

High Country

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Environmental Bi-Weekly

News

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, June 23, 1972



Photo by Tom Bell

Pending legislation on the nation's public lands and increased pressures for commodity uses pose constant threats to western lands, waters and forests. Conservation groups working in defense of these natural resources are sorely taxed for money and time.

Reprinted from Michigan OUT-OF-DOORS, June, 1972.

Social Conflicts To Arise

Social conflicts are expected to arise as the cost of ending pollution increases, according to a continuing study of a team of Michigan State University and Brigham Young University sociologists.

"The worst short-term losers in environmental reform are the poor," according to Dr. Denton E. Morrison of MSU, Prof. W. Keith Warner of Brigham Young, and Kenneth E. Hornback, an MSU doctoral candidate.

They explain that the costs of fighting pollution tend to be displaced downward to the consumer and this places the greatest

burden upon those who can least afford it.

Morrison, Warner and Hornback predict that, as costs of preserving the environment increase, we will see a growth or revitalization of movements of and for the poor.

In addition, they say, the present basically "natural environment thrust may weaken in favor of a definition centered upon the urban environment.

"The natural environment has been the focus of the environmental movement, but the natural environment is not the most salient environment for most people most

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A Matter Of Facts!

by Tom Bell

Politicians of the western states like to tout "their" clean, fresh air; the rushing clear streams, and unobstructed views of vast open spaces. "Quality environment" is a standard in the lexicon of any contemporary politico worth his salt. In fact, at the rate change is taking place, "environment" may soon nudge "motherhood" out of the political holy-of-holies.

But when the history of the environmental movement is written, it will be found that a small band of unpaid, unsung volunteers blazed the trail. Imbued with little more than clear vision, bulldog tenacity, and a thick skin, they have taken unpopular stands in the causes loosely termed "the environment."

Much of what is known today as the environmental movement arose of necessity to protect cherished values. Those values were often the fish in a stream, or pronghorns on a desert, or a mountain fastness undefiled. Thus, a rod and gun club may have been the nucleus for the environmental councils of today.

Quite often the stands taken bucked the power structure. (And they still do!) Chambers of Commerce often saw the short-term "bucks" involved in a new road, or a new dam, or a new exploitive industry, over the longer-term values of deer or trout or wilderness-seekers. As a result, the stands often meant a confrontation with friends, neighbors and fellow citizens. Not many had the courage to take such stands.

Carroll and Tina Noble, pioneer cattle ranchers from Cora, Wyoming, were effectively "bull-cotted" by their rancher neighbors for many years. But other ranchers from other states eventually came to know the quality of the Noble bulls and relieved the economic pinch. Mr. and Mrs. Noble espoused wilderness areas and free-ranging wild horses and were against fences and subsidized grazing fees on the public lands. Noble served for a number of years as president of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and eventually became a national director of the National Wildlife Federation. He was a 1971 recipient of the American Motors National Conservation Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Garland of Lincoln, Montana, are presently being boycotted in their small, local store. They are outspoken critics of clearcutting in the national forests and are dedicated to preserving the last remaining remnants of wilderness. Garland is president of the Montana Wilderness Association.

Today, the environmental movement has taken on new significance. Coordinating Councils and coalitions of varied interests and groups now seek common goals. And into the fray have stepped courageous individuals from the professions, intelligent and well informed housewives, and young people.

The movement has also become more sophisticated. Backed by such prestigious national organizations as The Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, and the National Wildlife Federation, local and state groups tackle big industry and big

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

July 4 is a day to ponder. Like all birthdays, it is a day to look back and wistfully wonder how we could have made the year better. It should be no different with republics.

We have come a long way since 1776. Tom Jefferson and those other signers of the Declaration of Independence would be pleased with some aspects of the great country they helped launch. And if they could see it today, I am sure they would also be shocked.

Jefferson, as well as most people of his times, lived close to the soil. Most people made their living from the soil. But even then, few could appreciate the land and the world about them as sensitively as Jefferson did.

Wilderness for all practical purposes was the region beyond the town limits of most settlements. And between the Mississippi River and the Spanish settlements along the Pacific side of a great continent was a vast void. Jefferson was to have a hand in securing and searching out that void.

Little did he realize, even after receiving his reports from Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, what a rich land he had helped to fashion. He could not have known what a fabulous national treasury he had secured for his country.

Last Tuesday, July 4, 1972, I stood at a small monument which marks the site of the geographic location where the Louisiana Purchase, the Oregon Territory and the Mexican Cession all cornered. Standing there and looking east, I could not help but think of all that lay between this spot and the Mississippi River.

The site is an isolated location, far out on the Red Desert of Wyoming. The monument was raised by Kiwanis Clubs of central Wyoming in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. BLM has erected convenient signs to direct interested visitors.

The location can be but little changed from that time when Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark forth. It is true that besides the monument and three tall posts to mark each former territory, there is a dusty, dirt road. But beyond that, the country has all the appearances of the wild land of yesteryear.

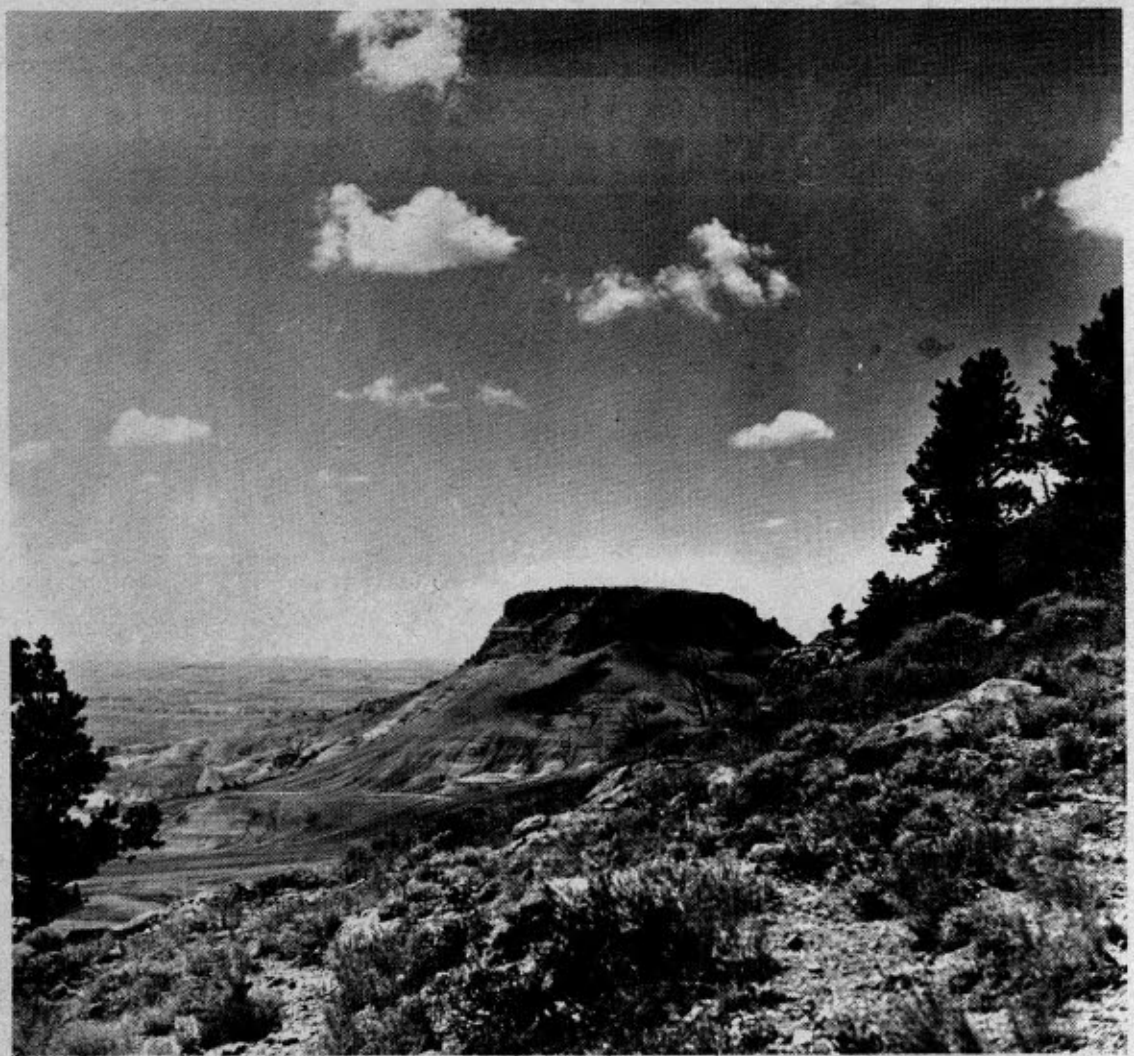
Standing there, you could almost see buffalo grazing in the distance. The elk, the antelope and the mule deer are close by. And back down the road only a few miles, we had seen and photographed a herd of some 70 wild horses. In our travels to that point, we had seen one other automobile — three people from Colorado.

From there, members of my family and I proceeded to nearby Steamboat Mountain. Standing on its crest, my two grown sons and I looked far out over a vast and empty land. At some distance to the south could be seen the smoke rising from some source near Rock Springs. That and a lone automobile proceeding along the dusty road was about the only sign of other humans.

The air was clear, fresh and invigorating at that elevation of over 8,000 ft. Below us violet green swallows darted from the cliffs and far below two mule deer made their way.

I could not help but think that it was indeed a miracle that such a place yet remained. Here, there was still solitude and the natural rhythm of things unsullied and virtually untouched by man.

Jefferson would be pleased with such a spot after experiencing the teeming megalopolises which now stretch north and south from his beloved Monticello.



The Oregon Buttes along the northwestern edge of Wyoming's Red Desert stand high above the surrounding lands. The Buttes served as landmarks for pioneer emigrants along the historic Oregon Trail.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Thanks for your second reminder and pardon me for not notifying you sooner.

Please cancel my subscription. I really enjoy your paper and think you are striving to do a good thing, but I cannot go along with many of your writers who want to degrade the elected officials of our University and all people who have helped in making this a great country. We must strive to go forward and preserve our wonderful land. This can be done with the help of everyone, and I am confident it will be.

Keep up your work and direct it constructively so each of us may live and enjoy our lives without trying to lock everyone out, except a chosen few, from our great natural resources—let's keep a multiple use concept.

Sincerely,
Garl Riggan
Jackson, Wyoming

* * *

Editor:

Please accept my apology for not renewing High Country News sooner.

Thank you for sending those pictures of clear cutting in the Medicine Bow Nat'l Forest. The Editor, (of the Laramie Boomerang) for reasons known only to himself, and with explanations only a cryptographer could describe, failed to print them in the Boomerang. However, we'll keep plugging away down here.

Keep up the good work, and best of luck on the battles you've chosen to fight.

Sincerely,
Edward H. Lonsdale
Laramie, Wyoming

* * *

Editor:

Enclosed is our check for renewal of subscription to High Country News. Thank you for your valiant efforts to preserve the natural beauty of our world—we pray for their

fruition.

Also enclosed are several articles which are self-explanatory and of interest to you if you have not already seen them. People are interested in their environment and many more are becoming involved because of those of you who are not willing to be bystanders. We are grateful!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Roger Gentry
Chadds Ford, Pa.



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Guest Editorials

Reprinted from the LOS ANGELES TIMES, April 2, 1972.

Great Debate Develops

Four years ago, a speaker told a conference on Ecology and International Development, "I suspect that a major reason ecology is so often ignored is not so much lack of expertise as the fact that an ecological awareness leads to a questioning of goals — and this is something few wish to do."

Last week in Los Angeles, the same speaker, Russell E. Train, now President Nixon's top environmental adviser, questioned those goals, which govern the economic development of the United States and every other advanced technological society.

Train, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, called for a national debate on the desirability of growth. The subject is raised more and more often; this was the first time that the issue had been put so starkly by a high government official.

We have long known theoretically that we live in a finite world, that the world's resources are limited. We have long known that man would one day have to confront that reality, but that day, until recently, appeared to be far off. Because of man's technological ingenuity, that day is approaching faster than we thought. Decisions made today, or lack of decisions, may determine whether the earth can support its population for more than another century; certainly they will determine how well that population will be supported.

Train marked out five areas on which a national debate should center: national population distribution, stabilization of world population, regulation of technological development, allocation of resources, and, finally, "the question of income distribution."

These targets coincide with the recent report issued by a team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a report sponsored by the Club of Rome, an international group of businessmen, scientists and educators.

