

High Country News

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

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AMERICA'S WILDERNESS

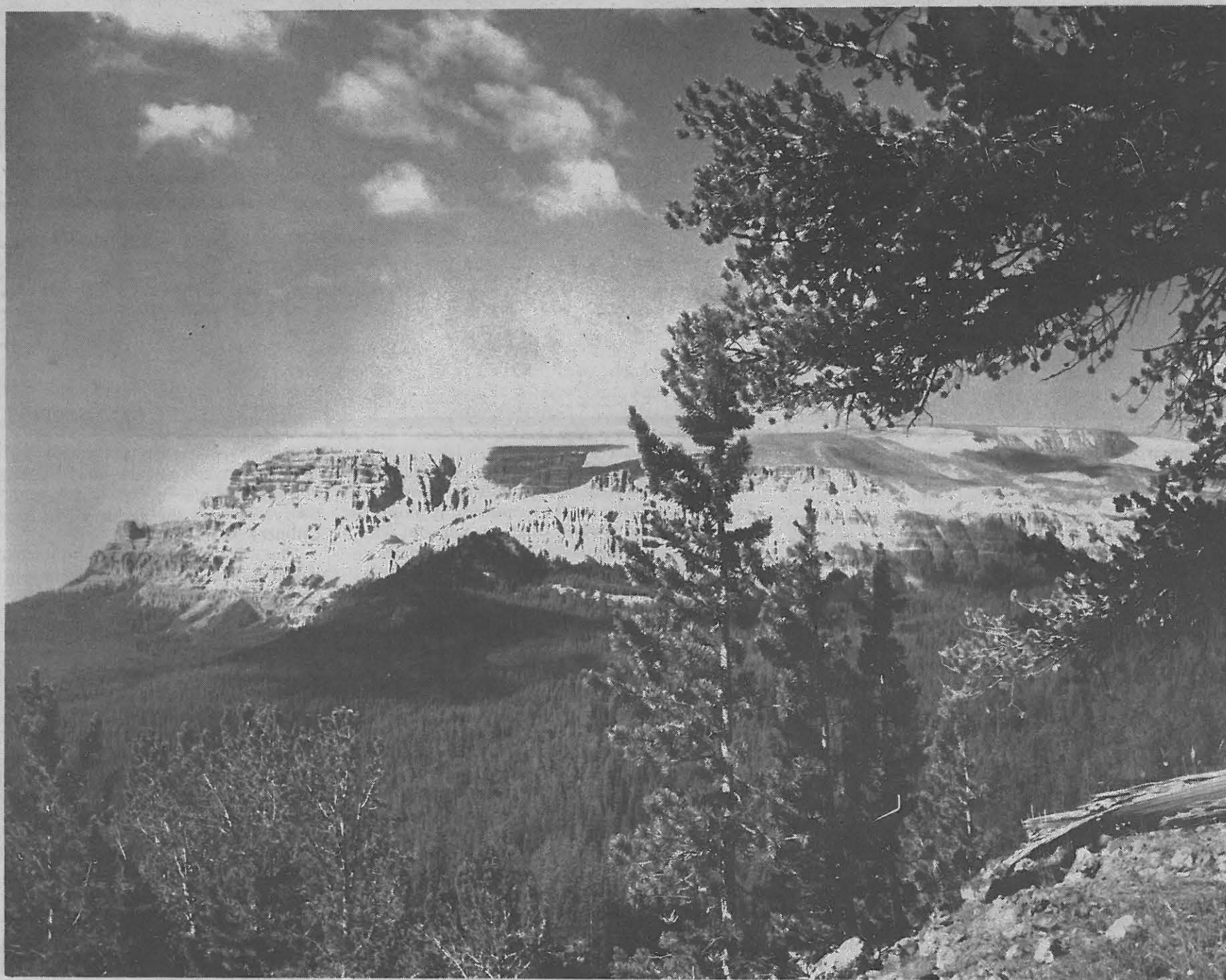


Photo by Francis J. Walcott

The 30,000-acre DuNoir area on Wyoming's Shoshone National Forest is only one of 235 areas throughout the West to be studied for inclusion in the wilderness system. The DuNoir area is a unique situation in that Congress directed a study of the area when it approved the newly established Washakie Wilderness. DuNoir Butte, shown here, is one of the main features of the area which is critically important for the migration of elk.

A Chance to Decide

by Tom Bell

When Congress passed the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act in 1960, it specifically said that "the establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness" was consistent with other recognized uses. Since the Act applied to national forests, other recognized uses were grazing, timber, watershed, recreation, and fish and wildlife. This was four years before

the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

When Congress passed the Wilderness Act, it directed the Forest Service to study the existing primitive areas and recommend action on them by 1974. The directive extended to any areas lying adjacent to wilderness or primitive areas.

The earlier Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act, by specifically designating wilder-

ness as one of the recognized multiple uses, put the Forest Service on notice. Congress said, in effect, that any time the Forest Service made a decision to develop any area (that is, propose a timber sale, build a road, allow a ski area, etc.), it must first decide whether the lands might qualify as wilderness. In other words, a decision to make a timber sale (Please turn to page 7)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

A new phase of wilderness protection and wilderness legislation is about to begin. Wilderness as a concept goes back to the day white men first stepped ashore on the North American continent. It was an unknown land, full of fears and dangers, but full of promise, too. If the wilderness could be penetrated and subdued, there would be less to fear and more to gain from the richness of it all.

To the descendants of the Vikings, the Saxons, the Picts and Scots and Normans who had plundered the coasts of Europe, here was a new horizon. And the plunder of a new continent began. To be sure, the civilized terms were settle and develop. But much of the settlement and development of the North American continent was so senseless and so lacking in understanding of the natural consequences that much of our wealth was wasted. Only now as we come to the end of some of our finite resources are we beginning to realize how foolish and wasteful the development of our country has been.

One of our finite resources is wilderness itself. That total concept of an area where a man — any Man — can pit himself against the forces of nature, and at the same time, pit himself against himself. That area, where in total solitude and loneliness, he can peer back through the ages to ancestors who fearfully peered from caves, but, nevertheless, boldly ventured out. Where Man could come to terms with himself and the natural world around him. Where Man is but a fleeting part of all the natural forces at work, and he can come to appreciate how small his part.

And so we come to 1973 and the work at hand to maintain and protect those relatively small areas where the influence of man has not yet come to completely dominate. Newly introduced legislation will seek to protect areas in our eastern forests which will give visitors a place for solitude and self-renewal. And in the West, the announcement of new areas to study and consider signals a vast effort. It will be a last-ditch effort to protect the last remnants of the North American wilderness.

As our total population continues to grow for some years yet, and as our profligate consumption of natural resources goes on, there will be increasing pressures against our wilderness. That could be offset by restraints on consumption imposed by our own wastefulness (gasoline rationing). And it could be offset by a growing awareness of the need for wilderness areas.

I am sometimes deeply troubled and dismayed by the seeming unawareness of some of my fellow westerners. They very sincerely ask, "Why do we need any more wilderness?" And because I have personally felt the need for wilderness so strongly, I tend to be impatient.

It is true that for many people, wilderness is an emotional issue. It is based on their own gut feelings. They don't know why they feel as they do — either for or against — but they do.

It seems to me we should be looking at wilderness as a part of our culture. National parks and wilderness areas are uniquely American. But so bold are the concepts, and so important, that other nations around the world are following our example.

We seem to have said, wilderness is not a luxury. It is a part of us. It is necessary in our lives just as art galleries, symphony orchestras, and poets are necessary. It is an expression of not only how we live but why we live. It is true that the masses might prefer a superbowl game over a visit to the National Art Gallery. But nevertheless the gallery exists, not as a luxury for a few but as an experience. So should a wilderness.

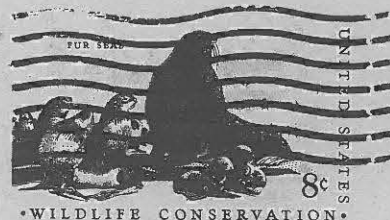
But wilderness is such that you cannot easily create it. It is not just a piece of land forbidden to snowmobilers and trail bike riders. Each and every wilderness is a unique and diversified entity in its own right, just as every canvas hung in an art gallery. The landscape may appear to be all the same to the unappreciative eye, with the same general features throughout. But the great works of music are composed of only a few notes. It is the amazing sequence and diversity of those notes which constitutes great music to the appreciative ear.

Great music, great poetry, great art become the property of every man. We like to think it is the part of us that is most noble and fine. And so it is. Can it not also be with a fine, unbroken landscape created not by Man but by an even greater Being?



"Who goes there?" these two seem to be pondering.

Letters To The Editor



Editor: Enclosed is a \$20 check. Ten dollars is for a subscription (to High Country News) for me. Bert Brooks has been passing it along to me for quite a spell. I want to help out what I can out of my social security, and have another copy to pass along.

And \$10 is for environmental lobbying. I trust you to put it where most needed. May be a bit late for the present legislature, but the fight ain't a'goin to be over with this session.

Thanks,
Bob Longwith
Sheridan, Wyoming

Editor's note: The thanks go to you, Old-Timer. And my thanks also to our mutual friend and another Old-Timer, Bert Brooks, for passing his paper along. The concern and efforts of both of you are just great.

No, your ten dollars for lobbying are not too late. They went to the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council which is on the job in a lobbying effort in Cheyenne. There we have a staff which is practically donating their time but who need money for rent and food and telephone calls out to us. They are coordinating efforts between the Izaak Walton League, the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, the League of Women Voters, the Audubon Society, and many others who do not belong to groups but who are increasingly concerned with good, public interest legislation. We are particularly concerned with clean air, clean water, strip mine legislation, and good game and fish legislation. Their address is 402 East 26th (phone: 632-5841) in case you want to contact them.

Yes, I am afraid you are right. The fight won't be over with this session. But we are a'goin to give 'em Hell this time and see if we can't get some protective legislation.

Editor: I find myself amazed and confused by the correspondence of Mr. Howard L. Apel of Story, Wyo. in the January 5th issue of High Country News.

The "Power of the Press" I have always believed is a means to present true and unbiased facts to the public.

In this case, the activities of Mr. Herman Werner were well known in this community before they reached the press. Indeed, the aircraft involved took off and refueled at the local airport opposite my residence. The resulting piles of hundreds of carcasses, both eagle and coyote, were seen by residents of Saratoga which is near the holdings of this rancher before the matter was publicized. The evidence was there for all to see, provided you (Continued on page 5)



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EDITOR Thomas A. Bell
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Anne Turner
OFFICE MANAGER Mary Margaret Davis
CIRCULATION MANAGER Marjorie Higley

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Guest Editorials

Reprinted from THE BILLINGS GAZETTE, Dec. 27, 1972.

Who Controls Strip Mining?

"Overwhelming support was voiced for two proposals intended to give the state greater control over coal development. . ."

The quotation above is taken from a report on a survey made of Montana legislators concerning major issues of 1973.

Legislative recognition of the importance of Montana control over coal development cannot be stressed too much and the time for action is now, when the upcoming Legislative Assembly convenes in Helena in January.

The importance of state control over Eastern Montana's coal development is obvious. If the state does not control it, the power-hungry more populous centers will take over through their clout in Washington, D.C., and the federal government.

If major population centers like Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis and so on can continue to get cheap electric power at the expense of Montana's environment, most of the people who live there couldn't care less.

After all, as you know from what their

writers report, "nobody lives out there." That being the case it doesn't really matter what happens to the land, air and water here. But it does matter to those of us who live here.

The Legislature has the power, if its membership is not fragmented by skillful lobbyists representing the exploiters, to require restoration and reclamation of strip mined land, to require nonpolluting plants, to decide certain land may not be stripped, to control the use of water and to levy severances taxes which will pay true economic and social costs.

Of course there is going to be opposition, strong, vocal and persuasive opposition to all of those measures. The carrot of immediate economic reward will be blown to gigantic proportions and the long-haul impact minimized or glossed over.

Nevertheless, the Legislature must do its duty by the people of Montana. If that body does not, then the fate of our land, air, and water will be in hands which do not care what happens "out there where nobody lives."

Reprinted from THE BILLINGS GAZETTE, Dec. 28, 1972.

Should Stripping Be Banned?

Should strip mining be banned in Montana?

No, we don't think it should even though the nationwide track record of strip mining companies leaves much to be desired.

Friends of the Earth presents a strong case for abolishing the practice which puts emphasis on larger and larger machines to uncover the coal and extract it.

Organization spokesmen base their case on the devastation coal strip miners have left behind in other areas.

The figure of only 4 per cent of the mined land "reclaimed by industry under the law" points to some lousy law and still worse enforcement.

Montana does not have to suffer the fate of other states in which strip miners have operated.

Montana can pass laws which will forbid strip mining in places which are not adaptable to reclamation.

Montana can require coal companies to do the reclamation job which will restore the land to usefulness. Sizable, not token, bonds will

assure this.

Whether they do nor not is up to the people of Montana and their lawmakers and administrators.

The land can be reclaimed. We know that it costs money to do so. It isn't a few dollars an acre project but then neither is the black wealth being gouged from the earth.

Montana has a resource which the nation needs. It cannot be held back forever but the people of Montana can decide how the resource will be developed.

You don't have to allow what has happened in other states. Our interests are not in the balance sheets of the exploiters who own the mammoth machines. Montana does not need to be degraded for their profit.

As we've said before, if the coal cannot be extracted and still do right by Montana, then leave it where it is until society is ready to pay the true cost.

Montanans can make that decision — if they will.

Reprinted from the BILLINGS GAZETTE, Jan. 4, 1973.

Spelling Out What Is Good For Montana

Count us in your corner, Gov. Thomas L. Judge, for the sentiments expressed by you in your State of the State message to the Montana Legislature.

Mr. Governor, you laid it on the line in calling for answers to three specific questions concerning any development in Montana:

1. What effect will the development have on our environment, our economy and our society?

2. What will Montana and our people receive for the development?

3. Is this what Montanans want for their state?

You may be our youngest governor yet but, Mr. Governor, those standards are of mature judgment. We don't want the boom and bust cycle that makes wealthy men of a few and leaves the rest to pick up the shattered pieces.

Your asking for the strongest strip mining control regulations in the country will not

please the extractors. It should be sweet music to the ears of those who love this land of ours.

