

High Country News

Vol. 5, No. 6

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, March 16, 1973

Optimism Reigns

The miracle may be happening. Reaction to our decision to cease publication was so swift and decisive that within a matter of 36 hours the die appeared to be cast. Now, barring some unforeseen circumstances, **High Country News** appears to be saved.

For those who might think our decision was an intentional hoax, I would point out that when the decision was made, we cancelled orders and gave notice to our printers that we would terminate March 30. On the basis of what we know now, those orders have been rescinded. We are still holding renewal and new subscription checks so that they might be returned, again if circumstances warrant.

Three conditions must be met before we are absolutely certain that the miracle has happened. We must be able to pay off the \$7,500 bank note so we are not burdened with those monthly payments. We must have enough to be able to carry on a circulation campaign and meet printing bills and other expenses as they come up, especially during summer months. And we must have assurances that each of the staff here gets a decent, if small salary. I am thinking in terms of \$6,000 a year for myself and an additional \$4,800 for the rest of the staff.

It would be extremely desirable if we could pay off some other debts to some of us who have been sorely pinched. But if circulation can be increased, those debts can be gradually retired.

We now have pledges, commitments and checks to cover about half of the absolute minimum. But that is only part of the story. Forces are at work which clearly may put us over the top. And it is on that basis that we are optimistic that we can continue. As of this time, the decision has been made to do so.

The Staff.



HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Two kind and concerned citizens of Earth have written, "God Bless you." And my answer to all of you out there is the same in return manyfold. Your letters, your calls, your prayers, and your help in every way has been overwhelming. The compassion and warmth of fellow human beings shines radiantly through in times of crisis. It has been most heartwarming for us. And it has given us renewed commitment. We must go on.

The outpouring of concern for High Country News and for what it stands must be something of a barometer of how people really feel about the environment. What has happened has been almost unbelievable to me. It is a most convincing testimonial to and a vindication of the strength and commitment to the environmental cause. To those who would say the environment, and concern for it, was a passing fad, I would only say that High Country News will remain as a highly visible contradiction to such wishful thinking.

How else can you explain away a contribution of \$15 from the Conservation Club of Euclid Junior High School at Littleton, Colorado? How do you answer, except from the heart, those letters which sprang from the heart of readers across this great country? And what you read in this issue of the paper is only a cross-section of those which have come.

Calls and letters from one side of the country to the other have put forth suggestions to improve the situation of the paper. My position is that the ultimate and basic strength of the paper must be built on circulation. And all of us here feel we do not want to raise subscription rates. Greater circulation should eventually take care of most financial problems.

But for the immediate problem, we do need help. Several of our readers have advanced the suggestion that if 1,000 subscribers sent \$30, we would meet our goal. For those who are able to do so and wish to make that commitment, we would be most grateful.

Bill Bishop, an insurance agent from Polson, Montana, says he is willing to commit \$1,000 over a 10-month period to a "Friends of High Country News." He suggests an informal stock association in which pledges of any amount could be made. He and his wife would look on their pledge as an investment in the future. He candidly says American families commit themselves to \$100 a month payments for automobiles — why not for a cause which may mean much more in the long run?

And so for the Bishops and those others who would like to make a pledged commitment to the cause of High Country News and the environment which sustains us all, we will establish an informal Friends of High Country News. So that we do not waste paper on superfluous certificates, we will periodically publish an honor roll of Friends.

We will also establish a policy of annually mailing to our subscribers a pledge card for commitments in addition to the subscription.

We really have no way of knowing how many of our readers wish to help in this way. So it is an unknown quantity. But as some have suggested, there may be many more than we think. Bill Bishop has suggested there may be far more of a "silent majority" in regard to the environment than our leaders dream. I tend to agree.

I will make a pledge to all of you that no one here will grow fat and lazy from your commitments. Here in my file are letters from concerned young people who would work for the paper and the cause merely for subsistence. They want to be involved and they can be if we have the means.

Bringing about the changes which are going to be required to save us from our own follies is going to take the greatest commitment ever mounted by mankind. It was well spoken by a dear friend and fellow environmentalist who wrote me recently. He said "Our love for the earth, and beyond that even, for the life process itself; and perhaps beyond this most of all, the terrible knowledge that we must fight on to protect it somehow and somehow, we simply must."

It can be done but only if each of us can take strength from each other and the knowledge that we can only help ourselves. We are ready and willing here.



Wildlife photographer Don Hinton captured this cow moose and her yearling calf as they stood in the Ham's Fork River near Kemmerer, Wyoming. "Discover Wildlife -- It's Too Good To Miss" is the theme of this year's Wildlife Week. But we must remember that we cannot think of these wild creatures for just one week. In order for the wildlife to survive, we must be eternally vigilant for the place where they live. By assuring their survival, we may assure our own.

Letters To The Editor



Dear Mr. Bell:

In the summer of 1969 my father sent me a copy of *Camping News Weekly*. I enjoyed it as informative. Then in 1970 when I saw the first issues of *High Country News* I immediately noticed the environmental issues and the stand taken on them. I asked my parents to save the issues for me. Later that year my Mother presented me with her usual, "Anything special you'd like for Christmas?" I promptly replied, "*High Country News*," and I have received it as a gift since then. In 1971 your paper turned into something that I eagerly read from cover to cover. I began to realize your financial struggle and was saddened to learn of your decision to stop publication with your March 30 issue.

For me your paper has been the only source available which puts the environmental issues in their proper perspective. I feel we are caught up in what I call High Country Apathy. People are not willing to concern themselves with the future of our area and can only be concerned with short term industrial gains. This can be reflected in our recent State Legislature. Valuable time was wasted on an unconstitutional abortion bill which in my opinion was out of tune with the times and needs of our society. Then I think of the Environmental Quality Act and shudder in disbelief but yet realizing how industry dictates our lives. It must end, but when — when it is too late and all of our beauty is destroyed in the name of the "Almighty Devaluing Dollar."

You and your staff have given unselfishly for a very worthwhile cause without yielding to the external pressures. I wish I had necessary funds to help, but if I had what you needed the chances are I would be using it to gain more financial rewards and would be against the issues you have worked so hard to bring out.

The point I have been seeking to make is your work has been a great public service and few realized or cared enough to think and read about the issues you have made. The depth and scope of the paper has been excellent and you and your staff should be proud of what you have done. Thank you for sharing the environmental issues and your thoughts with me. In my mind your paper, *High Country News*, will not pass quietly from the scene.

Sincerely,
Terrence L. Larson
Cheyenne, Wyoming

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HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Guest Editorials

Reprinted from The Idaho Statesman, March 5, 1973.

Think Twice About Memorial

The timber lobby's position on the Idaho Primitive Area — open virtually all of it to logging — has been presented to the House by the Revenue and Taxation Committee.

That position is embodied in a memorial, HJM 13. The memorial presumes that the policy of those who want to open virtually every acre to timber cutting and mining, including the Primitive Area, and leave every river open to dam building, even the Salmon, is the policy of the people of Idaho.

It seems more likely that most Idahoans would prefer to leave the Idaho Primitive Area in a primitive state, as a magnificent remnant of the unspoiled America of centuries past.

Contrary to the language of the resolution, there is tremendous and growing public use of the area under Primitive Area management, which is similar to what it would have with wilderness classification.

Existing airplane flights and airfields can remain with a wilderness classification. The jet boats on the Salmon can remain.

Recreation use of the area is projected to reach 1.3 million visitor days by the year 2000. It will be even more valuable to future generations than this one.

The Primitive Area is a valuable watershed,

supporting a great fishery, a home for wildlife, a tremendous asset for Idaho.

Most of Idaho's forest land is open to timber cutting. Virtually all of it, including the Primitive Area, is open to mining. (Even wilderness is open to mining through 1984.) Outside of the Primitive and wilderness areas, there are about 70 acres of land per person in Idaho.

Idaho can have both multiple use management for most forest lands, and protection of some of its lands as wilderness. The Idaho Primitive Area doesn't have to be sacrificed to the multiple use slogan. Wilderness is a well-established management alternative recognized by law. Its designation is public policy under laws approved by Congress.

One obvious way to meet the immediate need for lumber is to reduce the export of logs to Japan. Shall we surrender the primitive character of the Idaho Primitive Area to keep Japan in logs?

The Forest Service has described how more wood can be produced with better management of lands now open to timber cutting. There are millions of acres which haven't been reseeded, and other millions not being managed for maximum growth.

