



High Country

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News

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After the storm.

Photo by Tom Bell

A Plea For Wilderness

By Carl Hocevar

A federal judge recently issued an injunction barring timber sales, roading, or other developments on some 34 million acres of national forest lands without first having environmental studies done. The ruling came on a suit brought by the Sierra Club, the Colorado Open Space Council, and other conservation groups.

The groups have contended that the Forest Service did not allow enough time to study all of the unroaded and undeveloped areas on the national forests. They also say the Forest Service has not complied with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act.

The judge's decision says timbering or other development in national forest areas involved in the roadless area review must now have a formal environmental impact statement. As a result, all timber sales have been halted effective July 1. Sales made before that date can continue.

Environmental impact statements require public review. Therefore, the public will now be allowed access to the decision-making process on the national forests. This, in essence, is what the public was requesting earlier this year when the Forest Service held public meetings across the West.

The following statement is somewhat representative of conservationists' feelings. It was presented by Carl Hocevar at a public meeting held by the Forest Service at Idaho Falls, Idaho, March 17, 1972. Mr. Hocevar is chairman of the Wilderness Committee of the Idaho Environmental Council.

The future management of the National Forests concerns not only the people of Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming, but all the citizens of the United States. Since the management of the forests is important, the decisions must be made carefully and only after the various management alternatives have been adequately considered. Wise management decisions depend upon the evaluation of all pertinent data. At this time we do not have all, or even a significant part, of the needed information concerning our future wilderness recreational needs, our future timber needs, or even the amount of timber that can be cut on a sustained yield basis without detrimentally affecting our land and water resources. Some of the decisions will involve irreversible actions. Before a decision is made to alter or preserve an area we must be positive that we are making the correct decision, not only for the people, but also for the land. There is no pressing need to make final decisions at this time and it is impossible for either the Forest Service or individuals to make wise recommendations for future management plans in the period of several months. We, as individuals, may be impatient to pursue some immediate action. However, we must realize that we are making decisions that will not only affect ourselves, but also future generations. The IEC recommends that the study period on future management alternatives be extended for at least another one or two years. Even then we must be careful to keep the management options open.

Multiple Use Act

In 1960 the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act (P.L. 86-517) was passed. This act defined the

terms "multiple use" and "sustained yield" and directed the Forest Service to manage the National Forests according to these principles. In fact, the Forest Service had already been managing the National Forests under the multiple use concept as defined in the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act. The multiple use concept is actually broader than most people believe. Multiple use as defined in the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act considers uses other than economic uses of the National Forests and in fact states that consideration be given to "the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output." Section 2 of the act also states "The establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Act."

Logging

One of the major uses of our National Forests is logging and will remain so in the future. The only question is the extent to which logging will exist. In the past some mistakes have been made and have been recognized as such by the Forest Service. For example, a recent in-house Forest Service study on timber harvest and the environment on the Teton, Bridger, Shoshone, and Bighorn National Forests in Wyoming admits that there have been excessively large clearcuts on all four forests, that timber cutting as a means to control bark beetle infestations led to logging where no logging should have been done, and that, on the matter of staffing, all four forests, were short-handed in such important disciplines as wildlife, biology, soils, and hydrology.

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The editor.

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Snow has already rimmed our high peaks. Not for long, but enough to put that snap back into the air. Yet, here in the valleys the heat seeps through in the afternoons. Grasshoppers go awing, buzzing ecstatically in the mating ritual, and grass whispers softly in the gentle breeze.

There is something restful and contenting about the last days of summer and those early days of autumn. The pace slows down and where earlier so much was caught up in the rush of growth, now those things, too, take pause.

I suppose all seasons impart their share of memories. But somehow fall always brings flooding back those sights and sounds of childhood and youth and young manhood which are so pleasant.

It must have something to do with school — that preoccupation which takes up so much of the days of the young. But my memories are not so much of school itself but of the coming and going and the hours in between.

As a youngster, I walked or rode horseback to and from a country schoolhouse several miles distant. My journey varied, sometimes across the gray, sagebrush covered hills, sometimes along the ditchbank and then the country road. Always there was something fascinating and it is a wonder I ever reached school — or home.

The journey might begin or end through the orchard. That rich, pungent smell of ripening apples is as vivid today as on those golden September mornings of long ago. Along the way, buffalo berry and hawthorne exuded their own peculiar odor. Then, too, there was that particular fascination with the gray, rounded humps of hornet's nests. They, too, liked the ripening yellow transparents or winesaps. It was always a temptation to throw a fallen apple or poke a stick in torment.

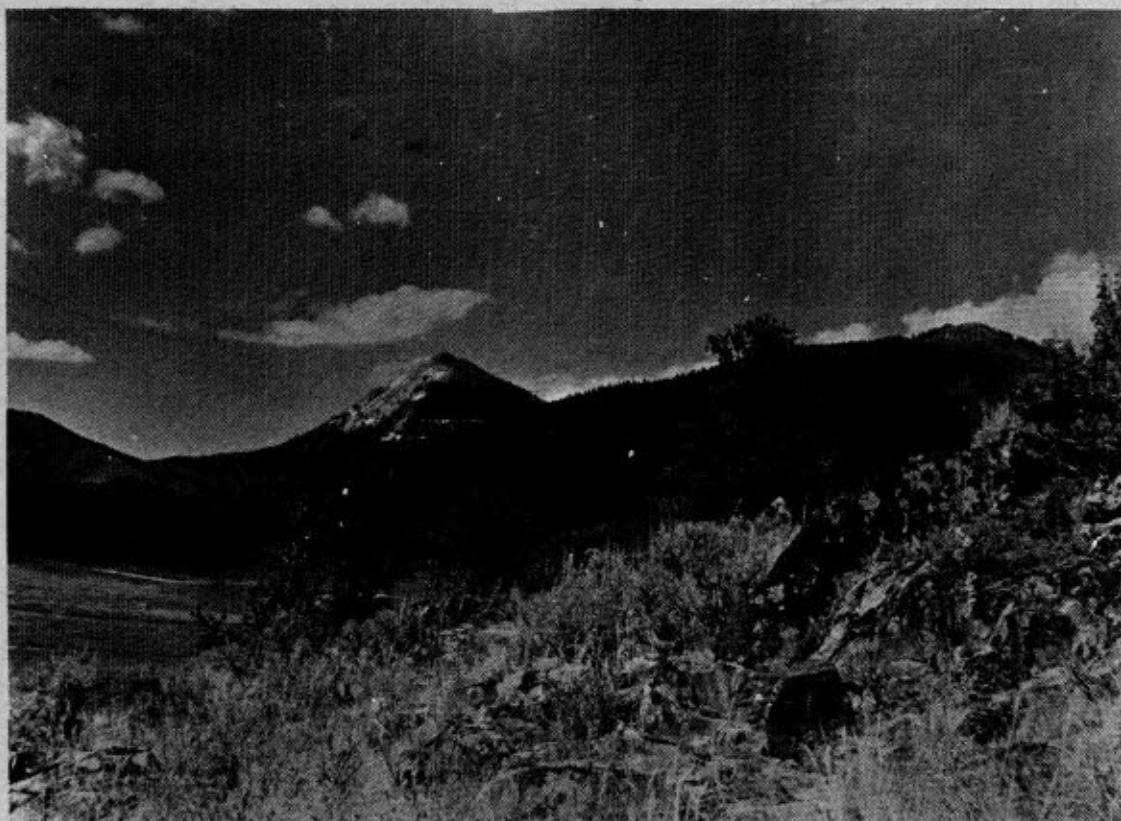
Some cool mornings carried the musky odor of skunk, a tantalizing and romantic kind of smell for it was truly of the wild. So, too, the faint pungency of mink along the creek bottom, there mixed with the odors of mud and decaying vegetation, or even sometimes a dead fish.

Towering high above our valley, the mountains were omnipresent. Sometimes bathed in gold, sometimes in warm pink as I sat milking in the early morning, the great canyons and high peaks were ever changing. But never did they lose their beckoning call to adventure. They represented the far and distant places, the mysterious places so near and yet so far. Those peaks have never lost their magnetism for what adventure still nags my wild spirit.

Into those fastnesses, I went with my father to bring out the winter wood and the posts and poles needed for fence and corral. And back into those fastnesses, I rode on solitary forays to test my own mettle and to savor the solitude so often needed by the young and restless mind. Later, in the far corners of the earth, those quiet moments would be recalled with peace and satisfaction as war raged all around. And when it came time to come home, I looked first to those high and shining mountains.

Each person comes onto this earth a single and solitary soul, and each leaves the same way. But each of us has a kinship to each other and to those things living and non-living which shares his life. That is one of the great truths which each must learn.

It must be the way of all young that they have opportunity for pleasant memories in a world uncrowded, undefiled and uncomplicated. How better to expand the human soul and spirit, the most priceless gifts of all.



The lazy days of Indian summer descend on Hahns Peak in northern Colorado.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

My wife and I recently moved to Casper from San Francisco, following, perhaps, the sometimes misguided pioneers of late who assume that plopping in the "country" is tantamount to cleansing oneself of the problems peculiar to the cities these days.

Be that as it may. Having been "in journalism" in some form or another myself for several years, I read with interest the *High Country News*. Its dedication and spirit of honest crusade remind me of certain publications of the coast which I also admire, the *Bay Area Guardian* coming to mind primarily.

Enclosed is an editorial I wrote under pressure from a quasi-infidel, a friendly one, who wanted to see if I were up to such a challenge. (One of the advantages in living "in the country," I've observed, is the privilege of not being taken at one's own word: I find this stimulating, at the very least.)

In any case, I offer the piece for publication in your paper, gratis, of course. Although it is a bit satirical in tone and I did not see much of this in past issues of the *High Country News*, I think it is not inconsistent entirely with your content.

You may, of course, throw it in the wastebasket if that is your inclination. I have not enclosed SASE. But if you do desire to publish it, please do so with my appreciation. Should you decide to print it, my cup would runneth over at the receipt of two or three copies of the issue in which it appears.

Thank you for your consideration. My best regards to you and the staff of your publication.

Sincerely,
William E. McInnis
Casper, Wyoming

Editor's note: You're on! How could I turn down such a cleverly written piece? Indeed, the paper does need some tongue-in-cheek satire and I greatly appreciate your efforts. Now, how about some more whenever the mood strikes you.

Ironically, I have received two such guest editorials within a week. Both are on the opposite page where our readers may enjoy them. Our thanks to both authors.

* * *

Editor:

Through the kindness of a colleague I have

enjoyed intermittently the opportunity to read *High Country News* for some time. Apparently he has changed his mailing list and I no longer get the paper, so I am herewith enclosing a check to cover a year's subscription.

I would like to congratulate you on your journalistic venture. I suspect there are not many papers left in this country that can devote themselves, as you do, to the subject of the environment in such a constructive fashion. Both your criticisms and your support of the national parks construct a valuable expression of public opinion which I can assure you the National Park Service respects.

Sincerely,
William C. Everhart
Reston, Virginia

* * *

Editor:

Just caught your special report reprinted in *OUTDOOR AMERICA* for June, 1972.

We had a somewhat similar, but smaller situation here in Michigan about 15 years ago, when a copper mining company wanted to put a mine in our Porcupine Mts. State Park. Even our then-conservation director, a geologist, thought it was a good idea. He changed his mind in a hurry when he discovered that there is more to conservation than starting a mine in a wilderness park!

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Guest Editorials

Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS

Best Efforts Needed

The Conservation Foundation made a point the other day that bears repeating when it observed that "energy crisis" has become a cliché that blurs the sharp edges of a difficult problem.

One dimension of the problem involves the fact that the demand for more energy — more electricity, coal, oil, and gas — is outrunning this nation's ability to supply it.

Another dimension of the problem centers on the need to avoid environmental damage from pollution, oil spills, strip mining, irrational land use, and radioactivity.

In between these two dimensions there are more questions than there are answers. For example:

What means, if any, should be used to reduce power consumption in critical areas and during peak demand periods?

Should we relax short-term environmental quality for more power by, say, relaxing sulfur standards for coal and oil?

A Dam Plan!

by Scott W. Reed

The new policy of the Oregon Water Resources Board opposing any new dams on the Middle Snake River conflicts with the policy of the Idaho Water Resource Board supporting High Mountain Sheep and other dam development on the River.

The Middle Snake divides the two states. How is the conflict to be resolved? Obviously the only solution compatible with the state's rights is for the Idaho Water Resource Board to construct half a dam. It is a compromise worthy of the great federal water planners such as the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation which understand that the importance of water projects is to be measured by the costs rather than the accomplishments.

The dam for construction at High Mountain Sheep would extend from the Idaho side exactly one-half way across the River. The limitation in storage capacity can be compensated for on sound engineering principles by making the dam twice as high as presently planned for the full length dam. In algebraic recognition of this engineering achievement the dam could be renamed the "One-Half Two High Mountain Sheep" or the "High Two Mountain One-Half Sheep" or the "One-Half High Mountain Two Sheep."

The dam could be financed through use of the same tax loophole exploited in the Swan Falls-Guffey joint venture by proceeds from tax-exempt bonds sold by the board loaned to the power companies at going utility finance rates. Since the project would be state supported and therefore automatically in the public interest, the Public Utility Commission could simply approve passing the costs on to the power consumer without any searching analysis of the benefit-cost ratio.

The turbines would operate only on half of the river at run of the river capacity without storage for peaking power. However power revenue is no longer the sole measure of project benefits. Proper consideration must be given to the enormous recreational potential which water planners regard as identical to environmental protection.

Idaho would achieve world-wide fame for building half a dam. Tourists would swarm to the huge Hells Canyon damsite to see the spectacular twice as high half a dam. Everyone would recognize that the Idaho Water Resource Board had supported another half vast project.

(For an explanation of this half-dam, or "half-vast, too-high dam" concept as envisaged by Idaho Water Resource Board Member, Scott Reed, above, see story Dams Banned, page 13.)

To what extent, if any, should the environment be sacrificed to keep consumer prices down? To be specific, should large-scale strip mining for coal be permitted?

Until substitute fuels can replace oil and gas, to what extent is increased imports of those products to be preferred over more offshore drilling and the transAlaska pipeline?

How can the marketplace be made to include the social costs of environmental degradation in the pricing of energy resources?

Should the U.S. begin rationing energy? If so, should it be done through direct controls or through pricing and tax policies?

These are just a few of the questions which show why Congress needs to hammer out a coordinated, coherent national energy policy geared to the public interest.