Your proposal to put a higher per ton tax on coal "to provide the state a more just return from the development of this irreplaceable resource" deserves high priority and action from the Legislature now in session.

A percentage tax, not a fixed dollar amount, on gross value is the right road to take. Net proceeds can be juggled, inflation and price changes can affect income.

Protection of Montana water so that all



The three sequentially-timed editorials from the BILLINGS GAZETTE appearing on this page are part of a steady drum-fire the Montana paper has waged against the ravages of strip mining. The paper first began to editorialize in 1970 but it was not until the fall of 1972 that it began an almost daily barrage. The paper even offered its readers a scathing editorial taking up the middle section of the front page in one of its outstanding commentaries on what it accepts as inevitable but controllable. The paper should be awarded a Pulitzer Prize for its outstanding efforts on this important issue.

Tom Bell
Editor

may use and enjoy it is a most worthy part of your program. Industry should not be allowed to hog it — you used the word monopolized.

Mr. Governor, you are to be commended for reminding the legislators that special interest, not the public interest, groups have "exerted too much influence over state government."

Those same special interest groups are present today. Don't allow them to scuttle your programs for protecting Montana's resources.

Your State of the State message undoubtedly did not please everybody. Don't expect it to. You have made an excellent start towards turning around a situation which has existed since the state was founded.

You have made that start by publicly recognizing its existence and offering a criteria to follow in determining what's good for Montana and Montanans.

by Lee Bough

When the citizens of Colorado turned down the 1976 Olympics last November, there were rumors that Salt Lake City might like to have them, but few people gave the idea much credence. Then suddenly, Salt Lake City was one of four cities in these United States that were selected by the U.S. Olympic Committee as a possible alternative — though the International Olympic Committee threw it open to all nations.

Speculation around Utah, especially along the Wasatch Front, grew, and the 1976 Winter Olympics became an issue. Newspapers and TV stations conducted polls (7-1 and 2-1 against having the Olympics in the Salt Lake Area), and the University of Utah TV station gave a full hour to a panel discussion of the topic with Salt Lake City Mayor Jake Garn, Salt Lake County Commissioner Ralph McClure, Snowbird Manager Ted Johnson, and Utah Environment Center Director Verne Huser discussing the pros and cons of the issue.

McClure took a strong stand against the Olympics coming to Salt Lake City — the City might get the bid and the glory, but the Games would be held (for the most part) outside the city, and the environmental damage might be too great to warrant having them here.

Ted Johnson and Mayor Garn obviously wanted the Games for Salt Lake and Snowbird, and both effectively parried the phoned-in objections from concerned citizens. The Utah Environment Center brought up numerous environmental problems that might be considered and took a moderate position, neither supporting nor opposing the Olympics but trying to focus on the inherent problems.

And a few weeks later — accompanied by promoters — Mayor Garn went to New York City to make a formal bid for the Games. His stipulations included the need for financial support and the suggestion that no new development occur in the watershed that supplies Salt Lake City with drinking water. (Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, where most of the ski development is concentrated — Garn is also Water Commissioner and seems genuinely concerned about water pollution.)

Many Utah citizens were shocked when Salt Lake City got the American bid — which actually means very little except that the U.S. Olympic Committee will push the Salt Lake City bid with the International Olympic Committee. The latter may have had all it wants of American bids (many observers feel that the United States has had it as far as getting the Winter Games for a long while; perhaps we'll see if the Olympic Games are for sale).

The fact that Salt Lake City was selected by the U.S. Olympic Committee brought to a sudden head a festering sore that has been growing in the Wasatch Front community of conservationists. This is a segment of the population that has been growing perhaps faster than ski area proliferation. Feeling is strong along the Wasatch Front that development in the canyons has gotten out of hand, that there is already too much development in the local mountains. Serious opposition has grown to any further building in the popular canyons.

As one native citizen has put it, the canyons should be for recreational rather than residential purposes. Yet more and more building has gone on in those canyons as one after another ski area has boomed, the latest being Snowbird. More than any other ski area, Snowbird seems to have tried to do some serious environmental planning, but it may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

One conservationist has put it this way, "If John Muir himself were planning Snowbird, it would be a flop, environmentally speaking, because there has already been too much development." The environmentalists find sewage problems increasing in Little Cotton-

The Olympics -

wood Creek, the source of a quarter of Salt Lake City's water supply. And traffic congestion is becoming intolerable. Overuse can kill a canyon as surely as industrial abuse, they say.

It once was the miners in these same canyons; now it's the ski industry that has plans for 20-story condominiums in the canyons. One 11-story building is now under construction at Snowbird, and conservationists — especially members of the Wasatch Mountain Club and the Sierra Club — may be ready to go to court to stop what they consider illegal construction. All this was gradually coming to a head when the Olympic issue emerged,



galvanizing the environmentalists into action.

Alexis Kelner, recently-elected member of the Sierra Club's executive committee and an active participant in the Wayne Owen campaign, took over the PR position of a group calling itself Save Our Canyons. The very day that the announcement came across the wire services that Salt Lake City had been selected by the U.S. Olympic Committee, Kelner — a fine photographer and an experienced graphic artist — launched a bumper-sticker printing campaign.

Silk-screening bumper stickers in his house that night with volunteers from the Wasatch Mountain Club, the Sierra Club, and other activist groups, Kelner outlined the intent of the Save Our Canyons movement: "to counteract the pressures 'developers' are exerting on our representatives in government." The group objects to "towering twenty-story buildings, shopping plazas, luxury condominium communities, grocery stores, bars, and parking lots," as well as the Olympics.

The address of Save Our Canyons is P.O. Box 11852, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, and the phone numbers are 278-2100 (Dennis Caldwell), 359-5387 (Alexis Kelner) and

272-1054 (Floyd Sweat — evenings only). The group is asking for contributions and memberships (\$3. or more) and for a letter writing campaign aimed at Governor Calvin Rampton, county commissioners, Utah's federal representatives, and newspapers to help get the issue before the public.

Reaction in the Salt Lake Area to both the Olympics and the Save Our Canyons groups is mixed and varied. Hundreds of phone calls have poured in to environmental headquarters such as the Utah Environment Center objecting to the Olympics on a wide variety of grounds, even that having the Olympics will require Utah to liberalize her liquor laws. Olympics supporters seem to direct their calls to the Mayor's office.

The same day that Salt Lake City won the U.S. Olympic Committee's support for the American bid for the 1976 Winter Olympics, the Utah Environment Center also swept into action. Having researched the situation in Colorado with the help of ROMCOE and some of the federal agencies, the UEC published a resolution on the Salt Lake City bid for the Olympics.

This resolution was sent to public officials, conservation groups, government agencies and the media. Mayor Garn reacted to the resolution as "responsible," and praised the UEC for the objective approach, which in essence augmented his own safeguards. He appointed UEC executive director Verne Huser chairman of the Environmental Impact Committee for the Olympic bid. Committee members included Regional Forester Verne Hamre; Utah Department of Natural Resources director Gordon Harmston, Dr. Harold Lamb of the Audubon Society, and Dr. David Raskin of the Sierra Club.

For the next week the community seethed with the conflict, at least in concerned circles. Many unaware citizens wondered what the fuss was all about. Radio talk shows covered the issue and TV news coverage kept it before the public eye. Save Our Canyons held a public debate that was attended by some 300 people.

One point raised during the debate was that Mayor Garn could not guarantee the safeguards he had built into the bid. Law Professor Owen Olpin, a member of the Board of Directors for UEC, volunteered to draw up a binding contractual commitment to be presented to the International Olympic Committee.

On Jan. 11, newly-elected Congressman Wayne Owen held a public hearing on the issue to determine public reaction to the proposed Olympic bid. With the federal government asked to foot the entire bill for the Salt Lake City Olympics, he was naturally concerned about public feeling before he stuck out his neck in the halls of Congress to ask for the necessary appropriations.

Statements were fairly evenly divided, but most of the Olympic backers were those who had most to gain from the Games coming to Salt Lake City: businessmen, promoters, developers — as one speaker called them, the pushers. Opposition was widespread and varied. Support was occasionally thoughtful, generally promotional.

The Utah Environment Center again drew praise from Mayor Garn, who quoted two paragraphs from the UEC resolution. But the UEC's statement at the hearing again seriously questioned the Olympic bid. It called for a "binding contractual commitment to insure the needed controls" and stated that "the Olympic Games must not become an excuse for massive growth and development." The UEC stressed the point that "environmental considerations must be weighed equally with financial considerations, and no bid should be made if either is lacking."

The hearing went past midnight as dozens of people spoke, bringing up important points

(Continued on page 5)

In Retrospect

or rambling all over the lot in their verbal wonderings. No time limits were set, and the verbiage was consequently unlimited. A few days later — safely back in Washington — Congressman Owen decided it was unrealistic to fund the Salt Lake Olympics with total federal funding and that the environmental considerations were too great, the risk too uncertain. He withdrew his support toward federal funding.

Meanwhile, back in Utah, county commissioners within whose jurisdiction most of the Olympic events would be held voiced displeasure with Mayor Garn's lack of communication: they'd be saddled with the problems if the Olympics came to the area, but they had never really been consulted. University of Utah officials were understandably upset when they learned that several of the events were scheduled for University facilities, including some that would be built on University property. No one had bothered to consult them. Even the University dorms were suggested for housing so that no new facilities would have to be built. It even appeared that students might actually be kicked out of their dorms; school could be set aside for the duration of the Olympic activities. Students and faculty members and some administrators were pretty unhappy.

Gov. Calvin Rampton said that he was somewhat "underwhelmed" by the bid's coming to Salt Lake. Newspapers cancelled each other out with editorials supporting or opposing the Games' coming to the Wasatch Front. Garn vowed he'd make no bid if the people weren't behind the idea, or if the funding weren't available and if he couldn't get the Olympics on his terms (no local funds, no development in the canyons).

And then the poll results came out. First, a TV station found that 51.3% of the people in Utah wanted the Olympics (some with reservations) and 43.8% of the people didn't want the Olympics. Those who favored the Olympics believed the polls, especially the part that indicated that at least 50% of the people in all areas of the state wanted the Games. (The southern part of the state favored the Salt Lake City Olympics much more heavily than did the people living along the Wasatch Front.)

Then a more specific poll conducted by Bardsley & Haslacher, Inc., of Portland, Oregon, was published in the Salt Lake City Tribune: 39% favored holding the Olympics in Salt Lake City and 56% opposed the Salt Lake City bid. Ah, but wait a moment: with Mayor Garn's stipulations (no local funding and no building in the Wasatch Canyons), it was a different story — 52% for, 44% against. It was virtually the same results as the TV poll. But close, very close!

With no time for a vote, perhaps the poll is as valid as you could get, but still it failed to satisfy the environmentally concerned. The Olympics would bring lasting growth and development to the Wasatch Front. It would over-run the canyons, flood the Bonneville Basin, with people, and perhaps even provide justification for that boondoggle of a water development project called the Central Utah Project. Disaster!

But all this may be merely academic. More and more it seems less and less likely that the funding will be available. Local agents of development have been trying to find private funding, and private lands for the Olympic sites — in hope of avoiding a time-consuming series of environmental impact statements if either federal funding or federal lands are used. The Forest Service has provided a negative touch appreciated by environmentalists. And more than one segment of the conservative community has seriously questioned the after-effects (more than the environmental after-effects, which are also costs).

But the major point here is that with all this rumbling, the IOC — who must make the final decision — may very well not trust

another bid from the United States, especially one that does not have much more than half-hearted support. Efforts are being made to be sure the IOC learns of the unrest along the Wasatch Front; the Save Our Canyons Committee is at work in half-a-dozen languages. And the Environmental Impact Committee hasn't yet made its final report. Nor has the financial end of it been solved.

What would you do to stop an Olympics? What would your reaction be to the Winter Games coming to your area? Salt Lake City sporting goods store sales have already begun to soar as a result of out-of-state skiers coming to see what kind of skiing areas could attract an Olympics. High-rise and high-priced real estate is selling so well to out-of-state speculators that new condominiums are already beginning to spring up, and developers are drooling over the publicity that the area has already received from the Olympics bid.

Sewage systems are being taxed by population increases; police and fire protection will have to be increased. Land-use and water commitments will be increased, and as services increase, so will taxes. These are subtle costs of the Olympics that will be borne by every citizen. Fishermen will lose their trout streams as the Central Utah Project de-waters streams on the south slope of the Uintas. Hunters will lose their deer and elk herds as development creeps further and further into the canyons and even up the slopes of the Wasatch Range. One development currently in the planning stage calls for residential dwellings high on the western face of the Wasatch Mountains that will be reached by aerial tramways.

And what of the skiing? Jackson Hole Ski Area in the southern Teton Range has priced itself out of the local ski market by raising the season's pass from \$250 to \$400 in a single year to make more room for the terminal skier — the jet set from New York and California, Detroit and Chicago and other major cities. Will the same thing happen to the ski areas clustered around the Salt Lake Area as a result of the Olympics? Colorado skiers feared just such possibilities when the Olympics were scheduled for Denver, and development-minded Utahans are already beating the drums for the shot-in-the-arm the Olympics would bring.

Fred S. Ball, executive vice-president of the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, recently wrote "The reason we felt it would be wise to attempt to secure the Olympic Games is the fact that the biggest need we have in our valley is jobs."

Basically, most of the major supporters of the Olympics are those who want to use the Olympics for their own benefit — even the citizen who wants them so he can see an Olympics. But for the most part, the supporters are those who want greater growth for the Salt Lake Area. This is in spite of the fact that it is already one of the 28 most air-polluted areas in the nation.

This is the tragedy of the Commons again: let the total population bear the brunt of development in more pollution and taxes and crowded conditions that lead to further "need" for development. In this concept, it is similar to power company advertising to create a need for more power consumption.

In an editorial (Jan. 7, 1973) in the Salt Lake Tribune, promotion seems to be the big reason for hosting the Olympics: "Utah's winter sports preeminence has been firmly established. That's, to a great extent, what state travel promotion — including the 1976 Olympics bid — was all about." And the Deseret News had said two days earlier, "The selection constitutes national recognition of the excellence of Utah skiing conditions and facilities."