The report, a product of an 18-month study argued that world population and industry cannot continue to grow at an accelerating rate without catastrophe. And the report predicted disaster within 100 years unless the rates of population and industrial growth are

curbed. MIT researchers emphasized that population, resource consumption and pollution are growing exponentially (by 2,4,8,16, etc.) rather than incrementally (by 2,4,6, 8, etc.). That means that the world is in a race with time.

The trends regarded by MIT investigators as disastrous have great momentum. They could not be stopped soon, even if immediate decisions were made to halt them. If U.S. births, for example, were reduced now to "replacement level" and held there, our population would continue to grow for 70 years.

Not long ago, the MIT study would have been dismissed as doomsday talk. Not today. Concern, fortunately, is not limited to the United States. It is worldwide. All U.N.-member nations have been invited to a conference in Stockholm to consider the issues.

The MIT report can be challenged on the grounds that its assumptions are too pessimistic and don't give enough weight to man's ability to solve problems associated with growth; nevertheless, it raises profound questions, raised also by Train. If growth is limited, what can be done to assure a decent standard of living for the people of underdeveloped nations? If the world's resources must be rationed, how can that be done equitably and who will make the decisions?

Actually, the debate has already started and arguments here and abroad are thrown back and forth with a good deal of passion. There will be more of that at Stockholm, where the poor countries, who desperately need development to raise their people above misery, confront the rich nations, who have the wealth the others seek, but who see, perhaps, more clearly than the poor the ultimate problems of growth.

As Train said, this great debate will require not only sophistication, but also conciliation, moderation and respect for each other's — person's, classes' and nations' — deeply felt wishes and desires. But this debate must be undertaken with utmost seriousness. For though these questions seem intangible, they touch on the ultimate tangible reality of all: survival.

Reprinted from SOUTH IDAHO PRESS, Burley, May 25, 1972.

Developments Spell Trouble

Environmental problems incident to influx of new residents, new businesses and condominium developments are plaguing citizens in the Ketchum-Sun Valley area. Over the saddle from Dollar Mountain just east of Sun Valley, the sprawling Elkhorn community is being opened up. A new road up the draw from the famed Sun Valley Dollar Mountain ski lift has been carved out of the hillside in an area which used to be ideal for horseback riding.

Up the Wood River Valley from Ketchum, Holiday Inn has options on land. The resort motel will soon begin construction of its newest Idaho venture. At a meeting of the Ketchum-Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce last week, members were asking what control the village or county had over such developments.

Tom Farr, district ranger for the area, told the chamber group that objections to scars on Baldy Mountain had been voiced. He said the forest service has a five-year program for Baldy. No one has objected to the ski runs which have been plotted on the north slopes the past few years. But residents view the mountain sides and see the timber stripped off. They wonder about the damage done to the surface of this famed "ski mountain."

Sen. John Peavey was a guest speaker for

this particular inquisition of the area's resources. He told the group that as a youngster, he could fish and wade in Wood River, drink its waters anywhere between Hailey and Galena. Now he'd hesitate drinking out of the stream anywhere around the Ketchum developments. Blaine County citizens have taken the lead in Idaho in cleaning up. There is still a big need for a returnable container law. There must be an incentive for people to collect and return bottles and cans.

Ketchum has strengthened its control over design and appearance of homes, cabins business expansion and store fronts. This aspect was late in coming but is now proving effective. Outside the village boundaries, it's a different matter. County-wide zoning is a subject being probed more by civic leaders and the new generation of retired citizens who not only seek respite from the crowded cities of the country but have made an outright shift of residence, bringing families to be raised in the mushrooming settlements of the valleys flanking the Sun Valley vortex. Most assuredly environment is a growing issue in the country and the problem is coming home to roost in the recreation area of Gem State on a scale little envisioned by most of us just a few years ago.

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Photo by Tom Baugh



Avocets

Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS

Man's Love

Utahns — indeed, Americans everywhere — owe a great gratitude to a man who quietly slipped into retirement this week. Bates Wilson has done more than any other man to protect the magnificent slickrock country of southeastern Utah and to teach us all to understand and love it.

Southeastern Utah was virtually unknown to outsiders when Bates Wilson came to Moab in 1949 and set up headquarters in an old warehouse as superintendent of Arches National Monument. A wagon track over quicksand and redrock ledges was the only way into Arches. Natural Bridges were a long, dusty day's jeep ride from the nearest paved road. The vast, lonely canyons to the west, where the Green and Colorado meet, were known only to a few cowboys and uranium prospectors.

This year Arches became a national park. So did Capitol Reef. Bates Wilson's influence was great in both of them. But Canyonlands was his great love and his great accomplishment.

His own insatiable yen to look over the next ridge led him early into the Canyonlands country. There among the towering buttes and pinnacles a conviction grew that this must be preserved for future Americans. It was virtually a one-man campaign at first, and Bates went about it the way he knew best — taking congressmen, writers, government officials into the country to see for themselves.

Once there, most were helplessly trapped; there is no known way to resist the appeal of Bates' common-sense campfire philosophy accompanied by what issued forth from his venerable, smoke-blackened dutch ovens. Whatever else he was, Bates Wilson had to be the most skillful campfire cook in the West.

The creation of Canyonlands National Park in 1964 was his personal triumph. Its expansion west of the river this year was an important extension of that triumph.

Bates will be raising hay on a ranch up the Colorado from Moab from now on. It's a good way to end a career. There'll still be the (Please turn to page 14.)

Predator Control...

Part 2 of a series
by Verne Huser

The Advisory Committee on Predator Control brought together by Russell E. Train, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Rogers C.B. Morton, the Secretary of the Interior, developed fifteen recommendations as a result of their intensive study of scientific data and personal and group input. These recommendations, in many cases, are similar to those made by the 1964 Leopold Report. Some of them have already begun to be implemented, but many of them are highly controversial.

1. We recommend that federal-state cooperation in predator control be continued, and that all funds in its support come from appropriations by Congress and by the Legislatures. Presently too many of the funds for predator control come from the local level for the federal authorities to adequately control the program at the field level where most of the abuses occur (see Jack Olsen's *Slaughter the Animals, Poison the Earth* for specific incidents). "This method of funding by appropriations would allow general citizen review and input in decision making, which is now largely absent in some states where long-term vested private interests have held political control."

An example of this type of control was exercised in Montana last year when the Game and Fish Commission of that state withdrew state funds for the support of predator control, only to have the ranchers close their lands to hunters, a move that resulted in enough pressure to force the Game and Fish Commission—against its will and better judgement—to reinstate the predator control funds.

The Colorado Game, Fish, and Parks Commission threatened to withhold its share (\$45,000) of predator control funds unless the use of poison was curtailed in the program. In a state survey, the committee found that twenty states use no predator control for game management, that thirty states do (several of them apparently forced into it against their will since, "The overwhelming sentiment on this question was against widespread predator control for game management; there was obviously a reluctance to use this technique—predator control—even in local areas.")

2. We recommend that immediate Congressional action be sought to remove all existing toxic chemicals from registration and use for operational predator control. We further recommend that these restrictions extend to those toxicants used in field rodent control whose action is characterized by the secondary poisoning of scavengers....Moreover, we recommend that the individual states pass legislation to ban the use of toxicants in predator control.

The committee cites as reason for this recommendation the "frequent losses of non-target animals," as well as "to mitigate undesirable side-effects and indiscriminate control operations...."

"We believe," the committee says, "that all necessary killing of coyotes or other predators can be accomplished by means other than the use of poison baits....The killing of predators would become more selective, discriminating against animals actually doing the damage."

If the State of Utah (DWS) coyote kill records are significant or representative, the use of poison is the least effective of six major methods of killing coyotes behind denning, aerial shooting, coyote getters, trapping and ground shooting. Poisoning is the least selective method used, and it also accounts for the greatest number of non-target species including rare and endangered ones, either through direct poisoning (grizzly bear in Mexico) or through secondary poisoning (black-footed ferret, California condor, bald eagle, etc.).

Furthermore, "The poisons are unsafe.... With reasonable precautions, other methods are safe." But here again the emphasis of the committee is on the need for government control. The major abuses occur when the poisons

get into private hands, but enough government trappers and predator control agents break the laws themselves to warrant the banning of all poisons. Poison may be effective for prophylactic control, but is prophylactic control logical in the Decade of the Environment, does it make ecological sense?

Shooting, denning and trapping are all more effective and economical trouble-shooting techniques, and trouble-shooting control makes more sense any way you look at it with a rational and reasonable eye. Poisoning is unsafe, unsound, and unpopular with the public on whose lands much of the poisoning is done. The committee wisely has asked that poison be banned from the program, and President Nixon has signed an Executive Order doing just that.

But legislative protection at the federal and the state level is needed to provide permanent protection from the evils of poison programs. I would suggest that letters be written to President Nixon thanking him for issuing the Executive Order banning poison and to legislators—at both the federal and state levels—asking them to pass legislation to implement this committee recommendation.

3. We recommend that the field of the Division of Wildlife Services be professionalized to emphasize employment of qualified wildlife biologists capable of administering and demonstrating a broadly-based program of predator management.

Many of the old-time trappers have such built-in prejudice against predators and are so completely owned by the sheep industry that sound research means nothing. The predator control programs are based on old wives' tales rather than ecological evidence and logic. The Division of Wildlife Services itself does not consider its field agents as qualified wildlife biologists (roughly one in six is a trained biologist). The committee believes that the DWS field force can be cut heavily and that its men should be trained biologists. I agree.



4. We recommend that in all states a cooperative trapper-trainer extension program be established as a means of aiding landowners in the minimum necessary control of predators on private land. Commonly known as the "Missouri Plan," this system involves trouble-shooting rather than prophylactic control employing denning, shooting, and trapping (using wrapped, toothless-jawed traps). If predator control is necessary at any level, then this system makes sense to me.

5. We recommend that Congress provide some means of alleviating the economic burden of livestock producers who experience heavy losses by predators. This is a real can of worms. Despite several kinds of federal aids, (subsidies, protective tariffs, import quotas, price supports, public predator control programs) the livestock industry has been steadily declining on open-range operations. Should the federal government spend more to bail out a failing

industry?

The public opposes federal support of the SST and of the Lockheed overpayment, but a number of industries have been federally supported, especially in agriculture where the big operators usually benefit the most at the expense of the little guy. So it is with the sheep industry: the top dogs take the gravy and drive the little fellow out—that's the American way, isn't it?

The committee points out that it has no desire to put the livestock industry out of business, however—"It is interested in bringing predator control under proper regulation, and in developing a public program that recognizes the several interests in wildlife generally and in predators particularly, as well as the interests of the stockmen."

To that end, the committee suggests "some form of livestock insurance." I have always felt that a livestock insurance program in which ranchers were required to verify their losses would be a logical answer. (The study once more found that predator losses are generally excessive in rancher estimates: "Claims of depredations frequently are exaggerated because of bias against carnivores. Prejudice is spread by way of folklore, language, and inaccurate reporting.")

The committee, however, believing that predator losses are too difficult to verify (or that the ranchers would be dishonest or not bother), suggest that livestock be insured against all types of losses. What would keep a rancher from overestimating his total losses as he now does predator losses? A can of worms that needs much more research. I can't go along with the committee on this one at present.

6. We recommend that grazing permits and leases written by federal land management agencies provide for possible suspension or revocation of grazing privileges if regulations governing predator control are violated. According to legal research done by the Environmental Defense Fund and included in the Report as Appendix XVI, the federal agencies already have that power but haven't been exercising it.

The committee says "It would seem both responsible and necessary for the agency granting the grazing permits to provide for revocation of them for any infraction related to sound management under applicable laws." I agree. Illegal sagebrush spraying for the supposed benefit of grazing livestock at the expense of wildlife has been rampant in some areas, especially in Wyoming. Illegal poisoning on these federal lands by ranchers who have signed agreements not to engage in predator control has been widespread and tolerated by the BLM and the Forest Service. (Again, see Jack Olsen's *Slaughter the Animals, Poison the Earth*).

The committee goes into some detail several times to apply Dr. Garrett Hardin's concept of the Tragedy of the Commons to predator control. I have previously stated it thus: what right does the sheep rancher have to kill my coyotes on my land for his profit? As the committee members state it, "The negative values of the resource fall on the private individual while the positive values accrue to the general public and society at large. Conversely, the benefits on control are largely to the individual rancher or livestock operator, while costs are heavily in the public sector."

One sheepman has noted that the worst predator is the big sheepman. He, too, must be controlled, especially when he grazes his livestock on the public domain. Overgrazing has been one of the leading causes for range deterioration, which in turn leads to predator control problems. (Numerous studies considered by the committee suggest that "Overgrazing is the most widespread hazard to established pastures and range.")