As the lawmakers move to do just that, there are many ways to reduce energy consumption which ought to be explored. Additional insulation and storm windows, for instance, can reduce summer cooling and winter heating needs in most houses from 30 to 50 percent. A quarter of the nation's total energy output goes into the building of highways and the making of automobiles, an inefficient mode of transportation which burns nearly four times more units of energy per passenger-mile than buses.

Moreover, decision-making and planning in this field need to be better coordinated. That's clear from the fact there are 61 federal agencies with some involvement in energy policy, yet no one is responsible for new energy sources. In the words of the Conservation Foundation:

"The most troublesome question raised by the energy crunch may be whether the problem is so large, complex, and fragmented as to be unmanageable. Only the best efforts of government, industry, and the public — working on all possible solutions — are likely to prove otherwise."

Fractured Freedoms?

by William E. McInnis

One of the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights has been consistently violated in recent years. The most insidious part of this situation has been the nearly complete lack of recognition on the public's part of such infractions.

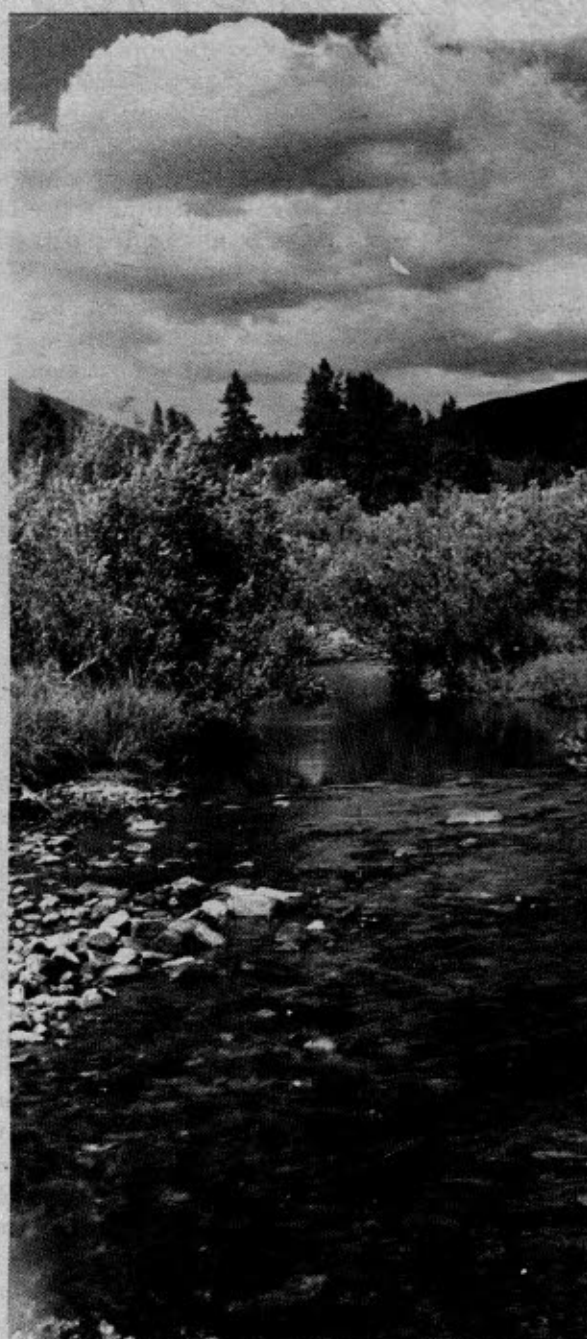
Among the first ten Amendments is one that states, in effect, that Congress nor any other power of government shall limit the citizens' right to arm bears.

Living among some of the nation's and the world's most beautiful wild lands, we should be in a particularly advantaged situation. Not only are we close enough to monitor violations of this basic freedom, but we can propose and oversee what we optimistically anticipate as remedies to the unfortunate state at present.

It has been almost six years, excepting the recent occurrence, since a careless and rule-breaking visitor in Yellowstone or one of the other national parks has obliged a bear to maul him. Most of the cases on record involve ignorant provocation of bears into this kind of behavior (in 1904 a trapper slept in the open with a slab of bacon as his pillow).

But where the focus on such events has been misdirected is revealed in the fact that the bears are inevitably the ones who pay for the nature-lovers' misunderstanding and underestimating of the wilderness. A rugged country should not be ventured into without the proper respect.

Trying to "get back to nature," a well-commercialized pastime these days, has in frequent cases come to mean a masochistic pitting of oneself against a rather indifferent Mother Nature: trying to swallow a lake, fall off a mountain, or out-bite a bevy of snakes.



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The practice has placed some important natural resources in jeopardy. Admittedly, the damage done most of these resources has been minimal so far: a gulping contest at a lake or stream only slightly misplaces water and frightens a fish or two; the erosion of a mountainside committed by a falling body is negligible; and most of the snakes in most of the cases have recovered after biting hikers.

However, the results approach tragedy when we remember that a bear is killed every so often as a result of a direct confrontation for which the bear can hardly be held responsible.

We must all stand together in protecting our right — and indeed our obligation — as citizens under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, to arm bears.

Letters . . .

Sportsmen didn't like it, but more than that, the women's groups really got "mad," like a bunch of hornets — and the move to allow the mine was defeated.

If you have trouble with your Rep. McClure, may I suggest that you organize your women's clubs and housewives. They'll battle for you and win too, just like they did here in Michigan.

We still have too many people who would sell places like the Sawtooths for dollars. They would sell the sunsets if they could!

Congratulations on a good report & good luck.

Sincerely yours,
Jack Van Coevering
Ann Arbor, Michigan

4-High Country News
Friday, Sept. 1, 1972

A Plea For Wilderness...

The most publicized misuse of the forests is in the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana where extensive clearcuts have been made on very steep slopes. Clearcutting on steep slopes can result in serious erosion problems. Extensive clearcutting of fragile soils such as in the Northern Rockies can result in very poor natural regeneration patterns. An example of such a case is in the Squaw Creek area in the Salmon Creek area in the Salmon National Forest where extensive clearcutting was done about a decade ago. There is no significant natural reseeding occurring in that area today. The mistakes are not the important point, the important point is that the mistakes not be repeated in the future.

Much criticism has been heaped upon the environmentalists for the fact that the Forest Service has reduced the timber sales in some areas. In reality, the Forest Service itself is in the process of giving more consideration to environmental matters. This is not only good management policy but it is also required by the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act which states that management of the various resources be done "without impairment of the productivity of the land." In the past the Forest Service has not given full consideration to the environmental impact of logging and consequently has overestimated the inventory of timber available for an allowable cut under the sustained yield principle. This fact was brought out in a land stratification study by the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, a division of the U. S. Forest Service. The study was designed to determine the timber growing base in six western National Forests. It carefully considered land productivity, soil stability, isolation of small patches of forest land, and the impacts of improved multiple use planning. The results of the study showed that the timber growing base was 22% less than had been previously estimated. The results varied from forest to forest but the important point was that the timber growing base was apparently over-estimated in all of the forests which were studied. It is apparent that a re-evaluation of the timber growing base should be made for all the National Forests.

Several general comments regarding logging are in order. Where logging is to be done the logging method should be carefully selected. Clearcutting should not be done on steep slopes and/or on fragile soils. If clearcutting of a specific area can be shown to be environmentally acceptable, the cuts should be made in small patches and should be contoured to fit the terrain. Buffer strips should be left along streams to minimize the impact upon the streams. The amount of land which is scheduled for cutting could be reduced if the amount of waste were reduced. Currently much of the timber is left or burned because it is now uneconomical to remove it from the area. Much of the unused timber could be used to make pressed wood or other wood by-products. There should be a penalty imposed on the timber operators if usable timber is left or an even better suggestion may be to develop an incentive system which will reward them for efficient field operations. Logging roads should be carefully designed and constructed to avoid erosion. The number of logging roads should be kept to a minimum and all those not intended to be part of the forest road system should be closed after the logging operation has been terminated. There is cause for concern over this item; the Forest Service study of the four Wyoming Forests showed that between 1960 and 1970 there was a four-fold increase in temporary roads and that two-thirds of all the temporary roads ever built on those forests had not been closed by the fall of 1970.

Off-Road Vehicles

Off-road vehicles are becoming more of a problem. President Nixon has recognized this and recently signed an Executive Order requiring the Forest Service to review the use of off-road vehicles on public lands. As more and more people use the National Forests for recreation the off-road vehicle problem will most likely become worse, not better. In 1970 approximately two-thirds of the recreational use in the National Forests was attributable to vehicle users. During an informational meeting on "Snowmobiles and Other Off-Road Vehicles" in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 1971, Mr. Jack Deinema, Associate Deputy Chief of the

Forest Service, said that while the greatest proportional change in use has been in snowmobile and trail machine use, the fastest growth in a numerical sense has been in hiking. In other words, more people are taking up hiking and other non-vehicular recreational activities each year than any other recreational activity.

The IEC has a number of recommendations which we ask the Forest Service to consider when reviewing the use of off-road vehicles.

A. Motorized recreational vehicles should not be allowed:

1. in areas where erosion is an existing or a potential problem.
2. off established trails, especially in the fragile high alpine areas.
3. in given areas in the spring and early summer until the Forest Service has checked the trails to determine whether they are dry



The commitment of virgin forest areas to roading and timbering can no longer be unilaterally decided by the Forest Service. The Sierra Club won a court injunction which now will require an environmental impact statement before timber sales or road contracts can be made in roadless areas. Had such impact statements been required earlier, this area on Wyoming's Teton National Forest might not have been timbered since it is prime elk habitat.

enough to be used without being damaged, and

4. where serious conflicts with non-vehicle recreational users occur. When conflicts between different activities arise, the activity, not the individual, which causes the conflict is the one that requires regulation.
- B. Snowmobile use in prime wintering areas for wildlife has presented some problems. These areas should be identified and closed to snowmobile use. Designated snowmobile play areas and trails would go a long way toward reducing wildlife harassment problems as well as toward eliminating conflicts with other winter user groups.
- C. Where motorized recreational vehicles are allowed to operate they should be subject to noise regulations. Not only is excessive noise a recognized health hazard, it is also extremely annoying. A maximum allowable noise level of 80dBA measured at 50 feet from the noise source should be established immediately. Within several years the allowable levels should be reduced to 75dBA at 50 feet. These limits are not unreasonable and in fact the noise levels from snowmobiles can be reduced to 73dBA at 50 feet with current technology.

Primitive Campgrounds

The use of campgrounds in the remote areas can present a management problem. The placement of the campgrounds themselves can pose potential water pollution problems. The campgrounds should

be located far enough away from the lakes and streams to minimize this problem. The Forest Service should also emphasize the need for forest users to pack out all refuse.

Wilderness

Contrary to the opinion of some of the user groups, wilderness is a recognized use under the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act. Since wilderness is a valid use it should be given as much consideration as any other use of the National Forests. A wilderness classification does not represent a single use, but is compatible with and actually encompasses many of the other uses. For example, a wilderness protects valuable watershed resources. The forest lands are actually huge natural reservoirs and provide much of the fresh water supply of the western part of the United States. Also, it has been

shown that undisturbed forests produce very little stream sediment. Wilderness areas provide valuable scientific study areas and important wildlife habitat. Some of the largest deer and elk herds reside in our wilderness areas and in the undeveloped areas. Grazing, when properly administered, is a compatible use of wilderness areas.

The impact of additional recreational pressure on wilderness areas is being felt by both the Forest Service and the National Park Service. More people are looking for the solitude that a wilderness experience provides. In some wilderness areas the number of visitors has increased so rapidly that permit systems are now being initiated. In California, all users of Forest Service Wilderness and Primitive Areas must obtain permits. Currently, the permits are given to everyone requesting them in all areas except the Desolation Wilderness Area where restrictions are placed on the number of visitors. In this area the use was increasing at a rate of 23% per year and finally there were too many people for the area. In Kings Canyon-Sequoia National Park there was a 100% increase in wilderness use in the past five years while over the same time period there was only a 10% increase in total park attendance. Approximately one month ago interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton announced that restrictions would be placed on the number of visitors allowed in the undeveloped regions of the Great Smokey Mountain, Rocky Mountain, and Kings Canyon-Sequoia National Parks. Locally the Forest Service has experienced about a 9% annual increase in the use of the Sawtooth Primitive Area.

(Continued on page 13)

Predator Control... Needed?

High Country News-5
Friday, Sept. 1, 1972

by Verne Huser

Floating the Middle Fork of the Salmon River recently through the Idaho Primitive Area, we camped at Marble Creek our second night out. Next morning as we prepared our breakfast over an open ponderosa pine fire, we were startled by a cacophony of weird noises that I initially attributed to Boy Scouts camping nearby trying to frighten us, but the Noises continued for more than an hour — too long for a prank.

Then for awhile I agreed with Rolf — it was a pack of hounds that had treed a mountain lion. Momentarily we considered the possibility of somebody's being hurt and calling for help — or rather, yelling in pain and delirium. Finally, the mystery was solved when someone spotted a coyote working its way up the ridge above camp.

Presently, we saw another, then a third. The coyote family had been hidden by a ridge and a screen of trees, and the contours of the terrain had echoed the sounds, multiplying them, sending them into a dozen directions at once with an ever widening range of volume and tone. It was the highlight of the trip for many of the Sierra Club passengers we had along.

My point is this — coyotes are important. Living, wild creatures that give people the feel of wildness do matter. People almost universally thrill to wildlife, and in this age of eroded wilderness, the wilder the wildlife, the greater the thrill. Many people love and admire coyotes and wolves, cougars and bears — the very animals that government and non-government prophylactic predator control programs are trying to wipe off the face of the earth.

If the average American citizen has any say in his government, then such widespread killing of carnivores will stop. Predator killing on a prophylactic pattern cannot be tolerated for the sake of sheepmen who cannot prove that their losses are due to predators, cannot even prove that predator control has anything to do with reducing losses.

In fact, by their own trumped-up statistics, they prove that the more money spent on predator control, the greater their own losses to predators. Following Parkinson's Law they jack up their figures every year to prove the need for more control, and they choke all logic in their own statistics.

On December 14, 1971, the Agriculture Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. Senate held hearings in Washington, D. C., aimed at achieving a balance of predator control problems. The hearings considered two stages: 1) the illegal and excessive use of poisons and game animals for the control of predators and 2) the breaking of the law by a "tiny handful of individuals" involved in the shooting of golden and bald eagles from aircraft.

The record of the hearing covers nearly 700 pages in a document entitled *Predator Control and Related Problems* that you may have for the asking. (Write your Senator for a copy.)

Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming chaired the hearings. In his introductory remarks, Senator McGee said that, "It is important that we do not condemn an area or an industry for the malpractices of a few." But Jack Olsen's book reviewed last month suggests that the malpractices are the rule rather than the exception.

McGee calls for "straightforward, reasonable, balanced predator control," and says that the quest of the committee is "to find a reasonable, livable, responsible, and equitable area for policy and programs. . . where the balance of the asserted consequences of environmental control on the one hand and the requirement for predator regulation on the other can be achieved."

But as the Cain Report points out, no one anywhere has ever established any real relationship between predator control and reduced livestock losses; no one has ever proved the need for predator control.

The Subcommittee found as one basic tenet: "private individuals were engaged in

Photo by National Park Service



Many people thrill to the sights and sounds of wild creatures around them. Coyotes are a part of the biological communities which people enjoy.

largely uncontrolled efforts to eliminate rather than control or to remove specific predatory nuisances." In other words, the policy — not only of individual ranchers illegally practicing their own predator control, but of government agencies as well — was to wipe out the species rather than to engage in damage control (that is, remove the guilty animals).

The point I raised earlier — the lack of relationship between predator control and reduced livestock losses — is born out by the Subcommittee findings: "In spite of the growing proliferation of poisons throughout the lands of the American West, in spite of increased numbers of wildlife killed each year, the decline in livestock losses has not logically followed."

The hearing record is a well-documented history of the predator control battle. It includes the Leopold Report; it includes statistics from the various departments of the Federal Government related to predator control, often ambiguously interrelated. As Senator Birch Bayh points out: "The Interior Department is killing the very animals that we in Congress have asked it to protect."

Economically, the predator control program seemed to make little sense when "in 18 California national forests. . . the amount spent to kill predators was \$90,195" for the value of sheep lost to predators of \$3,501. Bayh suggested that predator control constituted "a minimal return on investment so far as protecting livestock."

Dr. Frank C. Craighead of Jackson Hole is quoted: "Coyotes are a desirable and indispensable part of a collective predator population which serves to regulate prey populations on wild lands. They perform a useful function as scavengers and they do more good as rodent destroyers than harm as livestock killers." These wild lands include national forest and BLM grazing areas.

The Report is full of fact, and there is also much opinion expressed when conservationists and sheepmen get on opposite sides of the fence at a public hearing. But there is a good, many-faceted discussion of the total predator control situation from prejudiced as well as political and personal points of view — and there is much reason on both sides. The Cain Report discussed earlier in this series also enters the picture.

A research biologist at the University of Wyoming, Franz J. Camenzind, whom I know personally and respect highly had this to say in a letter that was included in the hearing record: "I have solid evidence that coyotes

are territorial and not necessarily free ranging. . . . If coyotes are left unmolested, they will establish territories and adjust to hunting routes; if large numbers of coyotes are destroyed, there will be a flux in the population as other coyotes compete to occupy the abandoned territories. . . . This is the situation that will allow coyotes to get into lambing areas and destroy stock before they have learned that that may be dangerous."

Camenzind, a sound researcher who has studied eagles in Utah and coyotes in Jackson Hole, recommends a four-fold program relating to predators: 1) immediately discontinue the use of all poisons on public lands and make them unavailable to the general public (basically a Cain Report recommendation); 2) halt all control measures directed towards eagles, hawks, and other raptors, most of which are protected by Federal laws; 3) establish a system whereby professional personnel are available to investigate reported predator losses, and 4) encourage the continued research into predator-prey relationships.

Research will eventually kill off the old wives tales that presently serve as the basis for most predator control programs. But if we don't act soon, there will be such a serious imbalance, that it may be too late. The black-footed ferret and the California condor, even the wolf and the eagle may be gone.

One of the more reasoned letters included in the hearing record was Dr. Frank C. Craighead's, which said in part, "I feel that some drastic revisions are needed in our predator and rodent control programs. Predator control is a useful and necessary tool in specific situations (my italics). It should be tailored to fit existing local biological and economic conditions. The main objective should be to eliminate large scale, indiscriminate reduction and killing of predators without unduly hampering selective control when justified."

Everything reasonable seems to point to an end of indiscriminate killing of predators in a prophylactic program and the use of selective controls that are humane and selective. This is the essence of nearly every research-based recommendation for the past twenty years, but little real action has been taken in this direction because of the pressure on Congress by sheepmen.

What good is a Cain Report if Congress continues to listen to the sheepmen? Why does Congress listen to the sheepmen? Be-

(Please turn to page 15.)

(Continued on page 15)

Mr. Jack Delmonico, Associate Deputy Chief of the water pollution program. The campaign should

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Friday, Sept. 1, 1972

National Energy Policy...

The following article is the second of two parts reprinted from the Conservation Foundation Letter, June, 1972, on the need for an energy policy. Again, we wish to express our appreciation to the Foundation for the use of this material.

The editor.

IN THE LONGER RUN

Total energy produced from the burning of fuels in the U.S. has been increasing for some time at a rate of about 4 to 5% per year, which amounts to a doubling of energy demand every 14 to 18 years. Continued growth in energy consumption may be inevitable, at least for many years. Typical of this view is this 1969 statement by Hollis Dole, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Mineral Resources: "We are committed to economic growth, to the production and use of steadily increasing amounts of energy which can be turned into goods and services to meet the rising needs of the next three decades."

On the other hand, Dole also said: "We are strangling on polluted water and suffocating in polluted air, and are in danger of being engulfed by a tidal wave of garbage and junk cars - all directly the product of our so-called affluence made possible by stupendous expenditures of energy." It is almost universally accepted that the market system has failed to include these "social costs" in the pricing of our energy resources.

The supply-and-demand picture is disconcerting. Without several technological breakthroughs, and not counting imports (though of course there are imports and they are expected to increase), it has been estimated that "all ultimately recoverable domestic supplies of natural gas would be exhausted sometime between 1989 and 2001 - within the next 30 years. Similarly, domestic petroleum resources would be totally depleted sometime between 1987 and 2009." (Summary report of the Cornell Workshop on Energy and the Environment, February 22-24, 1972, Senate Interior Committee print.)

The international picture is similarly bleak. Energy consultant John F. O'Leary draws the following conclusion, based on estimates of fossil fuels ultimately recoverable: "The extension to the rest of the world of the U.S. per capita energy consumption level would exhaust all of the world's energy resources in the space of 49 years." Speaking to the American Association for the Advancement of Science on December 28, 1971, O'Leary noted that raising the world standard of living to that of the U.S. won't occur overnight. On the other hand, his projection assumes no further increases in either world population or U. S. per capita consumption of energy.

Relief for the United States could come from (1) increased oil and LNG imports, (2) production of synthetic fuel by coal gasification, and (3) increased reliance on nuclear power. But the amounts of energy, and the potential effects, are staggering. If, as Dole has predicted, the U.S. will be importing 58% of its oil in 1985, we would be receiving 9,000 shiploads a year of the largest tankers that can now enter Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports. The oil spill possibilities are enormous.

As for coal, much of that to be gasified will come from strip mines. Says G.R. Miller, of Neward's Division of Planning: "Mining will be conducted in the Great Basin states on a scale far more extensive than that of the strip mining which has laid waste the southeastern coal fields." (Environmental Science & Technology, May 1972.) Furthermore, with gasification, the Cornell workshop noted, "the demand for coal will soar and our extensive coal resources will last not for hundreds of years, but for less than a century."

Nor is nuclear power ready to fill the gap. Even with sustained, rapid growth in generating capacity, it could not supply more than 25% of the nation's energy consumption in the year 2000. With conventional reactors and continued growth in use of electric power at the current rate, we would exhaust our

supplies of uranium in a few decades.

Thus, heavy hopes are placed on development of the "breeder reactor," which generates as much fuel as it consumes. In his "clean energy message" of June 4, 1971, President Nixon declared that the development of the liquid metal fast breeder reactor for commercial electric power generation would be a top national research priority. The Atomic Energy Commission has spent over \$650 million to date developing breeder reactors; the fiscal year 1972 appropriation for breeder research amounts to nearly 70% of all federally-funded energy research.

However, dozens of top scientists have serious misgivings about the breeder. For instance, nuclear expert George L. Weil says: "The high concentration of toxic plutonium in a breeder system is subject to dispersion in the environment not only through accidents, both 'possible' and 'impossible,' but also as a result of uncontrollable routine losses during the handling of massive quantities in breeder fuel preparation, transportation, reprocessing and waste disposal." Weil also notes that plutonium, because of its great value, devastating power and light weight, would invite theft for use in foreign weapons or black-market operations. In the long term, he adds, we would be faced with a "terrifying accumulation of radioactive wastes, a massive accumulation of mining wastes, and the scalping of the earth's crust for the infinitesimal amounts of contained uranium."

A decision today to build a nuclear power plant, says Weil, "is a decision to dedicate the reactor site as a permanent monument - a legacy to future generations to maintain hazard-free." ("Nuclear Energy: Promises, Promises," revised second printing, published by Dr. Weil, April 1972.)

The commitment to the breeder at the expense of little more than token funding for research on other means of producing "clean" energy has drawn strong criticism from many circles, including some scientists within the AEC itself. S. David Freeman, head of the new Energy Policy Project funded by the Ford Foundation, says there is a "glittering array" of other opportunities, but unfortunately "most of them exist only on paper or are creeping through an R & D pipeline which has no end in sight." Many of these technologies could be perfected by 1985 or sooner, Freeman says, "if we made the commitment of funding and provided strong leadership to do the job."

Among the possibilities he cites: solar energy, oil shale, coal gasification, geothermal energy, fuel cell, fluidized bed boiler to burn coal, and dry cooling towers (so power plants

could be located at remote sites away from water). (Hearings of Senate Interior Committee, June 7, 1972.)

In spite of the high priority given to building more nuclear plants and to the development of the breeder, our growing appetite for energy will demand much more low-sulfur fossil fuel than we have, long before nuclear power can become dominant.

LONGER-RANGE ISSUES

These are some of the questions to be answered as the nation forges an energy program over the next few decades:

1. What are the opportunities for reducing consumption of energy over the longer term?
2. How shall we resolve the issues involved in the breeder reactor commitment? Should we expand our options by putting more money into research on other energy technologies?
3. What are the implications of the huge energy conglomerates with respect to fuel supplies, price levels, consumption patterns, and public policy formation, and what should be done about them?
4. How can the marketplace be forced to include the true costs - i.e., the social costs of environmental degradation - in the pricing of energy resources?
5. What institutional changes do we need to implement a coherent "national energy policy"? How can this policy include effective means for anticipating immediate and long-term environmental impacts of alternative technologies for energy production?

THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE

In the long run, we are confronted with a basic physical dilemma: neither population growth nor increasing per capita energy consumption can continue ad infinitum, ad nauseum.

It's not necessarily so much a matter of fuel resource depletion. In addition to the possibilities of conventional and breeder reactors, coal gasification and the like, there is great potential in solar energy and thermonuclear fusion. (Fusion, which hinges on the technology for controlled reactions, has many advantages. For fuel, it would use the virtually inexhaustible supply of deuterium in the oceans. Its efficiency would be very high, and it would be far safer than fission.)

The problem, then, may well derive from the ultimate environmental constraints. Naturally, we cannot let our numbers increase until the earth is covered with bodies; but

(Continued on page 7)



Domestic oil supplies are being depleted at an accelerating rate as our demands for energy increase. It is expected that all oil fields such as this one in Wyoming's Powder River Basin will be totally depleted in just 30 years. When the oil is gone, the emphasis will be on coal which lies under this same area.

... A Must

there is also a more subtle limit to energy consumption. Assuming that the fuel shortage is surmounted in the next few decades without intolerable environmental destruction and that an "unlimited" source of energy (such as fusion) is developed, we may eventually reach a level of consumption which impinges on "natural" processes.

Chauncey Starr, of the University of California at Los Angeles, has calculated that "if the undeveloped parts of the world were conceivably able to reach by the year 2000 the standard of living (i.e., level of consumption) of Americans today, the worldwide level of energy consumption would be roughly 100 times the present figure." (Scientific American, September 1971.) Though this is an unlikely event, at least that soon, it illustrates the problem. For at that point we would be releasing an amount of waste heat equal to approximately 1% of the total which the earth absorbs from the sun and reradiates into space to maintain its thermal equilibrium. (Nearly all consumed energy ends up eventually in the form of heat.)

According to Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor David White: "The maintenance of this equilibrium with the sun and space is a very complex question about which many uncertainties remain. But present knowledge suggests that a delicate balance is involved; heat release on the earth approaching 1% of that absorbed from the sun and reradiated to outer space would surely be a major concern, and a 10% heat release to the environment would be intolerable." (Technology Review, October-November 1971.)

CUTTING DOWN CONSUMPTION

Increased concern over the environmental effects of our mushrooming energy demand has caused many persons to question the conventional wisdom that relates per capita energy consumption and GNP to "quality of life." For example, the average per capita yearly consumption by Americans is more than 50% higher than that of the United Kingdom. Yet it seems absurd to suggest that "quality of life" in the U.S. is somehow half again better. Or by the same comparison, that it is four times better than life in Japan.

In short, many Americans are beginning to ask seriously whether or not we really need all that energy. It happens that there are innumerable ways to reduce energy consumption — and many of them involve no diminution in convenience, pleasure or opportunity. Following is an incomplete grab-bag of possible techniques:

* Recycling of materials is of prime importance. It takes vast amounts of energy

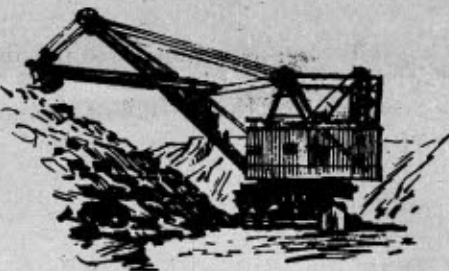
to produce aluminum, for example, and the aluminum industry accounts for an estimated 10% of all industrial energy consumption. Yet only a fraction of aluminum used is reclaimed. Various economic incentives could be applied, not only to encourage more recycling of energy-intensive products, but to induce more efficient manufacturing processes and shifts to substitute products.

* Plants could be developed to generate heat from municipal refuse, as is widely done in Europe, and as a Union Electric Co. plant is doing on an experimental basis in St. Louis.

* Twenty-five per cent of our total energy output — including 30% of all our petroleum products — goes into the manufacturing and operation of automobiles and the building of highways. Yet the auto is an inefficient mode of urban transportation. (As presently used, it averages about 3.75 times more BTU's per passenger-mile than buses.)

Among the options, in addition to making cars easier to recycle, is shifting to more mass rapid transit, increasing the mileage performance of cars, and improving auto maintenance and driving habits.

