

High Country News

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, October 13, 1972



Photo by Tom Bell

Few tourists to world-renowned Jackson Hole ever see this view of the Grand Teton. But elk hunters whose wilderness haunts these once were have begun to call these scenes of desecration to the attention of the public. A U.S. Forest Service committed to sawlog timber resources and large timber companies who stand to profit have made scenes like these common throughout the West. In this photo, all but the tallest peaks of the Teton Range were obscured by the smoky haze filling the Jackson Hole. The smoke came from all of the burning of timber slash from hundreds of acres.

A Moratorium Is Still Needed

by Tom Bell

Conservationists got another shot of bad news recently. President Nixon ordered the sales of an additional 300 million board feet of timber from the national forests. Ostensibly, the sales were for the purpose of holding down softwood prices. They were to be made from thinning and salvage operations. But out on the ranger districts it could only be interpreted as an order to increase the cut of timber.

Coming on top of the annual allowable cut of 11 billion board feet, the increase was a mere three percent. Three days after the July 17 announcement by the President, two congressmen called it a "potential conservation fiasco." Representatives Henry Reuss of Wisconsin and John Dingell of Michigan urged the President to rescind the order, to no avail.

They said, "In our view, an additional 300 million board feet of timber will have little effect on the supply of lumber in fiscal year 1973, particularly when the Forest Service is already planning to sell 10 to 11 billion board feet in fiscal '73. This additional

300 million board feet will be merely a drop in the bucket on the supply side. But it could have a tremendously devastating effect on the national forests."

Reuss and Dingell cited the observations of Deputy Chief of the Forest Service Edward Schultz. Schultz had been asked by the Office of Management and Budget what effect an immediate increase in national forest timber sales would have on lumber prices.

Schultz had replied, "It is our conclusion that a short-term increase in timber sales has little or no effect on short-term lumber pricing, because it does not affect the short-term lumber supply."

Some three weeks prior to the President's order, the Sierra Club won a temporary restraining order against new sales in potential wilderness areas. Timber companies sent up a howl because they said they would be deprived of operating timber sales. But Deputy Chief Schultz pointed out that, "For a typical timber sale, ten percent or less is cut the first year . . . Most of the uncut timber on existing sale areas is inaccessible now because of weather and because roads

are not yet built. Cutting plans for the 1972 logging season are for the most part already made, and very little will be logged from the 1972 sales, even after the snow melts. Those sales will go into logging plans for the 1973, 1974 and 1975 seasons."

A recent visit to the Teton National Forest in the shadow of the Grand Tetons bears this out. There U.S. Plywood is cutting on sales made three and four years ago.

There, too, the logging roads spiderweb out into areas that were wilderness three and four years ago. Automobiles can now drive into areas that were accessible only by foot or on horseback two and three and four years ago. These areas also happen to have been home for part of the famous Jackson Hole elk herd.

Once a plains and foothills animal, the elk were driven into the mountains. They readily adapted to the Rocky Mountain forests. In the Jackson Hole particularly they thrived because of the generally open and broken nature of the terrain. Open sagebrush-grass parks exist at high elevations

(Please turn to page 4)

2-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

A young geologist-anthropologist sat over lunch telling a fascinating theory of the disappearance of animals from the North American continent. We had been discussing the horse, the camel, the huge bison, and the even more huge mammoth and mastodon.

What had happened to them? They were here up until about 6000 B.C. And they shared the continent with early man. Not only that but there had been millions of animals of all species. Only the huge grasslands of Africa could even compare with the prolific grasslands of North America.

Suddenly, they were gone. Only the pronghorn antelope, a smaller version of the bison, the elk, the deer, the wolf, and the grizzly bear lived on. Horses and camels had crossed the land bridge from present day Alaska to Siberia and in succeeding centuries had spread across Europe to Africa. The horses came back on Spanish ships some 7,800 years later. They were domesticated and almost indispensable in the future conquest of a continent.

No one will ever really know what happened to those creatures of long ago. But the interesting theory proposed by the young scientist has some distinct probabilities. A corollary situation is happening at this very moment.

He says the tell-tale signs on the ground indicate a sizable increase in human population. They were hunters, and the diversity and extent of animal life created a situation in which man could flourish. But the natural world was in a state of flux. Climate was undergoing drastic change as the last of the great glaciers retreated at the close of the Ice Ages. And climate directly affected the natural environment.

Man was increasing while the carrying capacity of his land resources was diminishing. The areas which could sustain the large animals required by man were gradually shrinking. As a consequence, man was able to apply hunting pressures sufficient to wipe out whole herds, and eventually the species itself.

Only a few days before I heard this theory, I had been in Jackson Hole on the Teton Forest. There before my eyes was the destruction of an environment. Clearcutting is a methodical delimitation of elk habitat. But more than that, the shrinking area of habitat increases the human pressures. This the elk cannot tolerate. Research on the Chesnimus Unit in Oregon, and factual data from the Wind River Unit of the Shoshone Forest in Wyoming has already established the fact. The evidence is overwhelming. Each year there will be fewer elk and greater human pressures.

Colorado game managers are thoroughly alarmed at loss of habitat for both deer and elk. Their loss is not only from timbering but from mountain subdivisions. Many of these subdivisions intrude on game ranges. The Denver Post reports that by last count, more than 200 subdivisions of mountainous property were poised for development. Game biologists say the Vail-Beaver Creek development for part of the 1976 Winter Olympics will eliminate a herd of about 35 elk.

Oil shale development in Colorado's Piceance Basin will virtually eliminate one of the world's largest deer herds. The development will have similar effects to lesser degree on deer and elk ranges in Utah and Wyoming.

Coal development in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana will destroy the habitat for thousands of antelope and deer. One of the largest remaining pronghorn populations in the world is found in north-eastern Wyoming. The coal fields are in the heart of that area.

Hunters worry about the anti-hunters and gun legislation. They should be worrying about the fate of the elk, the deer, and the antelope on the only lands left for these animals to occupy.

Man and his insatiable appetite for energy, along with an equally insatiable greed for money, is in the process of shrinking the whole globe. How long after the elk have disappeared will man himself become the endangered species?



Photo by Rusty Gooch



This twilight photo of two buck deer could be almost symbolic of the disappearance of game animals from the civilized world. A slow but steady attrition of habitat threatens not only the magnificent native big game animals but smaller creatures, and even man himself.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Words fail to express my enthusiasm for the many excellent news items that **High Country News** contains in each issue. All of the material is most useful in teaching classes in conservation and in the environment. The articles are of high caliber, well written, and succinct. The photography is superb. Please keep up your excellent work in disclosing to the public this much needed type of news media in the environmental field.

Need I say more? Please find enclosed my check for another year's subscription to **High Country News**.

Most cordially yours,
Virgil R. Baker
Tempe, Arizona

* * *

Editor:

I read the article in the **High Country News** Sept. 1. It was very good, sure did have some grand pictures of mountain sheep. But lets don't go off the deep end.

I surely think something ought to be done to help the sheep. I don't think that getting rid of the ranchers is the answer. If the sheep are starving why can't they be fed a prepared and medicated block feed or just a block feed if the medication is not necessary.

I don't think the ranchers can stop the general public from going on public lands, only if they have to cross private land. I know from my own experience that one can not open their private land to the general public for if you do it may not be private any more. There is always some that will take any thing that is not nailed down. At our cow camps people have taken every thing from wagon wheels, seats from all the old machinery. (I think they make bar or patio stools out of them.) They also seem to like dishes and kerosene lamps or any thing else that looks like an antique. It only takes a minute or so to close a gate, but it may take a rancher a day or a week of hard riding to get stock straightened out after they are left open. It takes about so many head of stock to support a ranch and if a rancher's

taxes could be cut at the same time his livestock was cut I don't think there would be as much opposition.

Sincerely,
Lloyd Tillett
Lovell, Wyoming

Editor's note: Lloyd Tillett is an ordinary western rancher — and yet an extraordinary one. He, his mother, and his brother have been in the forefront of protecting and providing range for the Pryor Mountains wild horse herd. He certainly does not have antipathy toward creatures other than his own domestic livestock. So his points are well taken. On the other hand, it appears that the bighorn sheep of Morgan Creek in Idaho deserve something better than the short shrift they seem to have received from the managing agencies. Not being fully acquainted with all the facts of that case, I hold judgment there. The pages of this newspaper are open to all parties to further expose the facts of the matter.



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Guest Editorials



Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS, July 31, 1972.

A Land Crisis Imminent

If planning is not improved at all levels of government, the Senate Interior Committee warns, the U.S. will face "a truly national land use crisis" within 30 years.

This warning is easy to believe, considering that as many homes, schools, and hospitals will have to be built in the next three decades as have been built in the past three centuries. Enormous quantities of land will be required.

Yet, with some 10,000 local governments exercising various controls, authority is so fragmented that few land use decisions consider more than immediate local or private interests.

Moreover, as Congressional Quarterly notes, "All other resources — water, air, timber, minerals, wildlife — are dependent on the land, yet land is the only national resource without a national policy or law."

That's why Congress is trying to change the rules on the use of America's land, and three major bills are under consideration.

One bill, sponsored by Rep. Wayne N. Aspinall of Colorado, would establish new federal land use policies, provide grant-in-aid funds, and require states to develop plans for non-federal lands.

Another bill, sponsored by Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington, would provide even more federal aid and require states to develop programs for non-federal lands with emphasis on areas of critical environmental concern, key facilities, regionally beneficial and large-scale developments.

Still another bill, sponsored by Jackson and Sen. Gordon Allott of Colorado, would regulate the more than 474-million acres of

federal Bureau of Land Management lands, mostly in the West.

The Aspinall bill is opposed by conservation groups. The Sierra Club, for example, calls it a "horror" which would "expose our national parks, refuges, and forests to pressure to have land sold off."

The Jackson bill, however, is generally endorsed by such groups because it would get the states started on land use planning and provide more money than any other bills.

But none of the measures has smooth sailing, since many Americans see national land use laws as a first step toward federal zoning.

Then, too, the need for federal action has not been clearly established — not when many states are coming to grips with the problem of fragmented land use authority.

In the past two years Maine, Vermont, and Florida have adopted laws taking many types of new developments away from local control and putting them under state control. More than a dozen other states are studying ways of increasing state control over new development. Still others, including Colorado, are setting standards that local governments must follow in making land use decisions.

However it is accomplished, Sen. Jackson is certainly right when he observes:

"We must stop making land use decisions which are selfish, short-term, and private . . . and begin making them long-term and public. We must treat land not as a commodity to be consumed or expended but as a valuable finite resource to be husbanded."

Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, September 24, 1972.

What Do People Want?

A good way to begin land use planning at the state level is to ask the people what they want for Idaho. That's the approach contemplated by the State Planning Agency.

There's a strong push in Congress for legislation that will require state land use planning.

One purpose is to define the rules to head off clashes over land use in advance — to let people know where they stand. Another is to avoid land use mistakes.

What do the people of Idaho want?

Idaho is a beautiful state of lofty mountains and rushing streams, of scenic valleys and canyons, of rolling hills, of desert and open space. As more people come there will be change.

If Idahoans want to protect some of the values of the landscape, it means establishing policies to direct the change. The alternative is to let it happen, indiscriminately, taking the bad with the good.

Some of the possible areas of concern are fairly obvious:

—Out-of-state purchasers are buying up ranch land in scenic areas for subdividing. Some may have no great interest in pollution control or scenic values.

—The uncontrolled subdividing of productive farm land in some areas is taking the land out of production and raising the property taxes for the farmer trying to stay in farming.

—As land values rise along streams and lakes, restrictions on public access may increase. Hunters also have problems in some areas getting access across private lands to hunt on public lands.

Idahoans are fortunate to live in a state with a vast expanse of public land, 70 per cent of the total land area. The people are part owners of the land and have the right of access for fishing, hunting and other recreational activity.

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, managers of most of this land, are already involved in land-use planning. Both the general public and land user interests like timber and mining have a stake in how the land is managed.

Some counties have zoning on private land, but many are just getting into it.

The state opinion sampling effort should help in forming, or suggesting land use policies.

Change is coming to Idaho, probably more change than many residents would like to see. We can't keep the state just as it is, but Idahoans can indicate what they like and dislike.

With fair and thoughtful planning, perhaps we can avoid some of the ugly errors of more populous states — protecting the living qualities of the state while accommodating future generations and the people who are being attracted by what Idaho has to offer.

Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN,
Boise, June 22, 1972.

Only a Pittance

Billions are spent in the U.S. on dams, roads and other activities which destroy fish and wildlife habitat. Only a pittance is spent to enhance it or save it.

The Nixon administration's budget requests for 1973 include only \$6.7 million for wildlife habitat management on national forest lands. It calls for only \$2.9 million for 450 million acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management — about half a cent an acre.

Contrast that with public works spending, including habitat-destroying dams, of more than \$3 billion per year.

The total recommended for wildlife on all national forest and BLM lands is less than the

(Continued on page 15)

High Country News-3
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972



Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS, July 14, 1972.

Preserving A Heritage

By approving the creation of natural reserve areas, the University of Utah has taken a commendable step toward preserving some of the state's natural heritage.

Basically, the university is declaring certain lands it already owns as "no development" zones, and reserving them in their natural state for teaching, research, and just plain enjoyment.

This represents a refreshing departure from the short-sighted planning by some of the state's political subdivisions which has resulted in the indiscriminate destruction of the environment beneath parking lots, buildings, and roads.

Reserve areas will be of either marginal construction value or of high natural value. In either case, the areas will be put to optimum use — and at no cost to the taxpayer, since the university already owns them.

Among the plans being contemplated are those to create a nature walk and bike trail on reserved lands in the foothills between University Hospital and the This Is The Place Monument.

Credit for this constructive approach goes to Ray Varley, administrative vice president, who saw a similar program pay off at the University of California.

Should the university in the future decide the reserved lands must be developed, then they will still be available.

But the reverse does not hold true; once nature's beauty is sacrificed, there is no retrieving it. The university's example should prompt other Utahns to do something similar in their own areas.

4-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

Moratorium Needed...

and on many dry, southern-exposure slopes. Grassy parks and valley bottoms were interspersed with quaking aspen stands and thickly timbered mountain sides. The situation was ideal elk summer range.

In earlier times, the elk migrated from mountain summer pastures to desert winter ranges, sometimes 100 miles distant. But fences and ranches cut off the migration routes and the elk found themselves in trouble.

Man came up with an artificial feeding program and so was born the idea for the Jackson Hole National Elk Refuge. During severe winters, some 10,000 to 12,000 elk are fed hay for many months. When spring comes, the elk go back to their mountain fastnesses. Many of them migrate far northward to the shores of Yellowstone Lake and the high plateaus of the Absaroka Mountains. But not all of them have migrated that far. Some normally go only a few miles east or northeast. And these are the animals now seriously threatened by clearcutting operations throughout their summer range.

Only a few pockets remain where timbering operations have not destroyed the wilderness conditions required by elk. And even these pockets are slated for the marginal timbering operations typical of western lodgepole pine forests.

Elk are not the only values threatened by the proliferation of roads and the large clearcut patches going from valley bottom to mountain top. Many streams which feed the rich, aquatic biosystem of the Upper Snake River originate on the slopes now being timbered. Into them goes an unmeasured amount of silt and nutrients which affect stream bottom organisms and eventually fish and fish eggs.

It is a well known and documented fact that the Teton Forest east of the Jackson Hole has very unstable soils. The large Gros Ventre Slide was a natural occurrence involving one whole mountainside. Numerous small slides and slumps have occurred throughout a large area. And yet timber roads and clearcut timber sales have been laid out with seemingly little thought for the consequences of land slippage. Some have already occurred.

High Country News long ago (October 3, 1969) documented the devastation which occurred on the upper tributaries to the Gros Ventre River. The devastation has continued over a wide area. There remains only a few distinct areas where elk may still find seclusion. If these are not protected from the inroads of timbering, total loss of elk may amount to several thousand head.

The Teton Forest is a microcosm of the whole problem of clearcutting on our national forests. In many cases, game animal habitats and fishing streams are the first to feel the full effects.