7. We recommend that all methods of predator control be prohibited on statutory Wilderness Areas. The committee noted "a trend toward voluntary reduction in livestock grazing in Wilderness Areas" and "a reduction

...The Cain Report

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Photo by Luther Goldman, U. S. Bur. Sport Fisheries & Wildlife

in the proportion of sheep to cattle, for which predation is less of a problem."

8. We recommend that federal and state legislation be passed that would make the shooting from aircraft of wildlife, including predators and game animals, illegal except under exceptional circumstances and then only by authorized wildlife biologists of the appropriate federal and state agencies. Since the recommendation was written both the House and the Senate have passed Representative John Dingell's bill (HR5060) that accomplishes the same purpose.

Although aerial gunning can be an effective selective tool for trouble-shooting control, it has been tremendously abused. (It happened with Wyoming eagles and the illegal poisoning of game carcasses shot from planes). The committee sees the only effective approach to be strict federal law rigorously enforced. The committee felt so strongly about this point that they backed it up with their next recommendation:

9. We recommend to the Federal Aviation Authority that a provision be made for suspending or revoking the license of a private pilot and the confiscation of the aircraft—when he knowingly carries a passenger whose acts lead to conviction for illegal predator control, such as shooting from the aircraft or distributing poisons. "If the action cannot be taken administratively," says the committee, "we recommend suitable action by Congress and state legislatures....Neither pilot licenses nor grazing permits are 'rights' but are privileges carrying public responsibility."

10. We recommend that action be taken by Congress to rule out the broadcast of toxicants for the control of rodents, rabbits, and other vertebrate pests on federal lands, and that the possibility of correlative action be explored for private lands as well. At present there is little or no control with respect to secondary consequences for non-target species in the widespread poison campaigns aimed at pests. The committee supports the philosophy that, "Whether they are predators or prey, herbaceous weeds or brush, all organisms have roles to play in natural ecosystems."

11. We recommend a long-term research program based in the Division of Wildlife Research, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, that would cover the gamut of ecological problems associated with predators. The committee points out that the federal predator control program has flourished for years (decades, in fact) "without the objective information to warrant it, even in the face of public criticism." The public apparently doesn't matter in the use of public lands.

Research in the past has been aimed at more effective and efficient ways to kill predators rather than on whether or not predators should in fact be killed. "The predator control program has been assumed to be right until proven wrong. What are the positive values of predators in both natural and managed ecosystems?"

12. We recommend that the Division of Wildlife Research of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife undertake a detailed socio-economic study of cost-benefit ratios of predator control as a means of evaluating the need for the efficacy of the program and its separate parts. The Bureau has never been required to establish an adequate justification before receiving funds from Congress. This same recommendation was made by the Leopold Report in 1964 when that committee found "a great paucity of economic data on cost or damages...and what little data there was often had no effect upon decision making."

The 1971 committee found that "No progress has been made to rectify this situation during the seven years that have elapsed since the Leopold Report. Control decisions are still based on the assumption of benefit rather than on proof of need." The committee feels that "This research must be undertaken by an objective, independent organization not connected with the existing control program."

13. We recommend that the Division of Wild-



The Cain Report recommends that rare and endangered species be protected by both federal and state laws. It also recommends against broad-scale use of toxicants against rodents which has brought such animals as the black-footed ferret to the brink of extinction. The ferret preys almost exclusively on prairie dogs.

life Research be delegated the responsibility for the study of the epidemiology of rabies in the field by a team of specialists provided with adequate funding. The findings of the committee were that control measures have little effect upon rabies epidemics since the epidemics are usually on the decline before control measures begin. "It has yet to be proved that sending trappers to a rabies outbreak area does the slightest good in terminating the disease."

14. We recommend that Congress give the Secretary of the Interior authority to take measures necessary to protect species of predators that have been placed on the Endangered Species List by the Federal Government. Closely related to this recommendation is the final one:

15. We recommend that the several states take measures to supplement the federal protection of rare and endangered species by enacting laws and taking measures to protect locally rare populations.

It is my opinion that the federal law is essential to protect wildlife in the more backward states (in terms of wildlife protection) such as Wyoming, where the black-footed ferret still has no protection and where the federally protected golden eagle is still listed as a predator and the endangered peregrine falcon is still a bird under the sun.

The state laws are valuable to protect locally

rare and endangered species such as the wolf in Wyoming (or almost any state south of Alaska) or the mountain lion in most states.

The committee takes the posture that the ultimate responsibility for the near-extinct birds and animals lies with the federal government, basically since no one else is doing much to protect them and only the federal government has the power and wide-enough jurisdiction. "This position, which is proper for the federal government, needs to be supplemented by state action when a species population is approaching extermination locally."

There are the recommendations. What do you think? Biases? Realistic? It's enough to make any old sheepman get his pelt up, but they've been abusing the environment too long at the public expense, it seems to me. The bigger the operation, the heavier the reported losses and the greater the check from the federal government, the greater the abuses—and the big operators seem to get away with it.

If you don't believe me, listen to Jack Olsen. In the next part of the series, I intend to review his book *Slaughter the Animals, Poison the Earth*. It gives a pretty thorough account of the abuses I mention (not necessarily those that have made national headlines during the past year—nothing very new about those, and nothing in the way of real action yet either).

Author Says "Be Outraged!"

by A. B. Guthrie, Jr.

The belief that the world was made for man, as the Scriptures have it, threatens to be the end of us. We have had our dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens and over the cattle and every creeping thing, and we have been fruitful and multiplied, and we have subdued the earth, all as ordained; and the dread end looms as deprivation if indeed not extinction.

So long as we had a frontier with its seemingly limitless forests and fields, clear waters and metals there for the taking, the concept to many seemed tenable, even though keener eyes of decades ago already were discerning the ruin it would cause if unchecked.

Greed was at work, too, an assured and thoughtless greed hardly faced yet with the grim results of its grasping. As it was at

work then, so it is at work now, more nakedly, though, and more egregiously because its after-effects have become evident everywhere, evident in fouled air, poisoned streams, lakes dead or dying, in perished and perishing species and in the increase in physical, human disorders.

It is late, just maybe too late, to manage correction, but there is hope in the awakening consciousness and active endeavor of press and public and further hope in the growing awareness and outrage of young people.

I say to them: Be outraged! Too often you have dissented and protested without aim, or without an aim worthy of your outward expressions. But here is a cause. Embrace it, all of you! We oldsters will thank you, your generation will thank you, and future generations, if there be any, will be in your debt.

He asked for specifics...!

Wyoming's Governor Stanley K. Hathaway has fired verbal broadsides at environmentalists for always criticizing but never offering "specifics." The Governor seems not to be a dedicated or consistent reader of *High Country News*, else he would find much food for thought therein.

For instance, in the Jan. 8, 1971, issue we offered him the advice to forget dams on the nationally famous Upper Green River and concentrate on already existing dams. Statements by the Wyoming Division of the Izaak Walton League and by University of Wyoming Professor Kenneth L. Diem said it would be better to use the existing Fontenelle and Flaming Gorge Reservoirs for storage of needed water.

Diem said, "...changing the priority of 250,000 acre feet of water in the Fontenelle Reservoir, now allocated to the Seedskaadee (irrigation) project, to municipal and industrial use would reduce the necessity for impounding a large amount of additional water on the Green River."

Again, on Jan. 22, 1971, HCN carried the statement of editor Tom Bell, given before the public meeting on the Green River, held at Casper, Dec. 10, 1970. At that time, I said, "Fontenelle Reservoir has a projected depletion of 125,000 acre feet for 43,420 acres of cropland. Additional water would be available for some 16,200 acres of land suitable only for pasture. Total costs for development of land in this area will run to almost \$1,000 per acre. If the water allocated to this (Bureau of) Reclamation "white elephant" were released for municipal and industrial uses, it would cover the demands for these uses beyond the year 2000."

Now, a year and a half later, following a bruising battle with Hathaway and involving the 1971 Legislature (and the expenditure of over \$100,000 in feasibility studies) the Governor has decided we were right. Negotiations have been nearly completed for the State of Wyoming to buy storage rights in Fontenelle Reservoir.

A recent news story out of Cheyenne reported the Governor to have said that the agreement to purchase the 125,000 acre feet would preclude the necessity for another dam and reservoir on the lower Green River for at least 15 years.

(Wyoming's Upper Green River was one of the originally proposed wild and scenic rivers. The historically famous river rises in the Bridger Wilderness Area of the Wind River Mountains. Hathaway proposed legislation for the construction of one or two dams to be built on the Upper Green or a main tributary, the New Fork River. Pressure from residents of the Upper Green and environmentalists defeated Hathaway's proposal. The Legislature did authorize a feasibility study which has resulted in the purchase of Fontenelle water.)

Hathaway has been particularly irked by criticism of the state's Open Cut Land Reclamation Act of 1969. At a recent "Capitol for a Day" session in Casper, he said he was "sick and tired" of persons who criticize operations or methods concerning Wyoming industries through the use of generalities.

The Governor said of the 1969 act, "we're the first state in the West to have one." (A very debatable statement in itself.) He wanted to know why it was not adequate, and what should be done about it.

The Governor evidently missed seeing the Jan. 22, 1971, issue of HCN. There, I compared Wyoming's act with a model act. The comparisons and criticisms I made then are still valid.

One of the criticisms I made was that the law had been written by industry, a fact publicly corroborated recently by Rus Beamer, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association.

I said at the time, "A recent news release out of Cheyenne said that apparently both state government officials and representatives of industry were content with the 1969 Open Cut Land Reclamation Act. That statement alone ought to be warning enough to any concerned citizen. When the industry is content,

you may be sure the members dictated the law—which they did! It is no wonder they are satisfied with the act...Yet, not one of our highest elected or appointed State officials has indicated any real concern."

Today, the industry is busily rewriting the act.

Specific legislation aimed at improving Wyoming's act was introduced into the 1971 Legislature by a young Republican, Rep. John Turner of Teton County. It got nowhere because the Governor and industry felt under no constraint to do so. Now that federal strip mine legislation is in the offing, both Hathaway and the official Wyoming Mining Association are bestirring themselves.

These are only some of the areas where Governor Hathaway had the benefit of specifics. He did not take advantage of them at the time because they did not fit his, or industry's, preconceived plans or ideas.

The following is a letter from another of his constituents, outlining more specifics. How many more of these he gets every week is a matter of conjecture, for he never says.

The editor.

* * *

Dear Governor Hathaway:

I am sorry it has taken me so long to write, but perhaps I now have more to say.

I heard you speak at the 3rd Annual Wyoming Environmental Congress in Thermopolis May 13th. You were obviously irritated with "environmentalists" and others of our ilk who wish to see our State retain clean air, ample unpolluted and undiverted water, and avoid an unplanned population explosion, among other things. You asked for specifics and I will attempt to be specific.

My main and most specific point of disagreement with you is where you place your emphasis. I would prefer that your emphasis be on a clean, spacious, unscarred Wyoming left as nearly as possible as God made it. This would not completely exclude industrial development, population growth, timber harvesting and big business, but the emphasis would be on the former rather than the latter. The emphasis would be on keeping what we have rather than salvaging what is left after the damage has been done, which is the mistake most states have made.

Industrial development and high production are not the nutritious milk and honey to our society that they were when resources were

thought to be unlimited and population density was low.

In fact, we must go the other way, and prestigious officials like yourself should be leading us in this direction. You should be, for example, discouraging frost-free refrigerators which require so much more electricity, flaming natural gas torches on patios for atmosphere, and more industrialization which is using up our rapidly depleting oil supply. You should be emphasizing ways to judiciously use and conserve our resources rather than contributing to the power panic.

Recently, one of our State's foremost environmentalists and concerned citizens suggested calling a special session of the legislature to plan, legislate and properly implement the Reynolds development at Lake DeSmet. I understand you didn't think this necessary, a matter of improper emphasis.

In the *Casper Star Tribune* of May 19th, a Bureau of Reclamation plan to, among other things, create six or eight reservoirs in Northeastern Wyoming and Southeastern Montana to deliver 2.6 million acre feet of water to the massive coal field development, strip 34 billion tons of coal, produce a sevenfold increase in population, build a 180 mile long aqueduct and divert thousands of acre feet of water was reported. The article noted that "Governor Stan Hathaway has not had a chance to review the report." A specific, and a matter of improper emphasis.

I believe many voters are extremely weary of the politician who has something for everyone. We are weary of fancy words and trick phrases and we long for someone who is on our side rather than on everyone's side.