* The electric utility industry has traditionally spent much more money on sales promotion than on research and development. It is often claimed that this advertising increases efficiency, because it is aimed at "load-leveling" — that is, reducing the difference between peak and average power demands. Yet this is likely to be done not by "shaving the peak," but rather by "filling the valleys," largely through promotion of such highly inefficient (in terms of fuel consumption) practices as electric space heating.



Thus, it is difficult to square the electric power industry's hand-wringing over opposition to generating plants with its continued ballyhooing of all-electric homes. Similarly, oil industry advertisements that say such things as "A country that runs on oil can't afford to run short" imply that production and consumption must proceed without restraint, regardless of environmental consequences.

Utility sales promotion has been voluntarily stopped, in some cases. In others, it has been curtailed by regulatory commissions. Promotion also can be disallowed as an operating expense in rate cases, forcing any such costs on stockholders.

* Eliminate preferential rates for electric heating and other large-scale uses of power, including manufacture of energy-intensive products. For example, in 1967, the aluminum industry paid only 0.34 cents per kilowatt hour, while the average residential customer paid 2.17 cents. ("Electric Utility Advertising and the Environment," a paper by Eric Hirst, of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, April 1972.)

Price restructuring might encourage power savings, or shifts to more efficient fuels or products. Energy — or products — could be priced or taxed so as to reflect the environmental damage they cause. Consumption of energy also could be directly rationed or allocated in various ways.

* The possibilities for conserving energy in apartment and office buildings are considerable. Among the suggestions made in a New York Public Service Commission report issued May 29 were use of alternative heating and air conditioning techniques, installing windows that open when it's cool outside, and reducing lighting outside work areas. Better insulation and use of lighting for heat are other options. * There are numerous opportunities for cutting down residential needs. Since this

A "NIGHTMARE" OF INTERESTS

"We are promised that environmentally acceptable energy production will be provided by improved technology; and the increased price in energy due to any added cost and dwindling supplies will serve to damp the fires of growth. One moment's reflection on the composition of the energy industry — consisting of coal mine operators, oil producers, gas producers, uranium mine operators, electric utilities, and the allied electrical and transportation industries, some regulated and some not, each answerable to one or two or perhaps a dozen different agencies at the federal, state, and local level, each motivated by its own relatively narrowly defined objectives — should convince the casual observer that considerable skill and determination will be required to avert the nightmare and find the right path to the more reassuring view before the time gives out."

— Dr. Peter L. Auer, Cornell University, summary report on the Cornell Workshop on Energy and the Environment, February 1972.

presently accounts for 25% of total electricity use, it would require a 10% reduction in residential electricity to achieve a 2.5% reduction in total consumption. Yet it is believed that use of additional insulation and storm windows can reduce summer cooling and winter heating needs in most houses by 30-50%. (Cost savings would be similarly substantial, of course.) In June 1971, the Federal Housing Administration revised its building insulation standards, a step which over the long run could reduce consumption considerably.

* There is a need for much more public information on the energy requirements of housing, appliances and other products. One energy expert describes the problem this way: "There's a trend, such as in air conditioners. You get a low-efficiency air conditioner for \$25 less (which spurs sales). But you don't realize that when you turn it on your electric bill will be twice as high."

"With electric space heating," he said, "it's cheap to install, and it requires less room. So it's good for public housing. But the tenants are left to pay for that electricity. It's the same with cheap construction at the expense of high maintenance, which is why a lot of public housing goes downhill so fast."

NEEDED: DIRECTION

In sum, the energy crisis confronts the nation very directly with a multitude of difficult questions involving competing social interests, growth vs. a steady-state economy, future life styles and the like.

"National policy," wrote the New York Times' Leonard Silk on April 26, 1972, "is going to have to play both ends against the middle — simultaneously seeking to restrain energy consumption by raising prices, rationing demand and slowing industrial growth while increasing supplies by some combination of increased imports, increased domestic consumption, and technological change... What's clear is that the United States has passed a watershed in energy policy and must restructure the entire supply-demand-and-environmental relationship."

Important institutional changes surely will be needed before an energy policy can be hammered out. There are now 61 federal agencies with some involvement in energy policy. For example, as Freeman points out, no one is responsible for new energy sources, "and that's one reason why we're in trouble." The lack of coordinated planning and decision-making is widely evident. Overall, the most troublesome question raised by the energy crunch may be whether the problem is so large, complex and fragmented as to be unmanageable. Only the best efforts of government, industry and the public working on all possible solutions, are likely to prove otherwise.

THE DANGERS OF CONGLOMERATION

To complicate energy matters, a recent government study has charged that the giant "energy trusts" — those few corporations with large investments in coal, oil, natural gas, and uranium extraction and processing — have greatly reduced competition among these fuels as primary energy sources. (House Select Committee on Small Business subcommittee on special problems, House Report No. 92-719, December 1971.) "If the trend toward concentration by the oil companies in acquiring competing fuel resources is not reversed, this subcommittee believes that a very dangerous monopolistic fuel supply situation could eventuate," it said. (Anti-trust action is being contemplated.)

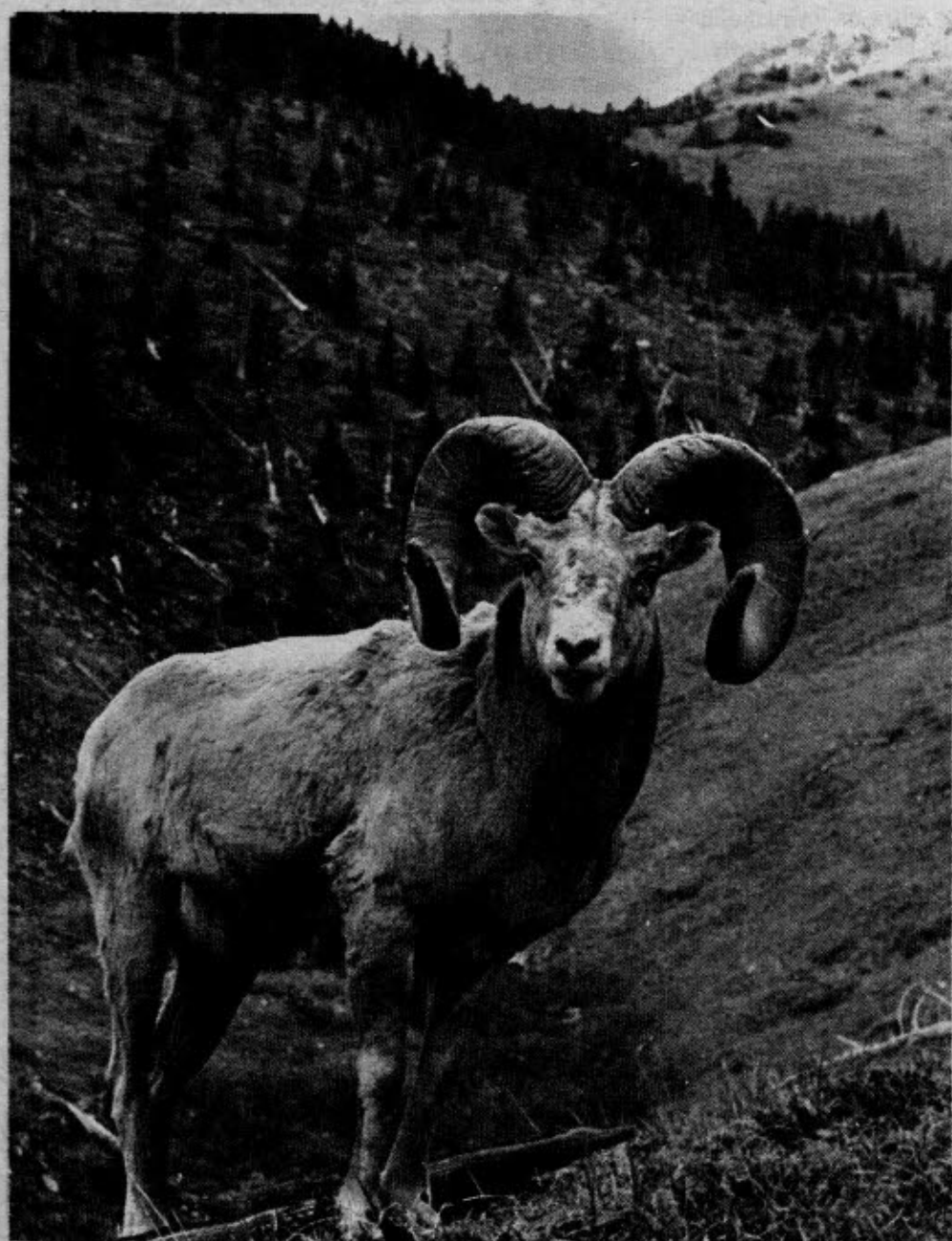
It is noteworthy that coal producers export much of our high-grade, low-sulfur coal, and spokesmen for the electric power industry have claimed this is putting foreign interests before our own. Oil distillers produce very little low-sulfur residual oil suitable for burning by the utilities because the production of gasoline and other "light distillates" is more profitable; most of our residual oil is imported.

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BIGHORN SHEEP - Indicators of En



James K. Morgan and his favorite topic of concern — bighorn sheep. Because he was so dedicated to their welfare, he sacrificed a career in game management. (See his story, page 10.) Featured in LIFE Magazine for his one-man crusade, he has carried the story of public lands, overgrazing, and wildlife to the public through a color-slide lecture.

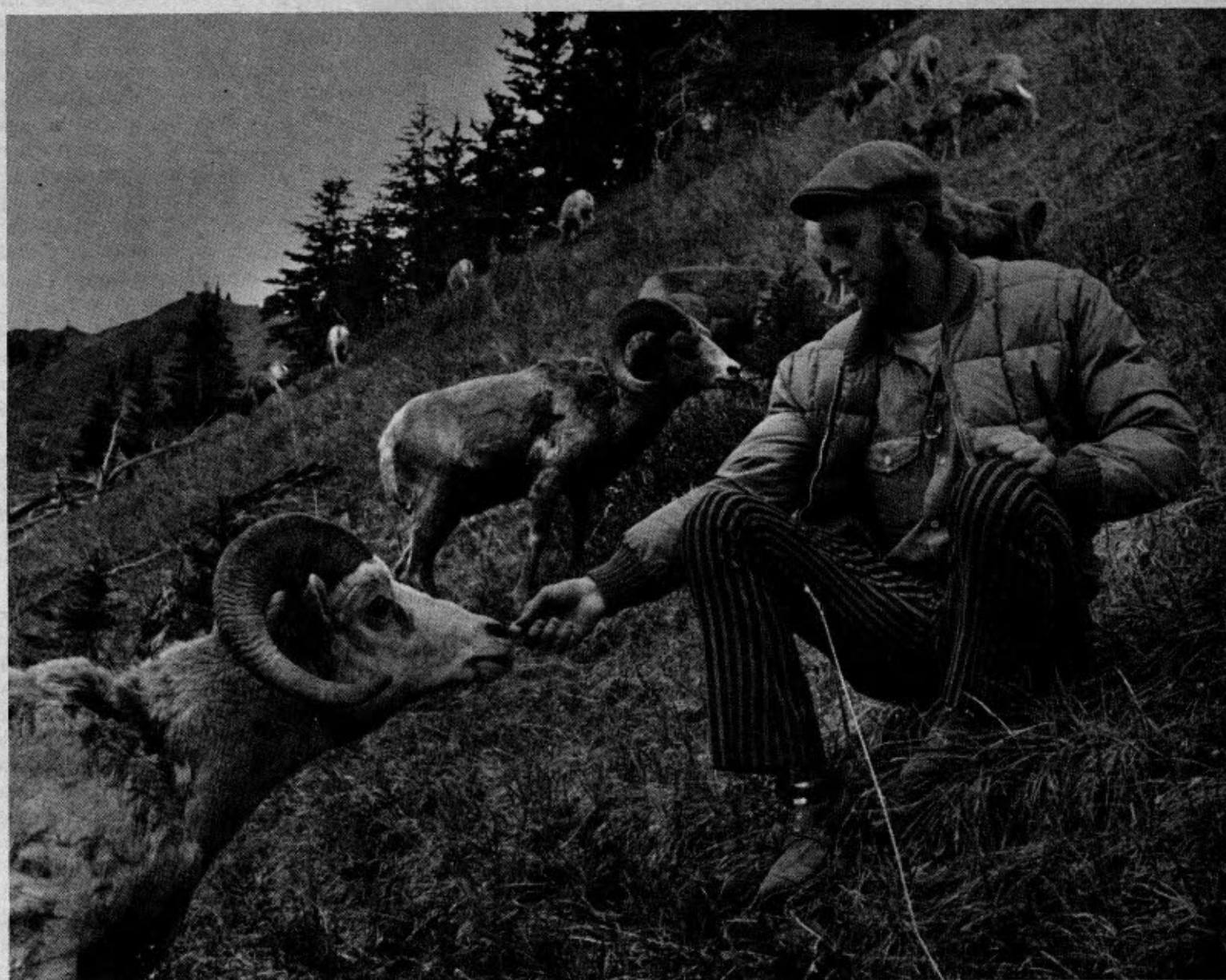


Photos by James K. Morgan

of Environmental Quality

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of concern —
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FE Magazine
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A Myth Penetrated

Jim Morgan was described by John R. Woodworth, then Idaho Fish and Game Director, as "an angry young man." The description followed Morgan's forced resignation after five sometimes-stormy years as a big game biologist with the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

Morgan's job had been to study the bighorn sheep in the area of Challis. There he found overgrazed ranges and decreasing bighorn herds. He criticized the Bureau of Land Management for not including bighorn sheep in management plans for the Morgan Creek area. And his criticism grew more vocal and bitter as time went on because of misdirection of plans toward the livestock industry rather than toward the wildlife.

Morgan's criticisms seem to have been well founded for the data he collected was accepted by his graduate committee at Utah State University. He was further substantiated by a request for funds to carry out the range rehabilitation recommendations he had made.

Morgan has since gone on national tour with a color-slide lecture to illustrate his point. The problems he points out are still with us in many areas, and will continue to be until outmoded laws such as the Taylor Grazing Act are replaced.