It's true, it's true! But if we let everyone else know, where will we ski? Oh, we'll just cut up the mountains a little more, build more trams and lifts and manicure more Wasatch

Mountain slopes. Build enough ski areas — or expand the present ones — and no one will have to wait in a lift line and there will be plenty of terrain to absorb the masses.

That's one of the possibilities that probably helped the Forest Service decide to look at the Olympic bid with a critical eye. "The impact could be immense," said Verne Hamre, regional forester for the Intermountain Region. And members of various conservation groups in the state voiced even stronger concern and negative responses to the whole idea of having the Olympic Games in Utah. No way, seems to be the major response. And if the IOC reads that response, they may feel the same way about it.

* * *

Early this week, Salt Lake City Mayor E. J. Garn announced the withdrawal of the city's bid for the 1976 Winter Olympics. Citing difficulties i. obtaining needed financing, Garn said he had hoped Salt Lake City could host a new kind of Olympic event, one lacking commercialization and extravagance.

Letters...

could negotiate the barbed wire fences surrounding the BLM lands leased by Mr. Werner.

Residents here used to enjoy access to these lands. A part of the Overland Trail crosses the Platte River on public ground adjacent to Mr. Werner's acquisitions. A pioneer grave site and inscription on rocks by the river make this area of historic interest. It is no longer accessible, the old trail being fenced off and patrolled by Mr. Herman Werner who pays the meager sum required by BLM lease and promptly assumes ownership.

Should we be thankful for this wanton disregard of state property and the interest of the general public?

If Mr. Werner is a proud and interested citizen eager to contribute to the well being of the state it is certainly not evident here, where he operates.

The question of justice remains unanswered. Why the long delay is a moot point. Could it be that a statute slipped in the State Game & Fish Recodification Bill will legalize the inhuman massacre of wildlife for the benefit of the few selfish sheep producers and render obsolete previous violations?

There have always been eagles and coyotes in this their natural environment. Throughout the years ranchers have survived and prospered, long before government subsidies were available. Perhaps the trouble lays at that door.

In the matter of environment and preservation of natural resources, the eagle and other so-called predators have a purpose, beyond the fact some of us do enjoy the albeit infrequent opportunity to see and hear them.

As one citizen I could say our personable governor was elected to office — trusting — he would not be overwhelmed by the constant and loud clamor of industrialists and other vested interests, but serve to preserve the natural and unique resources of this great state for the benefit of future generations. It would take a great and firm stamina to make time to listen to the larger population of ordinary folk above the moneyed and political interests, who lamentedly have the benediction of his honor.

If thanks and gratitude are to be distributed, they should be overwhelmingly given to Mr. Thomas Bell for his dedication in unearthing facts of which many of us would otherwise be unaware, and his untiring efforts to preserve the natural heritage of Wyoming more and more the envy of less fortunate states.

Sincerely,
R. May Eastgate
Saratoga, Wyoming

Waters of the Flathead

A PROPOSAL

The Flathead River in northern Montana was designated by Congress to be studied for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic Rivers System. Some 219 miles of the North Fork, the Middle Fork and the South Fork were studied for two years by the U.S. Forest Service. This is a brief summation of the report. Those interested may write the Flathead National Forest, Box 147, Kalispell, Montana 59901 for a copy of the report in booklet form.

On March 15, 1973, a public hearing on the report will be held in Kalispell. Those who wish to submit written statements will have until April 15 to do so. They should be mailed to the above address.

Based on an analysis of studies, questionnaire findings from landowners, and information gathered from other federal and state agencies, the Forest Service recommends that portions of all three forks of the river be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. However, only two segments are recommended for wild river classification.

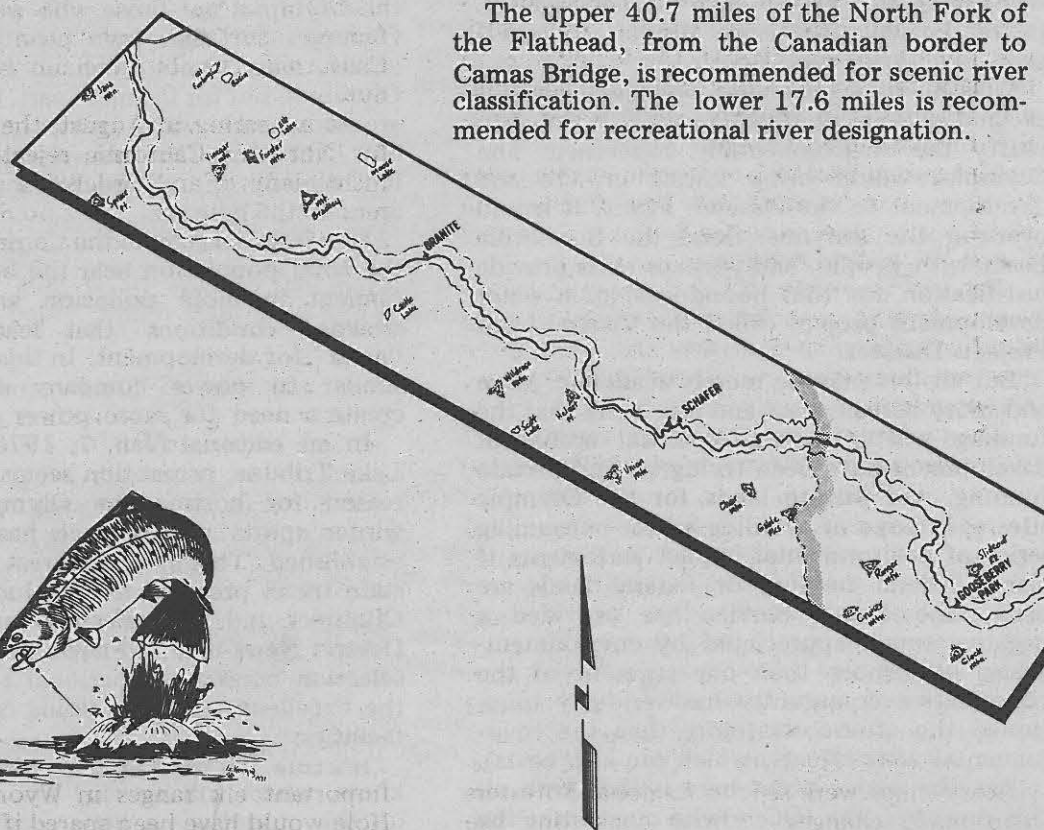
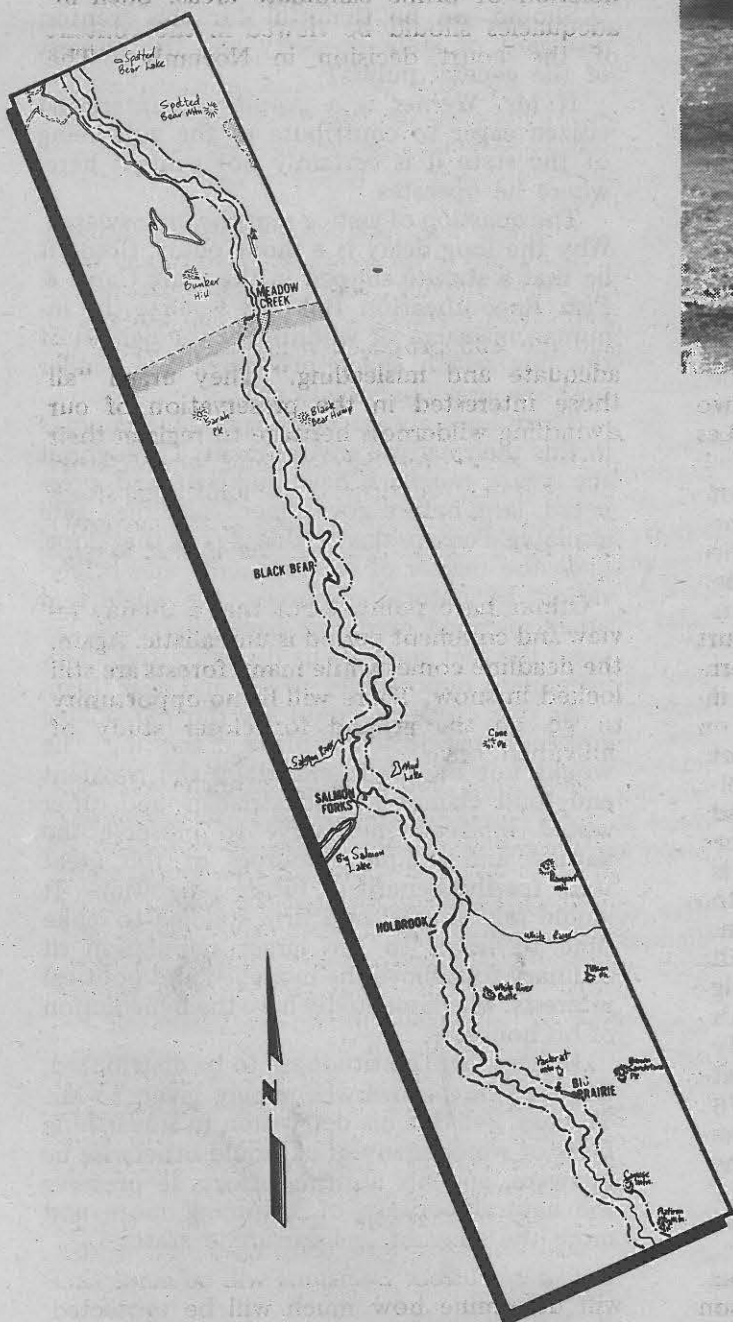
A 51.3-mile segment of the South Fork, from its headwaters in the Bob Marshall Wilderness to the Spotted Bear Ranger Station, would be classified as wild river. Another 8.8 mile stretch, downriver to the slackwaters of Hungry Horse Reservoir, is recommended as recreational river.

On the Middle Fork of the Flathead, a 46.6-mile segment from the headwaters downstream to Bear Creek is recommended for wild river classification. The upper 14 miles are in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Downstream for another 54 miles is recommended for recreational river.

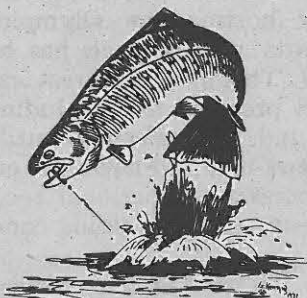


Photo by Dale A. Burk

Typical wilderness country along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River.



The upper 40.7 miles of the North Fork of the Flathead, from the Canadian border to Camas Bridge, is recommended for scenic river classification. The lower 17.6 miles is recommended for recreational river designation.



America's Wilderness

High Country News-7
Friday, Feb. 2, 1973

would affect all the other uses, including a foreclosure on any possibility for wilderness.

Timber management essentially commits a given land area to production of timber. Besides eliminating any possibility for wilderness, it can have a drastic effect on fish and wildlife resources, or, in some cases, may benefit game; may increase grazing capacity, and usually reduces recreational benefits. In some areas, damage to watershed has been almost catastrophic. No one really knows the full consequences on water quality resulting from clearcutting.

On the other hand, a commitment of land area to wilderness will fully protect watershed values, does not affect grazing, provides all forms of recreation except mechanized versions, serves to protect fish and wildlife resources, protects a reservoir of diversified genetic material, and maintains a living forest for use by future generations if they so desire. It precludes timbering for now.

After the passage of the Wilderness Act, it was in order for the Forest Service to fully review those areas which might qualify as wilderness. And in order for decisions to be based on highest and wisest use the Chief of the Forest Service asked for an extensive review. Three years after the passage of the Wilderness Act, additions to the Forest Service Manual required Regional Foresters to list "New Study Areas." The criteria for such areas was to be based on suitability, availability and need for preservation as wilderness.

The nine Regional Foresters were to submit to the Chief their list of New Study Areas. From this list the Chief was to designate those areas to be intensively studied. Then a decision was to be made as to which areas to recommend to Congress for inclusion in the Wilderness System. The public was not to learn of this until four years later.

A deadline for submission of New Study Areas was set for 1969. The deadline came and went with no recommendations. The deadline was extended to June 30, 1972. With hardly a show of response and the deadline drawing nearer, the Chief reminded the Regional Foresters in February, 1971, and told them to get cracking.

Forest supervisors were finally told in May and June, 1971, to carry out the review and were issued some amazingly confusing instructions. In order to bring some order out of chaos, the Chief began issuing directives. On August 11, he ordered a four-step procedure. Rangers on the ground were to inventory all roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more. Supervisors were then to make tentative selections for New Study Areas. The selections were to be based on studies by multidisciplinary teams. That is, the teams were to be made up not only of timber managers but also specialists in geology, soils, water, wildlife, recreation, and range.

The public was to be called in at this point to give their comments. And finally, the selections were to go to the Regional Foresters for review and submission to the Chief.

But still the public did not know the review was underway, and did not learn of it until mid-November, 1971. When they did, there was an immediate storm of protest from conservationists.

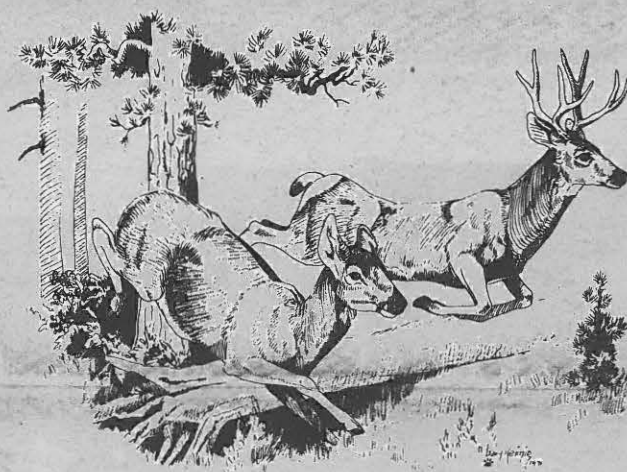
The protest was not against the review itself but rather against the procedures and the time limitations. Hearings were being called in the winter months when there was no opportunity for concerned citizens to go on the ground and look at the areas. The multidisciplinary teams were virtually non-existent. Rangers arbitrarily drew the roadless inventories from aerial photos and maps. Some prime wilderness candidate areas were left completely out of the inventories while some areas with some developments in them were included. Inventory maps were sent to Regional Foresters who made changes without consulting the

District Rangers back on the ground.