My family and I are some of the Johnnie-come-latelys you referred to who you thought wanted to keep everyone else out of Wyoming. We realize this probably isn't possible, however, we also hate to see it turned into the Ruhr Valley of North America, or raped like my home State of Ohio was, or our water mismanaged like our sister State of Colorado has mismanaged hers. Industrial developers and big business to the contrary, natural, free flowing water and stands of timber are beneficial resources in and of themselves. Everything does not have to be put to an industrial or artificially productive use in order to be of benefit to people. If left as nearly as possible in her natural state, Wyoming may have economic value comparable to a rare gem in the midst of cheap, broken and unhealthy



This open pit is all that remains from a uranium mining operation in Wyoming's Gas Hills. The highwalls of the steep, open cut have been left to slough and fall until at some distant, future time natural forces heal the wound. Wyoming's Open Cut Land Reclamation Act makes no provision for the restoration of the highwall. Wyoming's Land Commissioner, A. E. King, who administers the law recently praised the Wyoming Mining Association "for doing a good job of reclamation." He denied charges by environmentalists that the law was inadequate to maintain a quality environment. By its own admission, the mining industry wrote the present law.

Voice Should Not Be Stilled

High Country News-7
Friday, July 7, 1972

The U. S. Supreme Court recently ruled against the Sierra Club in a case involving Club intervention against developments on public lands. The court ruled that people bringing environmental lawsuits must show they would be harmed by a proposed project. Justice William O. Douglas dissented from the majority opinion. The following is a part of his dissent.

The critical question of "standing" would be simplified and also put neatly in focus if we fashioned a federal rule that allowed environmental issues to be litigated before federal agencies or federal courts in the name of the inanimate object about to be despoiled, defaced, or invaded by roads and bulldozers and where injury is the subject of public outrage.

Contemporary public concern for protecting nature's ecological equilibrium should lead to the conferral of standing upon environmental objects to sue for their own preservation.

Inanimate objects are sometimes parties in litigation. A ship has a legal personality, a fiction found useful for maritime purposes. The ordinary corporation is a "person" for purposes of the adjudicatory processes, whether it represents proprietary, spiritual, esthetic or charitable causes.

So it should be as respects valleys, alpine meadows, rivers, lakes, estuaries, beaches, ridges, groves of trees, swampland, or even air that feels the destructive pressures of modern technology and modern life. The river, for example is the living symbol of all the life it sustains or nourishes - fish, aquatic insects, water ouzels, otter, fishers, deer, elk, bear and all other animals, including man, who are dependent on it or who enjoy it for its sight, its sound, or its life.

The river as plaintiff speaks for the ecological unit of life that is part of it. Those people who have a meaningful relation to that body of water - whether it be a fisherman, a canoeist, a zoologist, or a logger - must be able to speak for the values which the river represents and which are threatened with destruction.

I do not know Mineral King. I have never seen it nor traveled it, though I have seen articles describing its proposed "development."

The Sierra Club in its complaint alleges that "one of the principal purposes of the Sierra Club is to protect and conserve the national resources of the Sierra Nevada mountains." The district court held that this uncontested allegation made the Sierra Club "sufficiently aggrieved" to have "standing" to sue on behalf of Mineral King.

Mineral King is doubtless like other wonders of the Sierra Nevada such as Tuolumne Meadows and the John Muir Trail. Those who hike it, fish it, hunt it, camp in it, or frequent it, or visit it merely to sit in solitude and wonderment are legitimate spokesmen for it, whether they may be a few or many.

The solicitor general takes a wholly different approach. He considers the problem in terms of "government by the judiciary." With all respect, the problem is to make certain that the inanimate objects, which are the very core of America's beauty, have spokesmen before they are destroyed.

It is, of course, true that most of them are under the control of a federal or state agency. The standards given those agencies are usually expressed in terms of the "public interest." Yet "public interest" has so many differing shades of meaning as to be quite meaningless on the environmental front. Congress accordingly has adopted ecological standards in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and guidelines for agency action have been provided by the Council on Environmental Quality of which Russell E. Train is chairman.

Yet the pressures on agencies for favorable action one way or the other are enormous. The suggestion that Congress can stop action which is undesirable is true in theory; yet even Congress is too remote to give meaningful direction and its machinery is too ponderous to use very often.

The federal agencies of which I speak are not venal or corrupt. But they are notoriously under the control of powerful interests who manipulate them through advisory committees, or friendly working relations, or who have that natural affinity with the agency which in time develops between the regulator and the regulated.

The voice of the inanimate object, therefore, should not be stilled. That does not mean that the judiciary takes over the managerial functions from the federal agency. It merely means that before these priceless bits of Americana (such as a valley, an alpine meadow, a river, or a lake) are forever lost or are transformed as to be reduced to the eventual rubble of our urban environment, the voice of the existing beneficiaries of these environmental wonders

should be heard.

Perhaps they will not win. Perhaps the bulldozers of "progress" will plow under all the esthetic wonders of this beautiful land. That is not the present question. The sole question is, who has standing to be heard?

Those who hike the Appalachian Trail into Sunfish Pond, N. J., and camp or sleep there, or run the Allagash in Maine, or climb the Guadalupe in west Texas, or who canoe and portage the Quetico Superior in Minnesota, certainly should have standing to defend those natural wonders before courts or agencies, though they live 3,000 miles away.

Those who merely are caught up in environmental news or propaganda and flock to defend these waters or areas may be treated differently. That is why these environmental

issues should be tendered by the inanimate object itself.

Then there will be assurances that all of the forms of life which it represents will stand before the court - the pileated woodpecker as well as the coyote and bear, the lemmings as well as the trout in the streams. Those inarticulate members of the ecological group cannot speak. But those people who have so frequented the place as to know its values and wonders will be able to speak for the entire ecological community.

Ecology reflects the land ethic; and Aldo Leopold wrote in "A Sand County Almanac," "The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively, the land."

That, as I see it, is the issue of "standing" in the present case and controversy.

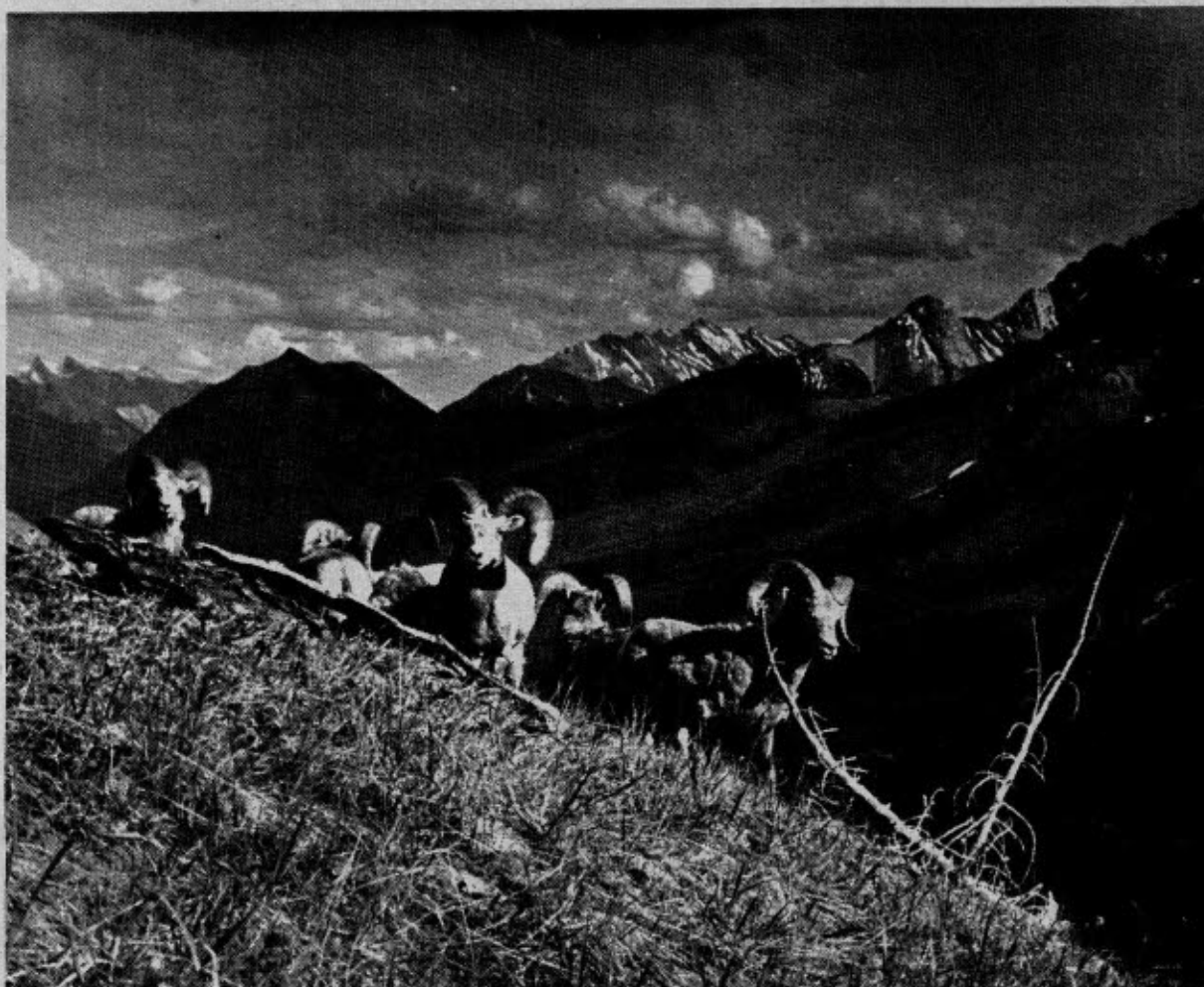


Photo by James K. Morgan

"Then there will be assurances that all of the forms of life which it represents will stand before the court - the pileated woodpecker as well as the coyote and bear, the lemmings as well as the trout in the streams. Those inarticulate members of the ecological group cannot speak. But those people who have so frequented the place as to know its values and wonders will be able to speak for the entire ecological community." Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas

Conflicts . . .

of the time," they observe.

The less affluent don't have as many opportunities to enjoy the beaches or the wilderness, they say. Instead, they are more concerned with the day-to-day problems of "survival and comfort in, as well as escape from, environments that directly threaten their health, welfare and security."

Those of higher social and economic status, "... are personally better prepared both economically and mentally to accept the costs of environmental reforms," the researchers add.

"We expect that certain less affluent segments of the population will come, in time, to view the costly efforts at environmental reform as a primary source of blockage for their economic expectations."

Morrison, Warner and Hornback go on to say that the lower social and economic groups define an improved environment in terms of more consumption of goods and more material convenience.

"These are exactly the terms the environmentalists are increasingly questioning," they observe.

On an international level, the three sociologists say poorer, less developed countries are less concerned with environmental reforms than are richer, developed countries.

They add that the flow of natural resources moves disproportionately from poorer countries to richer ones.

They conclude that conflicts may result

with, "the most profound implications for long-term global peace as well as for the long-term viability of the global environment."

Specifics . . .

glass.

I hope I have been specific. Let me add that emphasis is the key word, Governor, and in my opinion your emphasis will be ruinously destructive to Wyoming, specifically North-eastern Wyoming.

Finally, let me add two quotations which I feel are very appropriate and to the point of the message I am trying to emphasize: "A continent ages quickly once we come...The earth gets tired of being exploited. A country wears out quickly unless man puts back in it all his residue and that of all his beasts. When he quits using beasts and uses machines, the earth defeats him quickly. The machine can't reproduce, nor does it fertilize the soil, and it eats what he can't raise." Ernest Hemingway in the Green Hills of Africa.

"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." Aldo Leopold.