Reprinted from The Denver Post, Feb. 22, 1973.

Suit May Serve A Purpose

Are all necessary precautions being taken to assure that a Wyoming power plant now under construction will not cause unacceptable environmental harm?

That is the question being raised by the Sierra Club and the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council in their law suit against the Department of Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Sierra Club has asked in the suit that work on the Jim Bridger Power Plant, a \$300 million facility being built near Rock Springs, be halted until guarantees are provided that the plant will meet the latest environmental standards, particularly on air quality.

It was the EPA which originally raised questions about possible ecological damage from the coal-burning plant, scheduled to go into operation in 1976. These questions were submitted to Interior's Bureau of Land Management last February, and much of the information sought by EPA was supplied.

In reviewing the latest environmental impact statement on the Bridger plant, EPA raised new questions about air contaminants, notably sulphur oxides that would be produced by the plant. It did not, however, call for a halt in construction until all the answers were in.

Whether or not construction should be stopped temporarily is a moot point, but there ought to be no question about the overall precautions the Sierra Club is pushing for.

The pollution problems with similar power plants in the Four Corners area have drawn attention to the need for installing effective antipollution equipment before, instead of after, the Bridger project is completed.

Cost of installing and maintaining that equipment will be high — and undoubtedly will be reflected in higher power rates — but it will be even more expensive to retrofit devices later on.

EPA, under law, is the assigned federal watchdog on the environmental impact of plants such as Bridger. It ought to follow through with full vigor to make certain that federal standards are being met.

If the legal action by the Sierra Club and the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council prods EPA further in this direction, it will have served a useful purpose.

Reprinted from the Deseret News, Feb. 23, 1973.

Public's Role

Dr. Noel De Nevers, in his Reynolds Lecture at the University of Utah, put the challenge for clean air squarely where it belongs — on the public.

As he said, we really don't know much about air pollution. But, as he also said, we will have clean air. Accomplishing that will take time, cost a great deal of money, and demand a reshaping of some of our values and priorities.

In a recent survey by the Christian Science Monitor, leaders of national organizations across the nation expressed concern that the country is losing its fight against environmental pollution. About 30 percent said we are keeping pace, and 19 percent said they felt the nation was gaining on the problems.

However, 38 percent said the public was losing interest. If so, that is cause for concern, if not alarm.

We will have clean air — and water, land, and everything else — when we want it bad enough that we demand it.

If the public believes the government will automatically take steps to provide it, then the public is daydreaming. Citizens must remain concerned and demand that government pass laws and set rules to get pollution-free air and water.

There are vested forces whose priorities do not set clean air, water, and land above their own interests. Such forces are powerful, persuasive, and rich, and lobby and work for their own ends.

A nation that has polluted its water and fouled its air for economic gain now must see to it that health, environment, and esthetics are given their proper role.



While the Idaho legislature is often responsive to this kind of lobby effort, legislators should think twice about this memorial.



Reprinted from the Deseret News, Feb. 19, 1973.

Time Is Now

In this era of increasing population and shrinking land resources, the wisdom of setting aside large tracts of land in the public domain is only now coming to be appreciated.

Unless the U.S. similarly plans for long-range future land use, coming generations may well find the quality of life severely reduced from what it is today.

An important part of that policy should be setting aside of wilderness areas. That's why the Forest Service should be commended for its recent proposal to study several Mountain West areas for possible future designation as wildernesses.

Included for study in Utah are the 52,800-acre Mt. Naomi area straddling the Utah-Idaho border; the Dark Canyon-Woodenshoe Canyon area on the Manti-LaSal National Forest; Pine Valley Mountains and Ashdown Gorge in Dixie National Forest; Tushar Mountains, Thousand Lakes Mountain, and Fishlake Mountain on the Fishlake Forest; the Lone Peak area bordering Salt Lake Valley, and Victory Mountain in the Stansbury Range.

It may or may not be true that all these should be declared wilderness areas. But with the increasing rate of civilization's intrusion into such areas, it's certainly vital to study carefully and take action now while selected areas can still be preserved in their wild state. When it's too late, it's simply too late.

To meet wilderness criteria, such areas must be comparatively roadless and uninhabited: "An area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," says the Wilderness Act. Wilderness is a resource that encompasses many other values besides recreation, including wildlife, plant communities, water, solitude, and scenery.

The great impact of these values on the quality of life are easily recognizable — and hence the need for wilderness action now.

The Politics of Legislating...

John Jenkins, a student in environmental studies at Princeton University, is on special assignment to High Country News. A resident of Buffalo, Wyoming, he spent several weeks observing the process of legislation in Wyoming's capital. He was particularly interested in strip mining legislation as it will affect Wyoming.

The following account relates the course of debate on mining legislation. In the first part of this two-part series, Jenkins set the stage. He related the political maneuvering, described the bills to be debated, and set forth the main protagonists.

House Bill 22A was the revised version of the bill introduced by Rep. Warren Morton of Casper.

Part II by John Jenkins

HB22A came up for debate on General File Monday afternoon, February 5. Miners had reportedly caucused with Rep. Harold Meier during the weekend and drafted a long list of weakening amendments. The conservation lobby had met with some difficulty in providing toughening language for its floor allies since all spare copies of the bill available to work on were taken the previous Friday by one of the mine lobbyists.

The bill itself was a vast improvement over the original Morton measure but still fell far short of existing eastern legislation. It now included a permit system tied to reclamation regulations promulgated by the proper EQA agency. It also provided for public notice and hearing on each permit application, as well as a list of reclamation activities to be considered by the permit-granting agency. Nevertheless, the bill still contained no mandatory statewide standards. It also limited the rights of appeal to parties with property at stake, effectively cutting off citizen group protection in the courts.

The mining industry apparently felt even these changes in the bill jeopardized their welfare. Rep. Meier, chief industry spokesman, attacked the standing committee amendments and urged the House to approve instead the original Morton bill. That measure had no provision empowering the regulatory agency to deny a permit and therefore essentially gave the government no control over mining activities. It also had not required an operator to give public notice of his application or face the scrutiny of public hearing.

Morton defended improvements in the bill up to the point the committee had reached, calling HB22A "vastly superior to my own original 22." Meier's attack was defeated and the House approved the committee amendments. Then John Turner offered an amendment which simply struck out the body of 22A and replaced it with the Wallop bill, SF 125. Turner claimed that the Morton version simply would not realistically protect the land.

"This bill delegates too much authority to a board we don't even know about. And it will adopt standards basic to reclamation in the state. It requires no mining plan, so we have no way of knowing whether the operator can reclaim in the fashion he proposes. It gives us no concrete time table for accomplishing reclamation. And finally, it doesn't provide for cease and desist orders necessary to control these operations if a miner resists the intent of the act," Turner declared.

Morton vigorously opposed the Turner move, calling 22A an "intelligent industrial bill." Meier claimed the Wallop bill was a "no-mining measure" and urged the body not "to take shots at miners." As the debate continued, Meier consulted just off the floor with mine lobbyist Bill Budd.

Dennis Stickley, Albany County Democrat and a member of Morton's committee, argued

for Turner's move, claiming that there were just too many inadequacies in 22A. He saw the Wallop bill as a more unified, well-thought-out approach. After Rodger McDaniel, D-Laramie, called for adoption of SF 125 the question was called for and on an unrecorded voice vote the Turner motion was defeated.

The next hour and a half was taken up by Meier of Fremont County who offered a long string of amendments apparently designed to dilute the bill. These culminated in an attempt by Meier to eliminate the act's license revocation procedure. At this point several lawmakers who had been silent up until then rose in quick succession in support of the Meier amendment. Diemer True of Casper and scion of True Oil Co., contended that it would simply, "shift the weight of the miner, that's all." Gus Fleischli, Roy Peck, and Orin Geesey all spoke for the motion. (Fleischli is an oil jobber supplying many of the mining companies, Peck is deeply involved in uranium and other minerals, and Geesey is a banker in Kemmerer, home of Kemmerer Coal Co. Ed.)

Morton responded with two speeches which lashed out at the attempt as a serious emasculation of the bill. He argued that, "The effect of the Meier amendment is to say 'if you have a big enough operation to invest \$40 million, you can't be shut down.'" A standing vote resulted in a 25-25 tie, which was broken when temporary chairman Rep. Ross Copenhaver killed the measure. After another series of amendments aimed at the bill's effectiveness, including one by Diemer True to drop the notice of public hearing altogether, were defeated, the Committee of the Whole gave the measure a "do pass" recommendation. The debate had taken four hours, one of the longest of the entire session on any subject.