Montana, like Wyoming, has been particularly hard hit by clearcutting. Gene Allen, a Montana game biologist writing in *Montana Outdoors*, says logging is an activity which can severely alter the forest environment.

He says, "Because the elk is a product of the forest environment, activities altering that environment will also change that area's ability to produce and support elk. . . In most instances, the question is not 'Will these changes affect elk?' but rather 'How will they affect elk?'"

Allen points out that logging can alter the forest environment in two basic ways: (1) removal of tree cover resulting in a modification of elk habitat, and (2) road construction resulting in increased access and the potential for contact between elk and people.

He says road access is of most concern to elk managers because of the pressures which can be put on the animals during hunting seasons. He points out that between 1963 and 1967, an estimated 1,200 miles of logging roads were built just on Montana's portion of the Bitterroot National Forest. And then he says, "As road access increased, the length of either sex elk hunting seasons decreased." The average length of season dropped from



Large logging equipment disappears into former wilderness and superb elk hunting country. The road is closed to hunters and all others. It is closed by request of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to protect what few elk remain. All states have found that easy access to elk hunting country leads to early elimination of the animals. But it is ironic that the one use which leads to destruction of elk habitat on public lands gets continued use of roads built with public funds.

40 days in 1960 to 17 days in 1970.

Allen says, "Increased access allows more hunters into more places, making elk more vulnerable and resulting in an accelerated rate of harvest. In the future, increased access will dictate even more widespread hunting restrictions." And then he adds, "Road closures and travel restrictions will become increasingly more widespread."

So President Nixon's order to cut more timber may have far more ramifications than most people realize. Many critics contend that national forests are already being cut beyond the sustained-yield capacity of the timber resource. An increased cut will only add to



Reclamation Act Tested

San Francisco — The National Coalition for Land Reform today hailed a federal court decision upholding the never previously enforced residency requirement of the 1902 Reclamation Act.

The decision, issued by U.S. District Court Judge William D. Murray in San Diego, could have a far-reaching effect upon agriculture in the West. If sustained on appeal, it would make absentee-owned corporate farms ineligible to receive water from federal irrigation projects.

The 1902 Reclamation Act provides that water from federal irrigation projects may be delivered only to "actual bona fide resident" farmers who reside on or near their farms. The Department of Interior has never enforced the law. Judge Murray's ruling came on a suit by Dr. Ben Yellen of Brawley, California and 122 other landless residents of the Imperial Valley, seeking a writ of mandate requiring the Secretary of the Interior to enforce the law.

Rejecting the government's contention that Congress acquiesced in 56 years of nonenforcement, Judge Murray said, "Congress did not acquiesce in and ratify the administrative interpretation of the residency requirement (non-enforcement) by the Department of Interior." Judge Murray ruled further that, "The failure to apply the residency requirement is contrary to any reasonable inter-

the burden the land must sustain. A moratorium on clearcutting our national forests is still needed.

Concerned citizens can help by writing to the President and their congressmen, protesting the increase, requesting a moratorium, and asking for a full environmental review of clearcutting on every national forest.

Those concerned with the Jackson Hole elk herd can write to Mr. Tom Coston, Supervisor, Teton National Forest, Jackson, Wyoming 83001. If possible, copies of your letters should go to Mr. John McGuire, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. And if further possible, a copy of your letter should go to Governor Stanley K. Hathaway, Capitol Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. Governor Hathaway is a staunch advocate of clearcutting and the power behind the politically oriented Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.

pretation of the reclamation law as a whole, and it is destructive of the clear purpose and intent of national reclamation policy."

It is estimated that two-thirds of the land in the Imperial Valley is owned by absentees. Among the largest absentee landowners are the Irvine Land Company, Purex, Dow Chemical, and Kaiser Aluminum.

The intent of the 1902 Reclamation Act was to make federally irrigated farmland available to resident family farmers, not to large absentee corporations. In addition to the residency requirement, the law contains a 160-acre limitation.

Absentee landowners in the Imperial Valley argued that because the residency requirement had not been enforced for 56 years, it could not be enforced today. Judge Murray explicitly rejected this argument. "Administrative practice cannot thwart the plain purpose of a valid law."

The potential effect of the ruling would extend the enforcement from the Imperial Valley to the seventeen reclamation states in the West. Arthur Brunwasser of San Francisco, attorney for Yellen and the other plaintiffs said, "The federal government should now do what the law has long required — make land and water available only to farmers who work and live on the land."

Outraged Citizen Writes

High Country News-5
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

The following letter, dated August 4, 1972, was written by a concerned citizen after viewing clearcutting on the national forests of Oregon. What this citizen saw is being duplicated many times over on practically every national forest in the West, some in the East, and those in Alaska.

The rape of America's national forests, beyond the sustained-yield capacity of the resource, is a national disgrace. Only citizen anger can stop the plunder now going on.

The editor.

District Ranger
Zig Zag Ranger Station
Zig Zag, Oregon

Sir:

I have just returned from viewing the work being done by the Bureau of Water Works and the Forest Service at the lower two Goodfellow Lakes.

I cannot describe my feelings over the complete ecological and aesthetic disaster that has been allowed to occur at this site. Four years ago, when I first viewed this area, it consisted of two beautiful mountain lakes set in a meadow basin surrounded by heavy second and third growth timber, except on the ridge east of the lowest lake, which had been logged off at a previous time. The timber consisted of hemlock, maple, fir, and cedar, along with large areas of mountain rhododendron.

Today, the whole basin has been stripped of all growth, not to just above the proposed water level of the storage reservoir, but on the west side of the project to the service road which at points is hundreds of feet above the

water level. Not even a screen of some of those fine third growth fir, which were only eight to twelve inches in diameter, has been left. Not only that but it appears that most of the logged material, not of commercial value, will be either left where it was cut or simply burned. What a waste from almost any viewpoint.

I think that it is time that you and your cohorts realize that the national forests belong to the people, not the Forest Service and the logging companies.

You just can't go around butchering the forests as before. It doesn't make any difference if no one sees this area, or thousands see it, it cannot excuse what you have done here.

It seems to me that perhaps it would be a good idea to hold public hearings for all timber sales in the national forests. At such hearings the Forest Service would have to make a complete presentation of the present condition of the area to be logged, the plans for the extent and method of logging, and the plans for the restoration of the area after the logging was completed. These plans for all phases of the work would have to be specific and detailed. Along with the hearing, a detailed environmental impact statement would have to be filed and copies of the statement would have to be made public.

Even though such a program would be both time consuming and costly to both the Forest Service and the logging companies, it would offer a much greater degree of protection to our national forest lands than presently exists.

I have before me at the present time a little booklet published by the Portland Water Bureau concerning their plans to develop many of the small lakes in the Bull Run

Reserve, but on Forest Service lands. Of the lakes mentioned for development, only the Goodfellows and Blue Lake have had any extensive work done on them. For some reason, Blue Lake has been abandoned only partially complete. It would seem to me that before any more work of any nature is allowed at any of the other sites than the two already started, public hearings should be held to determine the need for such work, the method and plans for such work, and the environmental impact such work will have on the area.

I have in my mind a picture of Hickman Lake, one of those slated for development in this Water Bureau booklet. Hickman Lake is a beautiful cirque lake of outstanding interest both scenically and geologically. Its highest use should be preservation with perhaps future use for a trail for backpacking and camping. Since the main reason Hickman Lake is on the development scheme is that it would be a cheap source of storage which the Water Bureau could develop using their own men at times of slack work, it seems to me that unless a clear and present need of water by the city of Portland could be shown at open public hearings, then no work of any kind on Hickman or any of the other lakes not presently being developed should be allowed.

If the city of Portland needs additional water sources for the future growth and development of the urban area, then a major storage project should be undertaken, and the ruining of these small and minute sources of additional water stopped.

As it is, the ruination of the beautiful Goodfellow Lakes basin is complete. Even the Forest Service's own plans for an eventual

(Please turn to page 15.)

Road Closures Proposed To Protect Elk

During the big game seasons scheduled for Oregon in the next two months, big game hunters will have a chance to comment on some proposed road closures in the Malheur, Ochoco, and Wallowa national forests.

The road closures that would be in effect during the 1973 seasons affect around 81,000 acres in the Malheur, about 93,000 acres in the Ochoco, and a smaller amount in the Imnaha Unit in the Wallowa.

This fall nimrods will find the areas suggested for road closures posted with large yellow signs. Forest patrolmen and Game Commission personnel will be in each area to discuss the suggested closures with interested hunters. Final details will be developed during the winter after evaluating the comments received.

In the Malheur, proposed restrictions to vehicle travel take in four blocks and 170 miles of back roads, all located in areas of major big game migration routes or vital escape cover. Over 3,000 miles of roads remain open to vehicle use. All main roads will be open but access to some camping areas may be restricted if the proposal is enacted. Foot or horseback travel will not be restricted.

About 12,000 acres are involved in the Snow Mountain District in the Ochoco and about 81,000 acres in the Rager District. Again, main roads would remain open, with side roads in areas of good escape cover or main migration routes blocked to entry by vehicle.

The proposed closures in the Imnaha take in the upper Lick Creek drainage from the Lick Creek Guard Station west to Nebo Mountain and the upper Grouse Creek drainage around Morgan, Miller, and Gumbout buttes.

The purpose behind the proposed road closures is an attempt by the Oregon Game Commission and the U.S. Forest Service to put the "hunt" back in hunting — to make hunting a test of hunting and tracking skills, to provide the hunter with a quality hunting experience instead of a road hunting show

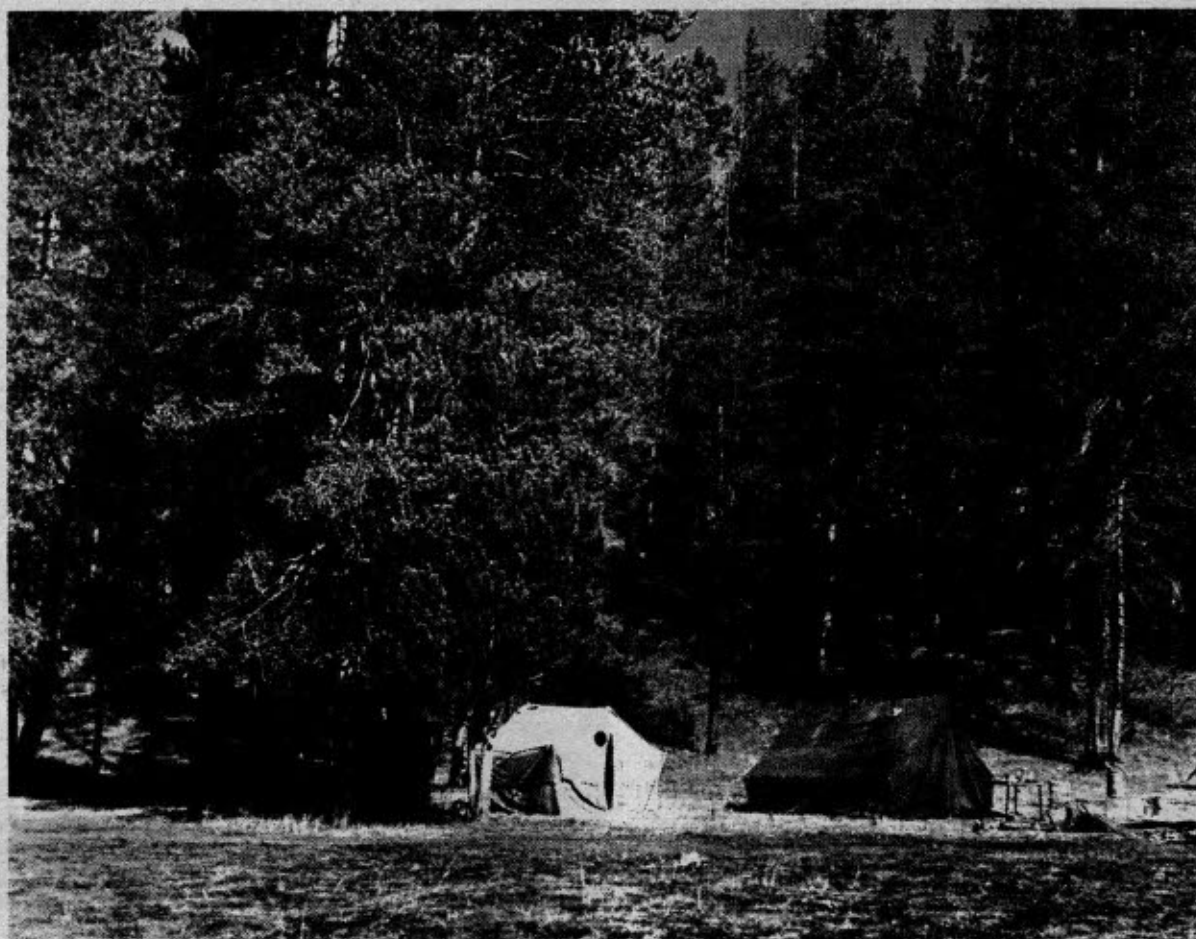
with little or no escape for the animal being pursued. Ever increasing pressures placed on big game resources suggest more refined management in the form of access control and a road closure program.

Elk hunters in the Chesnimnus have experienced this road and access control the past two seasons with over 87 percent of those hunting this area voicing enthusiastic approval. About 7 percent held no opinion and the remainder didn't like the restrictions.

In the Chesnimnus the "armchair" hunters were much in the minority.

Proposed road closures in all three areas take in important big game migration routes, vitally needed escape cover, and fawning and calving grounds. Such areas are essential, areas in which big game may move about without undue harassment, if we are to maintain quality hunting in Oregon. If the proposals are approved, nimrods in 1973 will have to hunt these back areas on foot or horseback.

Photo by Tom Bell



Hunting camps located in the Teton National Forest in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, are a part of the fall scene. But camps such as this one were formerly a day's pack trip from the end of the nearest road. Now, it is less than a one-hour drive by 4-wheel-drive vehicle. Such ready access has penetrated into the heart of prime elk habitat in what was once wilderness. It spells doom for those elk which were once summer residents of the area.

6-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

Into the La Garita

Van Shipp is a Kentuckian with a yen for western wilderness areas. He has related his experiences to *High Country News* readers before. Now, he returns with an essay on the La Garita Wilderness in Colorado.

His description of the area and his story about the wilderness trip gives the reader a good idea about the experiences people have on these trips. Sponsored by The Wilderness Society, such trips are becoming increasingly popular. Interested persons have a wide variety of trips to choose from in a number of different areas. More information may be obtained from The Wilderness Society, 4260 East Evans Ave., Denver, Colorado 80222.

This is the first of two parts of Mr. Shipp's story. The second part will be continued in the next issue.

The editor.

Photos and text by Van Shipp

La Garita is a Spanish term which means "The Balcony," or "The Overlook." Early Spanish explorers applied this description to a portion of the San Juan Mountains high above the headwaters of the Rio Grande River.

Creede, a small, somber town, nestled in the upper Rio Grande basin is probably best known as the locale which inspired the poem, "And there is no night in Creede." It was written by Cy Warman, a local newspaper editor, in the late 19th century. The town was named for Nicholas C. Creede who discovered his famous silver mine, Holy Moses, while eating lunch there in 1890. By 1892, more than one million dollars worth of ore was being shipped from Creede every month. During the stampede for riches, Creede became the bailiwick for such famous western characters as Bob Ford, Soapy Smith, Poker Alice, Killarney Kate, and Calamity Jane.

Eight miles southeast of Creede, along the banks of the Rio Grande River, lies Wagon Wheel Gap. And just below here at Cottonwood Cove Lodge, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bibs Wiley, is the embarkation point for many wilderness trips in the area.

The La Garita Mountains comprise only a very small part of the San Juans, a vast range of mountains extending into a large portion of southwestern Colorado. They begin in the Continental Divide seven miles north of Creede and extend for about ten miles in a southeasterly direction paralleling the Upper Rio Grande River. The topographical relief on the south slopes is gentle in marked contrast to the heavily glaciated and talus-strewn north faces. These mountains are very high in mean elevation. There are extensive areas above timberline.

