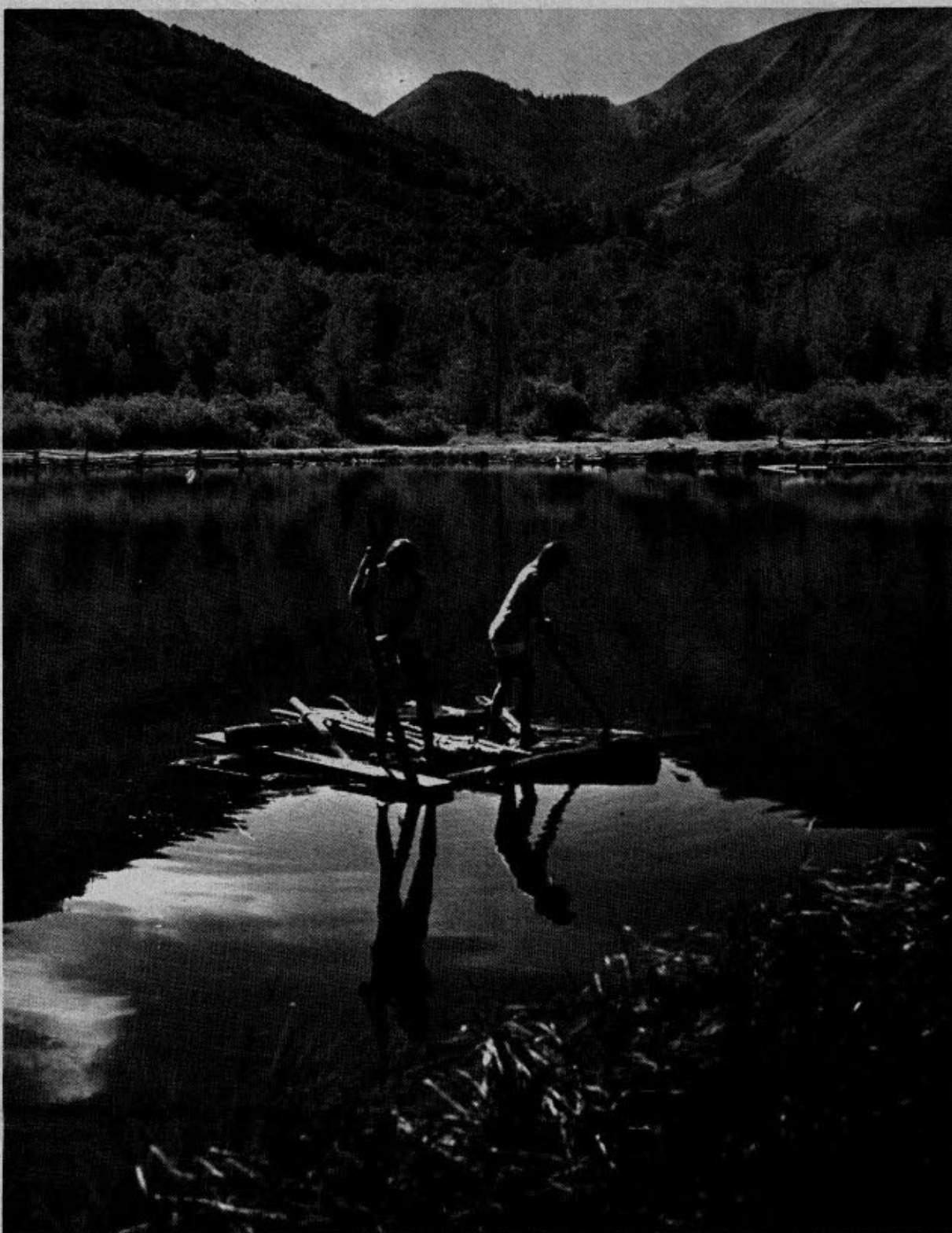


Julber...

If the mixed population of the village of Blattendorf, Switzerland—with its old, its lame, its infant—can manage the year around without roads and vehicles, then surely we can manage for a few vacation days all who want to go into the wilderness area. If they but ask us—and if their request is, of course, genuine—we purists will lead the timid into the wilderness, encourage the out-of-shape, train the inexperienced, exhort the lazy, prompt the hurried to slow down, and even carry the old and frail... Yes, we would do this—so much do we love the wilderness and hate the road.

Photo by F. A. Barnes

High Country News-15
Friday, June 23, 1972



The La Sals have many small to medium sized lakes, all bordered by virgin aspen and evergreen forests. Some are easily accessible, some are not, but all offer good fishing and quiet, scenic beauty.

Citizens Speak...

4. We recommend that during this interim period, efforts be made to force existing mineral claim holders to validate their claims beyond all reasonable doubt, or to quit them entirely. We suggest that the approach used by the National Park Service with respect to the validation and development of mineral claims within newly-annexed National Park-administered lands should be followed rigorously.