The following day 22A went through second reading debate. Dennis Stickley tried to add as a reason for denying a permit the "physical and economical impossibility of reclamation." His measure was defeated. Then Rep. Copenhaver offered an amendment to limit the right of appeal on a decision to grant a permit to those having a valid "legal interest." He explained it as an attempt to keep "crazy environmentalists" from obstructing development.

Morton did not oppose this amendment and in spite of vigorous protests by Gary Greenhalgh, D-Sweetwater, rancher Bill Cross, R-Converse, and minority leader Pete Mulvaney

it passed on a voice vote. Rep. Meier then urged deletion of a section of the act which prohibited mining operations which posed "a foreseeable public nuisance or endangered public safety, life, and property." Rex Arney, R-Sheridan, opposed this vigorously and managed to kill it. The debate ended when a measure by Walter Urbigkit, D-Laramie, to at least give the party who called for a hearing the right to appeal was defeated. The bill passed second reading.

Three major amendments were offered to 22A on third reading in the House on Wednesday. First, Walter Urbigkit renewed his efforts to open up access to judicial review. He argued that without the measure any groups or individuals unhappy about a permit's being granted would simply file suit all over the Rocky Mountains and would still tie things up. Stickley supported the provision, asserting that, "The people of Wyoming ought to have a voice in what happens to their land." This time the measure passed.

Then Rep. John Turner offered a fundamental amendment. Much of the privately owned land in Wyoming (about 30% of our total area) covers mineral rights owned by someone else. This makes for a conflict of interest, since extraction of the mineral often damages the surface owner. This conflict reaches its ultimate when strip-mining is used, since the surface is completely destroyed. Turner argued that in those few cases where a landowner simply would not sell out to a mining firm which wanted to strip his land, the state should give him the veto over the surface mining method.

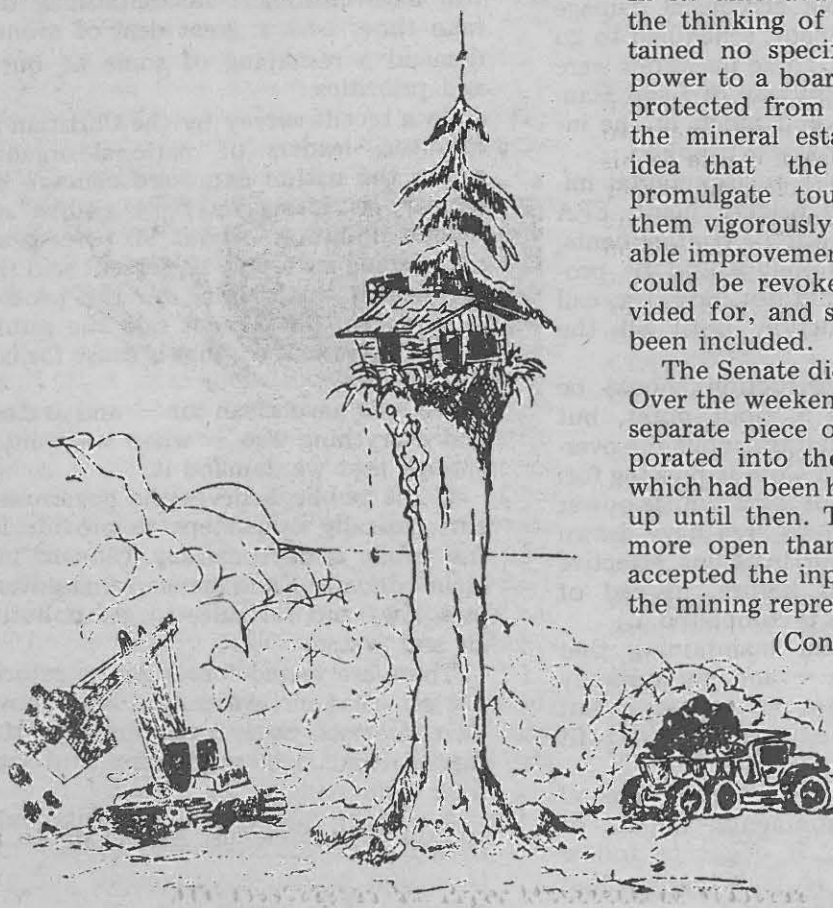
Rep. Morton spoke against this concept. Meier vigorously opposed it. Several ranchers spoke in favor of landowner consent. Greenhalgh summed up the attitude of supporters, "I spent fifteen years away from Wyoming and now I appreciate this land." It was defeated on a recorded vote, 22 to 39.

Finally, Rep. Roy Peck offered an amendment designed to exempt firms from reclamation obligations if the need for coal or whatever other mineral was being extracted became great enough. Morton called it, "... the most shocking amendment aimed at the heart of this bill yet offered!" Peck responded that the measure wasn't a loophole. Stickley retorted that, "If this thing passes, we might as well not pass the bill." The amendment failed.

After two and one half hours of debate 22A passed the House and was sent to the Senate. In its amended form, the bill still reflected the thinking of Rep. Warren Morton. It contained no specific standards, delegating that power to a board. Surface ownership was not protected from destruction by the owner of the mineral estate. But if one accepted the idea that the independent board would promulgate tough regulations and enforce them vigorously, then the bill was a considerable improvement over the 1969 Act. Licenses could be revoked, public hearings were provided for, and strong bonding provisions had been included.

The Senate did not waste time with the bill. Over the weekend HB22A lost its identity as a separate piece of mining law and was incorporated into the Environmental Quality Act which had been held in the Stroock committee up until then. That committee, considerably more open than its alter ego in the House, accepted the input of many people, including the mining representatives. Nevertheless, when

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The Politics of Legislating

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it emerged from committee the following Monday for its first Senate debate, it bore the imprint of Senator Malcolm Wallop more than any other man.

The Stroock committee version that came up for debate on Monday, Feb. 12, included two provisions that had been vigorously resisted in the House, a requirement of a mining plan and an outline of specific duties of an operator which would have to be met consistent with the reclamation plan. Opponents in the House had argued that the industry should not be required to disclose it planned to get at the minerals, seeing such a provision as unnecessary government intervention in private business. They claimed that the regulatory agency should simply assume that a reclamation plan could be accomplished later without knowing what damage would be done first by the mining operation. They also felt that specific duties would be too much of a burden on the industry. In these two major areas, then, the Stroock mining bill strengthened the Morton version.

On the floor, however, Stroock would go no further when Wallop tried to add even more toughening language. He resisted a Wallop attempt to include one specific standard in the bill-language which would have prohibited any slope remaining steeper than 25%. Stroock maintained that it was a bad precedent to include any numbers in the bill which would limit its flexibility. Sen. J. W. Myers echoed this feeling and urged the Senate not to, "... pin this thing down." The measure failed.

(It should be added that Sen. Myers is from a district in which Kemmerer Coal Co. operates a large open-pit mine. Kemmerer Coal is projected to someday have a mine some 1200 feet deep and one mile across. It can be easily seen why he would oppose amendments which would, in effect, prohibit high-walls. Ed.)

Wallop then offered what was perhaps the most significant addition made to the law during its entire consideration. He moved that standards, once they are promulgated by the EQA Council, be made uniform and apply to all permit applications. This struck language which "established standards for each permit." The old version, on careful reading, wasn't a standard at all but instead just a response to a miner's initiative. The old way guaranteed the state no minimum protection. With only very limited resistance by Stroock and Ostlund, another member of the Senate Mines committee, the measure passed!

Wallop's final strengthening measure failed, however. He introduced an amendment to restore the landowner consent clause in his own SF 125. The choice was clearcut. Either by passage of that amendment the Senate would place surface rights in a legal position superior to mineral rights where the two were severed, or it would allow the current situation to continue where the mineral owner can do anything he wants to the surface as long as it is legitimately related to the recovery of the mineral. In the hour-long debate that followed Steve Majhanovich and Robert Johnson, both Sweetwater Democrats, and Bob Novotny, R-Fremont, defended landowners' consent. Stroock and Ostlund opposed it, each making several speeches. Neil Stafford, R-Johnson-Campbell, made the most impassioned speech against the measure, however, charging that "there was no way the Senate can legislate away the property rights of mineral owners." On a close standing vote, the motion failed, 12 to 15.