Wheeler Geological Area, along the lower, south slopes, and the south slopes themselves, are not presently included in the La Garita Wilderness. The geological oddity of the Wheeler area remained for more than 50 years a national monument. It was recently removed from monument status and returned to the Forest Service because of access and maintenance problems. These problems were further aggravated by the large number of jeeps which were visiting the monument through Forest Service land in ever increasing numbers. Recently, as many as 75 had been counted in the vicinity. Returning this monument to the Forest Service made these vehicles illegal in the Wheeler Geological Area.

The drainages from the south slopes of the La Garitas are tributaries to the Rio Grande River. The East and West Willow Creeks are the western approaches to the wilderness. West and East Bellows Creeks clear the south slopes, on the east, of its annual heavy accumulation of snow.

Half-Moon Pass is located near the heart of the La Garita Mountains. The upland forest-meadow complexes of Wasson Park and Silver Park, which flank the southern access to the pass on either side, served as passageways for spring and fall cattle and sheep drives into the high country in years past. This passage became known as the La Garita Stock Driveway.

On the west, access to the La Garita is usually gained by hiking from the Equity Mine up West Willows Creek over an old jeep trail to San Luis Pass. If one does this, he can exit over Half-Moon Pass, skirting the Wheeler Geological Area, and then follow the Canyon Trail down West Bellows Creek to the road-head at Phipp's Ranch.

The La Garita Wilderness was placed in the National Wilderness System with the passage by Congress of the Wilderness Act of 1964. It's 49,000 acres lies in two national forests, the Gunnison and the Rio Grande, with the Continental Divide forming a natural boundary between the two forests. Approximately 1/2 of the wilderness lies within each national forest. A large part of the area is predominately alpine ecology with the remainder sub-alpine Englemann spruce and its associated plant types. There have been several proposed additions to the wilderness lying within the Rio Grande National Forest.

Senate Bill 3310 introduced into the 91st congress in January, 1970, by Colorado Senators Dominick and Allot proposes to add 1,020 acres of land including the Wheeler Geological Area to the south boundary. The Forest Service says it believes this bill was never reported out of committee. The Colorado Outfitters and Guides Association in cooperation with the Colorado Open Space Council Wilderness Workshop proposed adding Silver Park and Wasson Park plus substantial portions of the Bellows Creeks drainage. This proposal has not been put in the form of legislation. Mineral studies, necessary for the clearance of additional areas for possible wilderness status, were being made here during the summer of 1971.

The additions of the aforementioned tracts would give the wilderness more integrity by adding to it the support of more of its low-land eco-systems. This would also serve as a buffer, adding a greater degree of protection to the fragile alpine ecologies. The excellent native cutthroat fishing at Machin Lake is at present too easily accessible to week-end fishermen. The Forest says it intends to involve the public in any decisions involving the enlargement of the La Garita Wilderness.

Packstocking The La Garita Wilderness

The following is an account of the trip made into the La Garita Wilderness from July 18-25, 1971, sponsored by The Wilderness Society and outfitted by Wiley and Schmittel

of Wagon Wheel Gap, Colorado. The writer was trip director for The Wilderness Society.

The group of 19 guests assembled at the Equity Mine on West Willow Creek Sunday morning, July 18, 1971. Heavy gear such as tents and food supplies was unloaded from trucks along with personal equipment and sleeping bags and lashed onto the pack horses. We began the gentle climb toward San Luis Pass, the western gateway to the La Garita Wilderness, over an old jeep trail.

Near mid-day we ate our paper bag lunches and then ~~for~~ the clear, sparkling waters of West Willow Creek. High above us, to our left and just beneath the Continental Divide, someone spotted a jeep parked in the willow bogs. For most of us, this versatile mode of locomotion violated the wilderness, as it seemed incongruous and out of place in this setting of pristine splendor, nurtured by the cool, crystal-clear high mountain air.

Shortly after lunch, we reached the head of West Willow Creek and crossed over San Luis Pass to descend into the Spring Creek drainage of the La Garita Wilderness, the location of our first over-night campground. Our vista above Spring Creek afforded an excellent view to the northwest. Down and out of the valley, far in the distance, we could see Lake City, county seat of Hinsdale County, the second least populated county in the entire mainland United States. Across from the camp, blocking our view to the north, rose a 12,000 foot peak. Bibs Wiley, a lifetime outfitter into the area, had told us of the colorful, mineral-rich country beyond this mountain along Sheep Creek (a tributary of Spring Creek) which had not been included in the La Garita Wilderness.

Early Monday morning we hiked eastwardly along The Skyline Trail with the Continental Divide looming overhead to our right, as San Luis Peak presented a formidable barrier on our left. Along the trail, rare, white polemonium; deep-red king's crown; rich, yellow old man of the mountain; dark blue penstemon, and many other species of wildflowers occurred in profusion. Immediately above, forming the skyline, and sculptured by the elements, were red sandstone pillars, standing as sentinels, leaching minerals to the meadows below, and so setting the stage for this verdant and thrifty nature-designed "rainbow garden."

As we crossed the saddle lying off the south flank of San Luis Peak (elevation 14,149 ft.), five of our group elected to make the relatively

(Continued on page 7)



Mrs. Ruth McKown, co-trip director into the La Garita Wilderness with Van Shipp, and Dr. Gerald Buker stand in alpine meadows above Diablo Canyon. Dr. Buker of Gallup, New Mexico, was trip doctor. Mrs. McKown is from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Behind them, 13,800 ft. Organ Mountain rises above Cochetopa Creek. Further in the distance, swathed in clouds, lies San Luis Peak.

... A Wilderness Trip

easy climb to the top. Near the halfway point in their climb, clouds and thunder showers began to roll in from the mountains to the west. Static electricity became plentiful as cold rain and sleet began to pelt the climbers. A bighorn ram could be seen seeking the protection of the rocks below. Three of the group decided not to further risk the threat of the elements and remained behind as the others, undaunted, continued to the top.

The slopes of San Luis Peak and Stewart Peak (14,032 ft.) are the highest elevations in the La Garita Wilderness. Cochetopa Creek begins on the east slope of San Luis Peak and gathers tributaries from Baldy Alto and Stewart Peak as it flows eastward down the long basin of the Upper Cochetopa and then swings in a gentle arc to the north where it eventually joins the Gunnison River twelve miles east of Gunnison, Colorado. The Gunnison River creates the spectacular Black Canyon of the Gunnison before it empties into the mighty Colorado River near Grand Junction, Colorado.

We continued our hike down the isolated, mountain-ringed Cochetopa Basin as the rain showers increased in intensity and the day became progressively wetter. We moved as foreboding figures, our poncho-shrouded silhouettes dripping water. We were anxious to reach the turn-off at Diablo Creek so we could move up the canyon to our next campground. We forded Cochetopa Creek and walked about a mile up the canyon through a heavy forest cover of Englemann spruce. Our tents were staked under some very tall, stately spruce, facing Diablo Creek with the steep trail which led up over the Continental Divide at our backs. The weather cleared in the late afternoon and we witnessed a beautiful sunset over the Diablo Creek Canyon.

During our lay-over day at Diablo Creek our fishermen had a try at the native trout in Cochetopa Creek. Our outfitter caught a nice string of fish in the waters above the beaver ponds. The youngsters in our group were treated to horseback rides back up the trail. Several small parties made short sorties up the canyon. One group, led by Dr. Harvey Mudd, the scientist on our trip, discovered and identified bristle cone pine high on the slopes above our camp. That night as we gathered around the campfire, Dave Schmittel, our outfitter, strummed his guitar and rendered an entertaining version of "There is no night in Creede."

Our fourth day in the La Garita Wilderness began with a strenuous hike up the steep slopes of Diablo Canyon toward the Continental Divide. Nearly everyone paused to look at the bristle cone pines, which occurred in a narrow zone near timber line. Their waxy, glistening, short needles were still coated with the morning dew which seems to persist far into the day on these trees. The squirrels fussed at us from high in their boughs, as we searched for souvenir cones, scarce on the turf below. The squirrels seem to relish the fruits of these rugged old trees which appear to be rich in oils.

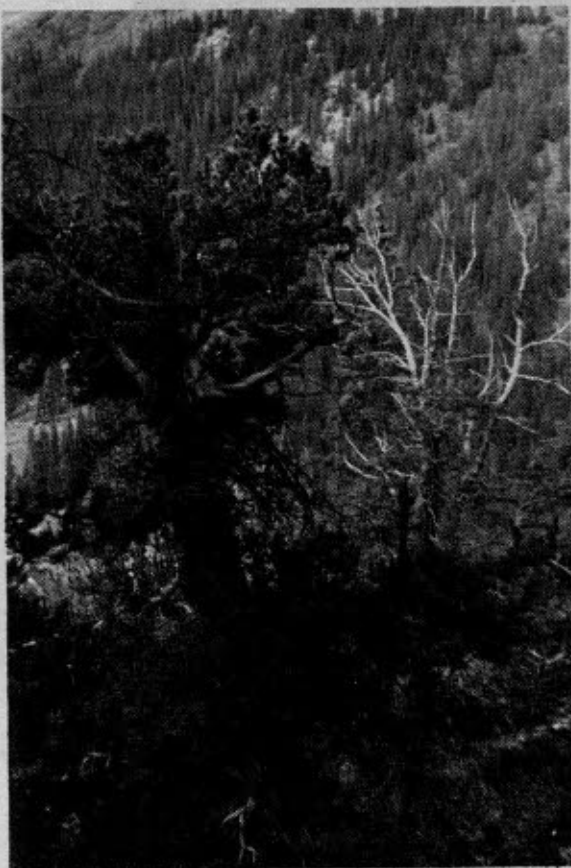
The Englemann spruce now became stunted shrubs as they gradually ceased upright growth and grew prostrate over the ground, seeking protection from the severe temperatures and winds which lash the timberline environment.

We walked onto a steep, rock-strewn slope, heavily infested with well camouflaged pikas. These "rock rabbits," or conies, have a puzzling, high-pitched squeak which frequently leads you to look in the wrong place for them as they dart in and out of their lichen-covered shelters under the rocks. Their coloring is practically identical to that of their well-weathered habitats. They are said to be the world's first "hay makers" because of their ancient instinctive habit of biting off bits of vegetation, allowing it to dry in the sun, and then storing it under the rocks for sustenance during the long arctic-like winter.

In this alpine meadow, which inclined steeply to the northwest, co-trip director Mrs. Ruth McKown, identified a very curious mountain gentian. It would close its petals at the touch of a finger, only to reopen

moments later. Breaking it off at the petiole would cause it to close permanently.

A dwarf willow, small enough to place in the palm of your hand, engaged our interest as we moved further along the trail. The roots



Bristlecone pine located on the east slope of Diablo Canyon. This hardy specimen is probably hundreds of years old. These trees, which grow in areas east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, are currently being re-classified into a new sub-species.

of these miniature plants are very extensive. They take many years to become established and are just about impossible to remove.

The morning was cloudy and bright as we hiked on beneath alpine lakes nestled snugly against the Continental Divide. A group of cattle were seen grazing off to our left and in their midst were ugly jeep scars dating back several years, to the day they were laid down, but continuing to persist in the delicate tundra. Animals do not leave permanent marks in the wilderness but man's machines often do irreparable damage.

The large expanse of alpine meadow now ended abruptly, as we stood on the edge of the Continental Divide. A scenic climax lay at our feet! We were on the rim of a large basin which gradually became lost in the distant haze to the east. Below us lay the magnificent spectacle of Machin Basin, a small world to itself. Originating at the juncture of the Continental Divide with the La Garita Mountains, a network of bright blue ribbons, sparkling in the sunshine, coalesced into larger strands. These strands gradually merged into a single stream as the glistening sunlight reflected from its twisting course. The stream continued its flow as it plunged over a waterfall, at the base of which the moving water hesitated briefly, before entering a broad valley carpeted with willow and birch where beaver dams slowed the stream to a trickle. This high, broad, elevated valley, down which flowed the Middle Fork of Saguache Creek, was hemmed in on three sides by rugged mountains. We ate our lunch, the world of Machin Basin at our feet, and with reluctance departed the spectacular view for our descent into the valley below.

Pleads For Animals

Friends of the Earth has pleaded for action to save two species brought close to extinction by poisoning and trapping by the U.S. Department of Interior.

In testimony for the Senate Commerce Committee on Environment, Tom Garrett said that the red wolf, a unique species of wolf whose primitive characteristics have caused scientists to speculate that it inhabited North America long before more advanced wolves crossed the land bridge from Asia, was near "the abyss of biological extinction." He cited a recent study indicating that only 100 red wolves remain in their last strongholds on the Texas and Louisiana coast. These last survivors, according to the investigators, are subject to "heavy hunting and trapping pressure," and "totally unprotected."

The red wolf, a long-legged animal midway in size between a grey wolf and a coyote, once occurred throughout the southeastern United States. In this century it has been extirpated from 12 states. Garrett blamed the Interior Department for its final decline. He said a campaign of extermination had been begun by the Biological Service in 1915, and continued by the Division of Wildlife Services. He charged these agencies had eliminated the wolf from the Ozarks by 1938, and destroyed the large Louisiana population by the mid 1950's.

"As late as 1965, with the wolf in desperate straits," Garrett told the committee, "management experts of the DWS were still 'controlling' them. In 1963 the DWS reported 2771 wolves killed, mostly misidentified, but doubtless including pure specimens. At least sixty pure wolves are known to have been killed by DWS trappers since that time."

Garrett said that coyotes who invaded the red wolves' range as the latter were exterminated, hybridizing with and swamping the last surviving wolves, were far more destructive to livestock.

Then speaking for the prestigious Defenders of Wildlife organization as well as FOE, he said that the DWS, "having all but destroyed the red wolf, should be obliged by Congress

to engage in every effort to save it. With firm Congressional instructions, and funding to implement them, the DWS can absolve itself of its senseless spree of killing. . . ." He called for a "wolf proof" fence, modeled on the "dingo proof" fences in Australia, to be built around the last remaining viable pure wolf populations, particularly that in Chambers county Texas, to prevent miscegenation, and delineate an area for intensive protection."

Garrett charged that another species, the black footed ferret was also close to extinction as the result of DWS activities. The ferrets, sleek two foot long members of the weasel family, formerly occurred in the vicinity of prairie dog towns. Massive DWS poisoning campaigns, using grain treated with strychnine and compound 1080, both notorious secondary poisons, have extirpated the prairie dog over most of its natural range, and single families of ferrets are now known in only two places in the U.S.