5. We recommend that during this interim period, grazing be very carefully controlled so as to prevent any long-range destruction to the natural environment and existing ecologies. We urgently recommend that no "chaining" or other such "range improvement" actions be taken, and that no forms whatsoever of "predator control" or "wildlife management" be taken within the candidate areas.

6. In sum, we recommend that, until Congress has had a chance to preserve such candidate areas within the National Wilderness Preservation System, these areas be administered by the Forest Service as though they were already within the system. Otherwise, their present values may be adversely affected before they can be protected by the Wilderness Act.

* * *

Editor's note: Fran Barnes says, "Here is what we are fighting to save in the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Ten of the seventeen candidate areas lie within the La Sal and Abajo ranges. These lie immediately adjacent to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. The

La Sals and Abajos, plus another range about 100 miles to the west, are the ONLY "lacolithic" mountain ranges in the United States, and are hence unusual in many respects, both geologically and scenically. With the exception of some state lands on the flanks of these high and picturesque ranges, they are largely unspoiled. Essentially, the only logging has been giant aspens on the state lands, with these used for making cooler pads. There has been some mining in the lower slopes, but many large tracts are still prime and beautiful wilderness. All but the local mining and lumbering interests want to keep them this way, but as usual, dollars speak loudly, and local "industrial development" groups swing lots of weight. And around here, "conservation" is a dirty word."

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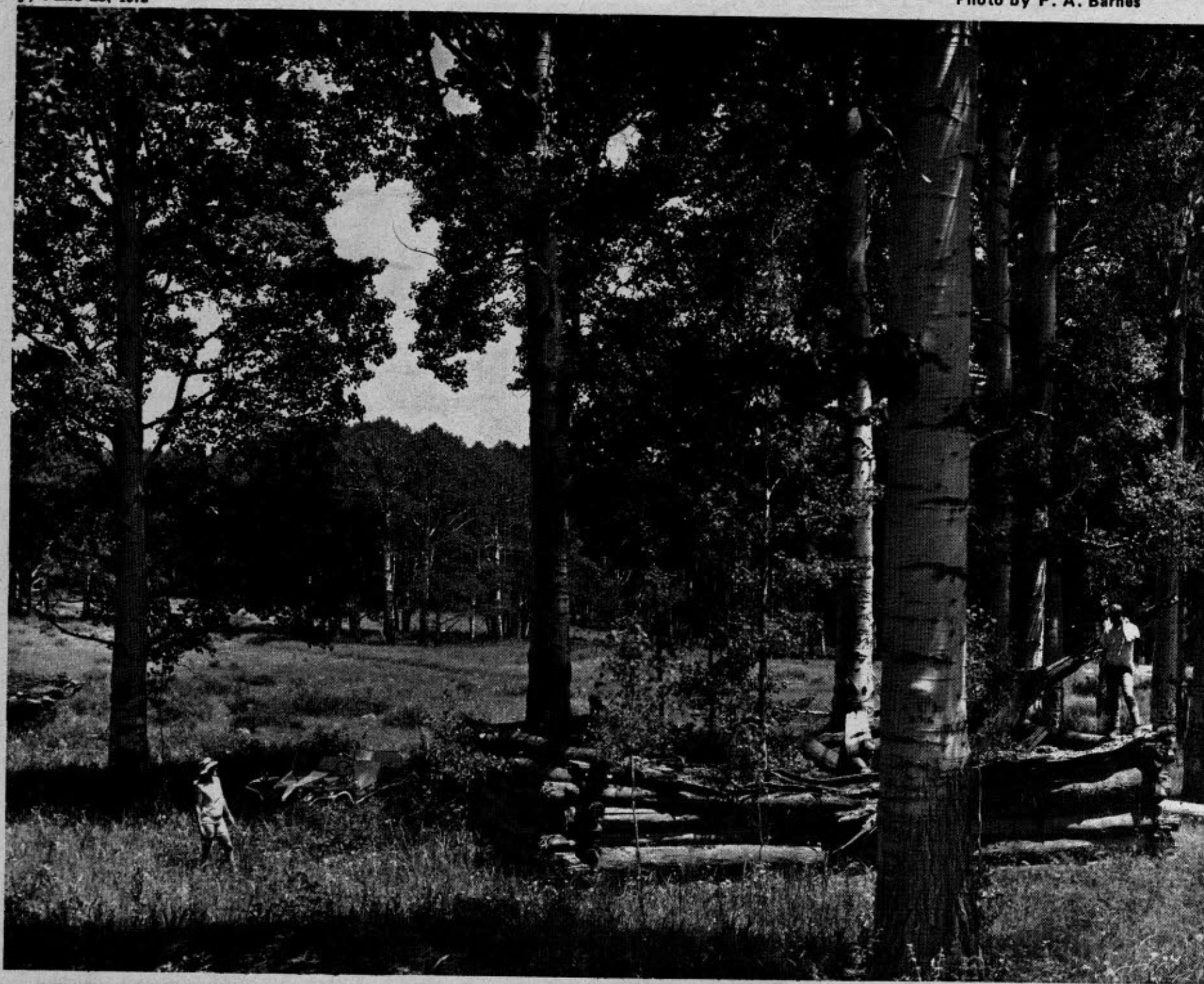
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16-High Country News
Friday, June 23, 1972