Stafford then offered an amendment calculated to, in Stroock's words, "open up" mining by ordering the regulatory board to give special consideration to reclamation plans for uniquely difficult mining conditions. Stroock, Novotny, and Wallop all fought the

move. Wallop summed up the resistance this way, "If a situation is so special that we can't guarantee good reclamation, then we don't want the operation in Wyoming." Stafford's motion failed. After some additional minor amendments, the Senate gave SF 135 a do pass recommendation.

(Sen. Stafford is from Buffalo, Wyoming, where Reynolds Metals Co. is proposing a \$2.2 billion uranium enrichment plant. Energy for the plant would come from a huge open-pit mine providing coal for a 3,600-megawatt steam generating plant. On March 2, Tipperary Coal Co. announced plans to build a 1,200-megawatt plant near Buffalo. Coal may come from seams which lie under and alongside Clear Creek, the main stream which dissects the town of Buffalo. Timing of the announcement of the plant is open to conjecture but the size of the operation would lead one to think Wyoming officials would have been apprised of plans before the public announcement. Rep. William Holland, Ind-Johnson Co., said, following the announcement, "If they'd made the applications earlier, I'll bet the legislature would have made some changes in the Environmental Quality Act." Ed.)

Third reading on Wednesday the 14th saw sentiment on the floor of the Senate swing strongly in favor of tough additions to the bill. Only one critically weakening amendment, an economic variance measure advocated by Sen. Myers of Evanston, passed the Senate that afternoon. In comparison, two extremely good amendments picked up enough support to pass. Sen. Bob Novotny advanced a measure which placed reclamation requirements on potentially disastrous bulldozing exploration. Sen. Harry Leimback, D-Natrona, also pushed through a landowner protection clause. It didn't give the surface owner a veto over strip mining of his property but it did force the mining operator to adopt the best possible operation that the surface owner felt he could live with. When the Senate passed SF135 unanimously that Wednesday afternoon it was a vastly tougher bill than what had left the House one week before and had an excellent chance of working well when it

became law. It then went back to the House.

At that point politics came into play. With only nine legislative days left in the session, time was running out on SF 135. It still had to go through three readings in the House, since it was no longer just a mining bill and no longer carried the old house title. Finally, both houses would have to iron out their differences in conference.

Up until that point the bill had gotten consistently stronger. The environmental lobbyists, all pretty much new at the game, were growing more experienced and having a greater impact on the lawmakers. And while not many private citizens had come to Cheyenne to urge their legislators to strengthen the bill, a barrage of calls and letters seems to have played no small role in pushing the Senate into a stronger stance on 3rd reading than it had seemed to want to take two days earlier.

When everything seemed to point to a tough bill, it suddenly disappeared behind the closed doors of the Morton committee room for a solid week. No one knew exactly what was being done to the mining portion of the bill. The situation was one where the public had no way of being informed. The condition was one of confused accountability for what emerged and gave the seasoned mining lobbyists fertile soil. One informed source noted that during this week when the bill was out of sight, Tom Kidd, representing the Union Pacific, offered committee members several draft amendments. These would strike public access to judicial review when an interested party felt the Council had made an unsound decision.

SF 135's hurried passage through the House didn't begin until Wednesday, Feb. 21. It was just four days before the session was to end. The bill came out for general file with ten pages of Morton committee amendments, most aimed at deleting many of the Senate's measures to make the bill tougher. House debate this time closely followed the course it had taken two weeks earlier. The Mines committee changes struck out the Wallop (Please turn to page 10)



Wyoming's new mining act was strengthened by requiring reclamation of bulldozer exploration for minerals. As the photo above illustrates, exploration can be potentially as damaging to the land and water resources as mining itself. The bulldozer work shown here was done on steep slopes in Wyoming but it is a prevalent practice throughout the West. Federal legislation should also be enacted to protect public lands.

Wilderness Proposals...

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the Salmon River and its adjacent lands. The Forest Service has announced a series of public workshop meetings beginning March 1 and extending through March 20 in seven Northern Rocky Mountain communities. The aim? To develop the most appropriate management proposals for the area.

Studies of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area and the Idaho Primitive Area by the Forest Service and the Forest Service-State of Idaho joint study of the Salmon River from North Fork to its confluence with the Snake in Hells Canyon are available for public perusal. And if the public wants these areas set aside as wilderness and as wild and scenic rivers, they'd better get the documents (available from the Regional Forester in Ogden and from the various forest supervisors) and study them, consider the alternatives, and make their opinions known.

The opposition to wilderness — especially timber interests in this case but also including the organized anti-wilderness forces known as Outdoors Unlimited, Inc. — will be out in force as they have been at other Idaho hearings in recent years. If conservationists expect to get what they want in the way of management of the Salmon River and of the adjacent lands on both sides of the river, they had better participate in force and present something of an organized front.

I attended a dry-run public workshop meeting in Ogden Feb. 16 and was placed on a group dealing with the river. This was quite by chance but appropriate because I have floated the Salmon River professionally for the past few years and know it well. I have also followed closely and carefully the development of the study report.

The Salmon was studied from North Fork, where it leaves the main highway, to its confluence with the Snake, a distance of 237 river miles. It was divided into several sections: 1) North Fork to Corn Creek, the end of the road, 2) Corn Creek to Tepee Creek, 3) Tepee Creek to Long Tom, end of road, 4) Long Tom to Little Salmon (Riggins), 5) Little Salmon to Hammer Creek (Near Whitebird), and 6) Hammer Creek to the Snake River.

There were four alternatives for each section: wild, scenic, recreational, or unclassified, and various combinations were suggested by the Forest Service. The workshop team with which I participated called unanimously for the following designations: recreational river from North Fork to Corn Creek (the end of the road from North Fork); wild river status for the section from Corn Creek to Long Tom and phasing out motor use on the river in this section; recreational river from Long Tom (the end of the road from Riggins) all the way to Hammer Creek near Whitebird; and scenic river protection for the remainder.

Two points about the wild river section: 1) it is roadless except for a couple of primitive roads that wind their way down to the Salmon River at Whitewater Ranch below Big Mallard Creek and Rapid, and at Mackay Bar, and 2) the use of motors, especially on jet boats, is an established use and could be continued under Wild River status, but the conflict with wilderness values in adjacent wilderness areas is obvious.

Only seventeen jetboaters regularly run the Salmon River, but jetboating is a popular activity on the Salmon River for more of the year than float boating. Jet boats are used extensively in the fall and spring for fishing trips as well as for scenic and wildlife trips. There will no doubt be major disagreement about the phasing out of motor use on the river, but many wilderness enthusiasts feel that such a move is justified. Only public opinion will determine the final designation.

One alternative offered by the Forest Service calls for an unclassified Salmon River through-

out the study area with four dams scheduled for the river. There will no doubt be strong support for this alternative in some quarters. The proposed dams include one (Black Canyon) in the heart of the unroaded area between the Salmon River Breaks Wilderness (proposed) and the Idaho Wilderness (proposed). The others would be the Crevice Dam between Riggins and the end of the road to Long Tom, the Freedom Dam just upriver from Slate Creek on U.S. 95 between Riggins and Whitebird, and the Lower Canyon Dam Site just above the mouth of the Salmon (where it flows into Hells Canyon).

At present, dams on the Columbia and the Snake have destroyed 62% of the anadromous fish spawning areas in the watershed. Most authorities believe that any more dams on the Snake or on the Salmon will destroy forever the salmon and steelhead population of the system. Water temperature in the lower Columbia is already critical, and nitrogen poisoning from high dams has heavily affected the salmon and steelhead runs in recent years. The latter has killed as much as 70% of the steelhead run in one year alone.