Very truly yours,
Roger A. McKenzie
Dayton, Wyoming

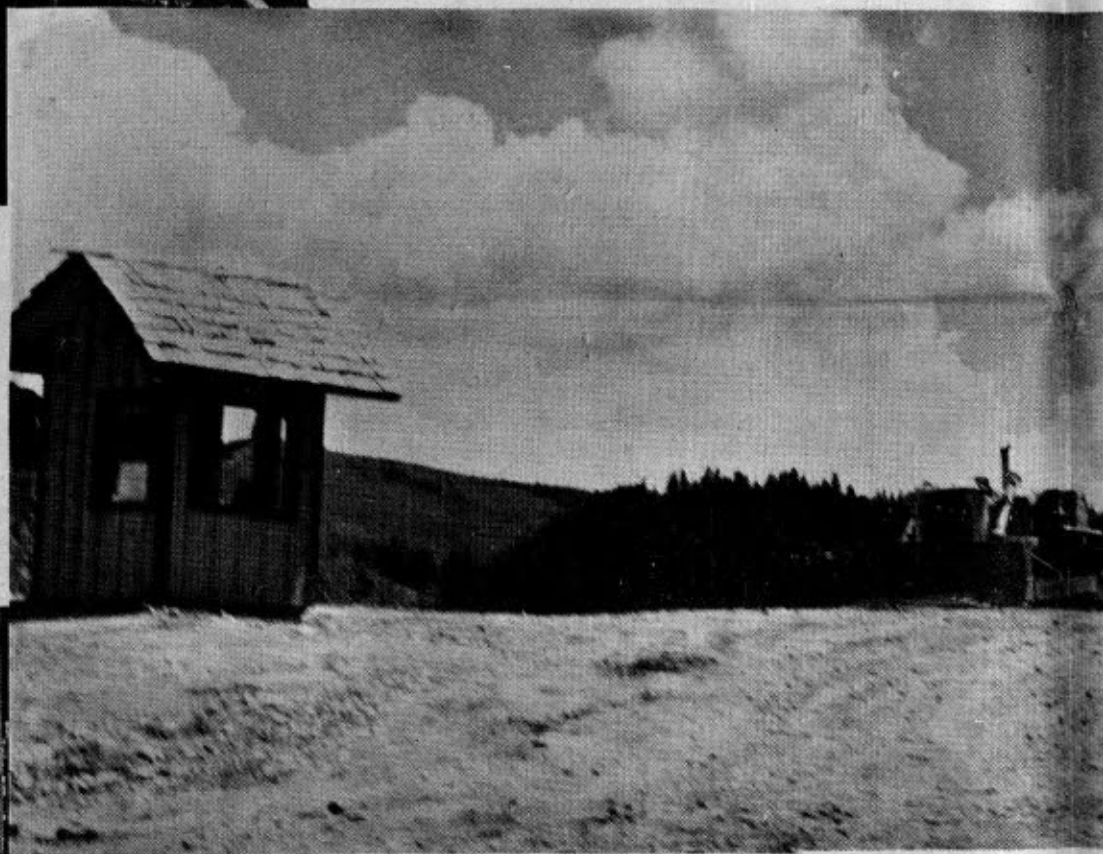
8-High Country News
Friday, July 7, 1972

PARADISE SU



Many mountain areas of the western states are suffering by land development and subdivision. Tired of congested piece of land in the mountains, where they can live at least is the Hahns Peak basin in northwestern Colorado, shown

In the photo at left, Mt. Farwell makes a green backdrop for other brightly-colored wildflowers. At lower left is Hahn day gold miners. Upper right, storm clouds gather over Lake at its base. A ski resort, complete with condominiums this area. At lower right is a scene typical of the Hahn booth and dirt-movers already on the scene and ready for developers. In their wake, tumbling mountain brooks and "artificial" lakes and mountain meadows give way to golf courses



SUBDIVIDED

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Friday, July 7, 1972

ern states are suddenly facing changes, brought about
Tired of congested cities, people are eager to buy a
they can live at least part of the year. One such place
Colorado, shown on these pages.

makes a green back-ground for wild geraniums and
ower left is Hahns Peak, land mark and goal of early-
clouds gather over Sand Mountain, with Steamboat
ce with condominiums, is in the planning stages for
bical of the Hahns Peak basin. Center: information
cene and ready to change the landscape to suit the
ountain brooks are muted to be replaced by "recrea-
e way to golf courses.



10-High Country News
Friday, July 7, 1972

Western..... Roundup

Man, Bear Die

A matter of circumstances led to the deaths of a man and a grizzly bear. That is the story pieced together by Yellowstone Park officials.

Glen F. Cole, Yellowstone research biologist said the sow grizzly had been a problem bear. She had been transplanted away from the Old Faithful area once before because she was an older bear and had frequented the garbage feeding area.

The two young campers, one of whom was killed by the bear, had camped in grizzly territory and then left food strewn about on the ground. The unauthorized camp was found by the bear. She attacked when the men returned in the dark of night.

Cole said there has not been a lot of public pressure because of the incident. "People seem to have different values now," he explained.

Briefly Noted...

Congress has passed an appropriations bill, including \$4 million to purchase some 12,000 privately-owned acres in Hells Canyon. It is now up to the Nixon Administration to use the funds to buy up ranches which were destined for subdivision development.

The governors of both Idaho and Oregon had asked Congress for the money to protect the lands along the Snake River. The lands would be turned over to the U.S. Forest Service for management.

* * *

Western Livestock Journal reports there may be millions of "phantom" cattle in the West. While the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports 112 million head, a Census Bureau count shows only 106 million head. The USDA Statistical Reporting Service also reports on losses of sheep and lambs to predators in Wyoming.

* * *

The Denver League of Women Voters have come out in opposition to the \$200 million water bond election set for July 11. President of the 630-member league said decisions on water can no longer be made without considering other factors such as urban growth and the environment.

* * *

Montana State University has a project under way to study the effects of the \$20 million Big Sky of Montana project. The project is aimed at providing a model of what happens to an area when a large recreational complex is built in a semi-primitive area.

* * *

A compromise Glen Canyon National Recreation Area bill has been introduced by Utah's two congressmen. The bill provides for a "scenic, low-speed road" from Glen Canyon City to Bullfrog. Conservationists have opposed such a road because of possible impact of the Escalante River and Canyon Area.

* * *

Utah's State Director of the Bureau of Land Management recently announced that persons or groups conducting organized tours on BLM lands would have to have special land use permits. The permit system was to begin today.

User groups in southern Utah immediately reacted to the surprise announcement. In a meeting at Moab, an "Association of Public Land Users" was formed. Those in attendance said they were totally confused about the regulations and said they appeared to be unworkable.



This area on the Big Horn National Forest of Wyoming is only one of many undeveloped (roadless) areas on the nation's national forests. The Forest Service is expected to recommend some 11 million acres for closer study as to wilderness possibilities. The Sierra Club and other conservation groups have obtained a temporary restraining order to protect an additional 30 million acres until studies can be made.



Birds Protected

An amendment to a treaty between the U. S. and Mexico has recently granted federal protection to several species of birds that formerly could be killed without any restrictions, according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

The treaty involves a total of 32 additional families of birds, but many were already under federal protection or are not found in Nebraska.

Nebraska species which gained some measure of protection from the treaty include: crows, bluejays, grackles, and magpies. For all practical purposes, only the English sparrow, the European starling, and the common pigeon may be killed in Nebraska without some state or federal restriction.

The international agreement and the federal regulations make provision for control of many of the species if they pose a threat to crops, wildlife, livestock, or to public health, however.

Fees Charged

Regional Forester W.J. Lucas announced today that daily recreation fees for designated National Forest camping and picnicking sites in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska will be charged between July 1 and September 15 this year.

National Forest visitors will be charged \$1.00 or \$2.00 per carload at major developed recreation sites, depending on the facilities offered, Lucas said. Additional small fees will be charged at selected swimming and boating sites to help defray administrative costs.

One-day recreation permits may be purchased only at the designated sites. The permits are not available from Forest Service offices. Instructions for permit purchase and display will be posted at the entrance of each designated National Forest recreation area.

The familiar Golden Eagle Passports of previous years expired on December 31, 1971, Lucas stated. Congress has not yet enacted new legislation for an annual-type permit.

Dam Funded

The House Appropriations Committee has approved \$11.2 million to continue work on the Lower Teton Dam in Idaho. The controversial project continues to draw fire from conservationists and the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Both a game biologist and a fisheries biologist pointed to adverse effects of the dam on game range and a blue ribbon trout stream.

In action related to the dam, the annual Idaho AFL-CIO convention went on record supporting the project. The labor unions noted the "tremendous economic benefits" to be derived both during and after construction.

Plan Killed

A plan termed unworkable by the National Woolgrowers died in the House Agriculture Committee. Vern Vivion of Rawlins, Wyoming, said a plan to pay stockmen for sheep and lambs lost to predators would not work because it would be impossible to recover all lost animals for verification of kills.

In the House Committee, it was charged that no chicken would ever again die a natural death. The Committee thereupon killed the bill which would have supplied from \$10 million to \$50 million a year to the program.

Meanwhile, in a trip to Washington, Wyoming Governor Stanley K. Hathaway said, "We don't want to eliminate all the coyotes—we simply want to control them."

To Be Appealed

The Bureau of Land Management will appeal a BLM hearing examiner's findings on the illegal spraying of sagebrush on about 3,600 acres of public land. Hearing examiner L.K. Luoma found that the sagebrush spraying had done no harm and therefore ruled a suspended sentence.

BLM land managers had requested a three-year suspension of grazing privileges in the large fenced pasture where the spraying took place. The Diamond Ring Ranch which did the spraying had illegally built the sheep-tight pasture fence on public lands in 1964. At that time the ranch received no penalty for building the fence.

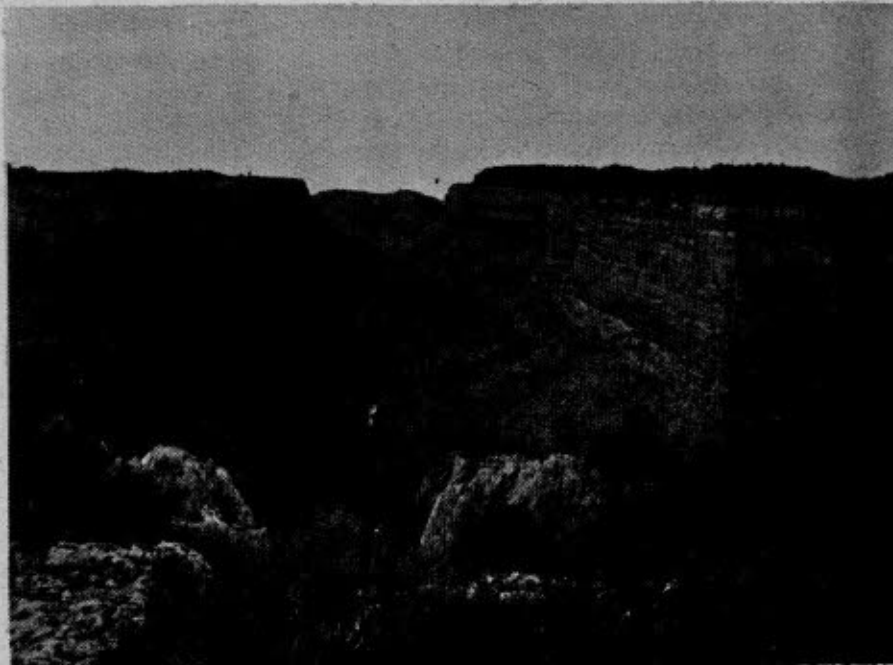
Hole-in-the-Wall Country

High Country News-11
Friday, July 7, 1972

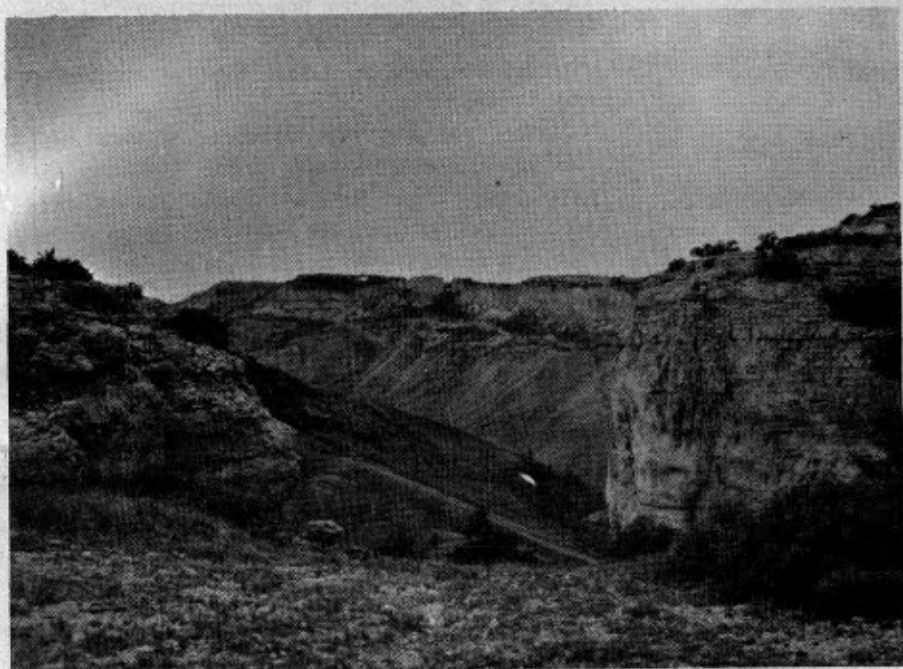
Photos by Bureau of Land Management



Bruce Ward, (right) President of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Bart Rea (left) of the Murie Audubon Society and BLM District Manager Dick Kerr watch eagles from the rim of Bacus Canyon, one of the scenic drainages leading to Middle Fork Gorge.