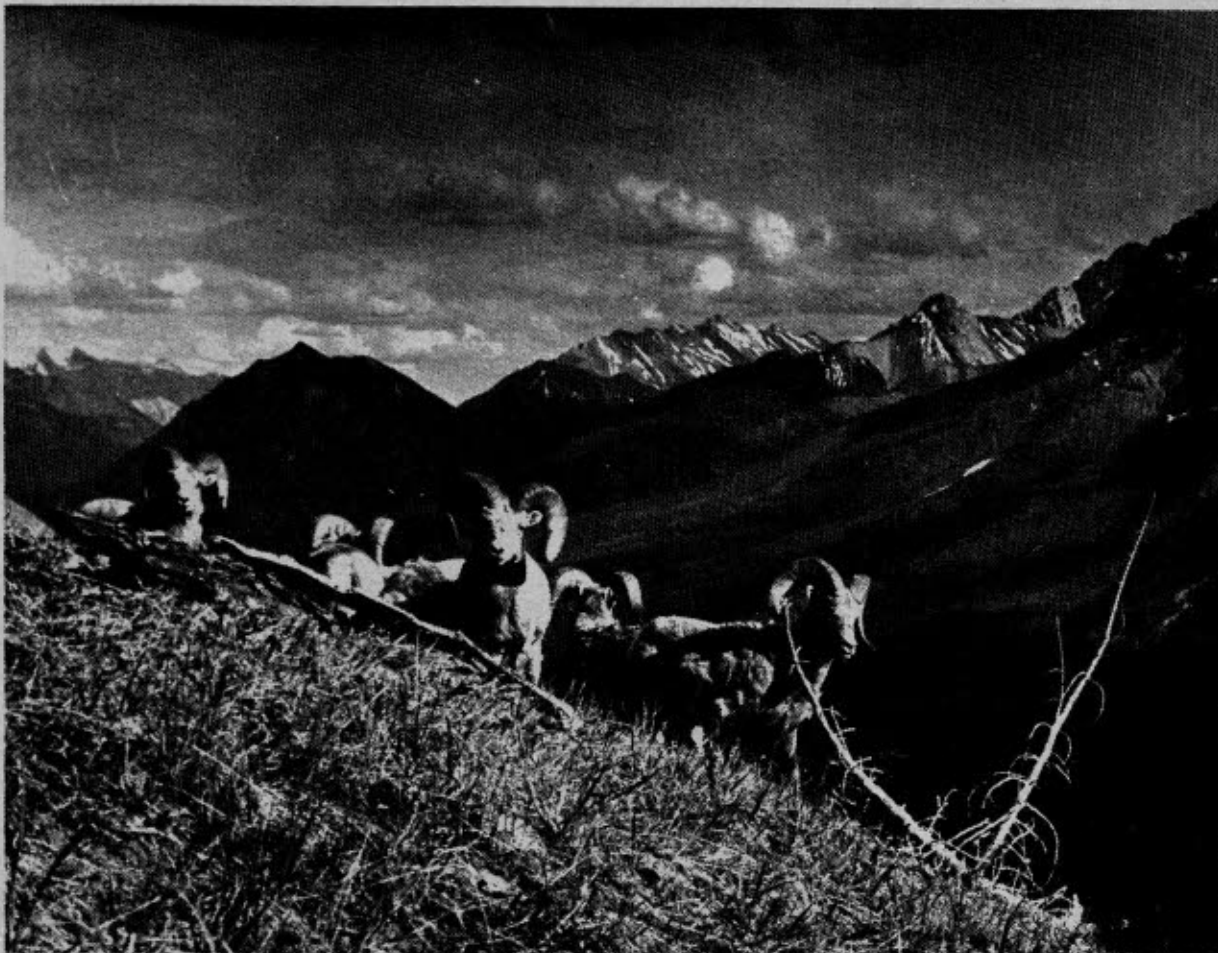
The editor.

by James K. Morgan

Webster defines the myth as a fictitious or traditional story of unknown authorship. In a social sense, a myth might be defined as a particular interplay of circumstances and information that affects peoples lives, but has no basis in fact. Myths can be created or changed under the guise of "public image" manipulation by those who have reason to influence our beliefs or opinions. It is unfortunate, but true, that all too often our social behavior is dictated more by myth than by fact. It is even more unfortunate that those who create myths usually have ulterior, self-fish motives for doing so.

I have found that bureaucracies are the world's greatest myth addicts. They'll create a myth when the truth would have served better. The only thing bureaucrats do really well is protect their own jobs. So, it only follows that bureaucracies do a better job of protecting and perpetuating themselves than anything else. They're hooked so badly they'll spend more effort sandbagging their position

Photo by James K. Morgan



Bighorn sheep cannot tolerate the pressures of overgrazing by domestic livestock. On important bighorn ranges, livestock should be carefully controlled, and management should favor the bighorns.

than would have been required to solve the problem. And creating myths is part of that process. Bureaucracies can whomp up really fine myths. Being a bureaucratic drop-out, I could give you a detailed course on spotting myths, but for now I'll contain myself to one particular myth to show you how it was created to protect the bureaucracy and how it affects you.

When I had the audacity, about three years ago, to challenge the Bureau of Land Management (Aha! Enter the bureaucracy!) on their lack of range management, there was a storm of protest and retaliation. I didn't know it at the time, but I had penetrated a myth. The BLM grumped and thundered, the Idaho Fish and Game (for whom I worked) cowered and whined, and the self-righteous cowboys took shots at me and beat me up. In a short time I found myself on the outside looking in (somewhat of a relief, actually), and wondering what I'd done to make so many people so insecure. Only after being outside for a while did I realize what I'd done. I had penetrated a myth, and America takes its myths seriously.

The myth had to be preserved at all costs and, unfortunately, your money was used to preserve it. The BLM, aided and abetted by the Idaho Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Forest Service, moved quickly to plug their leaking myth. The finger they stuck in the dike was named "The Morgan Creek Range Rehabilitation Program."

It all began when my master's degree study uncovered the rather obvious fact that bighorns were dying like fleas on the Morgan Creek Winter Range in Central Idaho. The just as obvious reason was that livestock had stripped the country bare for 100 years and were still in the process, aided by BLM "Range Improvement Money," of moving in on the last remnants they hadn't yet been able to polish off. I screamed like a wounded banshee and brought down Life Magazine and lots of public pressure onto the cowboys and their BLM echo's. This jab in the rear with a sharp stick was enough to wake the bureaucracy up, scare the cowboys, and throw the myth repair apparatus into action.

Before I proceed any further with fortification of the myth, I'll explain the basic myth. The basic myth is that public lands are best served by letting domestic livestock gobble up all the grass, open the soil to severe erosion, and degrade watersheds. Included in the myth is the right of a livestock operator to graze his cows on your land, but at the same time keep you from crossing over his land to get to your own land. And in all cases the myth

allows the rancher to kill off your predators so they won't eat his woolies. It's a beautiful myth, because the livestock operator rents your pasture for one tenth of what he would charge you to rent his. It's such a good subsidy he can sell it for cash. And while you sit at the Yellowstone Park gate, waiting your turn to get in, he sits on several thousand acres of your land, where he's been entrenched so long he regards it as his own. When you've got a myth like that going, it pays to protect it.

My request that livestock use be curtailed on Morgan Creek bighorn sheep winter range was greeted with open hostility. When I pressed the point, my challenge fired up all the myth protection machinery and the result was the Morgan Creek Range Rehabilitation Program. It's interesting to note that the first group to scramble into action was the prestigious sounding Range Resource Use Coordinating Committee. Formed for the purpose of assuring that no cattle would be taken off the Morgan Creek allotment, the committee was initiated by the cattle association and had a cattleman for president. It also had a local cattleman representative and range professor from the University of Idaho who is barely aware that wild animals graze public lands.

Of course it's crucial to the perpetuation of the myth that the public not be allowed to form the committee that decides how their lands and wildlife ought to be managed. There were no public hearings, but several get-togethers with the local ranchers. The public was not represented on the committee. The livestock people took care of that for them.

The Range Resource Coordinating Committee was highly analogous to a gang of alleycats who had appointed themselves administrators over your pet canary. It was mostly just a matter of deciding who got the most. Their first declaration was that cooperation between ranchers and the BLM was essential. That goal was immediately attained because that's all the ranchers had to do was cooperate. No livestock reductions were proposed and the committee was asking the government for nearly one hundred thousand dollars to fix up the Morgan Creek allotment for cows. The ranchers didn't have too much difficulty cooperating with a program like that.

Next, the Range Resource Coordinating Committee called in Gus Hormay, whose credentials in developing better cow grazing systems are unquestionable. (He works for the BLM.) But by this time they had forgotten that the whole thing started because bighorn sheep needed help. Hormay's rest rotation plan was hailed as a supertonic that would cure 100 years of range sickness on a land that had already lost vast amounts of its topsoil. Great proclamations of a little something for everybody were issued. Soon, it was promised, the wracked and battered land would blossom forth with food for cows and wildlife, too. Increased hunting was promised from the pitiful remnant of less than 100 bighorns. And, most ludicrous of all, cows were declared to be necessary to the recovery of the land. The fact that grass had reached a climax state in the area without the benefit of cows, and that wildlife could trample the ripe seeds as well as cows was ignored. (My first lesson in spotting myths will be, "never accept pat answers and simple solutions to ecological problems!")

The committee and interested bureaucrats toured the bighorn winter range to see how bad the poisonous larkspur problem was. (No mention was made of the fact that overgrazing brought it). They clucked and pointed at the problem of keeping livestock from crossing an imaginary line between BLM and Forest land that had no significance anywhere but on the papers in their office. Plans were initiated to spend public money for this useless fence. I was told by my employer, the Idaho Fish and Game Department (who had earlier forced me to write a letter of apology to the

(Continued on page 11)

Myth...

BLM for implying their range management might have been lacking) to shut up and co-operate like everybody else. Not that it mattered, because in the hoopla and ceremony of myth patching nobody would have listened anyway. Plans to ram fences, roads, trails, pipelines and waterholes through bighorn winter ranges for better livestock distribution were drawn up. Bighorns, who could in no way be expected to benefit from this further invasion of their home, were lost in the bureaucratic shuffle.

The Idaho Fish and Game Department came through with a little fancy footwork of its own. I spoke up against the Morgan Creek Range Rehabilitation Plan at an intra-department biologist meeting. The game division chief was furious. When the meeting reconvened after lunch, he demanded that I make my statement once more. Only this time he wanted it differently. When I refused to play his little game he became apoplectic. A few days later he arrived in my home town bearing glad tidings. It seemed that some serious misconducts had appeared in my use of the department vehicle and my personal life failed to meet their stringent standards. I was fired. I spent the following year scheming up ways to stop the galloping insanity on Morgan Creek. But it wasn't until the new myth appeared in the newspapers that I really got mad.

The ecological conclusions of the 5 year bighorn sheep study I did for the Idaho Fish and Game were that overgrazing had decimated the pristine grassland in the Challis area. With the demise of the grass, sagebrush, which had been lurking in the rocky draws, spread out and covered the land. Mule deer, an adaptable species, responded to the brushy ecology and literally exploded in numbers. Increased mule deer numbers intensified pressure on the bighorn's food supply. Local ranchers, who overgrazed the land and brought on the mule deer plague, fought every effort to reduce them. Bighorns were at the vortex of a complete, inward-turning circle of destruction. Only removal of livestock could save them.

But admission of livestock abuse as the cause of bighorn declines was devastating to the myth. So livestock operators and the BLM spooned the news media a pure diet of mule-deerosis. (Witness the birth of a new myth.) Within a short time newspapers were blaming deer for the demise of bighorns. An Idaho Cattleman's Association vice president even made the completely absurd statement in a Boise newspaper that the Range Resource Coordinating Committee had toured the Morgan Creek winter range and proven that deer were the problem. Strange they should learn more in a couple of tours than I did during 5 years research in the area!

I was really pleased when I picked up a copy of the *High Country News* and found that Tom Bell had not been fooled. He spotted the pat answer and was suspicious. I only wish more people were as observant as Tom because now, as in the past, domestic livestock are once again dodging the blame for destruction of public grazing lands. They've been hiding behind the myth for years and it's time the facts were exposed.

This little myth story really boils down to one thing. Livestock interests are ripping off millions of acres of public grazing land in the United States. The BLM continues to spend your money, supporting them, repairing damage, and perpetuating the problem. These lands have vast watershed, wildlife, and recreational potential for an expanding public that will soon be in desperate need of these values. The BLM manages more land than the Forest Service and Park Service combined. Public use of those lands could take a great deal of pressure off presently overcrowded areas such as Yellowstone and perhaps help to preserve the last few wilderness areas. Removal of livestock would improve watersheds and increase the amount and quality of water available to everybody. And with livestock gone, wildlife would again have a place to live.

Photo by Mike Sawyers



Channeling of the Logan River in Utah has not only destroyed the charm and beauty of a natural stream but also its worth as a trout fishery.

"River Wreckers" Targetted

The "river wreckers" are the target of a slashing attack on stream channelization by conservationist John Madson in the forthcoming September issue of *AUDUBON*, magazine of the National Audubon Society.

Channelization is the flood-control practice of deepening, straightening and clearing natural water courses so that when streams are swollen by heavy rains they will drain off rapidly, instead of overflowing their banks. The trouble is, writes Madson, that channelization — or "gutterization," as he likes to call it — is the direct opposite of all that makes a stream biologically healthy for fish and wildlife.

For example, says Madson, when little farm creeks run out into open fields, their "inner bends are often shaggy with grasses and coarse weeds, where the tractors cannot reach, and are the only real wildlife cover in some totally cultivated farmscapes. This is where the quail covey will be, and perhaps a deer, and muskrat and coon trails through the grass between the cornfield and creek, haunted by mink and red fox."

But when the "river-wrecking engineers" remove the bends, pools, riffles, snags and sandbars, along with the trees that shade the streambank, all that's left, says Madson, is a barren ditch; a precisely engineered sluiceway between two levees.

To date, he reports, over 8,000 miles of living streambeds in more than 40 states have been gutterized; 13,000 more have been scheduled for "improvement," and U.S. Soil Conservation Service leaders estimate that 175,000 miles of streams "need channelization."

The National Audubon Society has undertaken a major effort to publicize the excesses of the stream channelization program of the S.C.S. and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The livestock-on-public-lands-myth is being carefully nurtured by the ranchers and their subservient bureaucracies. They do this to avoid the reality that livestock must come off public lands and to keep the public believing that they are making mighty strides forward in protecting the public interest. But using public funds to patch up ecological damage done by an exploitive industry without even taking steps to curb the exploitation will no longer be accepted as "protecting the public interest." The dike is springing more holes than they can plug. The American Public will soon demand the right to have a say in the use and management of their long neglected lands. And the myth builders will soon find themselves sitting alone on the desolated public lands, chanting, "myths are our most important product."