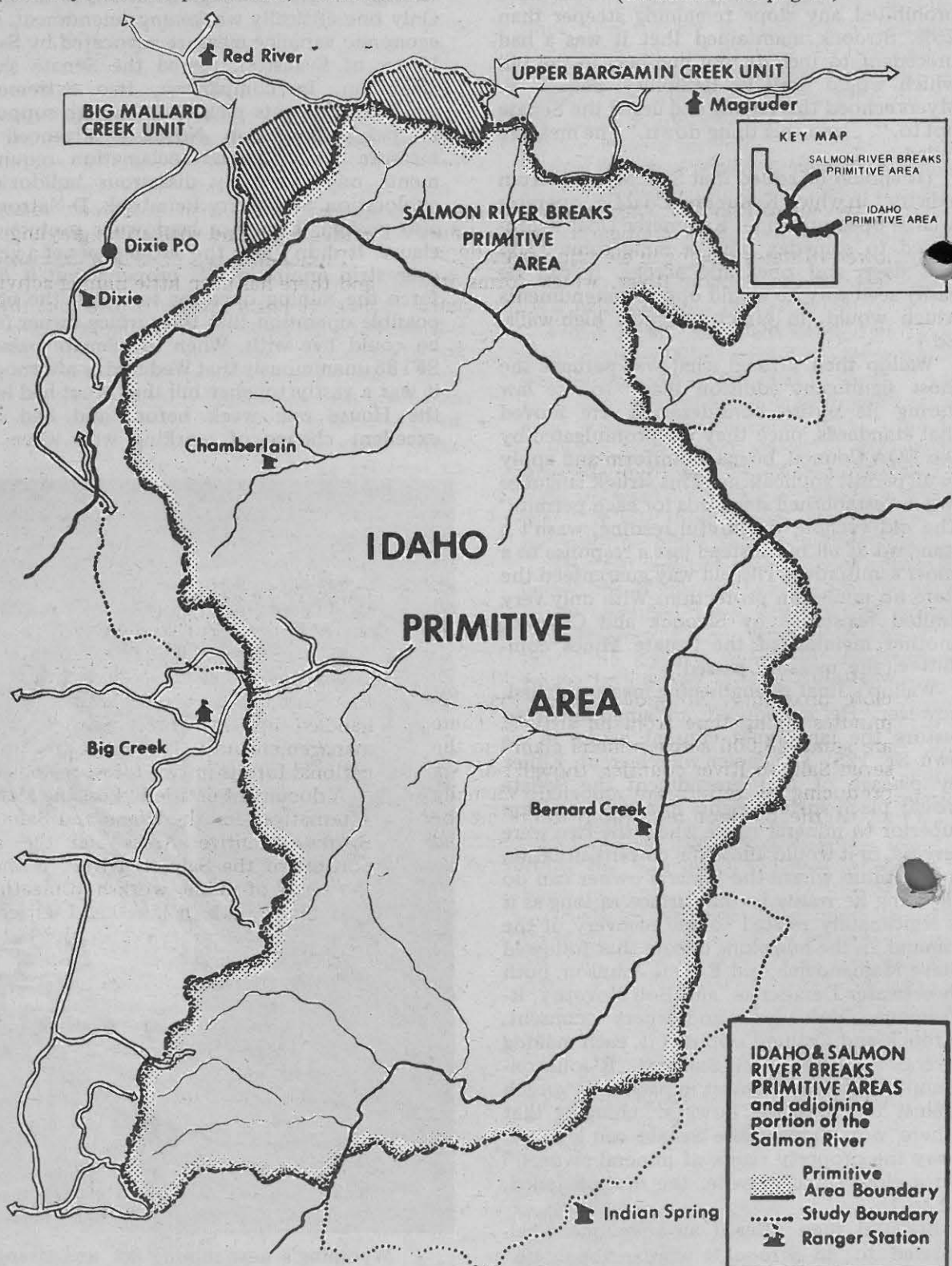
Water users and irrigation project advocates may make a bid for the dams, even though they make little sense. The Forest Service report says at one point that, "Schemes in-

volving diversions of Salmon River water directly or indirectly for irrigation use in the Snake River plain cannot be justified under present cost and benefit criteria." And if the Report of the National Water Commission means anything, it will be even more difficult in the future to justify water development projects.

In three of the four alternatives suggested by the Forest Service, the section of Salmon River that embraces the proposed wilderness areas has been designated as wild (from Corn Creek to Tepee Creek). The roaded sections downstream from North Fork and upst. from Riggins have been designated as recreational, and the section below Hammer Creek (Whitebird) has been designated as scenic. The controversy seems to be focused on the stretch along U.S. 95 (should it be recreational or have no classification, in which case it could be dammed?) and the stretch between Tepee Creek and Long Tom, which is not flanked by wilderness.

The river experience definitely changes at Corn Creek where the road is left behind. And it changes abruptly again at Long Tom, where the road again joins the river. But it does not change at Tepee Creek. The stretch below Tepee Creek is every bit as wild as that

(Continued on page 7)



The U.S. Forest Service has pointed out that the Big Mallard Creek and Upper Bangamin Creek Units contiguous to the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area have not been examined for mineral potential. According to the Forest Service these units cannot be considered in the proposal for the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area but must be considered later.

...Need Support

High Country News-7
Friday, Mar. 16, 1973

Photo by Verne Huser

above even though there may be more jet boat use from Mackay Bar and Shepp Ranch on the lower section that also includes Buckskin Bill's hermitage. However, jet boat use of the upper stretch is heavy too, especially to Salmon Falls. (Don Smith's cabin lies just a few dozen yards above the falls, which is a potential obstruction to jet boats, but they run up and down it for the fun of it all the time — it seems to be the thing to do for most jetboaters.)

So three main issues emerge: 1) shall the Salmon River be designated at all under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 2) if it is designated, which sections should have which designation, and 3) should motor use be phased out. I would predict that most (and hopefully all) of the 237 miles of river studied will be classified under the Act. But I would hazard no guess as to whether or not motorized use will be phased out as it is currently being done in Canyonlands and Grand Canyon National Parks so that the adjacent lands will be a higher-quality wilderness.

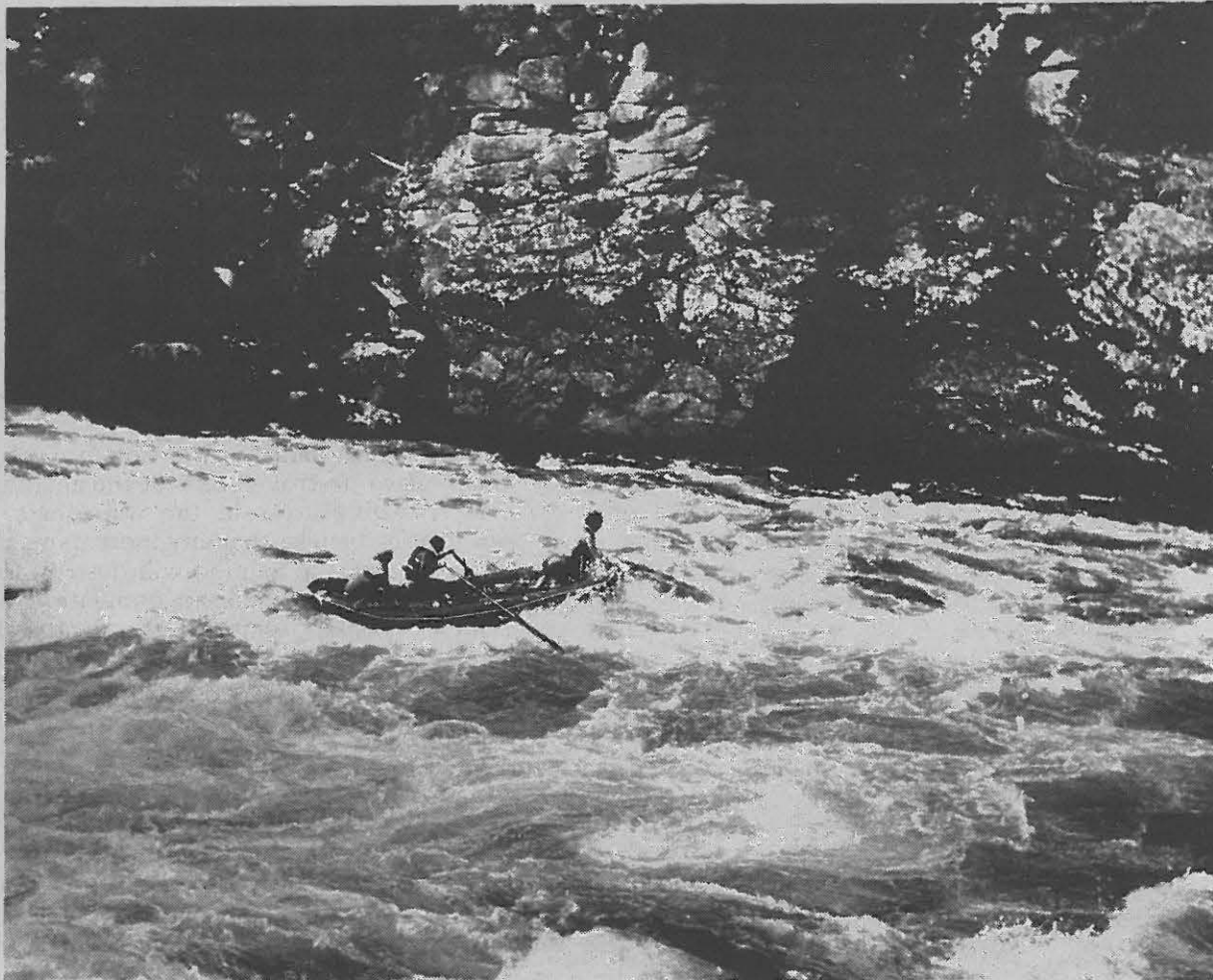
Now let's turn to the lands adjacent to the Salmon River that are being considered for wilderness status. The Idaho Primitive Area lies south of the main Salmon and embraces the Middle Fork. The Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area lies north of the main Salmon. Many conservationists would still like to have the Magruder Corridor included in the total picture as it probably should be. Perhaps public pressure can still be brought to bear on the issue. (For a detailed background on the Magruder Corridor, see Boyd Norton's *Snake Wilderness* published last fall. It also covers the Salmon River scene in some detail.)