But the inexorable deadline for submission of the New Study Areas was not advanced. It was held at June 30, 1972, in spite of arguments by national conservation organizations and the protests of thousands of citizens. They argued that the deadline should be moved up to allow for two full seasons of summer field work and study.

The citizens were joined by United States senators, the governor of Idaho, officials of other government agencies, and some state agencies. The fish and game departments of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Colorado and Nevada were joined by the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners and the International Association in asking for a more comprehensive study and more time.

Two weeks before the deadline was up, national and state conservation groups and a lone individual filed suit against the Forest Service. The suit was filed after several meetings with the Chief of the Forest Service requesting appropriate changes to give a better review procedure. The Chief refused.



A federal court issued a temporary restraining order against timber cutting, road-building, or any other development which might materially change the character of any of the lands on the roadless area inventory. It was effective July 1, 1972.

A countersuit by timber companies, two states and three counties in Oregon, as well as the United States Ski Association, was filed. That suit also brought a \$20 million counterclaim for damages and a change of venue from federal court in Washington to a court in California. The counterclaim was later thrown out.

At a hearing in August, the District Court for Northern California rejected the government defense and ordered a preliminary injunction. There was to be no development on any of the inventoried areas until an environmental impact statement was filed. Such a statement would require the multidisciplinary studies which were supposed to have been done in the first place.

A trial was set for December 11. If the conservation groups won, the injunction would become permanent. But on November 28, the Chief of the Forest Service issued a directive conceding to environmental review. The conservationists had won their point.

Timber contracts which were let prior to the July 1, 1972, injunction and after January 1, 1970, may be challenged in court. Those challenges are now pending in several areas in the western states.

The court victory for conservationists vindicated many efforts to have timber cutting contracts reviewed before timbering began. Important elk ranges in Wyoming's Jackson Hole would have been spared if environmental

impact statements had been required first. So would important fisheries in rivers and streams of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Equally important are considerations for new wilderness. The alternative for classification as wilderness has been foreclosed on millions of acres of western forests. Clear-cutting and the roads to get to the clearcut patches made sure of that. But there are still millions of acres in the West and Alaska which retain wilderness qualities.

The Forest Service identified some 56 million acres in 1,448 separate areas which it said would qualify. From those, the Chief of the Forest Service announced on January 18 that he had selected some 11 million acres in 235 separate units. Most were in the West.

However, of this acreage, some six million acres are in areas which the Forest Service was already committed to study. That is, areas lying adjacent to existing primitive or wilderness areas were mandated for study by the Wilderness Act. The acreage also included such areas as the DuNoir area in Wyoming which Congress specifically directed the Forest Service to study just last year.

Some five million acres were identified in areas not adjacent to wilderness. Some were located in Alaska and Florida which had never before had designated primitive or wilderness areas on national forests. Of the five million acres, those in Alaska comprise 2.6 million.

All of the 235 study areas are listed in a draft environmental statement. This statement is subject to public comment and suggestion for 90 days, after which a final list of new study areas will be drawn up.

Conservationists and the public have to comment on the adequacy or inadequacy of the environmental impact statement. One of the inadequacies could be the arbitrary deletion of prime candidate areas. Such inadequacies should be viewed in the context of the court decision in November. The Forest Service is still bound by that decision and must do an individual environmental impact statement on each of the areas before allowing timbering, roading or other development.

National and state conservation groups have already expressed disappointment with the Forest Service's selection. Directors of the Sierra Club, meeting recently in San Francisco, said the 235 proposed study areas were "inadequate and misleading." They urged "all those interested in the preservation of our dwindling wilderness heritage to register their protest with Forest Service Chief John McGuire and to work for inclusion of additional study areas and expansion of many of the currently designated study areas on the Forest Service list."

Others have pointed out that a 90-day review and comment period is unrealistic. Again, the deadline comes while many forests are still locked in snow. There will be no opportunity to go on the ground for closer study of individual areas.

Meanwhile, conservationists are hopeful that the Forest Service is trying to assume a new image. Chief of the Forest Service John R. McGuire issued a report in December, 1972, in which he de-emphasized the role of public lands in providing timber products. He said allowable cuts could not be increased without jeopardizing sustained yield principles. He also said the nation faces a timber deficit before the year 2000.

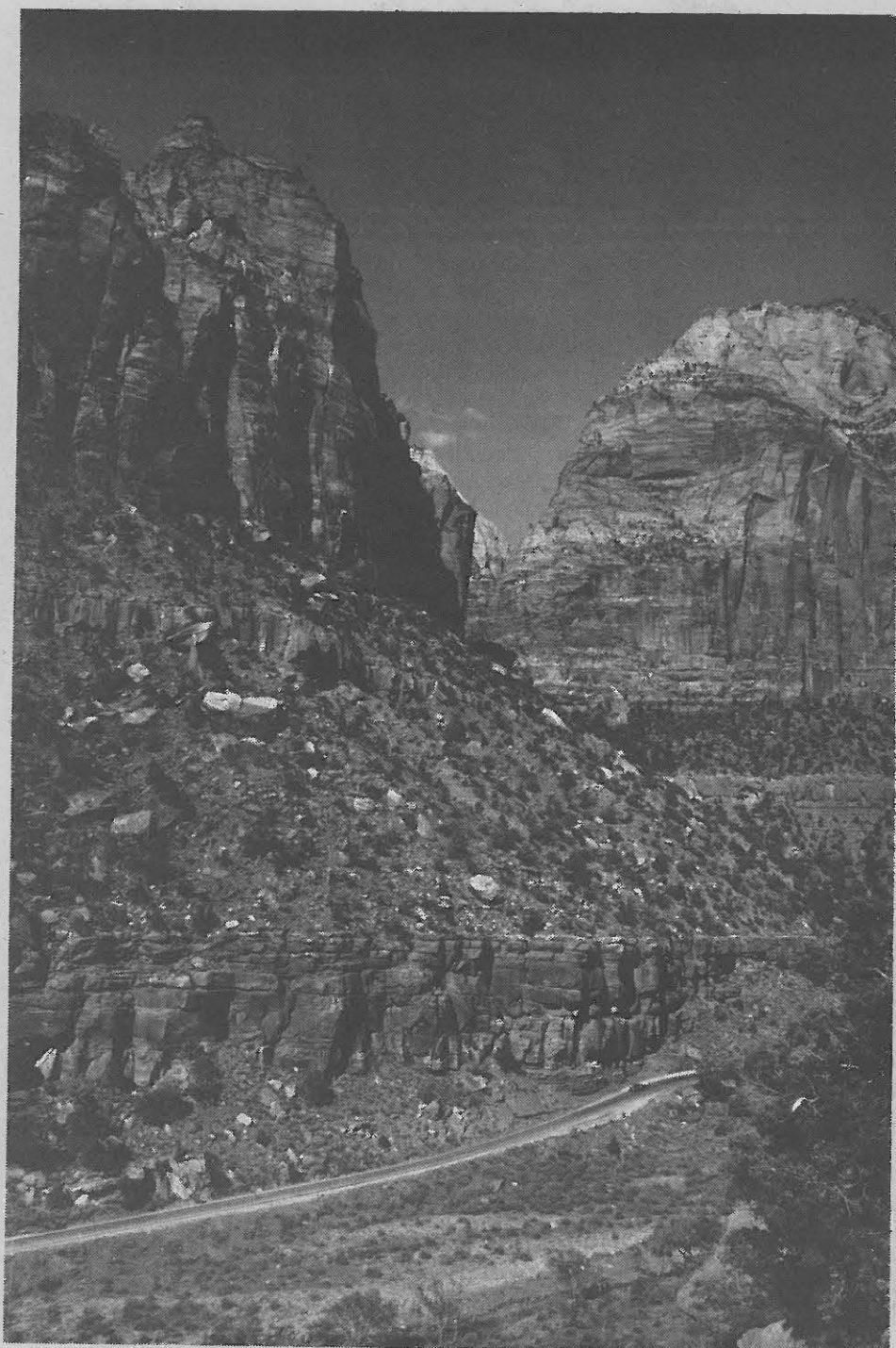
McGuire's report coincided with a report from Ralph Nader's study group entitled "The Last Stand." The report is highly critical of the Forest Service. It follows on several others which have also been highly critical.

It appears that the next few years will be critical times for those concerned with wilderness preservation. Decisions will be made that will determine how much will be protected for future generations.

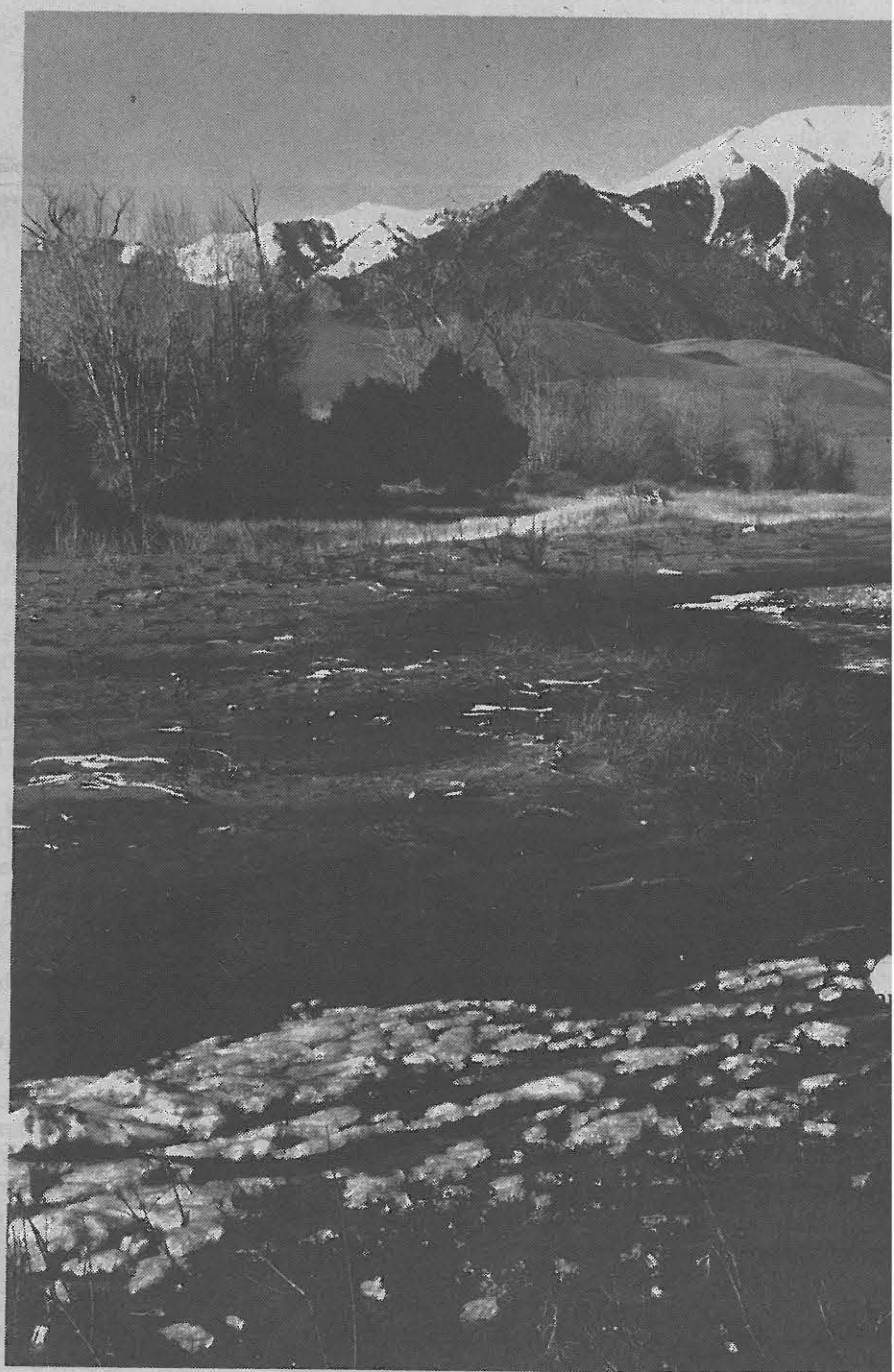
A Trip to



Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon National Monument, New Mexico