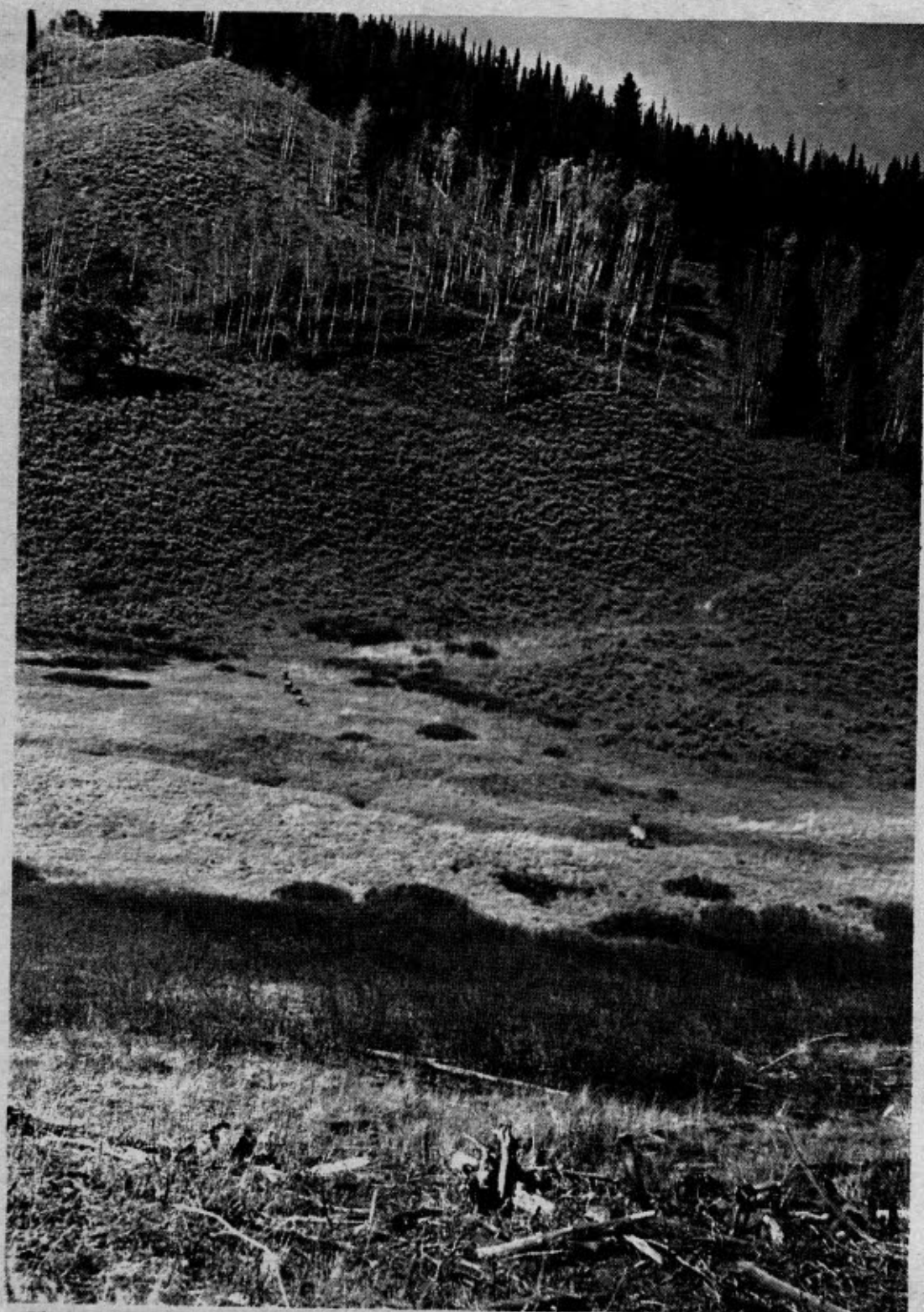
Noting that "prairie dogs themselves are now scarce," and that burrowing owls, who also live near prairie dog towns are becoming rare, Garrett demanded an immediate moratorium on poisoning prairie dogs, and urged the committee to withhold funds for this purpose.

The former Wyoming rancher admitted coyotes take a comparatively heavy toll of sheep in the West. But he said that the problem could far better be dealt with by a selective program of culling individual offending animals, as has been successfully used in Missouri and Kansas. "The DWS" he said, "should no longer be permitted to wage war on American wildlife with every weapon it can lay hands on."

The Senate Commerce committee is now considering reform legislation on predator control which will subsidize the states in conducting predator control programs and is designed to eventually phase out Federal participation. The house bill contained loopholes which may allow continued poisoning of predators, while poisoning of ground squirrels has continued without restriction.

AN OBSCENT

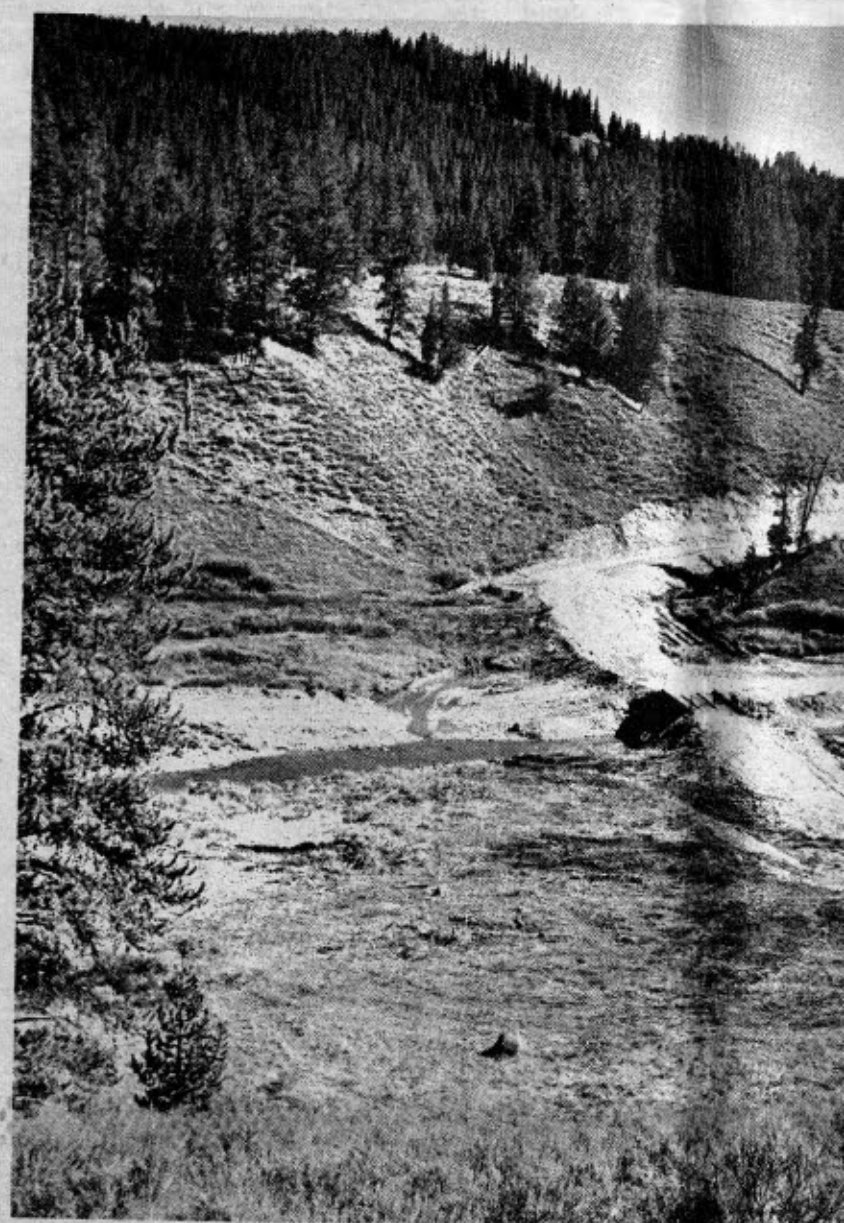
You almost believe it couldn't happen in the idyllic setting of the world-famous Jackson Hole. But the quest for money knows no bounds. And the land which sustains us bleeds raw-brown into the water which must also sustain us. Like knavery in the night, our resources are plundered beyond our sight until one day the awful truth is laid bare before our eyes.



Three elk cross an open park after being chased from a stand of thick timber by a hunter. The U.S. Forest Service often uses the argument for timbering that it opens up stands and provides more range. Such an argument does not hold true for Wyoming's Jackson Hole. The area was prime range for elk before clearcutting began. Now resident elk herds have been reduced in number because they have no place in which to retreat from man.



Off-road vehicle travel has been banned or severely restricted on many national forests. But travel by heavy logging equipment often does far more damage to watersheds. This photo on the Teton Forest attests to such damage.



The South Fork of Spread Creek is a reasonably good cutthroat necessitated a heavy duty bridge and a rechanneling of the stream. because it leads into virgin territory where elk could be decimated

SCENITY IN PARADISE

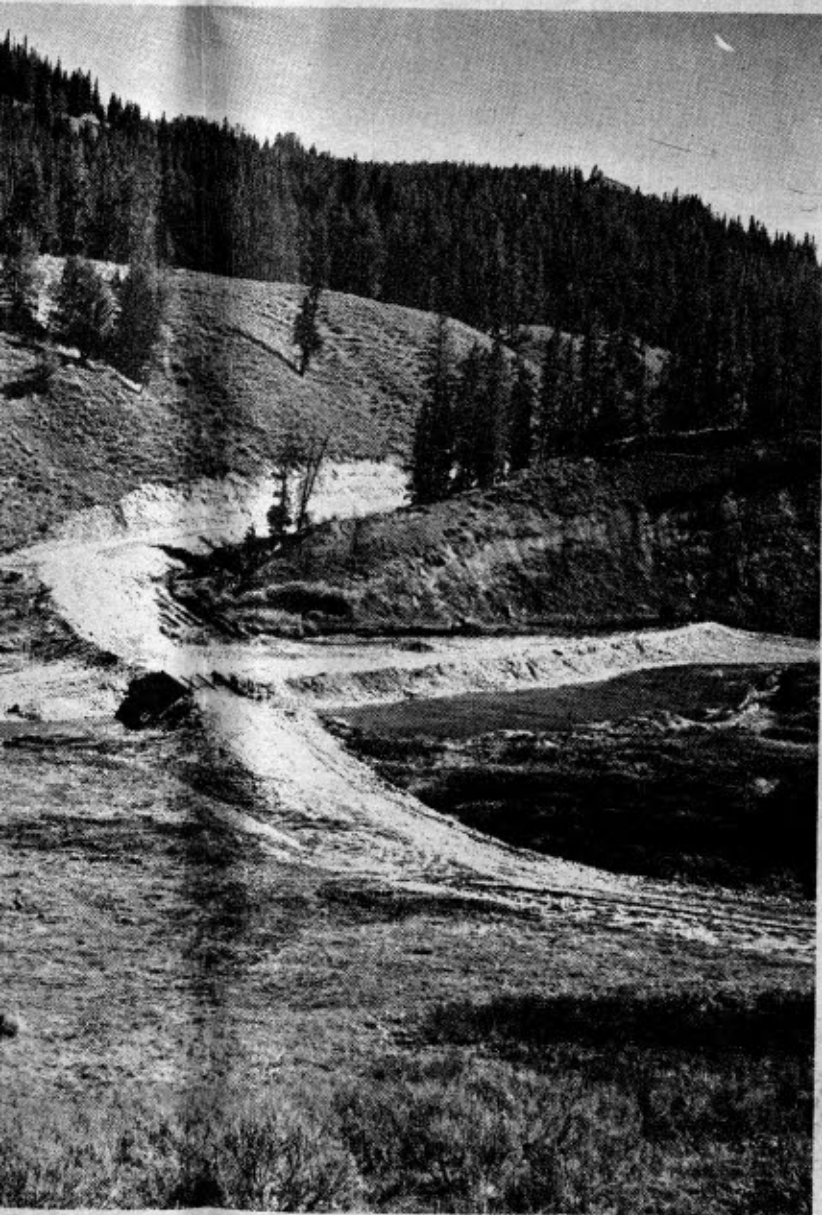
High Country News-9
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

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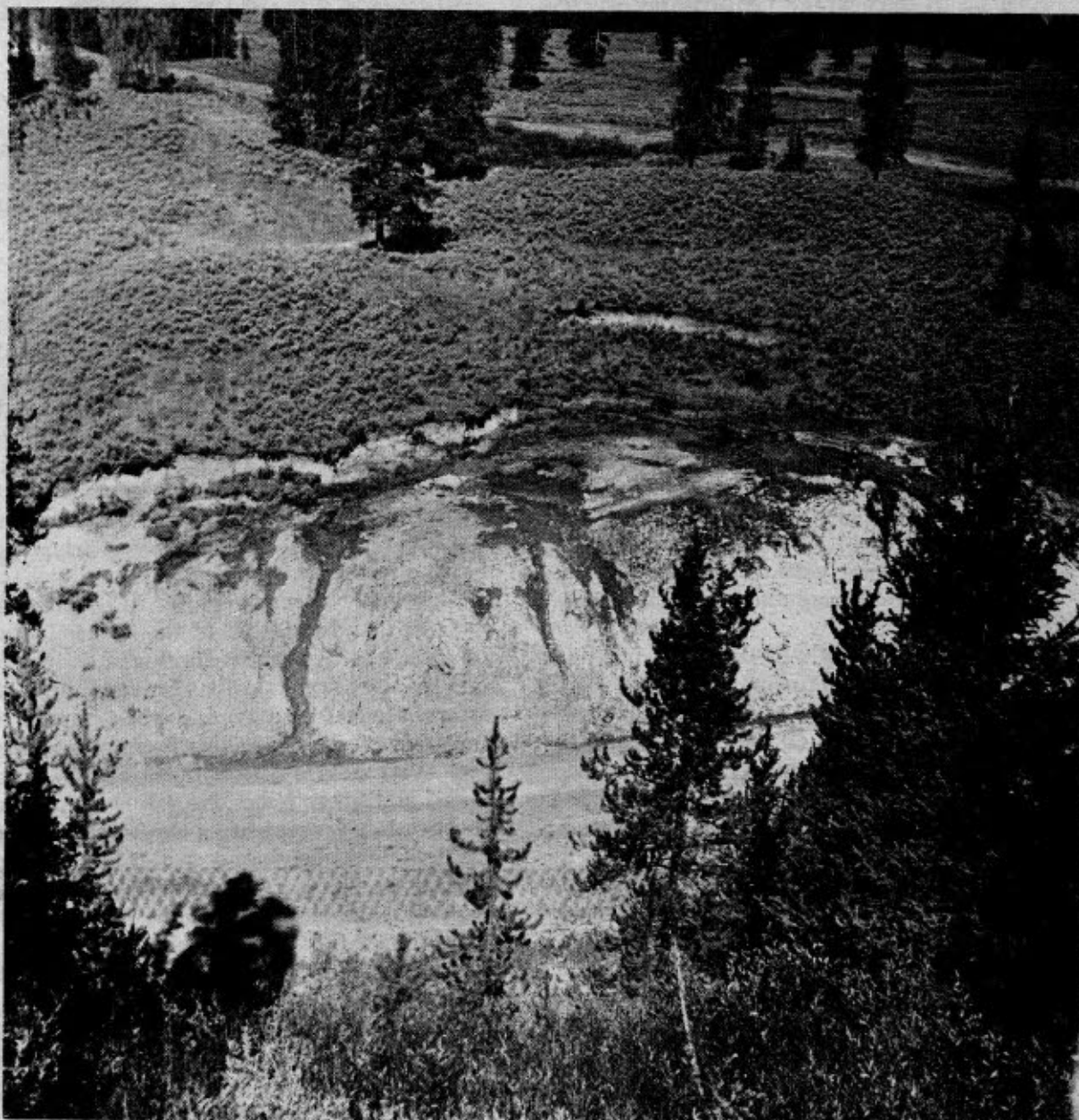


Large areas of the timbered national forest lands lying east of Grand Teton National Park have been clearcut. The clearcutting, with necessary expansion of roads, continues today. The timber is being hauled about 40 miles over mountainous roads to the large U. S. Plywood mill at Dubois, Wyoming.

Photos by Tom Bell



a reasonably good cutthroat trout fishery. This new timber road rechanneling of the stream. The road has been closed to hunters where elk could be decimated by easy access.



A large land-slump has taken place along the timber road leading up the South Fork of Spread Creek (out of sight beneath high bank in foreground). Such slumps are common throughout this area of the Teton National Forest because of unstable soils.

10-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

Whither MAN?

by Ed Will

Civilized man rejects the belief of primitive man that all matter is alive, even the rocks of the earth. Yet the rocks and soils of the earth do go through a very definite life cycle. Expanding magma masses under the surface uplift rocks into mountain ranges, exposing them to erosion. The eroded rocks become gravel which enriches itself as the constantly upgrading types of vegetation decay until it becomes fertile soil, forming the valleys and plains as it washes down. Eventually the plains wash away and the soil becomes sea or lake bottom, hardening into a shale. Eventually a new uplift raises it into mountains once more and the life cycle begins again. These life cycles of the living earth cannot be measured in terms of human life or even in terms of history but only in the hundreds of millions of years of geological time.

The life cycle of man can be adversely affected by disease or infection, as can the life cycle of the living earth. It grows ever more apparent that the living earth is in fact suffering from just such an infection, an infection called man. When infection kills a man, the bacteria that caused the death die with him; when the earth dies, man will die with the earth.