The Idaho Primitive Area, 1,449,614 acres, is one of the largest contiguous areas in the lower 48 states ranging in elevation from 2200 feet on the Salmon River, which forms its northern boundary, to more than ten thousand feet in the Bighorn Crags. It is a varied land of extremes and of abundant wildlife. It supports 60 species of mammals, 112 species of birds, and 19 of amphibians and reptiles. It became a game preserve in 1925, but the largest single human activity in the area today is float boating though hunting and fishing and camping are also quite popular.

It contains high mountain lakes as well as relatively low-elevation free-flowing streams. It has been mined, and overgrazed by livestock, and burned. Very little timber cutting has occurred, but there are a few roads, all single-lane low standard access roads, mostly for 4-wheel-drive vehicles. The Primitive Area is studded with 21 airfields with six more in close proximity. No spot is more than 10-minutes flying time from an airfield. There are some 25,000 active mineral claims in the seven Salmon River counties, though only six producing operations are reported. Virtually all of the outdoor recreation occurs on the streams. It is a rugged land that has remained wild primarily because of the nature of its terrain.

Across the river, the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area, 216,870 acres, embraces the entire northern boundary of the Idaho Primitive Area. Three contiguous areas totalling another 92,495 acres have been studied for possible inclusion in the wilderness designation: Upper Big Mallard Creek, Upper Bargamin Creek, and the Horse Creek drainage. The entire 309,365-acre area lies in three national forests: the Bitterroot, the Nez Perce, and the Salmon. (The Idaho Primitive Area lies in four: Boise, Challis, Payette, and Salmon.)

This country lying to the north of the Salmon River is also varied and wild, isolated and steep. It has a unique stand of subalpine larch and important wildlife range. Its south-facing slopes on the north side of the Salmon River constitute vital winter range for moun-



Running Salmon Falls on Idaho's famous "River of No Return."

tain goats, bighorn sheep, and deer, and in recent decades elk, which were unknown in the area in early times. There are 33 fish-supporting lakes in the high country that have been planted with cutthroat, rainbow, and golden trout and with arctic grayling.

Domestic sheep grazing ended about 1940, and there has been little mining activity in the area. It has a history of fire, but the fire has resulted in fine wildlife habitat. The river has been the source of most activity in the area, which remains relatively isolated despite a road along the northern boundary. Travel averaged only 7 vehicles a day in 1969 and only 12 a day in 1971 during the summer months. Of the 36,000 visitor days per year (average during 1970-71), 21,700 were on or associated with the main Salmon River. Some 1428 people floated the river in 1971 (compared to 187 who used the trail system and an estimated 8,068 who ran the river in jet boats).

Because both the Salmon River Breaks and the adjacent areas studied with the Primitive Area and the Idaho Primitive Area are so closely associated with each other and with the Salmon River, the entire unit is being handled by the Forest Service as a single management unit. The entire area involves six national forests in two forest regions.

A document entitled "Possible Management Alternatives for the Idaho and Salmon River Breaks Primitive Areas and the adjoining portion of the Salmon River" is the key to the series of public workshop meetings being held this month in Idaho and adjacent areas. (See schedule published in the last issue of *High Country News*.)

Wilderness Coordinated Alternative A — This alternative proposes that most of the two primitive areas, plus the contiguous areas under study, be classified as a single wilderness. The only areas recommended for exclusion from wilderness would be those areas which show substantial evidence of man's activities, principally roads. The Salmon River so encompassed would be classified Wild and Recreational with wilderness classification superimposed over the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, which is already classified as a Wild River.

Wilderness Coordinated Alternative B-4 — This alternative proposes that most of the two primitive areas and the contiguous areas under

study be classified as two separate wildernesses. This alternative is much the same as Alternative A, except that a Wild and Scenic River corridor along the main Salmon River is proposed between the two wildernesses, and the total area recommended for exclusion from wilderness is expanded to include the "Dixie Trail" of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area.

Wilderness Coordinated Alternative C-5 — This alternative proposes that several areas of known mineralization be excluded from wilderness as well as the exclusions previously described under Alternative B-4. The main Salmon Wild or Scenic River corridor would be expanded to include the Middle Fork of the Salmon River (already classified Wild and Scenic), thus creating three distinct wildernesses.

Wilderness Coordinated Alternative D-6 — This alternative is essentially the same as Alternative C-5 except that the area excluded from wilderness classification is expanded to include some areas of relatively good timber production potential, as well as the main Salmon River canyon visual corridor.

Unroaded Recreation Area Coordinated Alternative E-6 — This alternative proposes to declassify the two primitive areas with the stipulation that a portion of the study areas would be managed under a roadless type of recreation management. The areas recommended for exclusion from a roadless type of recreation management are essentially the same as shown in Alternative D-6. This alternative would have no impact on the main Salmon River classification alternatives.

Unclassified Coordinated Alternative F-1 — This alternative proposes to declassify the two existing primitive areas. As unclassified national forest land, these areas would be managed subject to the range of permitted uses as indicated by the study analysis. The main Salmon River would remain unclassified and available for potential hydropower development. The Middle Fork of the Salmon River will continue to be managed under the approved river plan.

There they are — the alternatives. They get worse and worse from a conservationist's point of view, and even Alternative A, obviously the best of the lot, involves too many exclusions for me. But you've got to (Please turn to page 10)



Impassable Canyon, Lower Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Idaho Primitive Area.



Elk calving ground in Chamberlain Basin, Idaho Primitive Area.