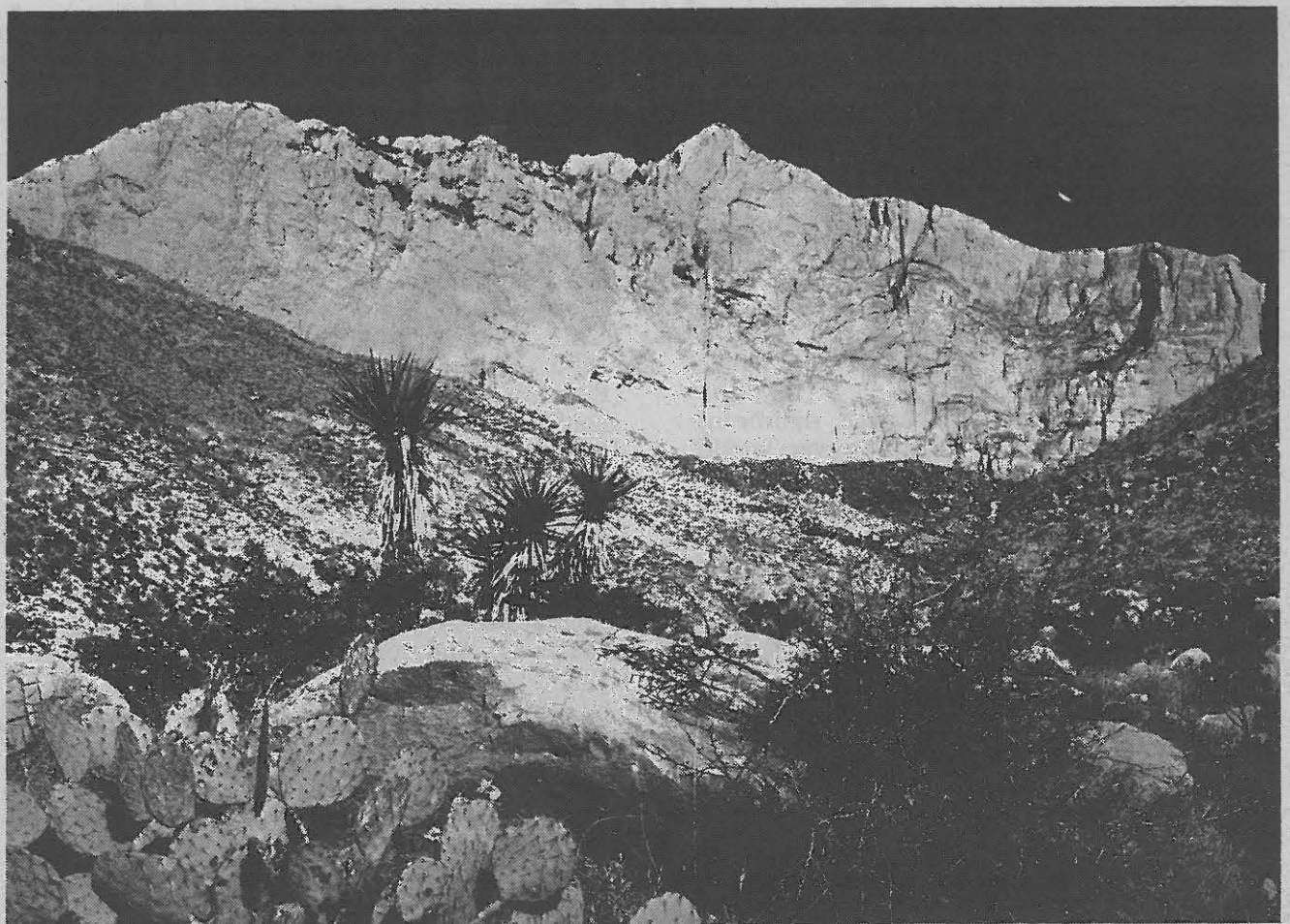
Zion National Park, Utah



Great Sand Dunes National

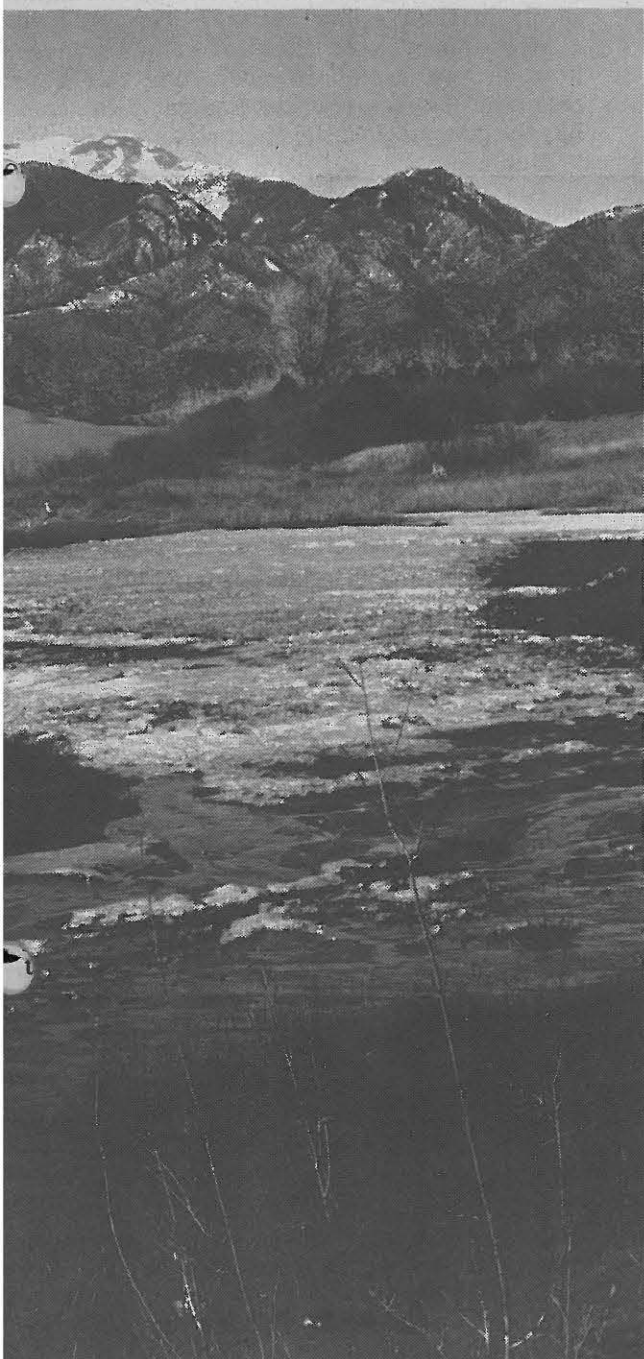
Some of our national parks

Southwest

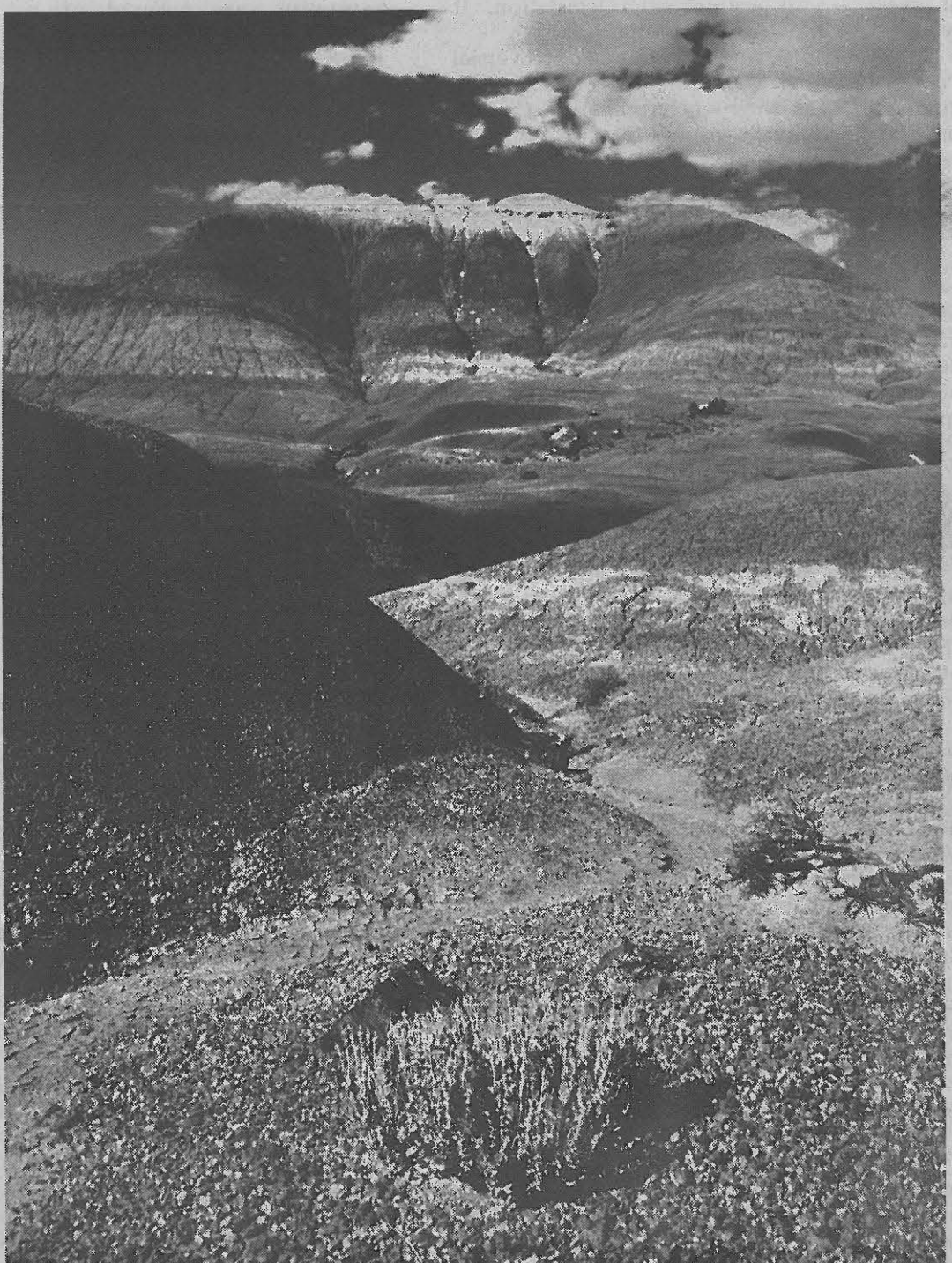


Guadalupe Peak in the nation's newest addition to the park system, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas. Established October 29, 1972.

Photos by National Park Service



Colorado



Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona

and national monuments

Special Report on Legislature

The following is a special report to High Country News from Wyoming's capitol at Cheyenne where the 42nd Legislature is now in session.

* * *

After three weeks of Wyoming's 42nd Legislature, it is evident that a new force is developing. The "new politics" of public interest are awakening.

The above sounds as though significant changes are occurring. That, however, would be a flight of fancy. What is beginning to show up is that a larger segment of the House of Representatives, and to a lesser extent of the Senate, is consistently standing up to be counted on the side of public interest. It is especially apparent on votes where special, private interest is clearly on the other side.

The special interest bills are still being ground out at a stupefying rate. They still pass without significant amendment. But a persistent minority is now standing up and opposing the special interests. At times their numbers swell. Victories are then won.

Example: An interim committee made a prodigious effort to recodify Wyoming's game and fish statutes. After more than a year of hearings across the state, and a sizeable consensus from public participants, it came out of committee the other day. Attached to it was an amendment that astounded sportsmen and conservationists alike for they had spoken at great length against such legislation. It would have allowed big game farms.

Allen Fordyce, who operates a controversial "game farm" at Sheridan, had "reached the committee" as they say around the Capitol halls. The lobbyist without peer, a defeated legislator himself, had done it again. After some peculiar delays by the House leadership, the committee bill reached the floor.

The the pro-game farm element stood up to be counted. Their special interest was soon evident. It was made clear by the statements of legislators who upheld the work of the interim committee. Eighty percent of the people who appeared at local hearings of the interim committee around the state had spoken against the concept of game farms and the importation of exotic species.

This public interest argument was voiced again and again as the measure was debated. When it came to a vote on the floor, Allen Fordyce's stable lost.

Example: Strip mine reclamation is going the same way. Of the two strong bills introduced, one went to Rep. Warren Morton's (Rep.-Natrona) House Committee, and the other went to Sen. Tom Stroock's (Rep.-Natrona) Senate Committee.

Rumor at the Capitol had it that a weak bill would come out of the House Committee, in spite of a public hearing which produced overwhelming testimony in favor of tough legislation. Word also had it that this weak bill would be passed on to Sen. Stroock's committee where, according to a prearranged scenario from the Governor's office, it would be reported out and incorporated in the Environmental Quality Act. The latter is a justifiably nice-sounding piece of legislation which masks an intent to vest total control of environmental matters in the hands of the industry-dominated state administration.

It thus appears that the effort to put a leash on the surface miners is doomed.

But wait!

Suddenly, a strong, vocal lobby of ranchers, conservationists, and otherwise unidentifiable citizens begin to scream. Telegrams, phone calls, personal visits. . . and then one begins to hear the pro-industry legislators lobbying back in the hallways and in committee: "Stick with Warren Morton's bill — it's the good bill. . ."

The two strong bills just referred to were

introduced by Sen. Malcom Wallop (Rep.-Sheridan) and Rep. John Turner (Rep.-Teton). They are nearly identical and follow closely the concepts now being applied to the control of strip mining in such states as Ohio and Pennsylvania. They are by no means intended to prevent mining in Wyoming.

Rep. Morton is said to be planning to bottle up Turner's bill in committee and issue a revised version of his own strip mining bill. (Rep. Morton is an independent consulting geologist in the oil, gas, and energy business.) Likewise, in the Senate, word has it that Sen. Stroock will not report out the Wallop bill. That is, unless the increasingly insistent, get-tough lobby and the public interest legislators make things hot enough.

At this point, it's too early to say. But things are already starting to get tough around the Capitol. And by the end of the session, it's

The following letter was submitted to the editor of THE IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise. The author is the Wilderness Chairman of the Middle Snake Group, Sierra Club.

* * *

One hears a lot of talk these days about environmentalists "locking up resources" and thus stifling economic development. Environmentalists are accused of being "special interest" groups motivated by subversive policies. I should like to point out that environmentalists are people living in communities, as dependent on economic stability as merchants, realtors, civil servants, politicians, and anybody else.

Everybody should be an environmentalist



simply because everybody uses the environment; the businessman no less than the shepherd, the economist no less than the agronomist. Everybody should have some knowledge of the ecosystems which sustain him, and some sense of moral responsibility for them. We are all in the environment together, ecologists and bankers.

And speaking of banks — I don't know much about the kind you keep money in. I have never had any money to put in them because I have spent too much time in the bookshops to concentrate very much on money. I have observed, however, in my infrequent visits to these hallowed institutions, that bankers "lock up resources." If you don't think so just take a look at the locks they employ! They talk proudly of capital reserve and are roundly applauded for their foresight and thrift.

But there is another kind of bank about which I claim some modest expertise, having been reared in them to my eyebrows, and these are snow banks. Snow banks accumulate in a bountiful supply on mountains. They are the annual gift of a generous, loving, and forgiving nature. They are recycled and returned to us each year whether we deserve them or not.

a fair bet that you will be able to find who is on which side.

The usual veil of obfuscation which the legislative process seems to normally cast over its deliberations is parting a bit to reveal the backroom scene — the miners, the power companies (both private and public), the weed and pest bureaucracy, the booze interests, the truckers, the oilmen, the educators, and all the other players on the game of pressure, group politics. They are all bargaining for a crack at the goodies this forty-day session will produce.

Set over against them is another group less experienced and less powerful by far — but playing a tough game nonetheless. Whether they are sanctimonious or sainted depends on where you sit — but one thing even the opposition is crediting them with: They play the pressure politics game with zest!

Locking Up The Resources

Their architecture — white spires and cornices, slopes and domes against a blue sky — is every bit as grand and inspiring as the financial edifices we see downtown. They are the capital reserve of nature, promising us another growing season and an investment for the future.