There is one great difference, bacteria cannot reason but man can. The most critical question of our times is: can man use his reason well enough to reverse his attack on the life systems of the planet that supports him?

The present time is not only the most critical time in history but in prehistory and the future as well, for the decisions made now can well decide whether man, who has existed for only a fleeting instant as geological time is measured, will continue to exist or not. It is not enough to consider the needs of the next few generations or so. If we are to exist as a race through geologic ages we must begin thinking in terms of thousands of years into the future. He must consider how much population a given area of land will support, not in terms of the next few centuries but over the next ten thousands of years. Taking this long range picture of land use into consideration, a startling fact becomes evident. Over such long periods, a given tract of land will provide more of the necessities of life in a natural and balanced ecological state than it will under the intensive use of man!

To the truly open mind the evidence of this is all around us. Take our own Western Plains, for instance. Before it became civilized over sixty million buffalo, plus forty million antelope and other millions of elk and deer ranged the West. They thrived with no damage to the ecosystem, no overgrazing, amidst millions of predators that fed off them, including hundreds of thousands of Indians that often used wasteful hunting methods such as the 'pishkin' where hundreds of buffalo would be driven off a cliff. Today, the same range supports far fewer cattle and sheep and is plagued by overgrazing and extreme damage to the ecosystem.

Sixty million 1500-lb buffalo plus 40 million antelope add up to a lot more meat on the hoof than fifty million 800-lb cattle plus 15 million sheep. Of course, much of the land has been taken up by other use than grazing but this is at least partly offset by the forage grown on that part of the range now being cultivated. No matter how you look at it, it all adds up to the fact that in its natural, wild state the ranges of the West had a greater carrying capacity in terms of meat on the hoof than it has under man's management.

The wildlife grazers and browsers complemented each other, the buffalo subsisting chiefly on grass while the deer and antelope foraged mostly on brush and weeds. Thus, no type of plant gained dominance due to competitors being overgrazed. The herds were free to migrate whenever feed grew short, no necessity to overgraze existed. The predators safeguarded the health of the herds, ruthlessly weeding out the sick and unfit. Life was in

dynamic balance. Now, domestic, grass-feeding animals predominate, closed in by fences that prevent migration and force overgrazing. Overgrazing of grass permits sagebrush and weeds to dominate the flora. The ecosystem is badly out of balance and the earth slowly dies. As the range is fenced into ever smaller units, overgrazing can only become more serious. Disease control of the animals is an ever increasing problem.

The period of greatest fertility of the earth is in the prime of its life cycle. In the early stages of the cycle when it is rock pushed up into new mountains, it will support only simple life forms such as lichen. As erosion breaks it down into gravel, it begins to support simple evergreens and mosses. As these plants decay and the soil washes down toward the valleys, the plant forms increase in complexity and luxuriousness until the fertile soil is full of vigorous life. With variations in productivity due to climatic changes the earth can live in its prime for many thousands, even tens of thousands, of years.

Eventually its life wanes, it either washes down to become sea bottom or to renew itself as river delta, or erosion combined with climate change it to desert. In the natural process of geologic life cycles of the earth the amount of desert would probably remain more or less constant, changing as the land rose and fell and climatic changes occurred. But with the infection of man, the amount of desert is growing by leaps and bounds.



In known historic times the misuse of the living earth by man has caused desert areas to increase from 10% of the land area of the earth to 25%. In Pre-Roman times the Northern Sahara was forest and grasslands, healthy living earth. The now barren ranges of hills and mountains surrounding the Mediterranean Sea were then densely forested. Rome brought large scale organized civilization to the world and with it organized despoilation of natural resources to support the civilization. The true legacy of Rome is the poverty still prevalent around the Mediterranean shores stripped of natural resources.

But today we are engaged in despoilation at a rate that dwarfs that of the Roman looters of nature. The intensive forcing of cultivation on lands basically unfit for farming in an attempt to feed a burgeoning world population can only result in spiralling increases in desert area. Vast areas in Africa, India, Southwestern U. S. and other places are being stripped of the brush cover protecting this semi-arid land. Depletable underground water is used for irrigation. Once the underground water is depleted, the land will be laid bare. The increase in reflected heat from the now unshaded ground will make the dry climate even dryer. The unprotected soil will rapidly deteriorate into desert. The current practice of spraying to kill sagebrush in the West, attempting to correct the damage done by overgrazing, can likewise lead to increased erosion. It also results in less retention of winter moisture normally held by the 'snowfence' action of the brush plus more reflected heat from unshaded ground. Lighter spraying designed for retardation rather than

elimination might restore balance between brush and grass if used as part of program designed to restore all-around balance in the ecosystem.

Man's intelligence has one fatal quirk, we are inclined to see things as we want to see them rather than as they are. Our favorite game is 'let's kid ourselves.' We would rather accept the optimistic view of a future millennium than the future as a time of struggle for survival of the race.

The greater material progress becomes, the more man divorces himself from reality, from the unpleasant fact that the abundance of modern man comes only at the cost of a slow death to the planet that supports him. The long-time survival of man depends on his ability to give up wishful thinking and realistically face cold, hard and unpleasant facts. Man must put himself in perspective. Man has existed for only one-fortieth of one percent of the estimated age of the earth. His chances of existing for another fortieth of one percent are almost negligible. The dinosaurs existed for two hundred times as long as man has existed, but then the dinosaurs had one advantage over man, their peanut-sized brains did not give them enough intelligence to destroy the environment that supported them.

The same intelligence that makes us superior animals also gives us the ability to destroy ourselves, taking most other forms of life along with us in the process. The fact that we are highly intelligent animals does not automatically make us immune from extinction as a race but more vulnerable to such extinction. As far as survival is concerned, misdirected intelligence is worse than no intelligence at all.

There are glimmers of hope. In Africa, some far seeing men are experimenting with game ranching in a belated realization that native animals are more in balance with the land than introduced cattle. Conservation and ecological awareness are increasing. But so far these are mere drops in the bucket.

What is needed for human survival is basic change in human thinking, a realization that some forms of 'progress' are in fact not progress, but a regression towards human extinction. Optimism that the earth can support increases in population must give way to realism; that over periods of many centuries it is impossible for the earth to support a population equal to present numbers. We must stop kidding ourselves and take a good honest look at what we are actually doing to our living earth.

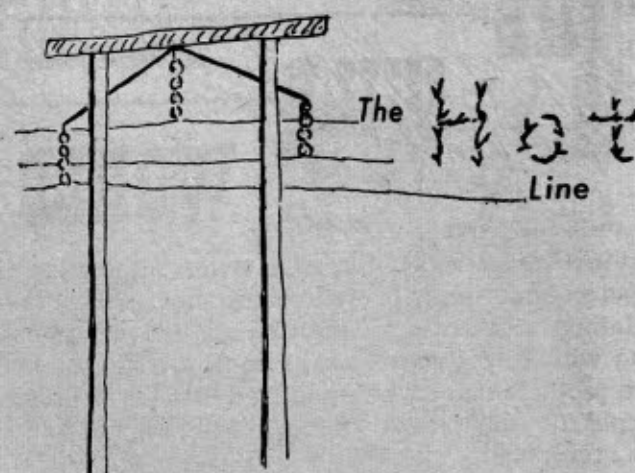
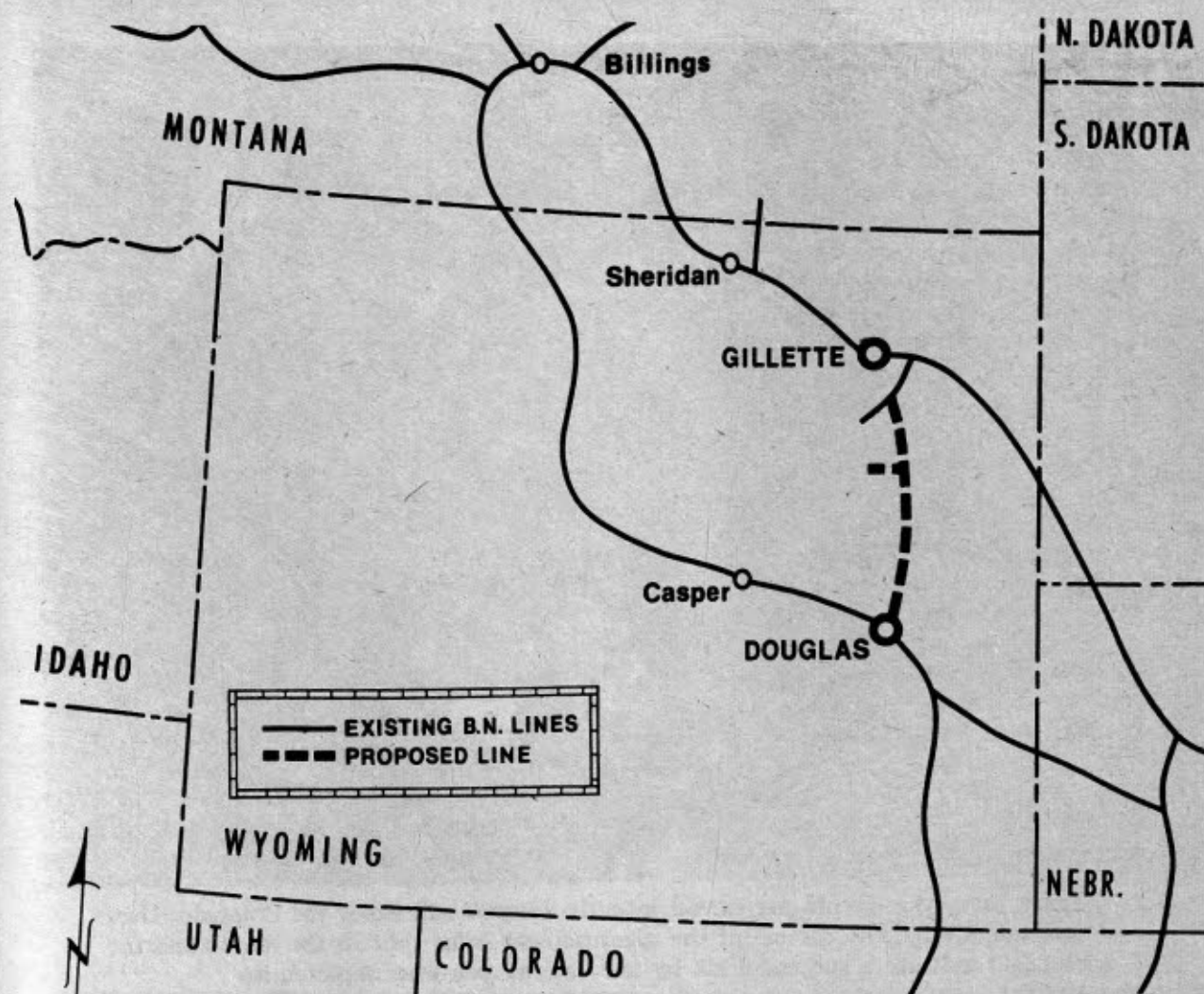
When living man becomes infected with a fatal disease there are two alternatives, to let the disease kill, or to administer an antibody that will kill the infecting bacteria. There is no middle course, the infection either kills or is killed. Does the disease that infects the living earth — the disease called man — offer only the same alternatives? That either man must go or the earth dies? Will nature administer an antidote that will destroy this infector of the living earth? Or will man belatedly learn to use his reason to become an integral part of the life stream of the living earth instead of the destroyer of it?

It will take time for man to learn to plan a long-range adjustment of population and consumption of natural resources on a non-destructive basis. Time is running short.

Meanwhile, let's give all honor to the conservationist. Every time he saves a bit of wilderness or restores a bit of land to a balanced state, he buys for mankind a few moments of precious time in which we may learn a new morality towards nature. We must learn that nature is not an enemy for man to conquer but a friendly force we must adjust to and learn to cooperate with.



High Country News-11
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972



Sulfur dioxide, one of the main components of air pollution from coal-burning power plants, may cause genetic damage. Two biochemists from New York University say they have found evidence suggesting such a possibility. They say the SO₂ interferes with a component of nucleic acid which could cause birth defects. They suggest the evidence is strong enough to cause concern in urban areas.

A member of the Colorado State University Department of Watershed Sciences says strip mine restoration may double the price of coal. But Dave Striffler told the American Society of Civil Engineers that reclamation is a problem which must be dealt with no matter what the cost. He said the costs would not put mining companies out of business.

A contract has been signed to build the world's first offshore nuclear power plant at a site 12 miles northeast of Atlantic City, New Jersey. The plant and a breakwater to protect it are expected to cost almost \$1 billion. It is expected to be operating in the 1980's.

A California Institute of Technology professor of environmental engineering says the cost of electric power is going to go up. Dr. Jack McKee says power companies will have to find better ways of producing power without damaging the environment.

Dr. James R. Schlesinger, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, says the nation may have to have laws which will restrict the ways in which power can be used. He says, "I think we're going to want to slow down the demand for electric power, if only for good environmental reasons."



The Atomic Energy Commission has not yet publicly approved the Reynolds proposal. President Nixon's trade agreement may assure that approval.

Railroad Announces New Line

The Burlington Northern Railroad has announced plans to build a 126-mile connector route through Wyoming's Powder River Basin. The \$32.5 million line would be built in anticipation of more developments in the coal-rich area.

Only a few days earlier the railroad had announced the completion of an 18.2 mile branch to the Belle Ayo Mine of AMAX Coal Co. The spur leaves the main line 12 miles east of Gillette and goes south to the newest strip mine in the area. The first unit trains from that mine will go to Pueblo, Colorado, to a new fossil-fueled power plant.

Beginning in 1976, the mine will ship coal to a Southwestern Electric Power Co. plant at Cason, Texas. Southwestern has contracted for 42.5 million tons of coal to be moved in three 100-car units each week, each train to carry 10,000 tons. It will be the longest unit-train haul in the nation — 1,483 miles.

Burlington Northern is now moving four trains weekly of more than 100 cars, carrying 10,000 tons of coal or more per train to mid-western power plants. The coal is from the Decker Coal Co. mine near Decker, Montana, a few miles north of Sheridan, Wyoming.

The increased tonnage of coal being removed from Montana and Wyoming is an indication of increasing strip mining activity in the area.

The announcement of the connector route between Gillette and Douglas comes on the heels of an announcement for a three-year comprehensive study. The study will be aimed at planning for development of the huge coal deposits in Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas.

Dr. Bruce Hanshaw, management group leader for the study, said a Denver head-

quarters will be established about January. Dr. Hanshaw is a geochemist in the U. S. Geological Survey.

Go-ahead?

President Nixon's trade agreement with Japan had some hidden features with important implications for Wyoming. The United States is committed to providing nuclear fuel for Japan's burgeoning atomic power plants.

In a controversial plan only recently revealed, Japan is to receive \$1.8 billion worth of uranium fuel. The Asian nation is also invited to become a part owner in a gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment plant. The only new enrichment plant being proposed at the present time is one which would be located at Lake DeSmet between Sheridan and Buffalo, Wyoming.

Reynolds Metals Co. has proposed a \$2.2 billion plant on land which the company owns. Reynolds also owns water rights to the water in Lake DeSmet and much of the some two billion tons of coal in deposits around the lake.

Power for the plant would come from a proposed 3,600 megawatt fossil-fueled steam-generating plant. The coal would come from deposits some of which are more than 200 feet thick.

Buffalo, the nearest town, has a population of 3,400. The Reynolds plant would employ 5,000 persons.

In an earlier announcement, Reynolds Co. said it hoped to have the plant in operation by 1978, or no later than 1980.

Policy Redirection Suggested

Government policy should be directed to converting the economy gradually into a stable, no-growth condition. That is the essence of a report by a scientific panel under contract to the government.

The panel of scientists drawn from the National Academy of Sciences issued its report to the National Commission on Materials Policy. The Commission was appointed in 1971. It was directed to recommend a national materials policy to Congress and the President by June 30, 1973.