Photo by F. A. Barnes



Bits of old-west history stand in giant aspen forests in the Manti-La Sals of Utah. These will be lost forever to mining and logging. (See story page 7.)

Lake Erie: Good Pollution Lab

by Gregory Paul Capito

Living in the midwest is a distinct advantage, especially when an individual is interested in studying water pollution. For 50 miles from my home in northeast Ohio is the finest water pollution laboratory in the nation—Lake Erie.

The Lake Erie basin encompasses some 40,000 square miles, including five states and one province of Canada. The basin is low and flat, formed by the glacial scour of pre-existing valleys during late Wisconsin times. Lake Erie proper, occupying over 9,000 square miles, lies in the eastern portion of the drainage basin. It is the shallowest, warmest and most turbid of the Great Lakes. Because of these physical characteristics, it is more susceptible to the effects of water pollution than the other Great Lakes. During the last half of this century, Lake Erie has undergone drastic changes in both water chemistry and biology. In fact, for the past 150 years, this body of water has been subjected to a wide variety of effluents ranging from untreated, domestic sewage to highly toxic industrial waste. So intense is the pollution along the southern shore of this Great Lake that former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall labeled the area between Cleveland, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan, as "one, big stinking cesspool."

An examination of the Lake Erie problem indicates that the primary causes of pollution are municipal and industrial waste. Recently, the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration singled out twenty industries as the largest producers of industrial effluent in the basin. They ranged in size from the giant Ford Motor Corporation of Dearborn, Michigan, to the diminutive Diamond Shamrock Company of Painesville, Ohio. Together, these manufacturing steel, and petrochemical firms produce the bulk of the industrial pollutants released into the lake. Primary responsibility for discharging domestic waste rests with the metro-

politan districts of Detroit, Michigan; Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio. Currently, the waste products of 11.5 million people are being discharged into the lake. With continued population growth, this figure is expected to swell to 18 million by 1990.

The more obvious long-term effects of dumping tons of untreated, domestic sewage and industrial effluent into the lake are as follows:

1. A drastic change in the quality of water used for domestic purposes. Citizens throughout the basin are alarmed by an increase in water rates which, in part, can be attributed to the rising costs associated with advanced, waste water treatment.

2. A decrease in lakeside property values: With tons of algae encroaching upon shoreline areas, aesthetically pleasing homesites are virtually nonexistent along the lake's southern margin.

3. The destruction of numerous lakeside recreational facilities such as bathing and sport fishing areas: Several beaches near the city of Cleveland have been closed and declared a hazard to public health, while the highly prized whitefish and bluepike sport fishery has been replaced by rough, bottom-dwelling species such as catfish and carp.

If the major causes and effects of Lake Erie water pollution are understood, why does it continue? The answer to this question is far more complex than the mechanics involved in controlling the physical aspects of pollution. First of all, the polluters of this Great Lake are interstate as well as international. Thus, the problems involved in firing up the bureaucratic machinery are staggering. Secondly, years of apathy by the citizens and governments of the basin coupled with a lack of knowledge concerning the hydro-ecology of Lake Erie have complicated the problem. Finally, inadequate enforcement of existing

pollution abatement laws and changing governmental policies have further hampered efforts to clean up the lake.

Progress, however, is now being made to resolve Lake Erie pollution. Action was initiated with the passage of the Water Quality Act of 1965. Under the provisions of this act, water quality standards have been set up by the five states bordering the lake. In addition, remedial control measures should be completed by 1973. If fully implemented, the quality of water in the basin and its tributaries should improve. However, the outcome of these control measures, to a large extent, depends upon the cooperation of the governments of the United States and Canada and all the citizens of the basin. It is only through a concerted effort that a priceless natural resource, Lake Erie, can be conserved for future generations to use and enjoy.



Smells Aired

In the future, coyotes may be repelled from sheep by obnoxious or irritating odors. That is the goal of researchers at the University of Wyoming. Similar research is already underway at Colorado State University.

The Agricultural Research Service has awarded a \$36,000 grant to find an "aversive agent." Such agents are found naturally, examples being the glycosides found in a toad's skin and in certain plants.

The research is aimed at providing a solution to predator problems in western sheep flocks.