General view of the deep and colorful Middle Fork Gorge which winds through the heart of the proposed withdrawal. This is an overlook just above the famous Outlaw Cave used as a hideout by Butch Cassidy and the notorious "Hole-in-the-Wall" gang.



Extreme variation in topographic expression and color result in spectacular scenery. Upper Middle Fork Gorge in background.



Dense stands of mountain mahogany, an important browse for deer, grow out of limestone cliffs.

Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch often used to "hightail it" for a rugged natural fortress in the southern end of Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains. The Hole-in-the-Wall was considered well nigh impregnable by badmen of the Old West who were running from the law.

Some 25 miles southwest of Kaycee, Wyoming, the Middle Fork of Powder River drops down through a precipitous canyon. Along the bottom of the canyon, a series of caves provided shelter for the outlaws. The mountain stream provided fresh water.

Where outlaws once trod, peaceful fishermen now wend their way. Elk and mule deer still inhabit the canyon country and golden eagles nest in the rims.

Circumstances and the rugged character of much of the Canyon and surrounding lands prevented their passing into private ownership. Outlaw Cave is situated on state lands, but much of the canyon is administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Elk herds which became re-established in the area eventually crowded their winter range. To help solve the problem the Wyoming Game and Fish Department bought 5,556 acres of private land. That land is intermingled with 10,950 acres of BLM land, including the canyon. The general area contains some 96,000 acres of public land considered to be prime hunting and fishing lands.

The canyon varies from 500 to 1,000 feet in depth with spectacular views and scenery. The occasional stands of timber and the scattered juniper, mountain mahogany and mountain grassland vegetation on the non-timbered land provide excellent wildlife habitat. Elk, mule deer and antelope frequent the area. Blue grouse, Hungarian partridge, chukar

partridge, sage grouse, and cottontails are smaller inhabitants along with hawks, owls, and many species of songbirds, rodents and other small mammals.

Recently, the Bureau of Land Management moved to protect the public land segment. The Bureau has proposed a withdrawal which would protect the historic, archeologic and wildlife values of the area.

State BLM Director Dan Baker said the purpose of the withdrawal is "to preserve the unique natural and historic values of this semi-primitive area." He said the principal justification for the withdrawal was to protect the

wildlife habitat.

The proposal would foreclose the lands to any mining claims or disposal under public land laws. Existing uses, including livestock grazing, would continue unless they adversely affect the land's natural values.

Comments on the proposal were solicited from the public with a closing date of July 7. However, readers of *High Country News* may still want to comment and commend the BLM for this action. Letters may be sent to State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 2120 Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

Lobbying For the Right

If the National Audubon Society were to urge its members to write their Congressmen in support of a pollution control bill, the Society would risk loss of its tax-deductible status.

Yet if industry mounted a national campaign to defeat that same bill, industry could list the cost of its campaign as a deductible business expense; such expenditures can be legitimately included as part of the regular public relations and lobbying costs of doing business.

This contradictory tax treatment is explained in the "National Outlook" section of the forthcoming July issue of *Audubon*, magazine of the National Audubon Society. Like many other environmental organizations, the Society is dependent on tax-deductible contributions from members and friends. But such organizations stand to lose their tax-deductible status if the Internal Revenue Service finds that a "substantial part" of their activities is devoted to "attempting to influence legislation." Just what constitutes "substan-

tial" has never been defined, but the Sierra Club lost its deductible status for running newspaper ads urging citizens to write their Congressmen in opposition to the proposal for dams in the Grand Canyon.

But there are now bills pending in the Congress that would end the uncertainty about what is "substantial," and which would permit these organizations a clear-cut, although limited, right to fight for or against local, state and federal legislation. What's more, the Society is free to lobby for the measure: the I.R.S. restriction does not apply in this case because the legislation would directly affect the Society's own tax status.

So now National Audubon is urging its members and friends to write their Representatives and Senators to support this measure to let environmentalists fight for legislation on a more even footing with industry. It seems only fair.

You might call it lobbying for the right to lobby.

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Friday, July 7, 1972

A Matter of Facts!

government. They don't always win, but each defeat has imparted a knowledge and wisdom which now garner respect from the opposition.

But the backbone of any grassroots movement is the individual. There is no substitute for the selfless, dedicated and patient volunteer who seeks nothing more than the satisfaction of seeing his cause fulfilled. They cannot be bought for they work for nothing or exist on a pittance. And you cannot prostitute an environmental zealot.

For all the effectiveness, there is still weakness. Laws prohibit tax-deductible organizations from flagrant lobbying, propagandizing, or attempting to influence legislation. As a result, activist organizations have elected to go non-tax-deductible. And that has resulted in money-starved groups unable to function as effectively as they are capable of doing.

Individuals learn very early that they are most effective when organized with others of like philosophy. There are still important individual actions such as letter writing to congressmen, legislators, public officials and government agencies. But an individual only becomes truly effective in belonging to an organized group. Fighting conservation battles today means pooling knowledge and expertise which can confound and offset the "experts" of the opposition.

Although environmental issues remain an admixture of gut emotions and hard facts, it is still the facts which win the day. And though the facts usually exist somewhere, it takes persistence and patience to dig them out and marshal them effectively.

It is for this reason that environmental councils or coordinating councils have been formed. Not only can there be a pooling of efforts but there can also be a coordination of factual materials.

Which returns the subject to money. The various councils or coordinating groups find themselves in the position of being asked to do many more things than they can possibly do.

Don Aldrich, executive secretary of the Montana Wildlife Federation, reporting in the *Montana Environmentalist* (July, 1972) said, "For years our predecessors in the environmental movement have been striving to get recognition — to have the opportunity to participate in the early stages of resource management and development planning. We now not only have the opportunity, we have the responsibility. By establishing an office and a fulltime representative, the Montana Wildlife Federation has accepted the responsibility for speaking for a large segment of our society. We are so much in demand and the requests are so varied that we are unable to meet them all. . ."

And in another area of important environmental activism, legislation, Aldrich said, "During the last session, we were able to keep a lobbyist in Helena thanks to the financial help of several other organizations and my willingness to live like a miser and work from 7 AM till midnight seven days a week. There are no lobbying funds available for the coming session. . ."

The Colorado Open Space Council was able to fund a paid lobbyist at the last session. The Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council was not so fortunate. Neither was the Idaho Environmental Council although it had some active directors living in Boise.

A few of the conservation organizations have a paid staff. Keith Becker, executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, gets \$400 a month — when there is money enough to pay him. He has a part-time secretary who is seldom paid regularly. Like Montana, Wyoming does not have any funds for lobbying in the next session of the Legislature.

Colorado is more fortunate. With a population much greater, the Colorado Open Space Council has a yearly budget of about \$25,000. This does not count volunteer time on various projects, estimated to be about

15,000 hours. Most of the budget is raised by various committees or workshops of the Council who do their own money-raising.

COSC is probably one of the more efficiently operating of the coordinating units in the Rocky Mountain region. Now headed up by Mrs. V. Crane Wright of Denver, it has been fortunate in having aggressive, activist leadership.

COSC derives much of its efficiency from a number of independently operating workshops with a great degree of autonomy. Again, COSC is fortunate in having a number of highly proficient chairmen. Dr. Bob Weiner, a University of Denver chemistry professor, is chairman of the energy workshop. Steve Hunter, a political science and history professor and a writer, is chairman of the parklands workshop. Chuck Wanner, a full-time environmentalist, is chairman of the wilderness workshop, to name only a few.

News stories of the work and philosophy of environmental organizations have undoubtedly cast them in a distorted and biased light. Often cast as "emotional environmentalists," the people who man the various organizations often turn out to be cool conservatives, or at least a far cry from the ranting radicals depicted in the press.

Vim Wright, who serves not only as president of COSC but is also a national director of the National Audubon Society, is a retired real estate agent. Bruce Ward, president of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, is owner of the Casper Credit Bureau. Jerry Jayne, president of the Idaho Environmental Council, is a mathematician by trade who works for Aerojet General Nuclear Corp. as a computer programmer at Arco, Idaho.

"If the same effort and enthusiasm that promoted National Hunting and Fishing Day could be expended upon the promotion of multiple use that included management of wildlife habitat. . . if the same effort that has been put into preventing gun registration had been put into promoting legislation that assured access to public lands and permitted the use of streams for recreational pursuits, we would have created a heritage for those who follow.

"Little will be accomplished in saving our fish poles and our guns if the environment is so contaminated that we cannot maintain healthy bodies, if the land and the waters have been put to a use that does not include our recreational desires, and if we have excellent highways leading to no place that we would like to be."

Don Aldrich
Executive Secretary
Montana Wildlife Federation

The other officers and boards of directors of each of these councils are a representative cross section of most western communities. COSC's vice president owns a nursery, the treasurer works for a bank, the secretary is a landscape architect, and the corresponding secretary is a geologist.

IEC's vice presidents are a practicing physician at Salmon and an environmental engineer for Ada County at Boise, the secretary is a nuclear engineer, and the treasurer is a student getting an advanced degree. The board of directors includes a housewife, a chemist, a lawyer, the head of a college biology department, a sawmill designer, an ecologist, an environmental architect, and a dramatics professor, among others.

The vice president of Wyoming's Outdoor Council is manager of a large business and the secretary-treasurer is an independent geologist. Its board of directors include five women, four college students two of whom are going for advanced degrees, a retired college professor, two ranchers, a dude rancher, a ferry pilot, an insurance agent, a management consultant, and a newspaper editor.

The organizations are put together in much the same fashion as a business. Most, if not

all, are incorporated in the state which they serve. As corporations, they must lawfully have a purpose. IEC's stated purpose is:

To join together to establish a more effective voice through cooperative effort; to stimulate an increased understanding and awareness of the impact of modern society and man on his environment; to work for the preservation and wise use of scenic, historic, open space, wildlife, wilderness and outdoor recreational resources that they may remain a significant part of the total environment of Idaho for the cultural, educational, physical, health, spiritual and economic benefit of our residents and our visitors; and to encourage citizen, legislative and administrative action toward the protection and restoration of our natural and historic heritage, and the creation of communities which reflect these values, through creative planning, education, and wise stewardship.

Both Colorado and Wyoming's Councils have similar stated purposes. Certainly, none of them can be construed as radical or revolutionary in the ordinary sense. Yet, most of them are revolutionary in that they are ahead of the general public and most politicians in working for constructive and peaceful change in American life style. That change involves a moral ethic toward the environment.

Some are still struggling to outline and define long-range goals while fighting the day-to-day crisis battles. The situation was well stated by Dr. Lyle Stanford, head of the Biology Department at the College of Idaho at Caldwell and an IEC director. He told his fellow directors, "You are aware that I continually stress the need for a dimension other than brush-fire fighting. I will be the first to defend these fights: they are necessary if we are to have anything left worth fighting for; they are, unfortunately, the only level in which the public understands our fight. But it is just there on that point that we need the other dimension. Just what are we fighting for? Do we have long-term goals, values, a value system? Do we stand for any long-range planning? Will we keep enough people alive in environmental interest if we do not have long-term values and keep justifying our stands in these terms? Can we justify each of our stands as being practical on the basis of really basic human ecological goals? Is it not time that we devoted some time to a really deep look for what we really feel is good—really feel is attainable—and then determine how we get to these goals? I am more pessimistic with every ecology class I teach, every speech I give, every good book I read. My only feelings of what may be possible to attain come from my contacts with young people all the way down to kindergarten."

Throughout the West, smaller groups specialize on certain issues or are local or regional in scope. To name a few, Idaho has the Hells Canyon Preservation Council. Utah has ISSUE? (Interested in Saving Southern Utah's Environment?), Utah CLEAR, Save Provo River Association, and the Wasatch Mountain Club. Colorado has the Eagle Piney Water Association, the Mountain Area Planning Council, the National Council of Public Land Users and Wildlife—2000. Montana has GASP (Gals Against Smog and Pollution) and the Montana Wilderness Association. Wyoming has ENACT (Jackson Hole Environmental Action Society) and the Green River Protection Association. Besides the New Mexico Conservation Coordinating Council, that state has New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water, the Central Clearing House, and Black Mesa Defense Fund.

In all of the states there are active chapters of the Audubon Society, Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, the Izaak Walton League, the League of Women Voters, and affiliates of the National Wildlife Federation. Some states now have active units of the League of Conservation Voters.