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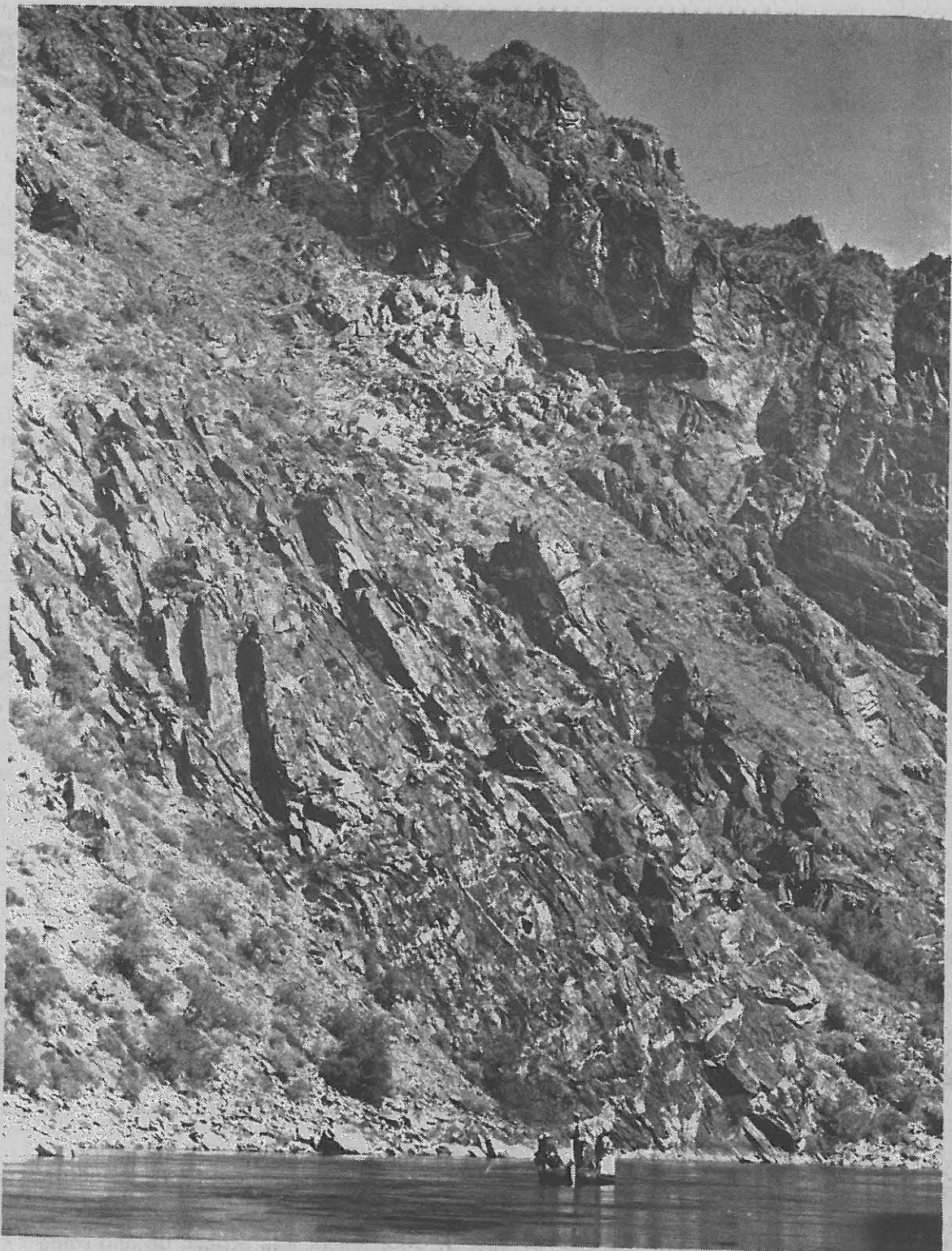
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ess Decision

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Primitive Area and the contiguous Salmon
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Fishing for cutthroat on the Middle Fork of the Salmon, Idaho Primitive Area.

otos by Ernie Day



Ship Island Lake, looking west toward Chamberlain Basin, Idaho Primitive Area.

...The Politics of Legislating

standards amendment, and returned to discretionary regulation. Specific duties of the operator were also eliminated. The same legislators who had fought to strengthen the Morton bill before now fought to protect the fairly good bill that had emerged from the Senate.

Crippled by lack of time and a general fatigue with the whole question of reclamation, the House came close to overriding Morton on only one issue. On third reading, with only one day left in the session, Turner tried to reinstate the "duties of the operator" provision. His amendment failed on a 29 to 29 tie vote. Rex Arney of Sheridan was also unable to liberalize the appeal procedure enough to guarantee environmental groups standing before the courts on reclamation issues. The bill passed the House shortly before noon that day.

Again, the tactics of delay were used effectively to prevent any organized resistance to the weakened bill. The Senate refused to accept the House changes in its bill and thus necessitated a conference committee. Speaker of the House Cliff Davis delayed the committee's work by refusing to appoint conferees until the following morning, the final day of the session. And when he did appoint members, they were heavily weighted in favor of those who had been most acceptable to the mining industry. He named Morton, Meier, and Rep. Bud Daily, who had remained fairly quiet during the debate, to the committee.

Senate President Dick Tobin even more obviously favored a weak bill by omitting all the major advocates of the strong measures from his delegation to the conference. Conspicuously absent from the conference was Sen. Tom Stroock, chairman of the committee which had spent so much time on the bill. And Sen. Malcolm Wallop was also passed over for two strong opponents of his amendments, Stafford and Myers, and another neutral, Donald Northrup.

Clearly, in the crush of time, there were no vigorous spokesmen for a strong bill on the conference committee which finally decided what Wyoming's strip mine legislation was to be. Yet industry, in the persons of Meier, Stafford, and Myers, had half of the committee sewn up. And in a closed conference situation, public opinion had little effect.

"I believe that we now have a landmark piece of combined water, air, and land protection legislation that will preserve the environment while at the same time allow the Wyoming economy to survive."

**Rep. Harold Meier
Riverton Ranger
February 27, 1973**

Both houses passed the EQA in its final form about four o'clock the afternoon of the last day of the session. It wasn't the bill the public had examined in the light of day during Senate floor debate two weeks earlier.

Briefly then, what does the new EQA do to control surface mining in Wyoming? It does allow the Environmental Quality Council to deny mining permits based on standards it will adopt to evaluate the given project. It does give the public the right to inspect a mining and reclamation plan and put it to close examination in a public hearing if it chooses. And it does give the enforcement agency the right to stop an operation if it chooses to do so.

It also provides for the perpetual protection of certain unique and irreplaceable areas in our state from the impact of strip mining. The EQA does not, however, give Wyoming uniform minimum reclamation standards and thus does allow for looseness and arbitrary discretion in controlling reclamation.

It does not give interested parties the right to take their case to a higher court if they feel

the Environmental Quality Council is ignoring the public interest. And it does not rigorously protect the landowner, where he does not own the mineral rights, from unwanted strip mining.

What political forces determined what we finally got on the books during the Forty-Second Legislature? Warren Morton may have pointed out the dominant factor to me the first day I was in Cheyenne. He pointed to the House chamber and reminded me that, "This House is made up of businessmen. . . who dislike the idea of a business operation being continuously open to interference. . ."

Perhaps the element that more than any other defeated the Turner and Wallop bills was that the men who made the law were very often the ones who would be regulated by it. By that I do not imply that conflict of interest torpedoed a strong bill, although it may have operated at times. Instead, I mean that many of those lawmakers simply had not been educated in the specifics of surface mining on the scale proposed in the North Central Power Study. When confronted with this legislation, their natural tendency, being honest, small businessmen themselves who live with the people they deal with, was to give industry the benefit of the doubt. Unfortunately, only a tragedy in the Appalachian tradition may change that outlook. They were more familiar and at home with the business-like mining industry lobbyists than with the relatively young group who represented the environmental sentiments of the state.



Peregrines . . .

by moneyed sheiks and noblemen. Black market birds are bootlegged into Middle Eastern countries after being taken from nests or captured in clandestine operations. One ring of bootleggers was broken up and some members prosecuted in recent years. However, biologists believe the poaching continues in spite of tough laws and restrictive regulations on legitimate falconry.

Peregrines are afflicted by two diseases, trichomoniasis, known to falconers as "frounce," and botulism. The latter may have been a partial cause of the peregrine's decline in Utah.

However, none of these factors accounts for the sudden universal population decline in the 1950's and the peregrine's demise in the East. This phenomenon occurred not only in the United States but in all of North America and in Europe shortly after World War II — following the extensive use of DDT and other organochlorine pesticides.

Delicate breeding patterns and variations in individual behavior have made attempts to raise the peregrine in captivity largely unsuccessful to date. Dr. Clayton M. White, assistant professor of zoology at Brigham Young University and one of the world's experts on birds of prey, is attempting the first large-scale captive raising. Dr. White hopes to build a reservoir of birds to be used for release into areas where the bird is now extinct.

Dr. White feels that only a worldwide moratorium on the use of persistent pesticides will save such species and perhaps even man. Although EPA has banned DDT use in the United States after Dec. 31, 1972, production of the chemical will continue for overseas export. But "migratory birds do not know international boundaries," says Dr. White. "It would be senseless to build up a native population until the DDT problem has been resolved once and for all and the environment made clean again."

Public pressure insured that we would get some mining law, but politicians are very much aware of the public's inability to educate itself on specifics when something like this is being debated. Hence, it was difficult to bring massive public sentiment in the form of calls, letters, and visits to bear. It was especially true in relation to technical legal matters which don't seem to matter but in effect make all the difference.