Among other things, the Society challenges much of the alleged flood-control benefit. Why, ask Audubon officials, spend funds on costly projects to protect fields from being flooded when the nation already has a surplus crop problem: would it not be wiser to discourage cultivation of fields subject to flooding? Likewise, in non-rural areas would it not be wiser to discourage housing and industry on flood plains, rather than calling on the taxpayer to protect developers who want to build in high risk areas?

And further, as Madson points out in the *AUDUBON* article, the projects often fail to control floods, and instead just transfer the flood threat to the next community downstream; the faster the upper watershed empties out, the higher the flood crest downstream; Madson cites cases where the roaring torrents in "gutterized" rivers have eroded downstream riverbanks and undermined highways and bridge foundations.

He traces the history of the channelization concept, and he credits the S.C.S. with having carried out, in earlier days, important and environmentally sound flood control and anti-erosion measures, using such methods as contour farming, grassed waterways, farm ponds and crop rotation. More recently, he said, there has been the pressure for major drainage programs, which in addition to alleged flood control value, can turn wetlands into solid ground for farming or other development.

"Farmers rarely fight the proceedings since they incur relatively few costs, and stand to pick up more acreage of cultivated land," says Madson. "Construction companies get contracts, and developers get a chance to build on formerly 'useless' marshy land."

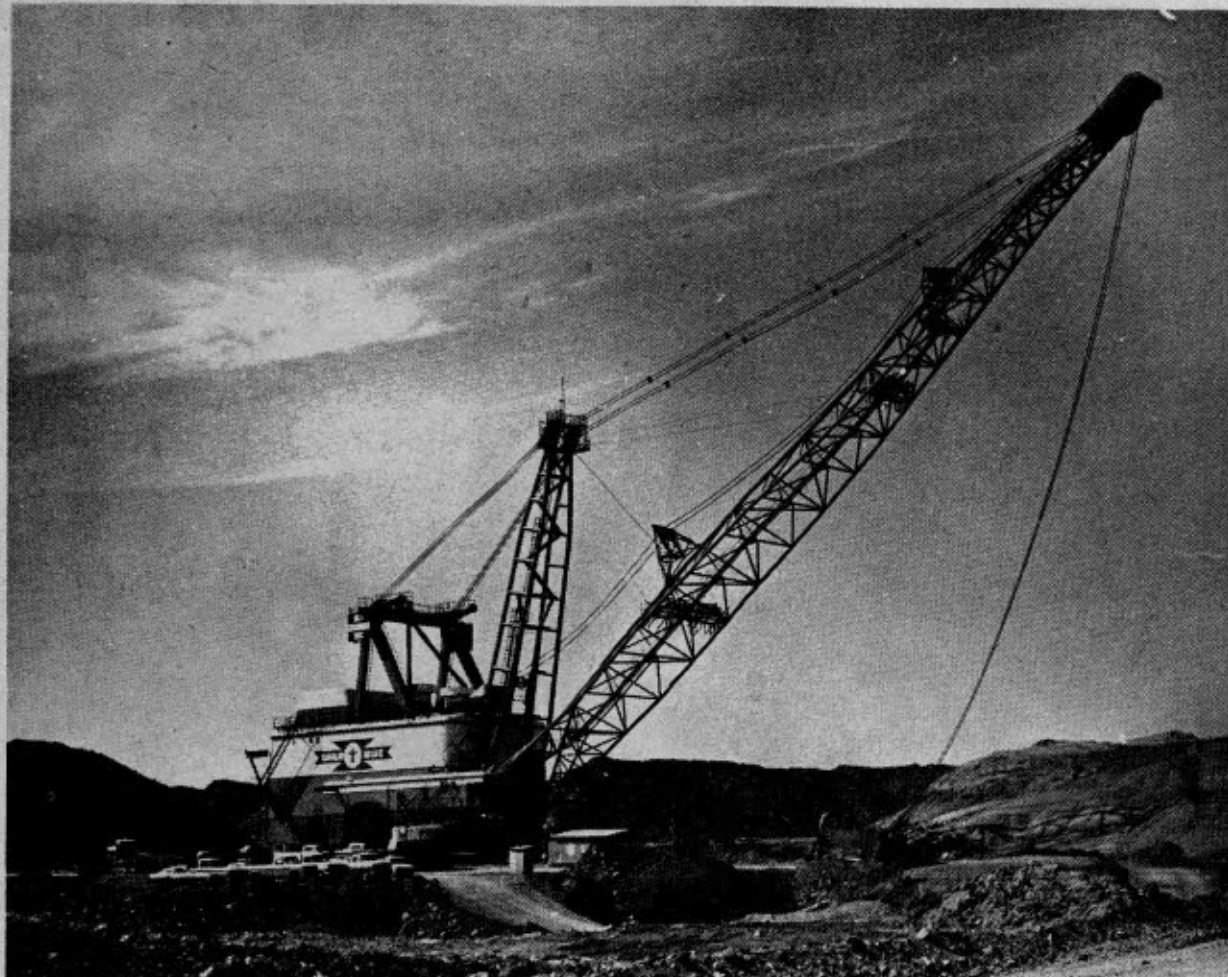
"The only losers are those without a voice — the taxpayers and wildlife and streams."



Ed Thelen, a member of the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club, suggests *THE ORDER OF THE BLOWN FUSE* be presented to those individuals who have devised the most effective ways to expand the consumption of electric power.

12-High Country News
Friday, Sept. 1, 1972

Photo by Marc Gaede



The world's largest dragline in operation at the Four Corners strip mine. Such huge machinery makes possible the stripping of vast coal deposits throughout the West. Without adequate strip mine legislation, large areas could be left in total devastation.

Strippers Fight Tough Act

Observers on the Washington scene now give little chance for passage of strong strip mine legislation this session of Congress. The demise of the much needed environmental legislation is sure to be a disappointment to a small, dedicated band of reformers in Congress and the equally dedicated citizen groups which supported them.

Congressman Ken Hechler, who won a come-from-behind primary victory in a gerrymandered district in West Virginia, still supports a total ban on strip mining. Congressman Wayne Aspinall, whose House Interior Committee must consider strip mine legislation, espouses the industry line on what it euphemistically calls "surface coal mining."

In between, Rep. Ed Edmondson of Oklahoma headed a subcommittee which turned out a tough version of a strip mine act which would only ban mining on slopes greater than 14 degrees. Mining could also be restricted in certain other areas of high public interest.

Renewed efforts to get a strong federal strip mining bill going in the next session will have a high priority amongst environmental groups. A leader and coordinator of present efforts has been the Washington-based Environmental Policy Center. The strip mining fight has been masterminded by capable Louise Dunlap of the Center. She has been aided by Ernest D. Preate, Jr., an attorney and president of a Pennsylvania environmental group, and Richard Cartwright Austin of the Appalachian Strip Mining Information Service.

Preate and Austin have both toured Montana and Wyoming in recent months to view areas of potential strip mining and visit mining operations. Both men agree that strong state laws must be in force, as well as a tough federal law. Both also agree that strong strip mining laws should be on the books before large scale operations begin in the western states.

The 1971 annual report of the President's Council on Environmental Quality notes that every state had land disturbed by strip mining. Available figures show that acreage involved went from 50,000 acres annually in 1965 to 75,000 acres annually in 1969. The figures jumped another 25,000 to a total of 100,000 acres disturbed annually by 1970. The report notes these increases were due to a shift in production processes and increased demand for coal to generate electricity.

The report says a Bureau of Mines survey

showed 3.2 million acres of land had been disturbed by strip or surface mining by 1965. Coal mining had accounted for 1.3 million acres of the total. And it states, "Only about a third of the land disturbed by surface mining had been reclaimed, and almost half of this was reclaimed by nature . . ."

Efforts of the strip mining industry to shirk responsibility for meaningful mining and reclamation regulation continues to hamper good legislation. Only last month the American Mining Congress issued a summary of objections to provisions in committee print of HR 6482. That was the tough bill being considered by the Edmondson subcommittee.

Amongst the 34 objections listed, the Mining Congress said:

—Exploratory activities should not be covered by the proposed law. (Note: A recent article in Reader's Digest (September, 1972) relates the experience of land managers in coping with exploration activities under the 1872 Mining Act.)

—The definition of spoil bank is too broad and should be redefined to exclude refuse and processing waste.

—The "area of land affected" should include only those land areas actually disturbed by mining activities.

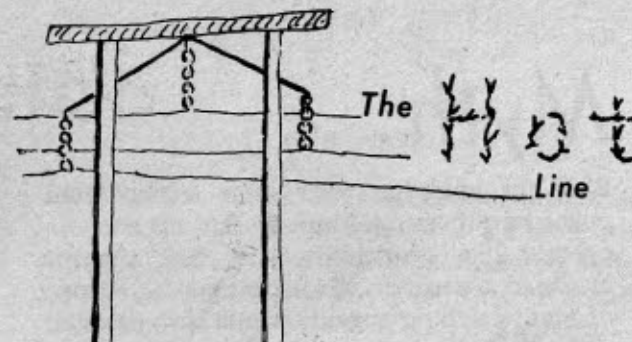
—The definition of "reclamation" should envision reconditioning rather than "restoring" land to a useful purpose, and should also take into account the great diversity of environmental conditions from one area to another.

—It is arbitrary and unreasonable to prohibit mining within 100 feet of any body of water, road or private property.

—The several requirements for preserving topsoil are neither necessary nor feasible.

—If this bill is enacted it should be made clear that it supersedes such other laws as the National Environmental Policy Act, insofar as environmental impact statements and the like are concerned.

Experience with the strip mining industry in states most affected show many of the above objections are key issues in any effective reclamation program. Yet, the mining industry as a whole continues to strenuously fight them. Only a few of the more responsible companies have accepted reclamation in the highest sense as a cost of doing business.



Construction is underway at Homer City, Pennsylvania, on a coal gasification plant using a high-temperature, high-pressure process. The facility is a small research project which is expected to produce 2.5 million cu. ft. of gas per day from 120 tons of coal. It is described as the most potentially promising gasification project yet undertaken.

Ohio's new Environmental Protection Act (effective Oct. 23, 1972) requires state approval for construction of certain generating facilities and transmission lines. Any unit over 50,000 kilowatts or any line carrying over 125,000 volts must get approval from a special commission. The Act places in one agency all existing state powers having to do with the environment.

West Virginia coal stripminers are producing 24 percent less coal this year because of restrictions on high-sulfur coal and tighter environmental regulations. The National Coal Association says interest is shifting to the West.

Senator Henry M. Jackson, chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, has announced the appointment of a Special Counsel to the Committee and Coordinator of the Committee's Study of National Fuels and Energy Policy. Grenville Garside will work with the Committee's chief counsel in directing the study. It will consider a broad range of problems affecting the nation's ability to meet future energy needs, focusing in particular on the Federal laws and policies required to develop an effective national energy policy.

The Michigan Public Service Commission allowed a \$20.2-million yearly rate increase for Detroit Edison but said it would closely monitor air and water pollution compliance efforts. Detroit Edison says it will spend \$7.5 billion in the next ten years for pollution controls. In a minority report, one of the three commissioners criticized the company for promotional advertising.

Three western companies were the most profitable electric utilities in the country in 1971. The three are Idaho Power with a profit margin after taxes of 23.72 percent, Montana Power Co. with 22.62 percent and Pacific Power and Light with 21.63 percent. The figures were published in the Congressional Record by Montana Senator Lee Metcalf.

A U.S. Bureau of Mines official says Wyoming has 24 known tar sand deposits containing some 30 billion barrels of oil. The official said Utah has greater deposits, containing some 100 billion barrels. Commercial development of such deposits may occur after 1975 the official said.

**YOU'RE THE SOLUTION
TO WATER POLLUTION**

Western..... Roundup

High Country News-13
Friday, Sept. 1, 1972

Photo by Gerald A. Jayne

Smokey Refuted

Sending men to fight forest fires in remote areas of the national forests may not only be expensive, but also not in the best interests of the forest ecosystems, according to two scientists.

Robert W. Mutch, research forester at the Northern Forest Fire Laboratory, and Dr. James R. Habeck, professor of botany at the University of Montana, have been invited to speak about their ideas to the American Institute of Biological Sciences annual meeting.

They say fire is a part of the natural forces which help to determine the forest system.

Study Asked

The governors of Montana and Wyoming have asked President Nixon for a comprehensive and coordinated study of the impact of coal development in the two-state area. They asked that the study be given the "highest priority and that it be conducted by a single federal agency.

Governors Forrest Anderson of Montana and Stanley K. Hathaway of Wyoming composed a telegram to the President during their meeting in mid-August in which the Yellowstone River Compact was discussed. The governors said, "The anticipated construction of coal-fired generation, gasification, and liquefaction plants will have unprecedented environmental, social and economic impacts on the Yellowstone River Basin area of both states. . .

"The American West still retains values apparently lost to many areas of these United States. In order to protect our proud and unique heritage we ask your help at this critical time in our region's history."

A Plea . . .

Wilderness areas are not in abundance in the U.S. today. Currently only about 1/4% of the land area in the U.S. including Alaska is included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The roadless areas administered by the Forest Service, The National Park Service, and The Fish and Wildlife Service are eligible to be designated as wilderness areas. If all the lands which have significant wilderness resources and which are eligible for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System were added to the system today only about 3% of the total land area of the U.S. would be so classified. This hardly represents an excessive amount of land to be preserved in its natural state.

In Idaho and in the Northern Rocky Mountain region in general, there is of course more than 3% of the land area which is still wilderness. Those living in this area do not realize, or tend to forget, how scarce wilderness is elsewhere. The wilderness in this region should be considered a blessing, not a curse. J. Alan Wagar, with the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, says this in regard to our matchless environment: "Here we have a region of large spaces and small populations that has not had the growth variously enjoyed and suffered by other parts of the country. One reason for this is the limited basic productivity of the area for renewable crops. In timber growing for example, the Rocky Mountain states are by far the least productive part of the country. . . In contrast with their somewhat limited potential for consumptive uses, the coniferous forests of the Northern Rockies are extremely rich in opportunities for general enjoyment and inspiration."

Our nation is neither so poor that we need to destroy our remaining wilderness nor so rich in natural beauty that we can afford to do so. We urge the Forest Service to go very slowly in making irreversible decisions on the remaining unroaded areas in our National Forests which would foreclose options on possible additions to the Forests which would deprive the National Wilderness Preservation System. The preservation option is, after all, the most resource-conservative option available.



Float trips on Idaho's Teton River will no longer be possible if the controversial Lower Teton Dam is constructed.