(Continued on page 13.)

THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

Had an interesting weekend in central Oregon that included yaks and zonies, sandhill cranes and trumpeter swans, a dying turkey vulture and a thousand living buffalo, a dead lamb and a dead coyote hung on adjacent fence posts.

We saw the yak first, a wild-eyed beast that made us believe we had somehow been drugged. But it was for real, even though it appeared out of the early-morning mist several miles north of Burns. We learned later that it was just one of numerous unusual animals kept at the Ponderosa Ranch: there were hundreds of bison or "buffalo", several zonies (zebra-pony cross), and assorted exotica. The huge buffalo herd was most impressive.

As we headed south from Burns toward the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, we saw a coyote, dead and stinking, hanging on a fence near a flock of sheep. On the next post hung a two-month-old lamb, its belly slit and its guts exposed. I learned later that the coyote had been killed in the act of killing the lamb. A local newspaper ran a photo of the still-living lamb with its stomach protruding from a rip in its belly, but the lamb died later that day.

Here is logical predator control: kill the beast that kills the livestock. But what reason to kill every member of a species in a prophylactic control program based on the false assumption that all coyotes kill lambs or that coyote control prevents livestock losses (neither assumption has ever been proved—see the Cain Report for the facts).

Malheur is a mecca for migratory birds in spring and fall and for many nesting species in summer. Long before we hit the federal protected lands, we saw birds: curlews feeding in the damp fields, great flocks of sandhill crane—some engaged in mating dances—and avocets, lovely in their sharply-contrasting breeding plumage of black and white and cinnamon. A few black-necked stilts fed in the shallow ponds, and several species of ducks appeared here and there: shovlers, wigeons, mallards, teal (cinnamon, green-winged), pintails.

We saw some of the captive antelope at the headquarters of the Refuge and heard the story of the family of bobcats nearby that had killed all of the antelope fawns the previous spring: the bob-kittens had fed well under the protection of the Refuge authorities, who felt the bobcats were worth protecting. And the enclosed antelope (pronghorns) had been helpless to protect their young by running away with them.

Driving further south through flocks of birds, we soon hit a dusty road under construction and also spotted the only trumpeter swans we saw the whole weekend—and also learned later that four had been shot by Sunday plunkers. Canadian geese became common, and we saw dozens of marsh hawks and hundreds of coots.

As we hit the southern end of the refuge and started back north, we saw the turkey vulture, obviously sick as it sat by the side of the road. I stopped the car to photograph it and frightened it into flight—but it only half circled before crashing to the ground as though struck down by the Red Baron. It cowered there, its wings spread, shuttering and shaking in a convulsion. I immediately thought of poison.

A refuge warden happened to be nearby. I called his attention to the bird, and he picked it up, put it in his pick-up truck, and we headed north. But we were concerned, and when we saw another Refuge vehicle approaching, we stopped it, told this warden what we'd seen and done, and asked for a report.

A few weeks later I received a letter saying that the bird had died a few minutes after we'd left. It had been preserved and would be examined for possible poison, but that there was apparently no poison out in the area, either public or private. (I learned since from an official of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife that the activities of the turkey vulture could have been caused by such natural phenomenon as a jackrabbit bone caught in the throat: the bird had appeared to be having the dry heaves).

An enlightening weekend, an educational weekend, a lovely weekend in many ways; but it has left many questions unanswered. Such a weekend can provoke much thought about the wild world and its interrelations with the tamer one.



A coyote and its victim are displayed for all the world to see. Verne Huser explains the circumstances in his column. And as he points out, it is logical predator control. Few people have found fault with selective predator control. Many people do protest the widespread use of poisons on the public lands of the West.



Photos by Verne Huser

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... Facts! ...

Some or all of these groups coordinate their activities through coordinating councils where they exist. However, coordination often falters because of inadequate financing and not enough manpower. As a result the environmental effort falls far behind the well-financed efforts of industry.

Well-heeled campaigns can sell the industry line through television, radio and the newspapers. Such advertising costs the industry nothing since it can be written off as a cost of doing business. Environmental groups and those who contribute to them have no such tax advantages. The cost to environmentalists are direct, out-of-pocket costs, except for some legal expenses.

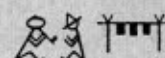
If it were not for the personal sacrifices of dedicated conservationists and environmentalists, the environmental movement would not yet have found a place in the sun. And this its very strength, for as industry and its representatives strive for ever greater growth and ever bigger profits, the environmentalists can show no personal gain.

The environmentalist finds himself caught up in a vicious circle of a crisis issue, lack of funds to adequately publicize and treat the issue, and a lack of local public understanding to gain support to deal with the issue. Only when a crisis threatens many people does an issue gain even qualified popular support on the local level.

Oftentimes, the concerned environmentalist has nowhere to turn except to outsiders or the expertise of national organizations. To some degree, this means outside influence to seek solutions for a local problem. Although, this is not bad in terms of the solution, it often creates further misunderstanding with local people and even less support.

Some means must be found to inform and educate more of the general public in the aims and goals of the environmental movement. Environmental organizations serve a necessary public purpose from which the general public derives benefit.

A public educated and made aware of environmental problems and issues could be expected to provide more voluntary support. And that, after all, is all that environmentalists are asking.



"I am sometimes puzzled as to my label as an 'environmentalist', as I consider myself an interested citizen rather than an environmentalist and in my dealings with industry as a consultant for noise pollution problems I like to appear as a problem-solver rather than a problem-creator, as the connotation 'environmentalist' sometimes implies to industry-oriented people. I can assure you that the information about our decision concerning a coalition to work for land-use planning will be thoroughly disseminated throughout the various environmentally-oriented groups here in Wyoming, as I am presently a member of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation and I serve on the board of directors of the Wyoming Sierra Club."

In a letter from David P. Egolf to J.L. Mulloy, Chairman of the Environmental Committee, Western Systems Coordinating Council (representing electric utilities of the western states).

Can This Be True?

The Montana Chamber of Commerce has taken a strange and unique position. Chamber President Lyle Leeds told the Montana Wilderness Association that a dam in the wild Missouri River between Fort Benton and Robinson Bridge would be bad economics. Increasing recreational use is bringing economic benefits. Leeds said, "The economics of impoundment, however, indicate the reverse to be true."



(Continued on page 13)

The organizations are put together in much the same fashion as a business. Most if not

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Dainty, shy and blushing,
Nature's common pet,
Constellated flowers . . .
Stars that never set.

Daisies: PEARL LANGE SCHULER

China-Watching Not New

by Robert Rodale

China-watching is nothing new for devotees of ecology, organic gardening and natural foods. For many years Westerners have visited and studied China to find out how the people of that country live successfully with such meager environmental resources.

They do it, we have found out, by the most effective recycling program on the face of the earth. Sewage, garbage and crop wastes are not piled in landfills, dumped into rivers or buried in China. They are quickly returned to the soil to help keep it fertile. Land stays productive for thousands of years, and large families are supported on only a few acres.

An American soil scientist, Dr. F. H. King, documented the unique workings of Chinese ecology over 60 years ago in his classic book "Farmers of Forty Centuries." King traveled extensively through the Orient, observing with a trained eye how Chinese practices of saving and using everything differed so much from our own wasteful way of life.

The exact procedure for making compost was reported by King, former head of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Management. He learned how Chinese engineers refused to dump human wastes into rivers, even in large cities. They sold the wastes to farmers. Chinese picked up the hot tea habit, King said, to protect themselves from disease organisms carried by human wastes. That eliminated the need for extensive water-purification plants.

Sir Albert Howard, the English scientist who pioneered organic farming, was greatly influenced by King's insights. Many aspects of Chinese gardening, farming and even diet were incorporated into Howard's no-chemical system.

The flow of ecology ideas from the East didn't stop there. Oriental culture has been a constant source of ideas for people seeking alternative life styles, and a more varied natural-food diet.

Here are just a few of the gifts from China that are now used widely by American natural-living fans, often without realizing it:

Recycling of all organic wastes. The Chinese were making compost heaps thousands of years ago. They developed the technique of blending manures and human wastes in heaps with plant materials, to cause the

heap to "heat up" and reduce disease problems.

A diet low on the food chain is a Chinese idea. Greater ecological efficiency is achieved when people eat plants instead of feeding them to animals, and then eating their flesh. Chinese eat far less meat than Westerners, and as a result put less strain on their environment. They also have less heart disease and obesity.

Use of rice as a staple food is catching on here in the natural-food community. Brown rice, especially, has important nutritional advantages over other grains as they are usually served in the United States. Cooking rice uses less energy and takes less work than making bread.

Hocus-pocus

by Norma R. Hentges

"Invest in our 1/16 acre lots and live where Buffalo Bill shot his last buffalo."

"Welcome to Suburbia International on the shores of Lake Tomorrow." (Lake Tomorrow is proposed for completion in late 2020.)

"Buy our land and you buy the biggest view available for only \$8,995.00 a full acre. (Fill your gas tank here—last chance for 250 desert miles.)

"Live in Peerless Woods." (3,000 seedlings now being planted.)

All day the developer's signs are at every turn. (One pictures grass, but the actual area is nothing but tumble weeds.) This past spring my mail box and phone brought various and sundry announcements of new developments. Now, the view of the countryside is cluttered with their billboards.

Tonight as I sit outside my camp and listen to the crickets chirp and watch a few night clouds sail past glittering stars, I hope too many folks don't follow the bold black and white billboards. Their climax is a pitch for a development and its homes so fantastic that one could "Enjoy Total Indoor Living" for the rest of one's life.

Editorial . . .

canyons and the river and the coyote wail and the pinyon smoke curling around a potfull of campers' stew. There will still be a man's love affair with the desert; we hope it goes a long, long time.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

They looked like huge yellow monsters standing in a row, their shiny newness almost indecent against the soft early-summer green of the mountain meadow. In reality, they were enormous dirt-moving machines, and to me they spelled the end of an era. Or perhaps I should say the beginning of yet another era.

That meadow is in the middle of the Hahns Peak basin, which is just possibly the most beautiful spot in the Rocky Mountain area! (I'll admit, I may be somewhat prejudiced.) Located in northwestern Colorado, the basin is dominated by the great, grey, cone-shaped peak named for Joseph Hahn, who discovered gold there in 1862. Nearby is square-topped Sand Mountain, whose sandy-colored precipice is framed by slopes of dark green woodland. There's big, sprawling Mt. Farwell, also named after an early day seeker of gold. There are lesser hills and mountains, too, all covered with a glorious mixture of stately evergreens and delicate quaking aspen. In between are the meadows, dotted with wildflowers and kept green by small mountain streams (with names like Willow Creek, Beaver Creek, Floyd Creek, Larsen Creek, Red Creek).

In autumn, the scene turns from green to gold and scarlet. In the winter, it lies under a deep blanket of snow, for the altitude there is over 8000 feet. (Elevation of Hahns Peak, 10,824.)

Before Hahn's discovery of gold, this great basin was the domain of the Ute Indians, invaded only occasionally by white trappers. Other miners followed after Joseph Hahn, and by 1875 there were placer mines all around the peak, and a mining camp sprawled at its base. The bustling town of Hahns Peak was made county seat of Routt County in 1879. Within a decade, the mining activity had died down, and the county seat was soon moved to Steamboat Springs. Hahns Peak was almost deserted. A few settlers came to try their hand at farming — those who remained were a hardy lot, for the growing season is short, and the winters severe.

In the early 1900's the basin was again invaded — this time by thousands of sheep. The short growing season didn't matter to the sheepmen. In early July ewes and lambs were trailed into the region to graze on the lush forage. For three summer months, the mountains echoed with the sound of bleating sheep, and the musical Spanish spoken by the Mexican sheepherders. By early October the fat lambs were shipped to market, and the ewes trailed back to lower elevations. Quiet settled over the basin, along with the whiteness of winter. This continued for almost half a century, with very few changes. Wagon roads were widened for cars, and range foremen used Jeeps as well as horses. A telephone line was strung across the basin. (Even now, in 1972, the party lines reverberate to rings like "one long, two short"!.) Kerosene lamps in the town and in the scattered farms along the main road were replaced by electric lights, thanks to REA.

In the late 1950's came a different kind of invasion — recreation. Land formerly owned by the sheepmen was bought by the Game and Fish department, and with the cooperation of the Forest Service, three lakes were created in the Hahns Peak basin, by damming the little mountain streams. Lakes—complete with campgrounds, boat docks, and people. Old houses in the town of Hahns Peak were refurbished, and many new ones built for the summer residents.