Should we afford them the same protection we give our monetary wealth downtown? Are they not indeed the real basic wealth of Idaho, and the money merely a reflection of their promise? Will a "run" on the snow banks result in their going "broke?"

If the answers to these questions are yes, how do we go about protecting our basic resource? Do we provide Federal legislation, like the guarantee of the Federal Reserve Banks?

Yes, again.

The method we use is to create National Wilderness Areas around the base of these snow banks to insure that there will be a protective line of defense — a green guard of vegetation to keep the slopes from eroding and stabilize the watersheds.

Wilderness Areas are the Federal Reserve Banks of the forest ecosystems. They are not — as claimed by the timber monopolists — unproductive. They produce oxygen, water, trees, grass, animals, birds and fish, all of which are essential to the economies of the communities below them. So environmentalists are using good, sound business principles in demanding the establishment of National Wilderness Areas in our forests. The aesthetic considerations — the beauty and tranquility of unspoiled wilderness — are additional benefits deriving from the emotional responses of gratitude for a harmony with nature. This is the "interest" which accrues to a sound investment.

There must be more dialogue between bankers and conservationists, a mutual understanding of our interdependence, a broad awareness of the similarities of money banks and snow banks, and the interdependence of each other. This, after all, is what ecology is all about.

Ed Langworthy
Boise, Idaho

MM ITT - - -

A bill has been introduced in the Arizona State Legislature to end "The Great Buffalo Slaughter." The bill would prohibit the shooting or taking of game animals in an inhumane manner. It would end the practice of allowing hunters to draw lots for a chance to shoot penned animals in order to reduce the state's buffalo herds.

Arizona received international publicity last year during the annual kill. Representative H. Thomas Kincaid, R-Tucson, said, "This type of killing of animals gives Arizona a reputation that is extremely detrimental."



Photo by Tom Bell

New strip mine legislation is now being considered by both the Montana and Wyoming Legislatures. Montana proposes the toughest strip mining act in the United States. These mined-out uranium pits in Central Wyoming are existing reminders of what millions of acres in the two states could look like without adequate reclamation laws.

Tough Legislation Only Way

An official of the Environmental Protection Agency told the Montana Legislature that tough legislation on strip mining was the only way to go. Elmore Grim, who served for eight years as administrator of Kentucky's strip mining act, appeared before a legislative committee to plead the case for effective legislation. He said federal legislation would probably be passed by July, and would require submission of state plans.

Grim said good strip mining legislation should include:

- an annual permit system with stiff fees. He indicated fees of up to \$500 an acre would not be out of line. Such stiff fees, along with tough mining regulations, serve to deter fly-by-night operations.

- provision for a reclamation plan before mining ever begins, with reclamation bonds set to adequately cover complete reclamation. Reclamation should provide for saving and replacing topsoil, and require land to be restored to its near-approximate contour. All reclamation requirements should be specific.

- regulations which cover the mining

Permit Required

A bill requiring a permit prior to construction of large powerplants, energy complexes, and large electric, gas or liquid transmission lines has been introduced into the Montana Legislature. Rep. Francis Bardanouve called it "the most important piece of legislation I have sponsored in my eight sessions of the Legislature." The bill was cosponsored by almost a third of the members of the House.

The bill provides for a two-year study prior to construction. The study would be done by the state, financed by a filing fee from the utility of one per cent of the estimated cost of the project. The state could suspend consideration of a facility for three years under certain circumstances.

The three big utilities in Montana have already asked for weakening amendments while endorsing the concept of the bill. They asked for scaling down the filing fee and said the two-year study was too long.

operation from beginning to end, including the posting of performance bonds up to \$5,000 an acre. The mining operation should require the mining of more than a single seam where two seams lie adjacent.

Plants Rejected

The Northern Cheyenne Indian Tribe has decided against a proposed \$1 billion coal-gasification complex on their reservation in Montana. A lawyer assisting the Tribal Council predicted the governing body will reject the proposal.

Consolidation Coal Co. wanted to acquire mining rights for one billion tons of coal at a location a few miles south of Colstrip. The deposit would provide a 35-year supply for four gasification plants of 250 million cubic feet per day capacity each.

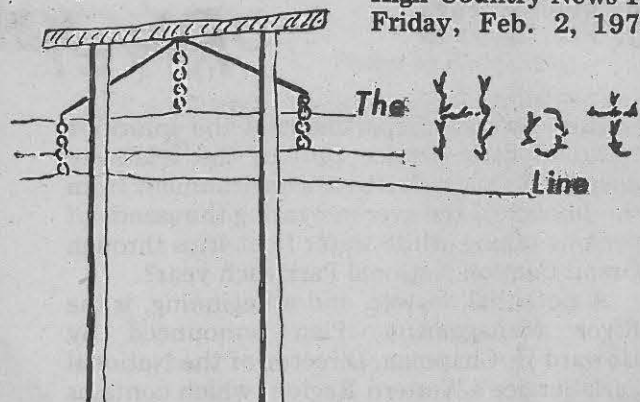
A lawyer for the Native American Rights Fund, Joseph J. Brecher, said he was going to take legal action to break existing exploration permits and mining leases on the Indian reservation. He said he would also assist the Northern Cheyennes in developing a tax code on mined coal, and a natural resources code that would prohibit mining where revegetation is impossible.

Plant Announced

Addy, Washington, population about 100, is the site of a proposed multi-million dollar magnesium and silicon plant. The site is about 60 miles northwest of Spokane and about 50 miles southwest of Priest Lake, Idaho. Aluminum Co. of America says the facility could cost \$100 million. It will be the largest industrial venture in northeast Washington since World War II. Construction is to begin in April. Electricity, to be provided by the Bonneville Power Administration, could originate at power plants being planned in Montana.



High Country News-11
Friday, Feb. 2, 1973



The general counsel for the U.S. Commerce Department has suggested less stringent controls for coal strip mining. William Letson told the Office of Management and Budget that "... we must stimulate not only the production of oil but the mining of coal as well," and that we should be "extremely careful not to impose unnecessary restrictions on coal mining operations." Letson cited the nationwide fuel shortage as a reason for recommending that exploration activities not be restricted, that reclamation be less severely defined, and that requirements for performance bonds be omitted. Letson's recommendations for federal legislation said permit costs should not be imposed because the federal government should be stimulating development and "such stimulation is not achieved by imposing on industry the costs of regulation designed to meet social costs, ... typically borne by the public."

* * *

President Nixon's budget cut has jeopardized the sequentially-fired nuclear devices slated for Wyoming's Wagon Wheel Project. Five 100-kiloton devices are proposed to be fired deep underground in an attempt to recover natural gas. Funds for a test of the device-firing were deleted. However, the ad hoc Wagon Wheel Information Committee is not taking any chances. Members met in Washington this week to air their protests with the AEC and the Wyoming Congressional delegation. A Colorado School of Mines professor, David Evans, has warned of possible radioactive contamination of Colorado River water and of possible earth slippage and quakes.

* * *

The world's largest proposed steam generating plant using an air-cooled condensing system appears to be delayed for a year. The 330-megawatt plant near Gillette, Wyoming, was slated for construction to begin in 1973. The president of Black Hills Power & Light Company says environmental considerations are "not necessarily" the reasons for the delay.

* * *

A consultant for the University of Utah predicts that President Nixon will soon ask Congress to impose gasoline rationing. Billings Brown, a chemical engineer for Hercules Corp. said he had seen a draft of the President's message on the environment and fuel shortages. "On that draft there was the statement that it might be necessary to impose gasoline rationing," he said. Brown cited two reasons for rationing — we are running out of oil and face huge imports, and air pollution factors caused by car exhaust emissions.

* * *

The Shah of Iran has announced he will refuse to extend oil concessions in this country when they expire in 1979. He also threatened to take over the oil industry if Western-owned companies do not agree to double production and increase payments for oil exported. The Shah's policy could have serious effect on other Middle Eastern countries. The Middle East supplies about five percent of United States imports and 80 percent of Western Europe's. The United States is expected to have to import 50-60 percent of its petroleum needs by 1980.

River Runners Controlled

How can the Department of the Interior's National Park Service protect the relatively unspoiled Colorado River's environment from the impact of the ever-increasing thousands of persons taking white water float trips through Grand Canyon National Park each year?

A potential answer, and a beginning, is the River Management Plan announced by Howard H. Chapman, Director of the National Park Service's Western Region, which contains these elements:

1. Scale down the commercial visitor/use/days of 89,000 and private use of 7,600 days in 1972 to a total of 55,000 by 1977, when present concession contracts expire. Since float trips through the canyon vary from 3 to 18 days, this translates to a target reduction in users from more than 14,000 persons in 1972 to fewer than 10,000 per year in 5 years, or reduced to the 1970-71 level of use.

2. Eliminate the use of motors on water craft by 1977.

3. Establish and enforce strict standards for commercial boating operations including: safety, sanitation, licensing, and interpretation beginning with the 1973 season.

4. The use of any tributary stream flowing into the river in the park for personal hygiene and sanitary purposes by river runners will be eliminated in 1973 and, henceforth, only biodegradable washing materials may be used on the principal water course. The carry-out policy for waste and trash will be enforced.

5. Ecological and sociological studies of the river and its environs will continue and be expanded.

6. The National Park Service will recommend the status of potential wilderness for the Colorado River now, and achieve wilderness management standards in 1977.

Chapman stated that research data gathered during each season will be analyzed and by mid-September, commercial and private visitor/use quota will be announced for the next season. Indications of degradation will be cause to immediately cut back use on an annual, monthly, or daily basis, to maintain environmental and wilderness qualities, he said.

For the 1973 season, Grand Canyon National Park's management of the river, Chapman said, will be as follows:

For commercial use —

. The number of commercial visitor/use/days allotted will be held at the actual 1972 use level. This will be 89,000 commercial visitor use days.

. Maximum commercial/use/days used each month will be no greater than 25 percent of the operators' annual allotment.

. Daily maximum of commercial passengers who may depart from Lees Ferry will be 200 people.

. The maximum number of commercial passengers per party will be 40.

. The maximum number of commercial passengers per boat will be 20.

. Trip speed maximum will be 40 miles per day.

. Standards for commercial boating operations dealing with boat use, safety, boatmen, licensing, interpretation, and sanitation, are being prepared and will be ready for application at the beginning of the 1973 season.

. The commitments to river permittees for the 1973 season will be given all consideration possible; however, the goal of the National Park Service will be to achieve an annual visitor/use/day (commercial and private) level of 55,000 by the 1977 use season. This will also include setting a maximum of 100 people leaving from Lees Ferry per day in parties whose maximum will be 30 persons.

For private use —

. The number of private visitor/use/days will be held at the 1972 level. This will be 7,600 private visitor/use/days.

. All private parties will be authorized

only by permit, which will list and describe conditions of use.

. The daily maximum of private party persons who may depart from Lees Ferry will be 30.

. Only one private party may depart each day from Lees Ferry. All private party use must be by advance reservation with the National Park Service, Grand Canyon National Park.

For motor use —

. Management direction is to phase-out all motor use on the Colorado River by December 31, 1976.

. For 1973, commercial operators are encouraged to begin immediate conversion to oar operation. It is anticipated 20 percent of total use to be oars the first year. Phasing to become mandatory by a 25 percent reduction in motor use in 1974, 50 percent reduction in 1975, and 75 percent reduction in 1976. No motors on the Colorado River beginning the season of 1977.

For environmental health —

. Continued active use of the Colorado River Health Committee formed in 1972. This is composed of representatives of the Center for Disease Control, U.S. Public Health Ser-

vice, State Health Department, National Park Service, University of Arizona, and river operators and boatmen.

. Interim guidelines have been established for food handling, food service, and related sanitary practices for use on the Colorado River. These guidelines will be monitored during the summer and reviewed following the 1973 season, and finalized in the fall of the same year.

. A carry-out policy on all waste/trash disposal will be enforced on all operations.

. River runners will do no washing (personal hygiene, clothing, dishes, etc.) with soap, soap materials, or detergents in any tributary stream to the Colorado River. Only biodegradable soaps may be used for washing on the principal course of the Colorado River.

For general management objectives —

. The six areas now closed to camping (Redwall Cavern, Elves Chasm, Deer Creek Falls, Havasupai Creek, Phantom Ranch, and Pipe Creek) will be expanded by including the Hopi Salt Mines and the Little Colorado River areas. Archeological sites will be reviewed for additional closures for camping in their vicinity.



The American Eagle Is Vanishing-

*You can help save him by creating
the First National Children's Eagle Nesting Area.*

The bald eagle, America's symbol, is an endangered species. For every Snack Pack jacket or Big John's label which you send in, Hunt-Wesson will purchase and contribute to the U.S. Forest Service approximately 15 square feet of needed eagle nesting land in a child's name. This land will be designated the *First National Children's Eagle Nesting Area*. If more labels are sent in than are needed to buy land, Hunt-Wesson will contribute money to the Forest Service for needed eagle study.

For helping to save the eagle, you (or your child) will receive a handsome eagle conservation poster and a "Save The Eagle" decal. The name of each child participating will be placed in a time capsule at a nearby Ranger Station. For details on how you can help save our national symbol, see the back of this certificate.

AMERICAN BALD EAGLE

The Hunt-Wesson Company is guilty of exploiting public environmental concern for its own commercial interests. It has advertised a "Save the Eagle" campaign whereby labels from specified products may be sent in to obtain land for the "First National Children's Eagle Nesting Area."

For every Snack Pack jacket or Big John's label received, Hunt-Wesson promises to purchase and contribute to the U.S. Forest Service approximately 15 square feet of eagle nesting land. Any funds left over go to the Forest Service for eagle research.

Your reward? A handsome eagle conservation poster and a "Save the Eagle" decal. Plus the illusion that you have helped to save a few

of these rare birds. Hunt-Wesson's reward is measured in more material terms.

As an added incentive, the ad claims the name of each child participating will be placed in a time capsule at a nearby Ranger Station to be preserved for time infinitum.

All you have to do is send in the labels. The more Big John's Beans 'n Fixins purchased, the more eagles saved, right?

Wrong! As wrong as using a valuable endangered species and priceless heritage as a gimmick for a sales campaign. And the added consideration of adding to the solid waste problem of the country through the packaging and cans of the products being pushed.