Teton Dam Still Making News

A Federal judge in Boise has opened the way for environmentalists to sue the government over the Lower Teton Dam. Federal Judge Fred Taylor ruled last week that Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club and others had standing to sue the Bureau of Reclamation.

The environmentalists are now free to go to court in a cause of action as to whether the Bureau fully complied with the National Environmental Policy Act in planning for construction.

Dale Higer, attorney for the environmental groups, said he would try to get the case in court this fall. He will seek a permanent injunction against the dam.

Meanwhile, Dr. Frank C. Craighead, Jr., president of the Environmental Research Institute at Moose, Wyoming, and a noted wild river authority, came out swinging against the Teton Dam. In an article in the current issue of TETON Magazine (Box 1903, Jackson, Wyoming 83001), Craighead says the Bureau has not considered all of the environmental values.

"To my knowledge, these values of the Teton River Canyon have not been evaluated, nor have they been given appropriate consideration in an environmental impact statement," he states.

Craighead says the stream rates an excellent score in a system developed by his brother, Dr. John J. Craighead, and himself. The

Dams Banned

A decision by the Oregon Water Resources Board has been termed a "bombshell" by one of its members. That decision is to rewrite its policy concerning dams in the Snake River. The new policy would ban any more dams and favor retaining free-flowing sections in the natural state. The proposed High Mountain Sheep Dam would be one of those affected.

The Idaho Water Resources Board said its position would remain unchanged. It still favors dams.

The Federal Power Commission has applications pending for dams, and the director of the Idaho Board, Dr. Robert Lee, says the nation's need for new sources of electricity may compel the FPC to approve them.

The Snake River forms a common boundary between much of Idaho and Oregon.

rating compared the Teton against such other noted streams and canyons as Hells Canyon of the Snake, Middle Fork of the Salmon, and Gray's and Desolation Canyon of the Green.

In addition to the environmental aspects, Craighead says, "Many of the economic benefits claimed for the Lower Teton Project in my opinion have been exaggerated by the Bureau's biased calculations."

Justice Suffers

The case of Herman Werner, Wyoming rancher accused of killing eagles, drags on. No date has yet been set for trial on the charges stemming from incidents going back to November, 1970.

U.S. Attorney Richard C. Thomas told High Country News that it was up to the U.S. District Court judge to set trial date. It was earlier expected to be set for November but may be postponed because of illness of Werner's attorney.

Werner has been charged with the shooting of 363 golden eagles, three bald eagles and seven Canada geese. Doyle Vaughan, owner of the Buffalo Flying Service which supplied helicopters for eagle-shooting forays, is a co-defendant with Werner.

Indicts BLM

The General Accounting Office says its investigations show ineffective enforcement of strip mining regulations on public lands of the West. The GAO indicts the Department of the Interior for not enforcing its own regulations to minimize environmental damage.

A study was requested by the Conservation and Natural Resources Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations last year. Last week, the report of the 10-month study was released by Rep. Henry S. Reuss of Wisconsin, chairman, and Rep. Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan, ranking minority member.

The study found the Bureau of Land Management was not complying with guidelines for preparing environmental impact statements before issuing permits for coal exploration and leases for strip mining. It also found the Bureau of Indian Affairs had failed to prepare any impact statements for permits and leases on Indian lands.

14-High Country News
Friday, Sept. 1, 1972

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

A great many people seem to believe that anyone who might be called an environmentalist or a conservationist is dead set against PROGRESS. Not true, of course, but the fantasy is hard to dispel. (The truth is very simply and clearly expressed in the Sierra Club motto: "Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress.")

In the almost two hundred years of this country's history, progress has become an American way of life. And in that span of history, many atrocities have been committed in the name of progress. The most flagrant example, of course, is the ruthless mistreatment of the Indian by the conquering white man.

By today's standard, that Indian could conceivably be considered a conservationist. He had a special feeling for the land and all that lived and grew upon it. The Indians believed that the land belonged to the One who had created it, and that it was their privilege to live on it, and in harmony with it. By contrast, the white frontiersman assumed that it was his right to seize the land and use it for his own gain.

The Indian protested the white man's abuse of the land. He protested to the Indian agents, to army officers, and even to the Great White Father in Washington. Just a little over one hundred years ago a Crow chief, Bear Tooth, complained: "Your men . . . have run over our country; they have destroyed the growing wood and the green grass; they have set fire to our lands. Father, your young men have devastated the country and killed the animals . . . the elk, the deer, the antelope, the buffalo. They do not kill them to eat them, they leave them to rot where they fall . . ."

With the discovery of gold and silver on lands allotted to the Indian, the miners swarmed over the land, and again the Red man protested. The precious metals meant nothing to him — his protests were against the wanton destruction of wildlife, and the intrusion of many people and wagon trails into the quiet hills.

The protests, naturally, were in vain. The white man callously continued his attack on the Indian and on the land.

This was all done under the guise of progress. Gold and silver spelled wealth and success, and the white man saved his conscience by claiming to believe in the theory of Manifest Destiny. (This attitude was shared by many government and army officials.)

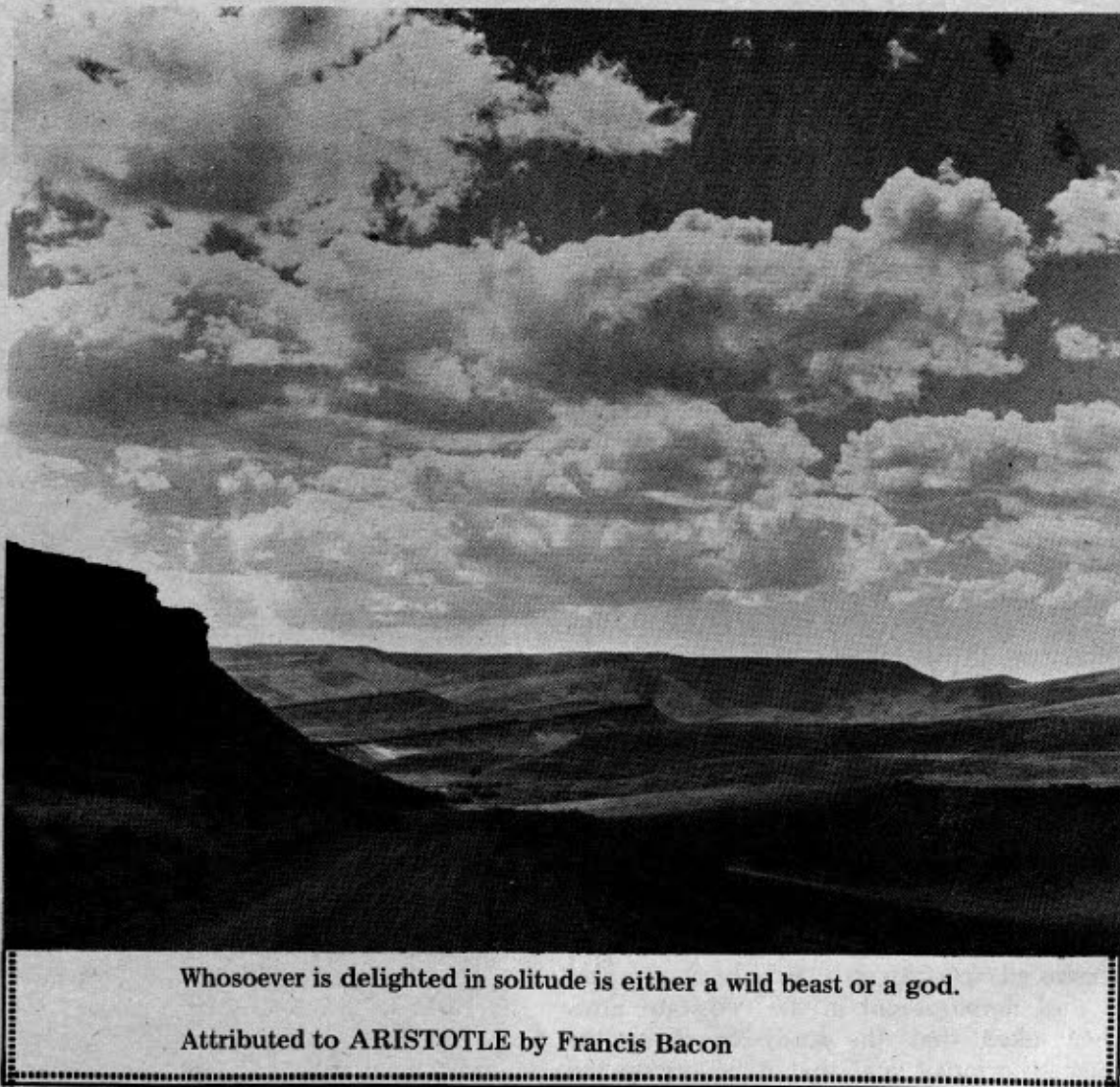
To protect the interests of the miners, the Big Horn Mining Association was formed in Cheyenne, Wyoming. In commenting on this, the Cheyenne Daily Leader of March 3, 1870, had this to say:

"The rich and beautiful valleys of Wyoming are destined for the occupancy and sustenance of the Anglo-Saxon race. The wealth that for untold ages has lain hidden beneath the snow-capped summits of our mountains has been placed there by Providence to reward the brave spirits whose lot it is to compose the advance-guard of civilization. The Indians must stand aside or be overwhelmed by the ever advancing and ever increasing tide of emmigration . . ."

History has shame-facedly recorded the story of the treatment of the Red man, and now it seems incredible that one hundred years ago so many self-righteous Americans could readily accept the bigoted ideas expressed in that newspaper.

Even more incredible is the fact that the mining law presently in force in the State of Wyoming was enacted barely two years after that article was printed!

How's that for "blind PROGRESS?"



Whosoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god.

Attributed to ARISTOTLE by Francis Bacon

Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN, May 28, 1972.

Mama Meets the Energy Crisis

by Betty Penson, Statesman Woman's Editor

WHAT ABOUT electric power?

"All present Idaho Power plants are hydro plants and they do not create air pollution," according to a prepared speech the company furnishes its officials. Because there are no more large hydro sites available at this time, the company is building a coal-fired plant in Wyoming . . . but it is low-sulphur coal well under the standards . . . and the plant will produce enough electric energy to heat 85,000 homes.

"In the east they are making decisions and facing shortages which could spread in this direction," said Logan Lanham, who is customer relations representative for the Idaho Power Company.

He said people are "discovering" Idaho and eastern Oregon, resulting in twice the normal increase of new customers last year.

The peak load for electricity occurs in summer, created by irrigation pumping and air conditioning. Biggest home use is for heating. Lanham said people often ask if they can help environmental and shortage problems by reducing the use of home appliances and he answers, "If the average domestic customers stopped using all small appliances, the reduction in our kilowatt-hour sales in 1970 would have been a mere 1.26 per cent."

Asked how Idahoans could best solve such problems, he said: "Ask six people to drive to work in one auto, instead of six."

Elsewhere: Arizona, alerted back in March of a power shortage when air conditioners go on full blast, is seeking supplementary power from other western companies . . . notably Idaho, Washington and Oregon. An Arizona power company president said Utah Power and Light had a breakdown and was at that moment (April 2, 1972) shut down . . . Southern California Edison was "limping" . . . and a rationing plan has been developed for Arizona.

COAL? WHO uses coal anymore?

A surprising number of Boise homes still burn coal. Nearly 60 per cent of the nation's industry depends on coal, backed up by gas, oil and electricity.

Heating energy is measured in British Thermal Units (the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit) and it takes three BTU's of fossil fuel (coal) to produce one BTU of electric power. Some experts say thus man is using up one natural resource

three times faster than he should to produce another form of energy.

Industrialists are scouring the world for more coal and the U.S. has nearly half of the world's known supply. Two-thirds of the low-sulphur deposits lie in a few western states and, reports Fortune Magazine, it is known that oil companies have been acquiring huge reserves of coal in the west.

An early day public utility that has passed completely from the local scene was the old gas works on South Ninth, the Boise Gas Light and Coke company, which produced gas from coal.

The company fell on hard times during the depression and filed bankruptcy in 1937, selling out to the Idaho Power Company in 1944. In 1946 the power company provided electrical service and furnished appliances and installation free of charge to 1,711 remaining customers (the report is on micro-film at the PUC office).

AREN'T THERE any solutions?

Nuclear power, geo-thermal power, solar power, while they hold great promise for "inexhaustible energy," are solutions for the future.

Meanwhile, dual heating is used in many big buildings and a few home builders are planning with that, and functional fireplaces, in mind.

St. Alphonsus Hospital is heated by a combination system that uses either gas or oil, and has in addition a standby oil system for which 10,000 gallons are stored underground for emergency use.

Both the Federal Building and Veterans Administration in Boise have steam heating systems using gas for fuel and oil for back-up.

None of Boise's 39 public schools have back-up heating systems. Emergencies? "We'd just have to let the kids go home," said Jim Edens, manager of the maintenance office.

More schools are heated by oil, he said. The few coal burners are being converted as rapidly as possible. Many of the newer schools use electric or gas heating, he said, a choice made by the architect before the school was built.

The whole bit is reported as a sensitive topic around the White House. People out here in the boondocks, after studying a stack of public prints, can only assume that in this presidential election year, both parties are ducking the energy issue.

Somebody'd better light their fire by '73.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Each river dam that they build
Means that free-flowing water is stilled.
An "all-purpose" lake
Is a fatal mistake
When a beautiful river is killed!

* * *

The United States Chamber of Commerce has set up a "public interest environmental law fund" to be used to offset litigation by environmental groups. It is said to be funded by the Chamber's Natural Resources Committee. Such action follows an \$80 million lawsuit against conservationists and environmental groups in California by McKeon Construction Co.

* * *

A new environmental foundation with the motto "Earth, I Care" has been founded by astronauts Walt Cunningham and Rusty Schweickart, and cartoonist Johnny Hart, creator of "B.C." and the "Wizard of Id." It will be primarily concerned with young people. For information write Earth Awareness Foundation, 350 Grove St., Somerville, New Jersey 08876.

* * *

One of the towns making up the Tokyo metropolis has initiated a "no wrapping service" on the first and fifteenth of each month. The town normally generates 700 tons of refuse daily and the no wrapping service was instituted to help control the solid waste problem. Customers are urged to bring their own shopping bags or wrappers on those days.

* * *

Land Pollution Reporter (Freed Publishing Co., Box 1144, FDR Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10022) says acid in rain and snow is increasing. It reports, "Sulfur and nitrogen, formed by the burning of fossil fuels, turn to acids in the atmosphere and are precipitated on the land and water. Some officials think this increased acidity is now adversely affecting the fertility of the soil."