Now, in the 1970's, the land speculators have invaded this domain once claimed by the Utes. The hills and meadows are being divided into homesites. Everywhere, on spruce, pine and aspen trees, are tacked the red markers of the surveying crews. The deep snows of winter will no longer bring tranquillity to the basin — a ski resort is being planned for Sand Mountain.

The Indians left no visible scars on the land. The sluice boxes and dredges of the miners have long since rotted away, but there are tunnels into the mountains, and gashes on the hillsides are still perceptible. The sheep corrals are falling to pieces, and even now the trails used by the herders and campmovers are almost overgrown in many places. The Jeep trails will take longer to heal.

And now those shiny yellow behemoths are parked at the side of the road, awaiting the order to start gouging access roads across the green mountain meadows to homesites near the trees. Will time be able to erase the scars that they will leave?

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Sad fact for ecology scholars:
Money talks — and sometimes it hollers!
While Industry spends
To promote its own ends,
Conservation pits "sense" against dollars!

* * *

North Carolina's great Dismal Swamp once covered 1,000 square miles but now has been reduced to about 275 square miles. Logging and drainage continue. Water levels in the unique Lake Drummond have fallen from an original 15 feet to less than five feet in the summer. A bill has now been sponsored in Congress to study ways of preserving the important ecological site.

* * *

"Suburban Growth — A Case Study," published in the Population Bulletin of the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., says 74 percent of the country's real estate taxes came from single family homes, 12 percent from apartments, and only 14 percent from commerce and industry in 1971.

* * *

Bernt Balchen, the man who first flew Admiral Richard F. Byrd over the South Pole and a recognized Arctic expert, says the Arctic Ocean is losing its ice. Balchen says the Arctic ice pack has decreased from an average 43 ft. in depth in 1893 to 6 to 8 feet now. He predicts the ocean will be ice free by 2000. Such a condition will lead to vastly increased snowfalls along the ocean shores, warmer weather for the northern tier of the United States and colder weather for Florida.

* * *

Oily blobs along the beaches of South Texas are once again appearing in noticeable numbers. Speculation is that they appear as a result of tankers pumping bilge, natural seeps, or oil spills from off-shore drilling.

* * *

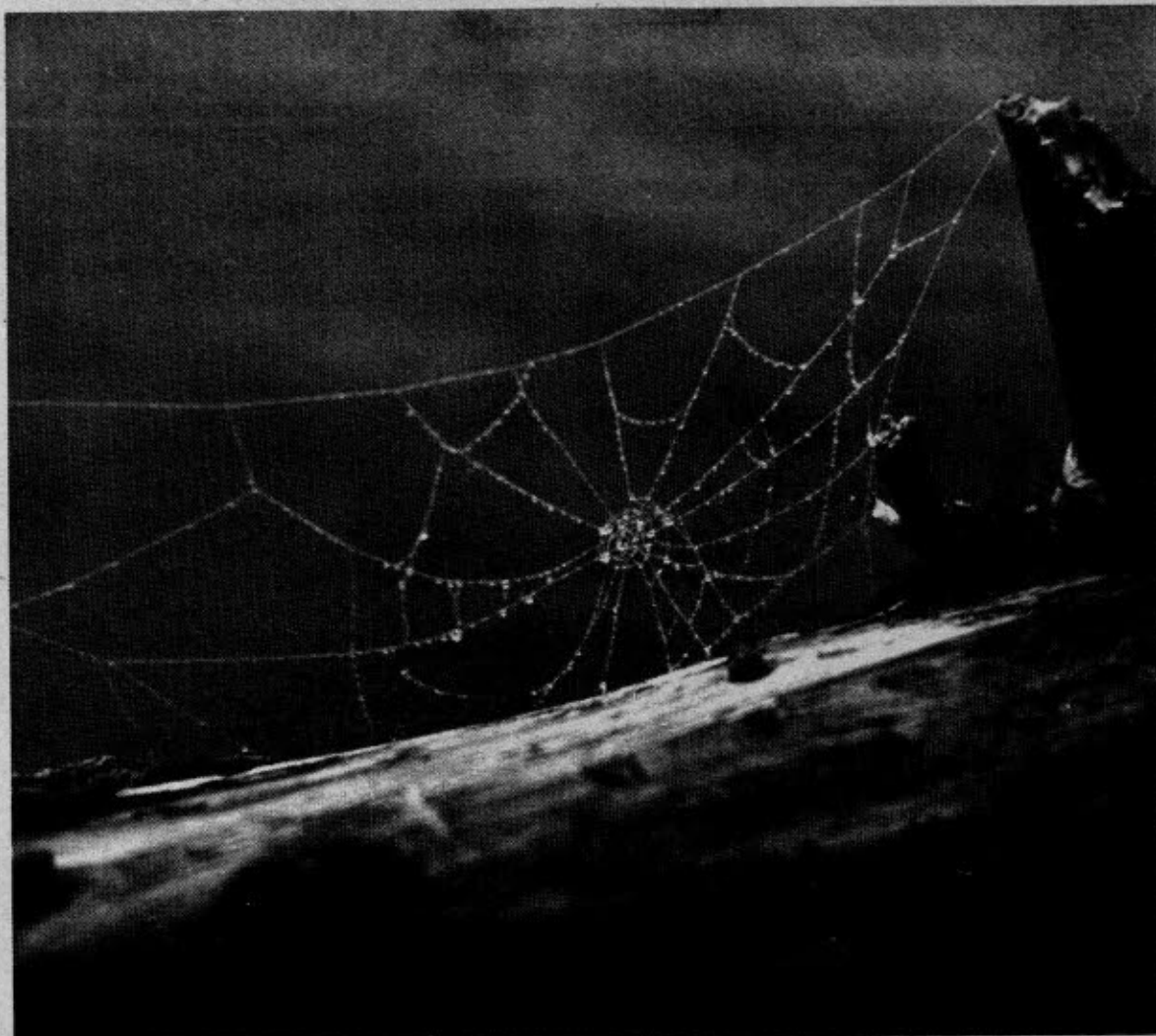
Britain's birth rate has dropped to another low. If the trend continues, experts predict deaths will exceed births by 1974. Population experts point to family planning clinics, widespread male sterilization, and high unemployment as reasons for the decline.

* * *

A 200,000-acre environmental research park has been announced in an area surrounding the hydrogen bomb plant in South Carolina. The area was chosen because it is already sealed off from human intrusion and because the effects of minute amounts of radioactivity can be studied.

* * *

California will adopt a policy on waste water discharged into the Pacific Ocean to protect the ocean and its resources. The chairman of the State Water Resources Control Board says the board has been conducting hearings and must set a policy.



Viewed by the ecologist, all life is tied together in a fragile web. And like the spider web which depends on solid anchors for its support, all life depends on four basic elements for its support — soil (rock), air, water and sunlight.

Book Review

The Web of Life

By John Storer

Review by Judy Legerski

John Donne knew in the 17th century that "No man is an island, intire of it selfe; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine. . . ." John Storer of the 20th century has phrased it not so well, but perhaps more relevantly: "Life is such a very personal thing wrapped up within the being of every living creature, that it is sometimes hard to realize how intimately each life is connected with a great many other lives.

THE WEB OF LIFE deals with the close interrelationship of all living organisms. The book reacquaints the reader with all the intricacies of nature that he marveled at in grade school. The balance of nature is explained in an easy to understand, text-book-like manner. All living things — from bacteria to men — are fitted into this introduction to the science of ecology. Storer covers the basics: air, rock, water, and sunlight — "the four sources from which come all living things and their environment."

This book was not written for specialists; it explains the complex balance of nature in simple language. The reader comes away with the author's deep respect for, and great appreciation of, the natural clockwork of the undisturbed environment.

In subtle contrast to the approval of the efficiency of nature, there is a quiet condemnation of human interference in the eternal patterns. But John Storer does not make the common mistake of blaming all ecological blunders on human greed. "Greed no doubt played its part. So did imagination, initiative, hard work, the willingness to risk life and savings to gain independence. These are some of the things that we regard as among the higher attributes of man. They are vitiated by ignorance, by lack of established responsibility, and the pressure of competition. . . ." This understanding of human motives involves a basic trust in man's ability to use his recently acquired knowledge of nature wisely and responsibly.

Storer bows to a more adept literary talent, (Alan Paton, CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY) to sum up the theme and dictum of THE WEB OF LIFE:

"The grass is rich and matted, you

cannot see the soil. It holds the rain and the mist, and they seep into the ground, feeding the streams in every kloof. It is not too well tended, and not too many cattle feed upon it; not too many fires burn it, laying bare the soil. Stand unshod upon it, for the ground is holy, being even as it came from the Creator. Keep it, guard it, care for it, for it keeps men, guards men, cares for men. Destroy it and man is destroyed."

The point is well taken.

Road Vetoed

California's Governor Ronald Reagan held a unique and unprecedented news conference at a High Sierra mountain meadow to announce the death-knell for a trans-Sierra-highway. President Nixon vetoed the idea of a paved highway through the headwaters of the San Joaquin River after Reagan, the Sierra Club and other conservationists had opposed it. Reagan rode horseback 14 miles to Summit Meadow to announce the President's decision and his own proposal to put the area into wilderness. Once in wilderness, the area would be protected from future highway threats.

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Photo by Randy Wagner



Western land developments are often water-oriented, located on lakes or along rivers. Even the most carefully planned developments will result in adverse environmental impacts. The worst of them result in water pollution, increased sedimentation, and loss of public access. Conservationists are working to get a number of streams such as this stretch of Wyoming's Upper Green River into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Courtesy Montana Fish and Game Department

Sign of the Times May Spell Danger

Summer homes and manicured lawns are sprouting along some of the state's choice fishing streams. "This sign of the times may be a boon to real estate developers, but it is a real concern to persons trying to manage sports fisheries for the public," says George Holton, chief fisheries biologist for the fish and game department.

The automobile, a good road system, and affluency has enabled people to move from the city to their dream home in the country. Real estate developers systematically subdivide ranches into smaller home sites and seek old mining claims and other choice stream frontages. The old fishing hole suddenly is no longer accessible.

Montana ranchers have long had a tradition of friendly tolerance toward fishermen. Many of the new developments are expressly to provide exclusive private fishing waters for the home site owners. While fish in Montana's lakes and streams still, by law, belong to the people of the state, fishermen can't get to them across private land without permission from landowners.

There is concern, too, about fish habitat in the streams. As home sites are developed almost invariably the new home owners remove the "worthless brush" and lay lawn to the stream's edge. Lawns encourage use of weed killer and the home owner applies them at far greater concentrations than the rancher. Ornamental trees and bushes also often receive liberal doses of insect killers. These chemicals are all poisons. Fish and the water insects that fish live on are sensitive. Their populations are easily depleted.

The streambank brush that the home owner

grubs out as worthless has provided important cover for game fish and has kept the stream bank from unraveling and washing away. Once brush is removed, the landowner finds his banks are eroding. A usual repair, although expensive, is to install riprap, that is rocks. The more affluent may build concrete walls. Walls in particular destroy much of the natural beauty of the stream as well as fish habitat.

In addition to the jeopardy to the fish, housing developments on floodplains put

their occupants in jeopardy. Floodplains are so named because they flood. They belong to the river and have developed in periods of high water when the river overflows its banks. The 50 or 100 year flood is not necessarily 50 or 100 years away. It could be 10 years from now or even next June as the people in Rapid City and in Pennsylvania can attest.

Fishermen in Montana must scratch off more lengths of fishing streams to growing pains of recreational land developments.

Bird "Blue List" Published

The National Audubon Society is establishing an "early warning" list of bird species which are believed to be experiencing serious population declines. Qualified observers are asked to give these birds special attention in field studies and reports.

The idea is that by alerting scientists and amateur ornithologists everywhere about species that appear to be headed for trouble, data can be collected and perhaps protective measures undertaken before the species reaches the desperately low population levels of such birds as the whooping crane, California condor and ivory-billed woodpecker which are officially listed as "endangered." The new early warning list (called a "Blue List," to differentiate it from the existing Red List of endangered species) was published in the Society's bi-monthly journal, *American Birds*.

The list as published, it was explained, is a preliminary one, and will be revised periodically. In the coming years, closer attention to all the species even tentatively listed, will re-

veal which are indeed in trouble.

Among the 43 species listed today are both kinds of North American pelicans, three of the herons, both vultures, a long list of hawks, several woodpeckers, and other songbirds including all three bluebirds. A second list of 14 birds declining regionally is also published.

The decline of these species may be attributed to a variety of causes. Among them are the effects of pesticides and other chemicals on breeding biology, the reduction or alteration of breeding or wintering habitats, problems with predators (including man), competition from non-native introduced birds like the Starling, and disease.