The report says "there can be no effective national or international materials policy that ignores the relationship between population, per-capita demand, and environmental impacts. The panel chided the parent Commission for ignoring demand as a factor in a growing energy and raw materials crisis. It

said an interim Commission report "nowhere alludes to review, analysis, or restraint of demand."

In recommending a no-growth policy, the report parallels the "Club of Rome" report. It is also the same conclusion arrived at in "Blueprint for Survival," a British scientists report. Both of the latter came out last January.

The report said, "Conservational measures are needed, not only to stretch our resources but to restore, protect, and perpetuate a livable human habitat."

"The numbers of humans occupying that habitat, moreover, must be limited to numbers it can comfortably sustain and their individual consumptions of materials must be kept within supportable limits."

FOE Has Lobbyist

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Friends of the Earth has announced the appointment of Ann Roosevelt as its Assistant Legislative Director.

Mrs. Roosevelt, formerly on the staff of Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) will be the group's principal lobbyist on energy matters, concentrating on reform of U.S. nuclear power policies. Mrs. Roosevelt is a graduate of Radcliffe College and has a master's degree in political science from Boston University.

Friends of the Earth has called for a five-year moratorium on all nuclear power plants, and opposes the Atomic Energy Commission's large-scale program of R & D on the breeder reactor.

THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

Floating a number of western rivers this past summer, I had an opportunity to observe numerous ancient Indian paintings and writings — petroglyphs and pictographs, if you will. Petroglyphs, literally rock carvings, are marks and pictures that have been etched into the stone; pictographs, literally picture writing, are drawings or paintings on a rock wall.

According to Spanish philosopher Jose Ortega Y Gasset (see "Meditations on Hunting" in *Sports Illustrated* — September 25, 1972) "Those exciting images were put there, paralyzed in stone, not for love of art but for a magical purpose." He suggests that primitive man decorated the rock faces to keep the animals in the area, and to insure successful hunting as well as fertility magic.

Whatever the reason, obviously primitive peoples have — for thousands of years — used rock walls as the modern artist uses canvas. And along the river-cut cliffs of many western rivers, these petroglyphs and pictographs remain today to be enjoyed by modern man, to fascinate modern man, to give his imagination free play.

Just outside of Moab, Utah, along the Colorado River (reached by the Potash Road) numerous and well-preserved petroglyphs stand out in bold relief from or are recessed into the desert varnish of sandstone cliffs hundreds of feet high: bighorn sheep, deer and elk, snakes, human figures with bow-and-arrow, geometric designs, a gigantic bear.

A curious thing about them — and one of the reasons they are so well-preserved — is the fact that they lie 15 to 20 feet above the river bank and road bed. Perhaps this was the result of the cutting action of the Colorado — or did the ancient Indians use scaffolding?

In Hells Canyon on the Snake River between Oregon and Idaho, there are some interesting paintings and carvings. Just above Cache Creek Rapid (usually erroneously called Granite Creek Rapid) on the Idaho side, a cliff band high above the river — but accessible from the trail — is decorated with red and green signs, symbols, and figures. Some of them have been painted over with white by more modern man, perhaps to better photograph them, a kind of desecration in my opinion.

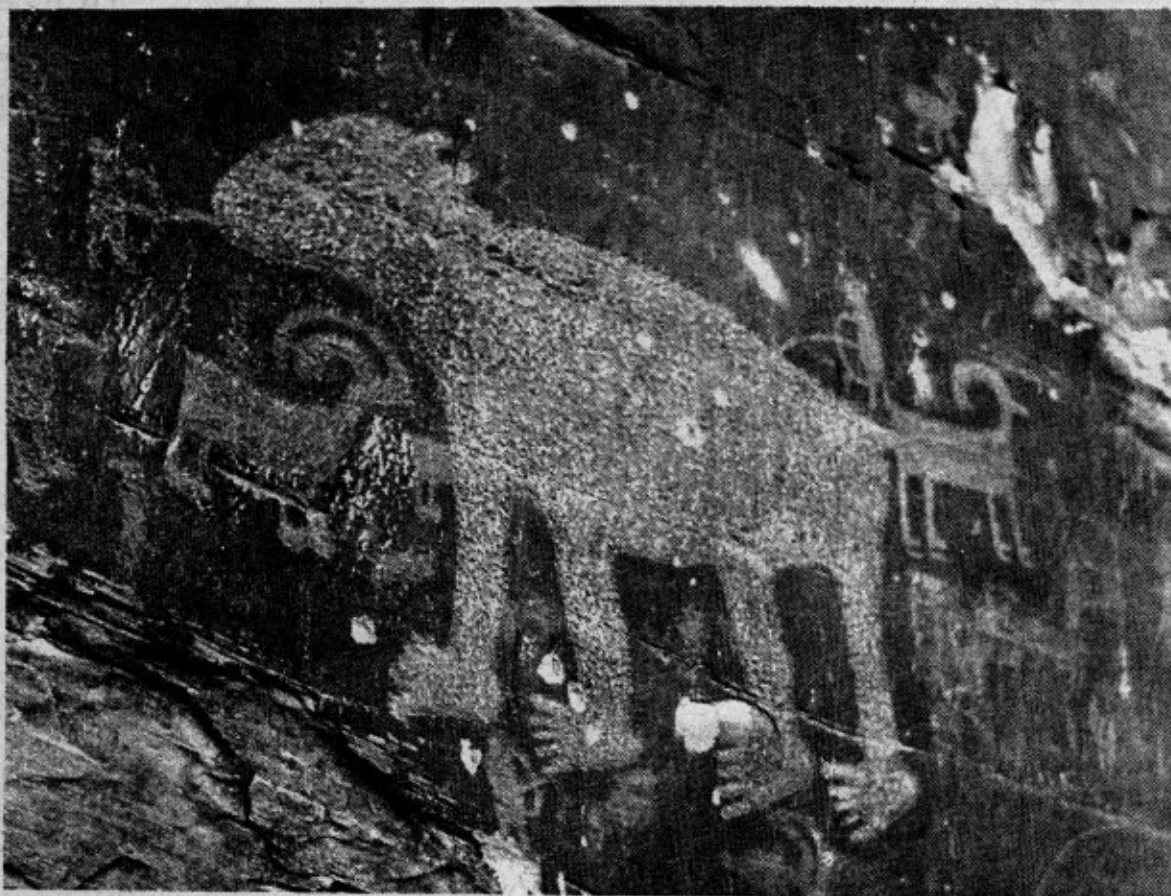
At Deep Creek on the Oregon side, a number of Chinese miners were murdered by American renegades decades ago. There, the rock wall the Chinese had used as the rear wall of their humble shelter is still covered with the same red pictographs found at Cache Creek. Most of them, however, have been painted over with white lines and symbols — by whom?

Perhaps the most impressive evidence of ancient man is the petroglyph collection at Buffalo Eddy. This is on the Washington side of the Snake several miles below the confluence of the Grand Ronde. Here just above the slowly swirling waters of a mighty river that has polished the stone, dozens of stone carvings of bighorn sheep and men and snakes as well as signs and symbols cover the rocks. Some of these have been destroyed by a happy hunter or Sunday plunker, who fired a rifle at the pattern on the wall.

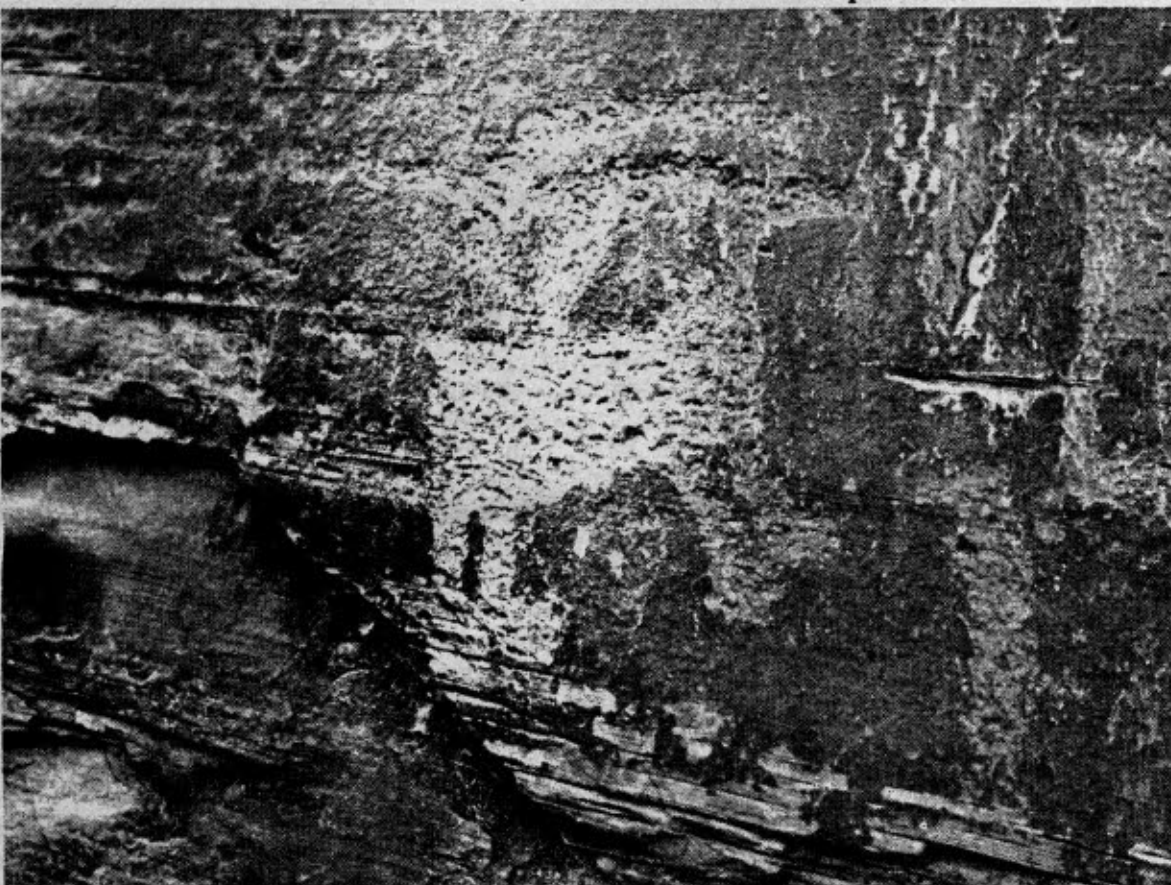
At Pittsburg Landing on the Idaho side many miles upstream, there are some cryptic petroglyphs carved into oddly-shaped stones in the middle of a field — no figures that resemble anything human or animal, highly stylistic and obviously symbolic — but no one seems to know what they mean or who put them there. These unique petroglyphs would be inundated by any of several dams proposed for the remaining free-flowing stretch of Hells Canyon — as hundreds of archeological sites were inundated by Lake Powell, now lost to man forever.

On the Middle Fork of the Salmon there are some interesting Indian paintings in a cave high above the river just beneath Veil Falls (not far below the confluence of Big Creek). And just above Woolard Creek Fork at Rattlesnake Creek there is a cliff covered with ancient Indian art. There are other sites, too, but I'll keep them secret for the time being.

The main Salmon is rich in Indian sign. Like the Middle Fork, it has remnants of the Sheepeater Indians and a pre-Sheepeater culture, some of them along the gravel road that follows the Salmon west from North Fork and others accessible only from the river itself. Indian paintings occupy a primitive shelter just above Ebenezer Bar (on the road), and at Corn Creek — the end of the road — there was an ancient village. Numerous sidestreams have the paintings, and just below Rhett Creek there is a whole wall of the red pictographs.



These large petroglyphs are carved into the canyon wall along the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. The carving of the gigantic bear being shot in the mouth and the back might indicate a successful kill by the ancient men who depicted it.



Bureau of Rec Criticized

The National Audubon Society's regional representative has accused the Bureau of Reclamation of using "yo-yo tactics" in its efforts to promote the Mid-State Reclamation Project. In a statement released today, Ron Klataske charged the Bureau with changing the number of dams and reservoirs to suit the whims of the political climate.

"Opposition to the project continues to increase, and the Bureau keeps altering the engineering scheme in an attempt to find something they can sell to the public," Klataske said.

When the Mid-State Project was authorized in 1967 the plan included 22 ravine type storage reservoirs along the northern edge of the Platte River Valley in central Nebraska. However, in 1971 the Bureau announced that they had revised the system to include only two reservoirs, one near Amhurst on Wood River and another on Prairie Creek north

Wild World . . .

Man has left his mark on the land in many ways, but nowhere has it more historical significance than along the ancient routes that man used to travel, the river routes as well as the overland routes. Many white-man trails that led to modern roads were initiated by the ancients of this continent. Frequently, these ancient people left their marks, marks that we may not understand today but that nonetheless indicate a communicating spirit.

of Shelton. The agency disclosed that the seepage problem would be about 66 percent greater than originally indicated — a problem which would threaten productive lands below the dam sites.

The proposed 14,300-acre Amhurst Reservoir would inundate the community of Miller and surrounding farms, yet this dam was not included in the project plan authorized by Congress. Miller residents have protested the fact that the reservoir site is not within the Mid-State District, and they never had an opportunity to vote on the proposal or testify at congressional hearings. Many of them believe that any attempt by the Bureau of Reclamation to construct the dam would be illegal.

The deletion of 21 of the originally planned reservoirs, however, left other threatened landowners relieved. But the relief has been brief. Last March the Bureau announced that the reservoir system would include a third dam west of Cairo. And now the agency is working out details to add three more reservoirs, for a total of six, according to Mark Bolin of Gibbon, an active member in the farm-landowner's organization opposed to the project. Bolin says that, "People are losing confidence in the Bureau of Reclamation, and this Mid-State Project has become a Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde situation."

Controversy has plagued the project since it was first promoted in the early 1940's; (Please turn to page 16)



Western..... Roundup

High Country News-13
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

Elk Jeopardized

The question of Yellowstone National Park's northern elk herd has again appeared. Last week it was revealed that Park Service officials had requested the Montana Fish and Game Department to issue an additional 2,500 permits for elk. The animals would be taken as they left the park to enter Montana.

The Park Service has been severely criticized in the past for allowing the herd to grow too large and then selectively killing the animals to reduce the numbers. Rangers shot enough animals to bring the herd down to 5,000 head in 1967. Since then the herd has increased to at least 10,000, and some biologists say there are more than that.

The problem has been compounded because of mild winters and light hunting pressures, and because there are no large predators to effectively trim the herd. Many biologists agree that only mass starvation will eventually reduce the herd's size. Such an eventuality is not desirable because the animals destroy their range before they die. They literally eat themselves out of a place to live.

Lands Toured

A range tour of the Little Missouri National Grasslands in western North Dakota brought out some differing points of view recently. A number of ranchers were accompanied by sportsmen and others on the Forest Service tour.

The national grasslands are administered by the U.S. Forest Service in such states as North and South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. The lands were former homestead lands which were abandoned or sold back to the federal government during the drought and depression days of the 1930's. The lands are now important not only for grazing but for public recreation, wildlife, open space, watershed and minerals.

Fencing of the grasslands met with mixed reactions since fences detract from open space values and can be harmful to wildlife. Some said they would agree to fencing but would vigorously oppose leasing for coal stripping. Ranchers agreed that fencing would improve range management.