* * *

Geophysical data from equipment left by Apollo 16 on the moon indicates earth's oxygen supply may be regenerated by the dissociation of water vapor in the upper atmosphere. This finding would be contrary to present supposition that most oxygen is supplied primarily by photosynthesis on earth.

* * *

A two year study on transportation problems in metropolitan areas has resulted in a proposal for a commuter automobile tax. The Department of Transportation study says if the tax were high enough it would relieve traffic congestion. The proposal has a serious drawback — it would tend to turn the highways over to the rich and to those on expense accounts.

* * *

A recent Gallup poll indicates two out of three Americans think abortion should be a matter for decision solely between a woman and her physician. Some 73 percent of those polled believe professional birth-control information, services and counseling should be made available to unmarried, sexually active teen-agers.



Peace, tradition, tranquility, beauty and fear, ugliness and noise: no economic measure can be made of these.

Book Review

The Diseconomics of Growth

by H. V. Hodson

BALLANTINE BOOKS, 101 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10003: \$1.25
Publication date: August 28, 1972.

Peace, tradition, tranquility, beauty and fear, ugliness and noise: no economic measure can be made of these. In *THE DISECONOMICS OF GROWTH*, H. V. Hodson analyzes, in layman's terms, growth as more than an endless series of economic indicators; it becomes a connected series of popular attitudes and public policies which must be taken into account in establishing a way of life.

Mr. Hodson shows how insidiously the recent and ill-founded cult of economic growth had pervaded the thinking of politicians, publicists, and businessmen; how vulnerable the growth concept is in economic theory. He applies his critique of growth to such great contemporary issues as environmental damage and repair, population growth, urban problems and resource depletion, and takes up the challenge of how, in an advanced country, a zero-growth economy might work without stagnation. Some of his conclusions are unorthodox, but his commonsense analysis and explanation of the proper aims of economic growth will make many re-examine the values they had come to take for granted.

H. V. Hodson was on the original staff of Britain's Economic Advisory Council, Editor of the *Round Table*, and Editor of London's *Sunday Times* for twelve years. As executive head of the Ditchley Foundation (which studies problems of common concern to Britain and America, chiefly through the world-famous Ditchley Conferences) and ten years of collaboration with world experts on a great variety of contemporary problems, Mr. Hodson has had much invaluable experience in considering the great issues of our time which transcend all particular disciplines. Currently with Hodson Consultants, he now applies his wide experience to the problems of companies, foundations, the government and others seeking advice.

"To judge from the confidence with which politicians, journalists, trade-union leaders, television oracles and the like talk familiarly about economic growth and its blessings, one would think that they and we knew all about it and, as God did with Creation, have looked upon our handiwork and seen it was good. In fact, we know very little about the way growth happens or what it does to the total economy, and that which we do know is by no means to its simplification nor all to its credit. As in other matters, the less the economists know, the more the publicists pretend they know. Where induction fails, intuition has free rein. Economic growth, a very com-

plex notion, has come to mean, for the vast majority of those who use the term, no more nor less than increase of Gross National Product (or of GNP per head), a crude index which ignores or muffles many changes in real economic out-turn, such as improvement or decline in the quality of goods and services, let alone changes in non-economic directions. Above all, this over-familiar GNP makes no allowance for two giant companions of economic activity and growth — the running down of the world's natural resources, and the damage done to man's habitat whether rural or urban. It is time a little diseconomics were brought to bear on the subject."



Urge Clean Air

The Platte Valley Sierra Club Group in western Nebraska has urged the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt rules and regulations on air quality that would protect the clean air of their state. The group cites the proposed 600-megawatt, coal-fired power plant near Sutherland Reservoir as a "peril to the Platte Valley" if high air quality standards are not adopted and enforced.

Predators . . .

cause their lobby is stronger than the general public opinion. Not enough average American citizens write their congressmen and senators to counteract the organized sheepmen mail.

If the Cain Report is to be anything more than another Leopold Report — which basically brought about no major changes in the field, there must be widespread public report for its recommendations. Two basic ones have already been acted upon: the banning of poisons in predator control by Federal agents and on Federal lands, and the end to aerial shooting of predators (though this law has large loopholes — and yet, aerial shooting is selective and effective — much more so than poisoning).

But we need state laws. In the next article in this series I will discuss one of the state's attempts to implement the Cain Report in a "Predator Management Plan For Oregon." I sat in on the Oregon Environmental Council's Wildlife Committee review of this document, which is supposed to be a model for other states to follow. We found a number of basic flaws — but more on that subject next month.

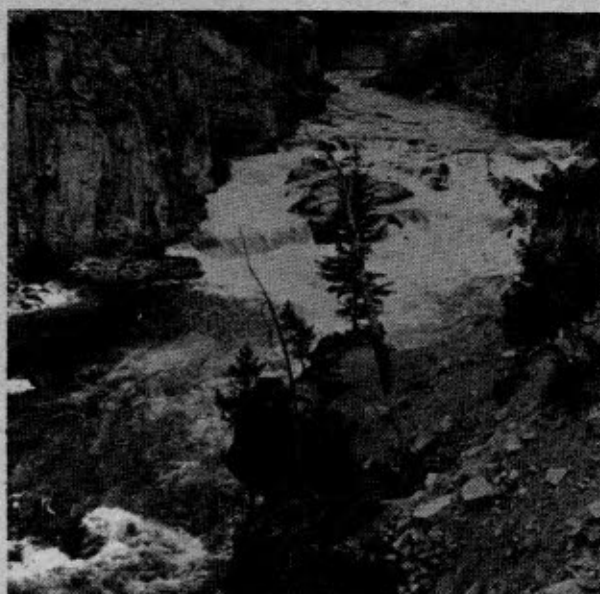
16-High Country News
Friday, Sept. 1, 1972



THE WILD WORLD



The Middle Fork of the Salmon River, a Wild River flowing through the Idaho Primitive Area, offers one of the most exciting float trips in the nation. Starting just below Dagger Falls where salmon still fight their way upstream nearly a thousand miles from the ocean, float trips ply the rocky routes of this clear-water stream for a hundred miles to its confluence with the main Salmon



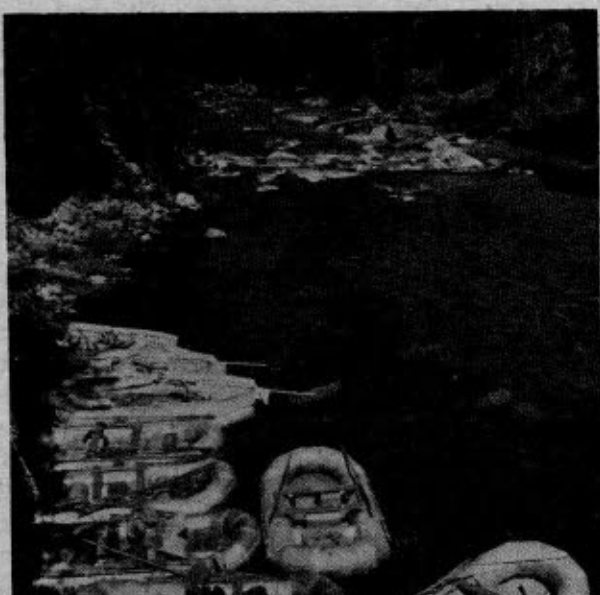
Dagger Falls on Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

using drift boats (MacKenzie River boats or dories) and rubber rafts and kayaks.

No motors are allowed on its crystalline waters, but the sheer force of numbers have already begun to erode the wilderness values of this pristine stream as thousands of floaters, both private and commercial, follow its course through a steep-sided gorge that alternately opens up to vast vistas, then closes in to canyon walls.

Roughly 3250 people floated the Middle Fork last summer and as many as four thousand may do so this year despite the Forest Service's attempt to regulate use. Last fall the four national forests involved hired a river ranger, Dick Estes, to work on the problems of Middle Fork overuse, and the Forest Service clamped a lid on the number of commercial operators on the Middle Fork at 26.

What are the problems Estes is working on? Overcrowded campgrounds along the river with the garbage and human waste problems that accompany such overcrowding. Each floater, whether commercial or private, now receives assigned campgrounds before he launches at Dagger Falls or at Indian



Launching area for float trips just below Dagger Falls.

Creek, where many parties fly in to start the trip to avoid the rocky and often shallow upper stretches of the Middle Fork.

Many of the old time floaters resent the proliferation of use on their favorite white-water river, perhaps popularized by the Craighead National Geographic article and TV film. Leroy Pruitt, an Oregonian who began floating the Middle Fork in 1955 with drift boats, finds today's traffic has already destroyed the river from many points of view: fishing, wilderness, solitude.

Idaho guide Stan Miller also resents the increased traffic and commercialization of the river through float trips, but he feels it is inevitable. The Middle Fork is probably floated commercially by outfitters from a wider geographic range than any other western river. Its popularity increases each year.

I have been running the Middle Fork this summer as a guide for one of the newer outfitters. We took a Sierra Club group down on a six-day run a few weeks ago. Our party launched at Dagger Falls about noon on a Monday, with six 17-foot Salmon River boats, the fourth of five parties that day.

The upper Middle Fork consisted of one rock garden after another. As a boat hung up on a rock, the next boat in line would knock it loose as we ran slide after slide, then Velvet Falls where the right-hand four-fifths of the river is blocked by a ledge with a 3-4-foot drop and the only chute lies almost hidden behind a rock on the left. We'd already passed one punctured pontoon and a shattered and sunken drift boat.

Shooting stars bloomed along the mossy banks, while water ouzels did deep-knee-bends on mid-stream rocks and violet-green swallows flitted about overhead. A bear roamed a rock slide feeding on ripe berries.



Canyon wall and morning mist on the Middle Fork.

On the upper Middle Fork, you may miss a few rocks, but you don't miss them all. You soon learn to pick and choose: hit this rock, bounce to avoid those two. We camped at Sheepeater Hot Springs, repaired a boat that had a six-inch gash in the bottom, and relaxed in the hot pool after a half-day of almost constant maneuvering. (During the night a herd of elk visited the hot springs.)

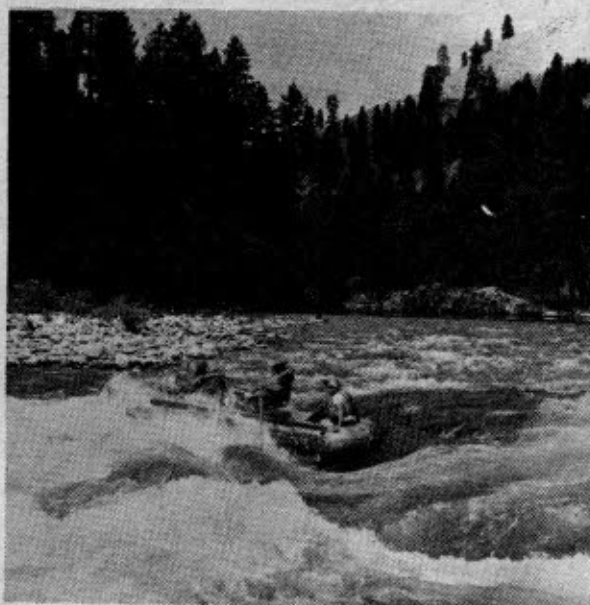
A second day of rock-dodging to Pistol Creek Rapid, a tight "S" ending in deep pooled water full of 15-inch Dolly Varden trout (also one of the best Salmon holes in the river — we saw a 20-incher that had just been caught). We lunched at Pistol Creek, climbing the rocks to photograph a Boy Scout group running the rapid, then ran down to a lovely campsite above Marble Rapid and Creek.

The third morning we again photographed boats running rapids, our own in Marble, as we planned a leisurely day of relatively mild water, but a shower at noon that lasted all afternoon chilled us and made a miserable day of it before we found the hot spring at Hospital Bar, our campsite for two nights. We thawed gradually (there was fresh snow on the higher peaks high above and in the distance) and dried even more slowly, but the lay-over day helped tremendously.

It rained again at breakfast that fifth morning, but somehow we missed the rains that plagued the whole area the rest of the day and ran all the way down to Elk Bar in the Impassable Canyon, my favorite camp on the whole run: steep canyon walls, wide

sandy beach, a clear green river running by. (Not much readily-available wood but plenty of Middle Fork Water, which we drank all the way.)

We saw lazuli buntings just above Haystack Rapid and a small herd of bighorn sheep with several lambs farther down, two otter playing in the quiet water of a back eddy, columbine and monkeyflowers —



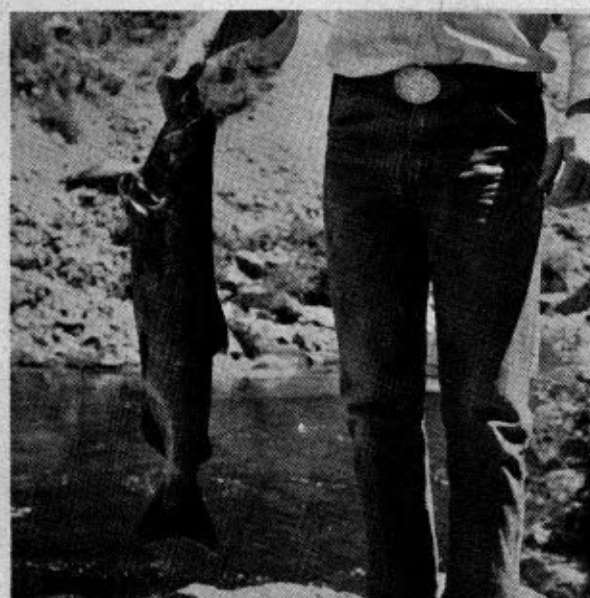
Running Marble Falls.

vibrant and varied flora and fauna.

At Elk Bar we had a sauna in a tipi built of oars and a tarp — our last night on the river, bright with stars and the quiet rippling of the Middle Fork flowing by our noisy camp. Then — almost too soon, sunlight on the canyon wall; up for our last day on the river, the final run to the Main Salmon and pull-out at Cache Bar. Half-a-dozen good rapids, and no one else on the river for the first time during the whole trip.

Too many people, true. But such beautiful clear water, such neat rapids, so magnificent in canyon walls and wildflowers and bird life. Some might not consider it a true wilderness experience any more because of the too-many-people, but I enjoyed it: a great outing on a lovely Wild River with only sun and moon and stars to light the way, wood fires to cook our meals and the smell of mountain mahogany smoke and the glow of bright coals filling the nights with earthly beauty, a wild world that has seen too many men in too short a time.

Text and photos by Verne Huser



Salmon from pool at Pistol Creek Rapid.