Briefly Noted...

Venice, Italy, faces a severe pollution threat as part of the world's sixth largest industrialized nation. In Marghera, a large industrial port near Venice, air pollution is so acute that factories have been ordered to supply all workers with gas masks. Even the city's venerable art is suffering from the effects of air pollution. Timeless statues are afflicted by "marble cancer," erosion resulting from the mixture of sulphurous pollutants in the air with the high carbon content of marble.

Venice itself faces annihilation from the effects of industry. Marghera's industrial zone was built on mudflats that once absorbed the flooding waters of the Adriatic Sea. Now Venice is flooded about 200 times a year. The water pumped up by the factories is also said to be a contributing factor to Venice's gradual sinking.

Industrial air pollution has created a brand

new industry in the U.S. that is expected to reach an annual earnings of \$600 million by 1980. The new industry, of course, is that which has grown up around the need for air pollution control and monitoring equipment.

According to market research done by the Frost and Sullivan Company, manufacturers of air pollution control equipment can expect to see their market quadruple during the 1970s. : : EARTH NEWS

..Noted & Quoted..

We're using twice as much (natural) gas as we find, a trend that's continued for four years and for this year also. We can't tolerate this much longer.

John Nassikas
Chairman
Federal Power Commission 1972

Western..... Roundup

High Country News-13
Friday, Feb. 2, 1973

A Potent Issue

by Edward C. Fritz, Chairman
Texas Committee on Natural Resources

The environment is a more potent campaign issue than most Texas politicians think.

Candidates who campaigned hard on environmental issues defeated opponents with weak environmental positions in the November 7 elections in Texas.

Twenty-eight candidates from both major parties, clearly outshined their opponents of the opposite party in environmentalists ratings. Twenty-two won.

In four races, leading environmentalists gave endorsements. Their endorsees all won — Alan Steelman for U.S. Congress in Dallas; A.R. Schwartz, Jr., for State Senator in Galveston; and two legislative candidates, Samuel W. Hudson, III, in Dallas, and Sarah Weddington in Austin.

Steelman waged the prototype environmental campaign. Steelman hit hard at veteran Congressman Earle Cabell's poor voting record on pollution control and stream channelization. Unable to defend his votes from an informed examination, Cabell declined to appear with Steelman on the several TV forums to which they were jointly invited. Cabell did defend his support of the Trinity River Barge Canal scheme by making statements to the press and TV, but avoided the other environmental issues.

Steelman, a Republican, credits his well-publicized endorsement by 25 leading Dallas environmentalists as the event which opened the way for support from independents and Democrats. Large numbers of these voters, in the white precincts, gave him the big lead which enabled him to overcome his huge deficit in traditionally Democratic black precincts.

Alan Steelman followed the lead of Alan Merson, who knocked off powerful Wayne Aspinall, Chairman of the House Interior Committee, in the Colorado Democratic primary, mainly on the issues of Aspinall's land use management and pollution votes. Aspinall, like Cabell, had been labeled by League of Conservation Voters as a member of the Dirty Dozen Congressmen.

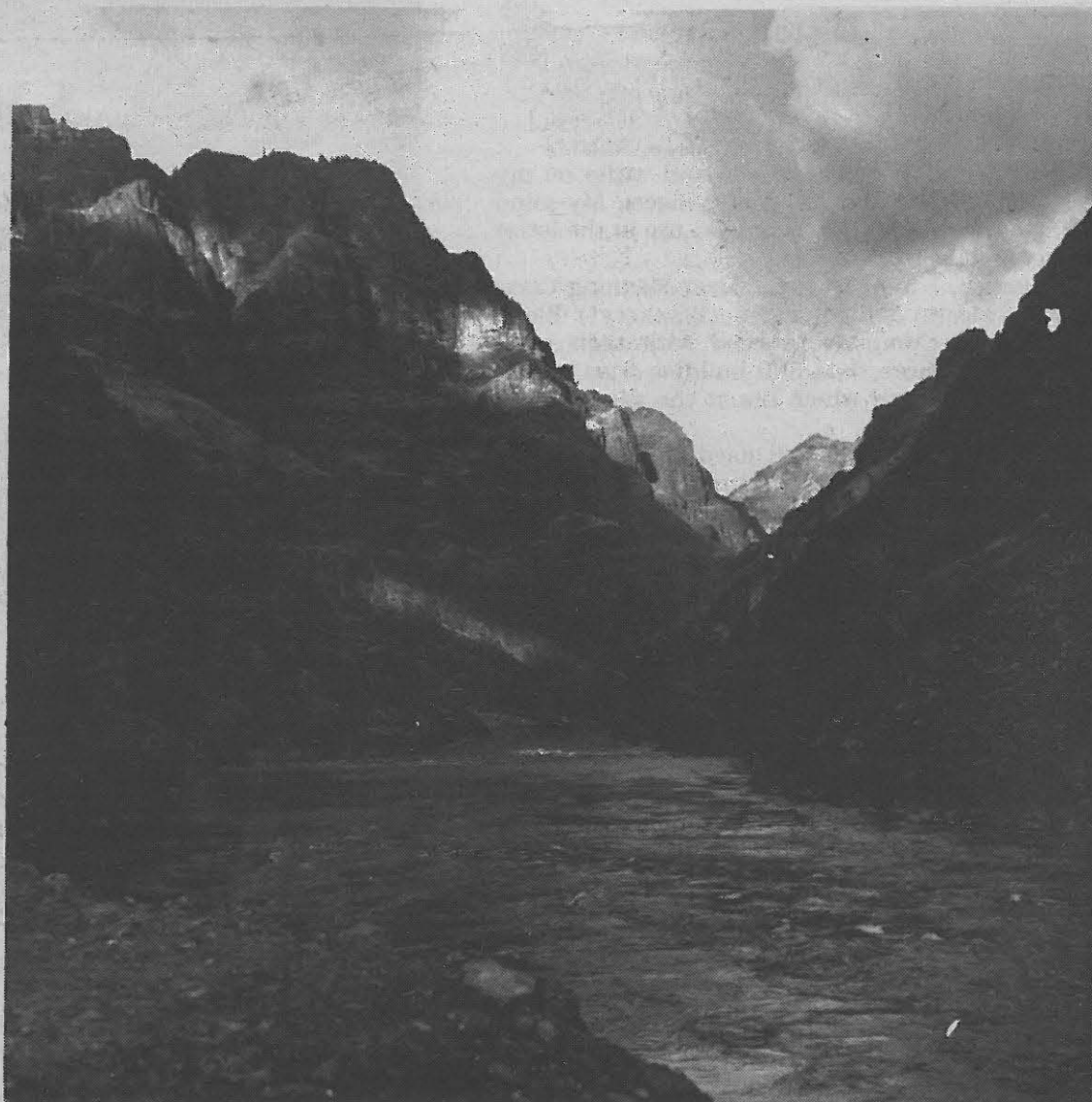
Many environmentalists are convinced that if Barefoot Sanders had lowered the boom on Senator John Tower's environmental voting record, comparable to Cabell's, Sanders would have won.

Sarah Weddington won on her fame as an advocate of population planning. She represents the plaintiff in the suit attacking the constitutionality of the Texas abortion statute, now before the U.S. Supreme Court. Her all-round environmental platform is excellent.

Wanted: Wyoming Dead or Alive is a 27-minute color movie of what is happening in Wyoming and what is in store as huge coal deposits are developed. The movie is available to interested groups, in or out of state, for a rental fee of \$10.00. It will be shipped collect anywhere. It is available from Wyoming Films, Inc., 210 Natural Resource Bldg., Casper, Wyoming 82601.

Bob Thomas, president of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, has called on the Idaho Legislature to retain the stream protection act. A bill before the Legislature would emasculate the act, and some special interests want to see the act repealed. It provides for state regulation of such activities as channelizing, altering lake and stream banks, and similar activities. It was passed by the 1971 Legislature to provide for "protection of fish and wildlife, aquatic life, recreation, aesthetic beauty, and water quality."

Photo by Verne Huser



Looking down Hells Canyon (north) from boat launching area below Hells Canyon Dam. Idaho is on the right, Oregon on the left. A newly introduced bill in the House of Representatives would establish a 270,000-acre wild and scenic reserve on both sides of the Snake River. An additional 456,000 acres on both sides of the canyon would be studied for comprehensive land use management. The bill is co-sponsored by Oregon Representatives Al Ullman, Edith Green and Wendell Wyatt. Ullman said the bill would seek to end the unresolved debate over construction of more dams in Hells Canyon. The bill would prohibit any dams within the wild and scenic area.

Open Season on Predators

While nine western senators, including Arizona's Paul Fannin and Wyoming's Clifford Hansen, are asking the Secretary of Interior for protection of livestock from predators, the Chamber of Commerce of Globe, Arizona, is sponsoring a 'free-for-all' predator hunt. In conjunction with Arizona's javalina hunt, which runs from January 20 to February 23, there will be open season in the Globe area for hunters to compete for trophies and prizes for bringing in the heaviest fox, bobcat, coyote, and mountain lion.

Sports writers, environmental groups, wildlife organizations, and even citizens of Globe who have formed a group, Christian Citizens for Humane Treatment of Animals, have gone on record here against the predator hunt.

Ranchers are proclaiming it a success in giving them publicity they want in a fight

against a ban on federal and state financed predator control.

The contest will be another degrading black mark for the State of Arizona.

Turned Down

Acting in his new capacity as Counselor to the President for natural resources, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz told the National Wool Growers that he sympathized with their problems but could not help them with poisons. He said the ban on poisons had been made by the "body politic" and that he was not going to argue whether it was right or wrong.

More on Eagles

A federal judge in Utah has sentenced two men to 90 days in a federally approved prison for wounding a golden eagle. They were reported to federal authorities by a rancher.

Meanwhile, in Colorado, the owner of the Buffalo Flying Service involved in hundreds of eagle killings in Colorado and Wyoming got off with another light sentence. Doyle Vaughan was fined \$500 and given a six month suspended jail sentence. Earlier, a Colorado rancher, Dean Visintainer, had been fined \$1700 and given a suspended sentence for his part in the eagle killings.



Suits Filed

The Wyoming Wool Growers have been hit with two multi-million dollar suits. Colorado Magazine has filed a \$2.5 million libel suit for statements carried in the Wool Growers' official magazine. The charges stemmed from an article on deaths of antelope caused by sheepight fencing.

James Vogan, the helicopter pilot who testified before a Senate sub-committee on eagle killings in Wyoming and Colorado, has filed a \$2.2 million libel suit against the Wool Growers. His suit is also aimed at statements against him by the president of the Wool Growers in the official magazine.

Thoughts from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

The sheet of paper lies clean and white on my desk, and the pen is slack in my fingers. My mind is groping for the proper words to use in the letter I feel compelled to write.

In essence, I want to say: "Dear Planning Commission: Please don't let the (Blankety!) Blank Development Company proceed with their plans to scrape out more than 300 building sites in that corner of their land which lies at the very edge of our meadow!"

But the Commission will need good reasons if they are to deny that permission, because the development company owns the land they plan to subdivide. So how do I word my plea?

The white rectangle on my desk seems to come alive with the picture of a quiet high-mountain meadow. I see it, as I have seen it so often, from the wide front porch of the home where members of our family have spent more than forty summers.

Beaver Creek meanders across it, sheltered by a thick tangle of willows. In the midst of the willows are quiet beaver ponds, and sparkling sun-flecked riffles. Across the creek is a sage-covered ridge, and there are myriads of wildflowers, which change as the seasons change. Beyond, are trees (mostly spruce and aspen) and rolling green mountains.

The homesites would be along the stream, and on the ridge across and above it — very visible from the porch. It's their land, so how can I offer a valid reason for objecting?

I wish the Planning Commission could sit on that porch for awhile!

In the evening, deer cross from the woods behind the house, and go to the creek for water. They graze on the lush forage and, as darkness comes, they slip gracefully into the willows or back to the trees. In early morning, elk are occasional visitors.

You can't see the beavers from the porch, but if you sit quietly and patiently in the right place by the creek, you can watch them work. You might also see a mother duck and her little ones go paddling single-file up the stream.

Red-winged blackbirds nest in the willows, their haunting cry a sound to gladden any moment. From the porch, you can hear tiny striped chipmunks scolding and chattering, and at night there's the sound of croaking frogs, and the soft low "hooo" of the owl.

A fox family lives on the ridge across the creek. The pups are playful and curious, and would like to be friendly, but the parents, more cautious, make them keep their distance. The sandhill cranes are more recent inhabitants of the meadow. They showed up about six years ago, and have been there every summer since then. We watch them from a distance, through binoculars, because we don't want to scare them away. By now, they seem well adapted to their new home, and we know that somewhere in those willows they nest and raise their young.

All these things are part and parcel of our love for that particular spot. If more than 300 families are allowed to build "next door" (with their attendant dogs, cats, cars, boats, motor scooters, etc.) the wildlife will go somewhere else, and our meadow will become just another tract of land. (Perhaps the cranes are refugees from some other building development!)

The development company entices buyers with the phrase: "Invest in a community where asphalt will never replace the wildflowers!" Maybe they really do have a heart?

The kaleidoscope of pictures in my mind fades away, and I see again that blank sheet of white paper. Slowly, I pick up the pen. I simply must write that letter. . . but what can I say?



Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI: Mid-Winter

A New Idea In Rapping Paper

There's a new notepaper now on the market, called "Rapping Paper." It comes in roll form in a cutter box, and may be torn off at the desired length, so there is no waste. Made of recycled paper, it comes in four bright two-tone shades. After the desired amount is torn off and the message written, the paper is folded into thirds and sealed with a pressure-sensitive label, (they are included in the package) which is also 100 percent recycled. Even the box is made of recycled material. The paper is in a continuous roll, 15 feet long, and 8 inches wide.

This novel idea is credited to a group of ecology-minded women in Westport, Conn., under the banner of Ecologue, Inc. This word is the combination of the words "ecology" and "dialogue," and it appears on the seals included with the paper.

Members of Ecologue, who are committed to "work toward change by awakening people to the needs of their environment," share the profits of their ventures with the Sierra Club Foundation.

Their goal is to enlarge the market for recycled paper, which saves trees and reduces waste.