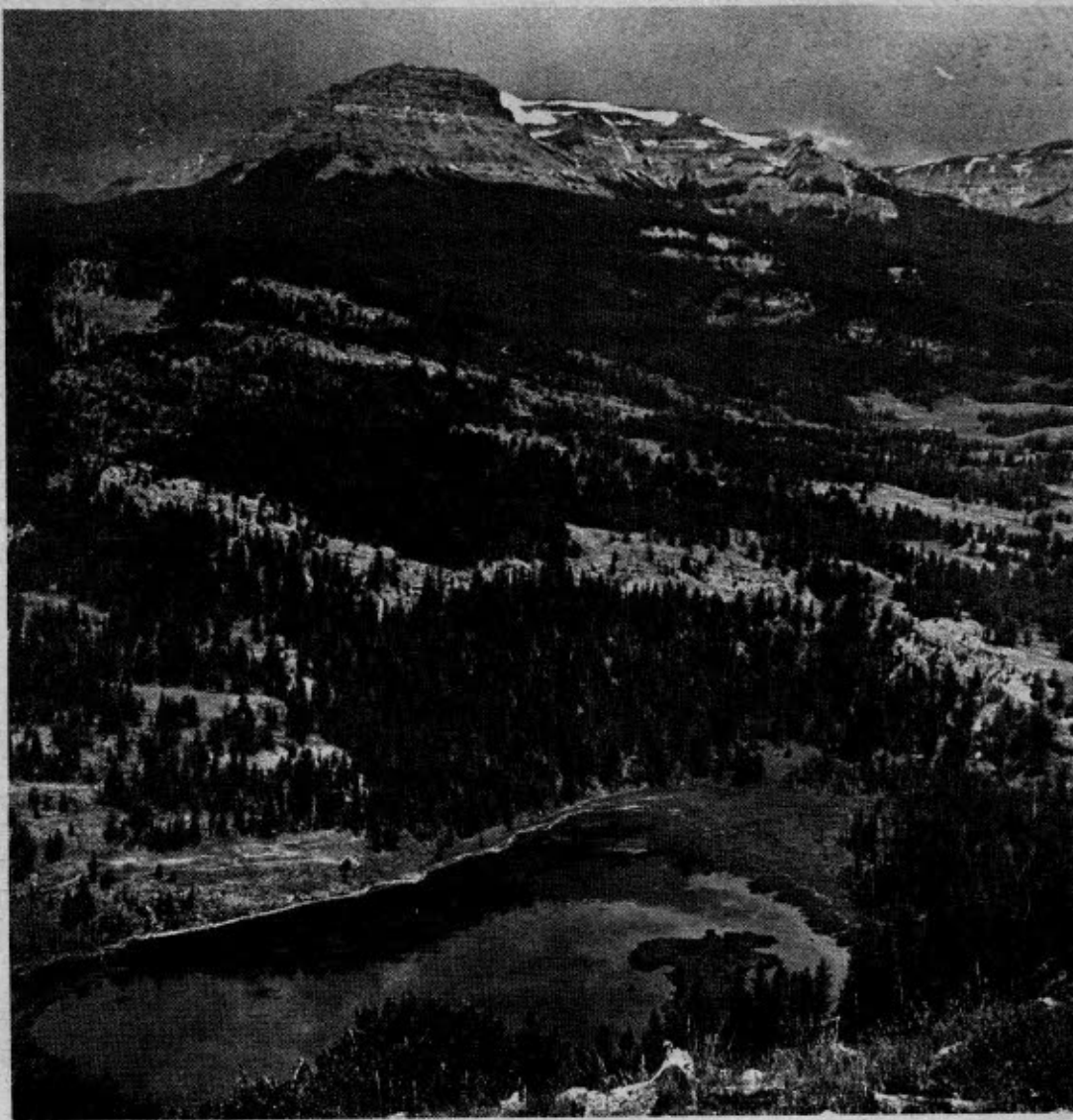
Nearly all agreed that off-road travel should be restricted and that improved roads should be limited. Coming in for special criticism was a proposal to link the north and south units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park by paved highway.

Islands Proposed

Sixty-eight islands located in the Snake River in Idaho and Oregon are proposed for inclusion within the wilderness system. Recent meetings on the proposal have drawn characteristic approval and protest. Aligning against the proposal are irrigation groups, Idaho's Water Resources Board, and the Idaho Fish and Game Department. The irrigators say wilderness designation for three of the islands would jeopardize the Swan Falls-Guffey Dam project. Tom Davis, speaking for The Wilderness Society, said the islands are so unique that they should be preserved for their educational value alone.

Sales Affected

The Sierra Club roadless area injunction against the U.S. Forest Service is having some effect in timbering operations. On Idaho's Salmon National Forest, one sale is being held up and road construction into another sale has not been awarded. The injunction has affected 50 percent of the timber volume. A hearing on the injunction is set for November 7 in San Francisco.



DuNoir Butte looms over Trail Lake in the newly created Washakie Wilderness. The area shown here has been included in a special management section for a five-year "study" period. The valley at right center is an important elk migration route and calving area. Wilderness protection will also protect these valuable animals. The Washakie Wilderness is a part of the Shoshone National Forest, located north and east of Dubois, Wyoming.

Wilderness Controversy Ended

One of the longest controversies ever involving a wilderness area came to an end October 11. President Nixon signed the Washakie Wilderness Area bill after five years of struggle. The wilderness is located in the Absaroka Mountains north of Dubois, Wyoming, and southwest of Cody, Wyoming.

The first hearing on the wilderness was held at Riverton, Wyoming, in December 1966. The controversy established at that time has continued to the present. Center of the controversy was an area of about 30,000 acres known as the DuNoir Basins. The U.S. Forest Service proposed timbering in the area and was backed by U.S. Plywood. Conservationists and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department contended that critical elk migration routes should be protected.

The Forest Service said the area had been timbered and roads existed which disqualified the area as wilderness. Conservationists pointed out that timbering had been selectively done by tie hacks and that little evidence remained. Of the former wagon roads, only two could be called roads over which a four-wheeled vehicle

could be driven. Both would be obliterated with time.

Conservationists give great credit to Congressman Teno Roncalio who obtained passage of a House bill, including the DuNoir in wilderness. In a compromise with the Senate version which excluded the DuNoir but gave protection under a five-year management plan, Roncalio obtained conference language which assures protection.

Roncalio also said that he had written to the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, John McGuire, to obtain his assurances that "no administrative or protective action is to be taken within or adjacent to this unit by the Forest Service which would in any way depreciate its wilderness character and qualities."

Hearing Set

The case of Doyle Vaughan, owner of the Buffalo Flying Service implicated in eagle shootings in Wyoming, is set for hearing October 19. The hearing will be on several motions filed by Vaughan's attorney. Trial date is set for December 7.

Motions have been filed in Vaughan's behalf asking for dismissal of charges, to quash search warrants, and to suppress evidence in a bill of particulars.

Herman Werner, Wyoming ranch owner charged with Vaughan, has filed similar motions. However, neither a hearing date nor a trial date has yet been set for Werner.

Both are charged in a 374-count Justice Department indictment. They are accused of shooting 363 golden eagles, three bald eagles and seven Canadian geese. Vaughan's helicopters were used to shoot the birds from the air over Werner's ranch.



Projects Moving

Two of the West's most controversial dam-building projects seem to be moving ahead in spite of great environmental objections. A spokesman for the Bureau of Reclamation says the Lower Teton Dam in Idaho is now about 18 percent complete. Excavation for construction material is now taking place in the riverbed above the future damsite.

Meanwhile, in Utah, an advance notice of a call for bids for construction of the China Meadows Dam has been made. It is anticipated that an invitation to bid would be made during the winter. Construction would begin next spring. The dam would be built in Utah in the Wasatch National Forest to provide water for a marginal irrigation project in Wyoming.

14-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

I am not, by any means, a really avid TV viewer. There are some shows I watch more or less regularly — when I can remember what time and what day and which channel, and I do have a few favorites which I watch whenever possible. More often than not, when the evening news is finished I push the button and leave the assorted doctors, lawyers, and detectives to solve their clients' problems without my help. Somehow, a stack of records of familiar music, and some interesting reading seem to offer more satisfactory entertainment.

Recently, however, late Sunday afternoons have become an exception. Mutual of Omaha's "Wild Kingdom" has for years been one of my real favorites, and now (at least in this area) I find it sandwiched between two other good features — the "National Geographic," and "Secrets of the Wilderness," presented by the Audubon Society. (The latter show to some extent lacks the professional polish of the other two, but, perhaps for this very reason, it has its own kind of spontaneous charm.)

I suppose I get a vicarious pleasure from watching on the TV screen some of the things that I would like to see in reality, but have never quite managed. With utter fascination, I have observed Jacques Costeau and his crew as they explored the depths of the sea. I have actually seen the red and silver flash as a big grizzly slaps a fish from a cold mountain river. I have watched a mountain lioness train her cubs in the art of survival. I have viewed strange animals in far away lands. I have shared a year's time in the life of a beaver family; and I have delighted in the antics of that slick little clown, the otter.

Throughout all this, I have come to two conclusions. First, most animals have very human traits. (Or perhaps it's vice-versa! I shan't elaborate on that just now.) My second conclusion: wildlife photographers are in a class by themselves! How in the world do they do it?

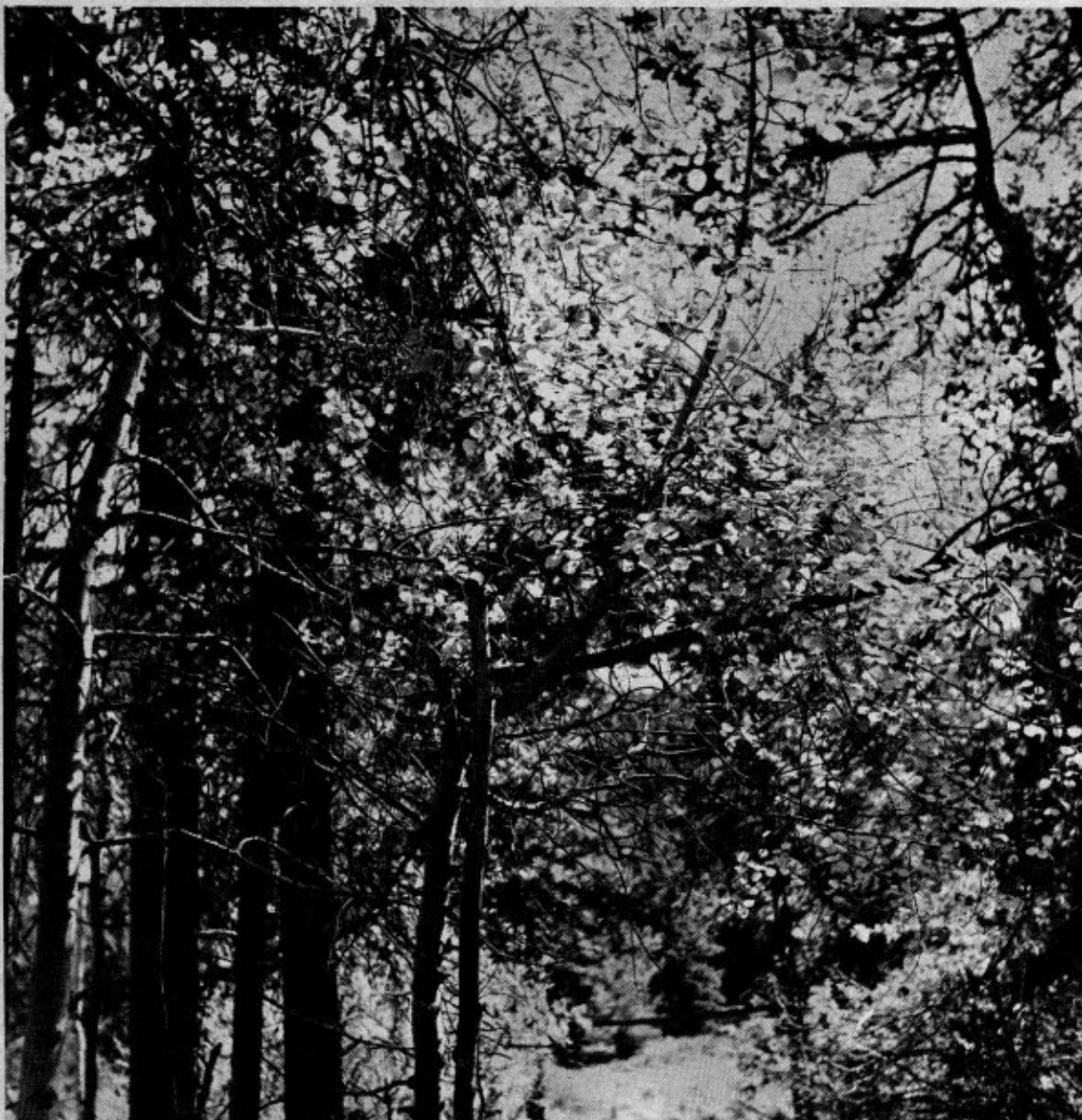
Anyone who has ever made a home movie knows that even a simple animal scenario like the dog chasing a cat away from the bird feeder will wind up on the screen as a two-second blur against a background of hollyhocks! So how come I can sit in front of the TV screen and watch, blow by blow, as a badger successfully, and incredibly, defends her territory against an intruding black bear?

Admittedly, those professional photographers use good cameras, telephoto and zoom lenses, and all that. Admittedly, they may often have a team of helpers. And they probably shoot far more film that is rejected than what we finally see on the screen. But it takes more than just good equipment and lots of film — they have to be in the right place at the right time. They use well-camouflaged blinds — but how do they know just when and where to place them?

I rather suspect that most of them are wildlife experts, as well as camera experts. Along with the patience of a Job, they must surely have a sixth sense about drama in the wilds. How else can you explain the fact that a camera was in perfect position to catch the scene as a saucy otter got in the "last word" by a nip at the tail of a young mountain lion who was making a wet and ignominious retreat from a water hole?

Or how about that desert scene where a young cougar was "treed" in the top of a tall saguaro by a bunch of wild boars? Where was the photographer? Was he safely ensconced in a vehicle of some kind? It's possible, of course — and very probable — but from the looks of the terrain it seems just as likely that he, too, was "treed," camera and all, in the top of a neighboring saguaro!

Yes — my hat's off to the wildlife photographers. I don't know how they do it, but I'm awfully glad that they do!



And then there crept
A little noiseless noise among the leaves,
Born of the very sigh that silence heaves.

KEATS: I Stood Tip-toe upon a Little Hill

Let the Buyer Beware!

According to Consumer Reports, land sales are booming and so are consumer complaints about the companies selling the land. Typically, the promoter buys a large section of undeveloped land, which is plotted into acre or residential-sized lots, then sold to consumers for vacation homes, retirement living, or for speculation. Master salesmen then go to work selling the land, with the result that many consumers buy land on impulse and later find that it is totally undeveloped, or undesirable. In Florida, some property which is under water during rainy seasons was sold for \$4000 an acre. In the southwest, consumers are paying \$4000 to \$5000 an acre for land where there is a possibility that utilities will not be brought in for 10 years.

Since 1969, the Federal Government has regulated interstate land sales. Intrastate regulations vary with the states. (In Wyoming, this comes under the Department of Agriculture!)

In interstate sales, Federal law requires that the developer furnish the potential buyer with a factual report on the property. The report, in question and answer form, includes such information as: name and location of developer and subdivision; effective date of the report; road distances to nearby communities; financial terms and refund policies, if any; mortgages and liens; protection, if any, afforded the buyer in case of financial default of the buyer; escrow and title arrangements, plus any restrictions, easements, covenants and their effect on the buyer; recreational facilities available; availability or lack of utilities and service such as trash collection, sewers, water supply; and need for drainage and fill; presence of schools, medical facilities, shopping and transportation; number of homes now occupied; accessibility of lots by road.

Any consumer contemplating purchase of land from a promoter in the same state should check state regulations regarding such sales. And he should read any contract carefully. Complaints about refund policies show that some companies make the provision that a buyer must travel to the property site — at his expense — to obtain the refund. There are also complaints in the category of "bait and

switch," where salesmen tell the buyer that the advertised lot has been sold and then attempt to switch him to a more expensive parcel; or if a buyer visits the property for the first time after the initial sale and finds that it is inaccessible, underwater, or otherwise undesirable.

There have been complaints, too, about ownership rights. Unless he pays the full asking price at the time of the sale, the consumer has few legal rights to the land. A New York widow signed a contract to pay \$3,890 for an acre of Florida land, and paid \$1,000 down, the rest to be paid in monthly installments of \$36. She thought she had a deed to the property, but the official-looking document was an "Agreement for Deed," an installment sales contract. If she misses one payment, the company can declare the contract in default, take back the lot, and keep all the money she has paid to date. She is not permitted to sell her interest in the lot unless the company approves the sale and all of its terms and conditions. No oil or mineral rights go with the property. Before receiving her deed, she must pay off any levies and property assessments which may have been paid by the company during the term of the contract, plus interest.

There are other pitfalls for the unwary land purchaser. A company sells a plot of land "with water, sewer, and access roads." In most instances these are arranged for by the company, but the cost (often prohibitive) is to be paid by the buyer.

Thousands of acres are now under development projects in the western states alone. One such project is within the railroad checkerboard lands in Wyoming's Red Desert. The lands are situated in alkali desert, many miles from paved road, electricity and other services. In New Mexico a development was laid out in the desert with a main street intersection located in an arroyo.

The Interstate Land Sales Disclosure Act, which became effective in April, 1969, provides consumers with some protection. It is administered by the Office of Interstate Land (Continued on page 15)

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"Let me make myself perfectly clear,"
Said the Elk to his crony, the Deer.
"No one seems to care
That our homes are laid bare —
I've had clearcutting clear up to here!"

* * *

Gypsy moth pupae infected with parasitic flies have been collected in New Jersey woods. Some 100,000 of the pupae will be held over winter and the flies released in areas of high moth concentrations next spring. The natural predator is one of the only checks on the destructive gypsy moth.

* * *

Adolph Coors Co., a Colorado brewing company, has launched a recycling program for all types of beer containers. The company is paying 10 cents per pound for all aluminum beverage containers, four cents per pound for steel beer cans, and one cent per pound for any beer bottles. The program for all containers is so far restricted to Colorado. All other Coors distributors will reclaim only aluminum containers.

* * *

A district court judge in Minnesota has stopped construction of a drainage ditch affecting 2200 acres of valuable wetlands. The judge based his decision on: (1) the land's present value as a waterfowl breeding ground; (2) the conflict of improving land through drainage while other landowners in the township are receiving federal payments to take land out of production; and (3) the aggravation of existing flood problems on the Minnesota River.

* * *

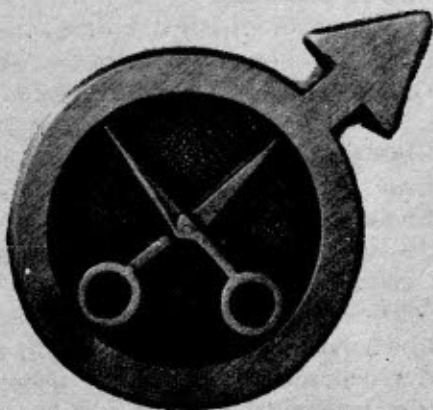
The Wyoming Aeronautics Commission has asked private pilots in Wyoming to comment on shooting predators from the air. The Aeronautics Commission is working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Wyoming Woolgrowers Association on proposed legislation to allow such shooting. Federal legislation now prohibits such shooting unless state legislation specifically provides for predator control.

* * *

Eleven property owners in Grand Junction, Colorado, have been advised that their homes are radioactive. Land fill around the homes came from uranium mill tailings. The home owners were told their houses had "radon daughter" concentrations which exceeded the surgeon general's guidelines for health.

* * *

MEN: Want to wear an unusual conservation piece. Join the International Vasectomy Society and get the I.V.S. symbol. Comes as tie tack or lapel pin. Society's motto is "Operate, Not Populate." Single pin may be obtained from R & R Company, Box 5697, Pasadena, California 91107. Cost \$1.75 plus postage.



Wounded Knee Revisited

High Country News-15
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

Many South Dakota events offer local citizens a weekend outing in beautiful surroundings wrapped in rich historical significance.

"Vanishing Trails Expedition" is such an occasion. The journey is sponsored each year in September by the Chamber of Commerce of Wall, a colorful tourist town. Wall sits on I-90 a few miles north of the famed Badlands National Monument, a stark panorama of erosion-sculptured peaks and bottomless ravines where Indians once camped, and where western outlaws occasionally hid.

The September, 1972 Expedition attracted more than 1200 adventurers. Their caravan of 400 cars spent the day following the trail taken by the ill-fated Big Foot Indian band. In 1890, these starved, frozen Indians crossed the Badlands to a Pine Ridge creek bed where they were overtaken and wiped out. A map dot known ironically enough as Wounded Knee marks the spot. According to local legend, the place got its name years before from an incident in which an angry Sioux quieted his nagging mother-in-law by firing a bullet which struck her in the knee.

For many present-day South Dakotans, the yearly Vanishing Trails Expedition (since 1960) provides a new and highly enjoyable replacement for old-time "reunion days." They can count on running into at least a few childhood friends, perhaps some "kissin' cousins" who now farm or ranch a good distance away.

The Vanishing Trails idea began simply enough as "a pleasant way to spend a Sunday picnicking; and to view the wagon wheel ruts, the campfire ashes and the other marks left by the first wave of soldiers, homesteaders and gold-seekers who swept across this section of the country," says Wall Drug owner Ted Hustead, one of the Expedition's prime promoters and sponsors.

This year's Wounded Knee Expedition was probably the most history-rich of the 13 trips thus far, since it is the locale of the last open conflict between U.S. soldiers and American Indians. For many Western history buffs, Wounded Knee epitomizes the whole frontier conquest. It was a massacre.

The mass grave in which nearly 250 slain Indian men, women and children are buried can still be seen at the ridge top overlooking

Wounded Knee Creek. It is at the entrance to the Roman Catholic Mission Cemetery. Beside it stands a monument on which are inscribed names of those Sioux warriors whose bodies were later identified; the grave is also the resting place for many others who are unknown. Although an Army contractor was paid handsomely for the burial job, the monument and granite curbing which mark off the grave were paid for by Sioux tribesmen.

Where will the Vanishing Trails Expedition go in 1973 in its search for "living history?" That project is already mapped: the Open Buckle Ranch area east of Interior where western South Dakota ranching got its start.

So plan now for next September. The way the expedition's popularity continues to grow, the good people of Wall will have hundreds beating a path to their next Vanishing Trails Expedition.



... Buyer

Sales Registration (OILSR), which is part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It requires registration of owners of developments involving 50 or more unimproved lots for sale in interstate commerce. Some unscrupulous salesmen have convinced potential buyers that this government registration is "government approval," which is not the case.

Consumer Reports suggests that "a more rational approach to buying retirement, vacation or investment land is to visit the area, talk with a number of real estate brokers and sign nothing until you are fully convinced that you have a sound investment which has been thoroughly reviewed by your own lawyer."

In other words — Let the Buyer Beware!

... Outraged

camp area must also be ruined. It is too late now to correct or stop this mistake, but you can rest assured that I will do everything in my power to prevent this from ever happening again.

Disgustfully yours,
Don Curey
Lake Grove, Oregon

* * *

STATEMENT AND OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

NOTICE

(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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D. Free distribution	75	60
E. Total distribution (sum C & D)	1883	1786
F. Office use, left-over	117	214
G. Total (sum E & F)	2000	2000

I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.

October 1, 1972

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16-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 13, 1972

Very Important People

Text and photos by Sue Edelstein
National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming — Janet Brough, dressed in turn-of-the-century gingham, spent the summer baking old-fashioned ginger cookies on a black wood-burning stove right out of Great Grandma's kitchen. John Connors lived in a backwoods patrol cabin on the north side of Leigh Lake while he patrolled trails and guided hikers. And Wayne Chandler, a Washington State retiree, spent his high-country summer living in Gros Ventre campground and assisting National Park Rangers with their duties and helping provide a more enjoyable experience for visitors.

Janet, John, and Wayne were three of 41 volunteers-in-Parks at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming's historic Jackson Hole country, encompassing the towering Teton peaks. In return for Park Service-provided lodging, a \$3/day food allowance, and their uniforms, they and other volunteers from their mid-teens through their mid-sixties are meeting the public and filling in several days each week for Rangers who, busy with law enforcement and patrol activities, no longer have time to be the easy-going Park hosts of days gone by.

Grand Teton Superintendent Gary Everhardt enthusiastically supports the VIPs in the Park. "People volunteering for this program are superb individuals," he says. "We hope they'll be coming back. We view our VIPs in the more widely held interpretation of the acronym: Very Important People."

VIPs are active at many areas operated by the National Park Service, including National Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites, Seashores, and Battlefield Sites, to name a few. In Grand Teton their summer activities have been varied.

Miss Brough and Miss Gwen Erb, teachers in Tucson, Arizona, and Hollywood, Florida, in the winter, donned their 19th century garb to man the William Menor Historical District exhibit in the Park. They answered tourist questions in the homestead cabin and baked old-fashioned cookies to hand out to hungry sightseers. Their stove: a wood-burning unit

fired up for the first time in decades.

Neither had ever cooked on a wood-burner before, but conceived of the demonstration themselves and attacked the problems with a pioneer zeal. "You make do with what you have," Miss Brough grinned, as she pulled out her oven rack: an old metal wash basin.

Curt and Linda Threichel of Champaign, Illinois, came West to spend the summer backpacking. They'd traveled in the mountains around Denver and in eastern Utah, and planned to spend a couple of weeks in the Tetons before heading toward Banff. That couple of weeks stretched into a couple of months as they served as VIPs in the Jenny Lake Campground checking camping permits for Rangers and providing campers with information about the area. Curt teaches aviation at the University of Illinois and Linda is an elementary school teacher.

Like many VIPs, Threichels saw the crowds and heavy usage in Grand Teton National Park and became concerned with the future and the philosophy of the National Park Service. They think increasing personal contact with visitors is imperative to the Park Service idea, and that the VIP program is a big step toward that.

But additional personnel alone won't solve Park problems, Threichels emphasize, and they have a passel of thought-provoking ideas to offer about what might be done. They've spent the summer talking with visitors, Park staff members, and other VIPs, gathering up reactions to their park experience.

At Grand Teton National Park they wonder if the highway system could be redesigned to reduce congestion in already-overcrowded areas and at the same time provide for greater safety for the growing number of bicyclists in the Park.

"We'd like to see the people out of the cars and the cars out of the Parks," they grin. Other ideas they forward for consideration include parking lots and a Park-run mass transit system to service major scenic and take-off points. The whole area at the base of the Teton range would be walk-in or ride-in; no one would be denied access to the Park, even the old or the handicapped, but the land could "be saved."

Looking longer range, the Threichels and others worry about the future of Grand Teton and other heavily used parks. "The Park will be ruined if it is used in every way — we can't offer everything and save what we have now." Linda wonders if visitors planning vacations should be guided to specific parks catering to their particular recreational interests.

Concerned VIPs also see need for reeducation of the traveling public so the parks are better used. "People from the city blanch at the thought of walking five miles and it is everything you can do to convince them that five miles isn't far," said one. "They need to be shown what a normal healthy person's potential is. And the Park needs more literature to show them what's available."

But mostly the VIPs feel the public needs to slow down — and they're trying to help them do it. "Families head out from New York City with a one month vacation determined to 'see the West,' " says Linda, "and indeed only spend too little time in each place and ill-use the parks by creating drive-through congestion."

These problems that VIPs are grappling with are looming over Park Service officials and environmentalists alike: How do you make the Park available to all the people and yet retain what it has to offer? Or can that be done? VIPs are concerned with the future and some envision entering the Park Service and helping to design it.

VIPs for 1972 are planning on coming back to the Tetons and to other Parks. Not only are they providing valuable part-time services to the NPS system and also finding themselves in a place in which they can readily enjoy their free time, but they are turning into a crew of all ages and from all walks of life determined to protect the nation's parks and see them grow healthily. Whether inter-

preting "living history" exhibits, teaching crafts, assisting in environmental study, serving as deputy Park Rangers, or as history, archaeology, or natural science aides, VIPs are dedicated and determined.

Park administrators welcome VIP help and suggestions and are seeking additional funds to enlarge the program for the coming year. Information and applications can be obtained from the Director, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.



Miss Gwen Erb serves ginger cookies to an eager visitor at Menor's Ferry historical exhibit in Grand Teton National Park. Miss Erb, a VIP, baked the old-fashioned cookies on the wood-burning stove behind her.



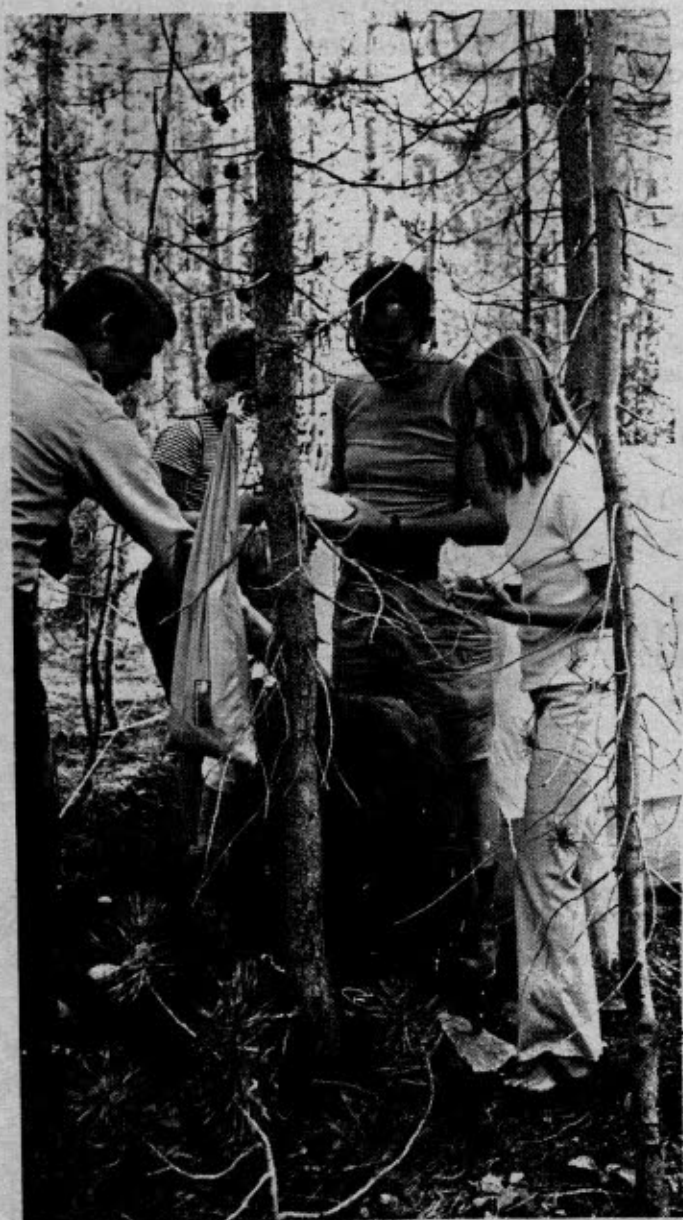
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however, the strongest opposition has arisen during the past two years. The National Audubon Society and other national conservation organizations have actively campaigned against Mid-State because diversion of most of the water from the Platte River near Lexington would greatly diminish downstream flows, result in the degradation of this scenic river, and threaten the many species of wildlife that depend on the Platte River ecosystem.

National Audubon has also taken issue with the economics used to justify the project, and the Society contracted a team of John Hopkins University resource economists to analyze the cost-benefit ratio.

Dr. Steve H. Hanke, the senior author of the economic analysis, concluded that "under no conceivable circumstances is the Mid-State Project economically sound, regardless of either new engineering plans or the manipulation of benefit-cost figures. This project is a bad investment for both the federal government and the Mid-State area of Nebraska."

Klataske sees the recent addition of additional reservoirs as an attempt to "beef up" the sagging recreational benefits. One dam would be located on Dry Creek north of Kearney and the other two would be built in ravines west of Buckeye Valley, all in Buffalo County. These reservoirs would not be an integral part of the irrigation storage system, according to a memorandum circulated to the other agencies evaluating the proposal.



Curt and Linda Threichel, foreground, discuss dehydrated foods being packed by the Bodine family of Lindsay, California. VIPs in Grand Teton's Jenny Lake Campground, Threichels have become concerned and involved in the future of the Park.