Here are some hints to reduce noise pollution inside your home:

— Use noise-absorbing materials on floors, especially in areas where there is a lot of traffic.

— Install washing machines in the same room with heating and cooling equipment, preferably in an enclosed space.

— Use a headset when you are the only one interested in listening to the hi-fi. Also, keep the volume down.



ECOLOGUE trademark
is carried on the gummed
label that is used to seal
FOLDED NOTE

Sociologic studies done in Washington State and Wisconsin show no trend for people to move back to rural areas. The study in Washington found that about seven of every ten people in all sizes of communities want to stay where they are. Most thought that cities of less than 150,000 population had far more advantages than larger cities.



While methods for recycling paper, metal and glass products have proven to be both financially successful and ecologically effective, one big problem still looms over the nation's dumpyards — that of the mounting heaps of non-degradable — and so far non-recyclable — plastics.

According to research compiled by the DeBell and Richardson Company, and recently reported in the Wall Street Journal, over three-million tons of plastics are added to the nation's garbage heaps every year. By 1975 that figure is expected to reach five-and-a-half-million tons. And even those figures don't really give an accurate notion of the volume of plastic junk, since plastic is particularly lightweight. : : EARTH NEWS

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

For forty days (and forty nights)
We'll hear of legislative fights.
Will "interest" groups win?
Or will patience wear thin,
And the PUBLIC gain a few rights?

* * *

A shortage of fish off the coast of Peru is affecting fish production costs in Wyoming, reports the State Game and Fish Department. "Fish food prices have increased 60 percent in the past five months because of a world shortage of fish meal," said State Fish Warden Don Dexter. Peru supplies over 80 percent of the world's production of fish meal, the main source of protein in hatchery fish diets. Due to the shortage of ocean fish stocks, the Peruvian Government banned all exportation of fish meal and oil as of October 1, 1972.

* * *

Denmark has approved a bill providing an international agreement to end high seas commercial fishing for Atlantic salmon by January 1, 1976. Denmark's ratification gives full effect to the salmon bill proposed by the 15-nation member International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. Joseph F. Cullman 3rd, president of The International Atlantic Salmon Foundation, said that discovery of salmon feeding grounds and modern commercial fishing techniques endangers the survival of the Atlantic salmon. Other threats to this fish include industrial, domestic and agricultural pollution, and indiscriminate water impoundment projects.

* * *

Interior Secretary Rogers Morton has requested the addition of 26 animals to the endangered species list. Endangered species status prohibits the killing or capturing of native species and the importation of foreign species. Morton's proposal designates eight American animals and 18 foreign species. The eight native U.S. species are: the Utah prairie dog, the Northern Rocky Mountain wolf, the eastern cougar (believed already extinct until sightings were reported in the Appalachian Mountains), the Mississippi sandhill crane, the Puerto Rico whip-poor-will, the Santa Barbara song sparrow, the desert slender salamander, and a fish called the Okaloosa darter. Of the 18 foreign species proposed, one — the aquatic box turtle — is found in Mexico. The 17 others, which include the kangaroo, are all found in Australia.

* * *

Wholesale slaughter of New Zealand deer continues in that country despite protests by conservationists and wildlife protective groups. An average of 400 deer a week are slaughtered by commercial hunters employing helicopters and automatic rifles. Conservationists and sportsmen fear eventual extermination of the herds. The Department of Forestries says that abundant ground cover insures the survival of breeding stock. There is no season or bag limit and for years government hunters have been paid to shoot deer on sight. Bounties are paid for tails, and carcasses are frequently left to rot.

* * *

Drivers in the Canadian Province of Ontario whose autos emit any visible pollution are getting tickets. A new law provides for fines up to \$500 and a one-year jail term.

Our Future Foreclosed?

George Darrow is a consulting geologist from Billings, Montana, and a state senator-elect. He is also chairman of Montana's Environmental Quality Council. While serving in the Montana House of Representatives, Darrow sponsored and helped to get enacted legislation establishing the Montana EQC.

The editor.

by George Darrow

For over 200 years, we in this country have lived off the land. We have moved across the land as would a party of military marauders, intent on conquest, foraging, ransacking, plundering and despoiling, as they went. Beyond any lingering doubt, we have conquered the natural bounty of a virgin continent and subdued the wilderness. We have established our dominion over nature and asserted the reign of technology.

In the beginning, the land was endlessly rich and our grasp was small. Our grasp has grown ever larger and the richness of the land has been progressively diminished. The limits of the land's endurance are now being reached.

The needs of the land for its own maintenance and self-renewal set the limits of our taking. To exceed these limits is to destroy the most elemental of all resources, the productive natural systems whose health and self-renewal is prerequisite to our own well being and survival.

We cannot forever live off the land. We must begin now to live with the land. We have gained much that is valuable, but we have lost much that is irreplaceable. Only recently have more than a few begun to realize the cost of what has been gained. Much that is trifling and transient has been obtained at the expense of a priceless heritage. Tragically, much of the waste has been needless.

We have unthinkingly allowed an irretrievable loss in the resilience, productivity and beauty of the land which is our inheritance — and the fragile future of our children.

We have treated the land as if it were a mere thing, something we could carelessly use and then toss aside when we were done with it. In our "conquest," we have failed to recognize that we are ultimately as much a part of the earth as any other form of life, and wholly dependent upon its health and productivity for our continued subsistence.

To perpetuate our present habits of spendthrift resource consumption is to cast the human species in the role of earth parasites. In only a few localities on this planet, where human restraint and a disciplined technology have been combined with almost "foolproof" self-renewing life support systems, has our species demonstrated its ability to maintain stable, self-renewing urban communities with sustained livability.

With few exceptions, dynamic civilizations have been unable to sustain themselves in a given region for more than forty to sixty generations (i.e. 1,000-1,500 years). And generally, the higher the attainments of a civilization, the briefer its existence. The rise and flourishing and decline of most civilizations that have ever existed has followed the same pattern. As the originally beneficial environment was despoiled and the natural resources depleted or destroyed, the civilization declined.

Each effort to sustain a dynamic civilization, and depending on classification from 10 to 30 attempts have been mounted, has foundered on its inability to develop a technology which nurtured rather than consumed the resources which sustained it. Each successive flowering of urban culture has ultimately destroyed the resource base and the natural life support systems on whose integrity its existence depended.

In each instance, the treadmill of technology has required running faster and faster up a progressively steeper incline, until, exhausted

by the effort, a civilization stumbles and slides back to the bottom of primitive existence. Only a nurturing, conserving technology, harmoniously intermeshed with the systems of nature can persist. Human enterprise in this style has yet to be demonstrated.

Our consumptive technology proceeding on the unexamined premises of military conquest, is well along the road toward conversion of everything natural into a human artifact. Our independence from the constraints of nature is becoming our bondage to the demands of technology. Each further adaptation, each increment of growing dependence on technological systems increases the instability of our situation. Perhaps we have already passed the balance point, and the law of diminishing returns may still be in force.

As we deplete the natural amenities of the environment, their technological substitutes become ever costlier. Their maintenance becomes a cumulatively mounting expense. The diminishing of durability and the increasing pace of obsolescence, of both people and machines, exert a growing drag on further progress.

The autonomous functioning of natural controls in diversified, stable ecological systems is carelessly destroyed, only to reveal the necessity for complex, sophisticated technological substitutes which must be endlessly maintained. The capital cost of these replacements then becomes a further drain on the resources of our society. And yet economists puzzle over the persistence of inflation.

When the pressures of accelerated growth, promoted as a statistical idolatry, are superimposed, the cost of providing each new increment of capacity endlessly escalates. The quality of everything becomes depleted by the demands of quantity. The uniqueness of individuals and the uniqueness of places are first degraded and then finally consumed to satisfy the appetite of a devouring technology.

What is hopeful for our time, is that we have, for the first time in 10,000 years of human civilization, come to a perception of the process which has foreclosed the future of earlier civilizations. We have become aware that we are not immune to the constraints of natural laws. We now have a fleeting opportunity to escape the fatal delusions of dominance over nature and undertake the effort required to coexist with nature in a sustained and productive harmony. If we fail to act before the process becomes irreversible, we will become the first civilization in history to be fully aware of its own pending demise and helplessly watching the tragedy unfold.

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The Limits To Parks

by Anne Turner¹

Over-population in our national parks of the two-legged and 4-wheeled varieties threatens to destroy the very thing visitors come to see. Wilderness quality is rapidly being displaced by quantity in the growing numbers of visitors, vehicles and facilities in the parks.

The problem arises from the two, basically antagonistic commitments of the Park Service towards a policy of both preservation and use. Until recently, the emphasis has been heavily weighted on the side of use in compliance with "the parks are for the people" dictum. Now there are signs that the scales will tip to the other side.

In a report commissioned by the National Park Service and the National Parks Centennial Commission, the Conservation Foundation pressed for a thorough revision of the parks' priorities. Among the recommendations made were the exclusion of campers and trailers, the sharply curtailed use of automobiles, the relocation of most concessions outside park boundaries, and the restriction of camping to primitive facilities in rustic areas.

The report also urged more park use by the urban poor and the elderly through cheap rail excursion from urban centers. It suggested the use of bus and train (mass) transportation through the parks to reduce the number of automobiles and increase the visitor carrying capacity per vehicle.

It is the "carrying capacity" of the developed portions of our parks that is being strained to an unprecedented overload by the ever-increasing influx of visitors and vehicles. The peak travel month of July saw a general increase in visitation in 1972 from July of the previous year in most national parks.

In Glacier National Park, the number of cars reported increased by 24.9%, while the number of visitors increased by 12.5%. The increase in Yellowstone Park was 1.1% for both cars and visitors. Automobile traffic and passengers both decreased in Grand Canyon National Park by 4.6%.

In numerical statistics: 143,750 cars and 488,750 people visited Glacier Park in July, 1972; Yellowstone Park reported 191,034 cars and 687,722 passengers for the same month; Grand Canyon Park reported 140,873 cars and 507,145 passengers. These figures do not include the numerous visitors arriving by airplane or bus.

The Conservation Foundation report urges the necessity of limiting the number of park visitors by any of several different means: increased entrance fees, a first-come-first-served basis, a reservation or lottery system, limited length of stay. "Built-in frictions" of fewer provided facilities and paved roads are expected to significantly curtail visitation.

Edward Abbey, in his book "Desert Solitaire," decries the mass infiltration of the automobile into our national parks. "Let the people walk, or ride horses, bicycles, mules, wild pigs — anything — but keep the automobiles and the motorcycles and all their motorized relatives out. We have agreed not to drive our automobiles into cathedrals, concert halls, art museums, legislative assemblies, private bedrooms and other sanctums of our culture; we should treat our national parks with the same deference, for they, too, are holy places."

The new orientation requested by the report is geared to the premise that visitors should be willing to experience a national park "on its terms rather than theirs." This calls for the reversal of a trend which has been growing steadily for the past decade.

National affluence has sent hordes of visitors with much more equipment and money into the parks, most of them demanding to use the parks on their terms of material comfort. This means the availability of elaborate facilities for such "necessities" as electric outlets, sanitation and water hookups,



Park visitors do not understand when a "tame" bear bites the hand that feeds it.

laundromats, motels, bars, parking spaces, and paved roads to once remote areas.

As a result, the cities have been brought to the parks. Tragically and ironically, visitors have carried with them precisely what they sought to escape. There is no longer any room left for wild qualities.

Worse yet, the appreciation of wilderness is all too frequently lost on the majority of park visitors. Having arrived by car, most visitors rarely leave their mobile citadels to "see" the park. According to reports from Grand Teton National Park, less than 5% of total park visitors venture more than ½ mile from their vehicles.

Mile-long traffic jams and pandemonium result from the sighting of a corrupted bear.

Many visitors are uncomprehending when these "tame" animals bite the hand that feeds them. Few realize how lucky they are to escape with only a nip. The real tragedy occurs not in harm to humans resulting from such foolhardy behavior, but when the wildlife is "punished" for behaving naturally in its own home.

National parks should be "for" the wildlife, the land and vegetation to be maintained in their natural states. They should be "for the people" to enjoy prudently only in so far as this can be accomplished with minimum infringement upon a policy of preservation priority. It is obvious that preservation must now take precedence over use if our national parks are not to become national parking lots.

Snowshoe Hikes Available

Guided snowshoe hikes in Grand Teton National Park will be conducted by Park Naturalists beginning Sunday, February 4, from Colter Bay Visitors Center and Thursday, February 8, 1973, from the Moose Visitors Center. The hikes offered twice weekly, will continue through April on a reservation basis only. According to Park Superintendent, Gary Everhardt, the hikes are offered to emphasize the winter visitor's understanding of the natural features of the Park. The hikes are offered free of charge and snowshoes are provided. For information and reservations (reservations are advised for groups and individuals due to the limited number of snowshoes available) phone 733-2880. For Park information including road conditions, weather, accommodations, snowmobiling conditions, use the Dial-A-Park number 307-733-2220.

Only a small portion of Grand Teton National Park is currently open for snowmobiling. The area north of Pilgrim Creek and Jackson Lake is open. The rest of the Park remains closed due to the lack of snow covering the vegetation.

The Moose Visitors Center is open daily from 8 to 5 with exhibits illustrating the "Mountain Man" fur trade era in Jackson Hole and the Rocky Mountains. The Colter Bay Visitors Center is currently open on weekends from 10 to 4 and will be open in February and March four days a week, Friday through Monday, 10 to 4.

Park concessioners offer ski and snowmobile tours in Grand Teton. A list of concessioners and a winter activities leaflet may be obtained by writing Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, P.O. Box 67, Moose, Wyoming 83012.



BN Loses Bid

Last year the Burlington Northern Railroad was nominated by the Montana Fish & Game Commission for an environmental award through the Rocky Mountain Center of Environment. Desirous of a nomination again in 1973, the BN put out feelers and got rebuffed.

The chairman of the Commission, Willis B. Jones, wrote BN and said the Commission would have to align itself with "those groups striving for the maximum amount of protection and consideration for Montana's environment."

Acknowledging that BN was doing some commendable reclamation work, Jones said that nevertheless "... we feel it would be inappropriate for us at this time to be in the position of nominating Burlington Northern for an environmental award at least until many of the specific problems regarding total development of Montana's coal resource are eventually resolved."