Governor Hathaway, by publicly staying out of the controversy, didn't help educate the public to the details of the law. And since money was in acutely short supply for the environmental lobby, phone chains and newscree letters couldn't be distributed often enough to get maximum impact. Therefore, I think it's safe to say that while public input had a great deal to do with pushing this bill to the heights it reached on several occasions, it was inevitably weakened when public input could no longer be maintained in the last days of the session.

It is my hope that this review of the EQA's passage doesn't paint too bleak a picture. There is no question that we are far better off than with the old 1969 Act. And as one retiring lawmaker told me, there will be other sessions. So this law should be considered only a start. If it doesn't adequately protect the state's land quality, then environmentalists will already have demonstrated that discretionary legislation just won't work and will be in an excellent position to press for tougher, more effective law.

Don't Top Off

Because over-filling automobile gas tanks causes pollution, the Lung Association of San Diego has sent letters to gas station operators asking their cooperation in a campaign to stop the topping of tanks.

In addition, the Lung Association has made up cards for gas consumers to present to the station attendants who actually do the pumping. The card demands, "Don't Top Off My Tank," and goes on to explain why. According to the Lung Association, hydrocarbon vapor emissions during fueling and emissions from exhaust are nearly equal, at 5.6 and 6 grams per gallon.

By not topping off gas tanks, the release of harmful hydrocarbon vapor into the air can be greatly reduced. The card reminds gas station attendants that "It's a matter of life and breath." ::EARTH NEWS

Proposals . . .

admit, the alternatives are here. Included are the timberman, the dam-builder, the miner, the river runner, the jetboater, the back-packer. And we stand to lose hundreds of thousands of acres of prime wilderness if we don't get out to these public workshop meetings to learn the details of these complicated and interrelated alternatives, and then make our comments, our own recommendations.

And if you can't make one of the scheduled meetings, you can at least write your comments before April 1, 1973 to the Regional Forester. (Intermountain Region, U.S. Forest Service, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401 OR Northern Region, U.S. Forest Service, Federal Building, Missoula, Montana 59801.)

A formal public hearing concerning the management proposals developed by the Forest Service for these three areas is tentatively scheduled for November. But it may be all over but the road-building and timber-cutting and mineral-extraction by then.

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the Salmon River and its adjacent lands.

Rio Blanco Opposed

Project Rio Blanco, the nuclear gas stimulation project slated for northwestern Colorado, seems destined to proceed on schedule. Gov. John Love said he would not use his veto powers to stop the controversial experiment. His decision came even after Sen. Floyd Haskell had called twice and met personally with the governor.

Sen. Haskell has asked the Department of the Interior to halt the project which is slated for later this spring. The experimental test would explode three 30-kiloton devices in deep sandstone formations near Meeker.

Haskell said that following the final go-ahead on Feb. 9, his staff had done an exhaustive study. From the study he had concluded:

— That a "full field development" of the area would involve up to 500 such shots. Such an eventuality is "absolutely out of the question."

— That the sponsors of the project — the Atomic Energy Commission and private companies — had not complied with the National Environmental Protection Act through the environmental impact statement. He said the impact statement didn't cover the effects of the whole project in full field development.

Haskell said he was persuaded against the test shot on the grounds that it posed the potential danger of contaminating underground water, and the futility of the project.

"If you can't have full field development — and there's almost universal agreement on that point — why in the world go ahead with the test shot?" he asked.

Gov. Love has also indicated that he would be against full field development. The same question has been raised in the neighboring state of Wyoming where Project Wagon Wheel is proposed. There, the test shot would use five 100-kiloton devices.

A University of Colorado research group says it will make an economic analysis of the Rio Blanco test if it is carried out. The same research group recently released a study of the Rulison project. That showed the 1969 Rulison project was an economic failure, producing \$1.4 million worth of natural gas while costing

\$11 million. Rulison was a test of one 40-kiloton device near Grand Valley, Colo.



The recent announcement of another large coal-fired generating plant in Wyoming follows on the heels of Montana Power's announcement of more units at Colstrip. A few plants once scattered across the open landscape were of some consequence to clean air and visual pollution. But a gaggle of huge plants can spell disaster.

New Powerplant Announced

Tipperary Resources, a Midland, Texas, energy-package group, has announced plans for a 1,200-megawatt, coal-fired generating plant near Buffalo, Wyoming. A spokesman for the group said the 1,200-megawatt size was "a planning figure."

Dean Stoltz, president of Tipperary, says the group holds leases on approximately a billion tons of sub-bituminous coal. Leases on federal coal lands are on a preference lease right at an initial cost of 25¢ an acre. Competitive bids on similar coal lands in adjoining Campbell County went for \$505 an acre.

Tipperary has made application to the State Land Board for permits to drill as many as 58 wells. Water from the wells, possibly as deep as 3,500 feet, would supply the large plant. Permits for the wells are being requested on lands along the east side of the Big Horn Mountains, stretching from a few miles north of Buffalo to Mayoworth, approximately 40 miles south.

The plant, some 10 miles northeast of Buffalo, would undoubtedly take coal from the huge deposits which lie underneath Clear Creek Valley. The stream bed of Clear Creek lies atop the coal deposits.

No action has been taken on the permit applications by Wyoming State Engineer Floyd Bishop. But the permits cannot be denied if state law is followed. Commissioner of State Lands A.E. King said the State Land Board "would like to see industrial development in that area."

Tipperary has made no formal application to the Public Service Commission for a permit

to build the plant. Regulations require a two-year lead time before building could begin.

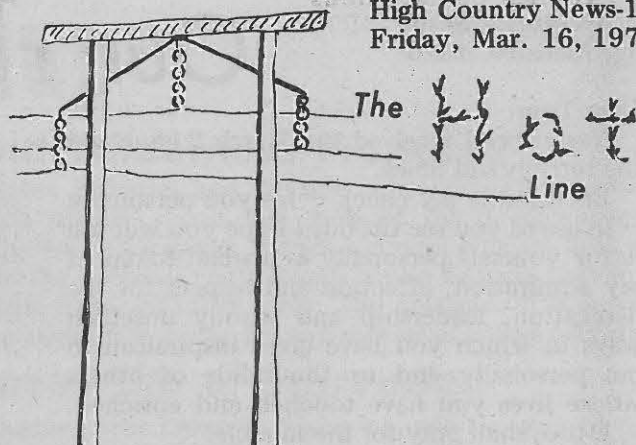
Tough Montana Act Awaited

Montana Governor Thomas L. Judge says he will sign "the strongest strip mine reclamation law in the history of this country." He said he would also sign a powerplant siting bill which gives the state authority to regulate the location of generating and energy-conversion plants, transmission lines, rail spurs, and associated facilities.

The Montana Legislature, which went into a continuing "special" session Monday, is still considering various tax proposals on coal and other minerals. One proposal would triple the tax on coal, raising it to a minimum of 33¢ per ton. Three bills have already passed the House and are being considered by the Senate. One creates a resource-indemnity trust fund from a one-half of one percent tax on the gross value of all minerals extracted in the state. After the accumulation of \$100 million, the fund would be used for the improvement of the state's total environment.

Another bill would remove as a deduction from the net proceeds tax the cost of reclaiming mined lands. And a third would buy a \$500 per acre fee on all land disturbed by surface mining for coal, clay, phosphate rock and uranium.

High Country News-11
Friday, Mar. 16, 1973



A joint statement by five energy associations declares that the energy problem is potentially at a point where "the nation is on a collision course with a major energy shortage." The presidents of the American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, Atomic Industrial Forum, Edison Electric Institute, and the National Coal Association signed the statement.

They said, "The United States is faced with a growing energy problem which has the potential of developing into a major national crisis. Public awareness of this is vital to its resolution." And they added, "One of the most alarming aspects of the current energy situation is that many Americans do not yet realize there is a problem."

* * *

The director of the Office of Coal Research says Americans may have to accept a lower standard of living in view of the world-wide energy supply. Dr. George R. Hill says the underdeveloped countries are demanding more of their fair share of energy resources. He said there is "a limit to available resources," and that unless the U.S. acts to develop coal gasification, nuclear fusion or solar energy, "our lifestyle will come down."

* * *

An energy consultant to Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel says there must be a revolution in energy production. Miss Egan O'Connor says the technology for developing energy from the sun could be quickly developed if funds were provided. She also points to energy conversion from photosynthesis in plants in which methane (natural gas) is produced, or in which low-sulfur oil is produced. She points to Department of the Interior research which shows the potential from use of animal wastes alone.

* * *

An Atomic Energy Commission official says the answer to natural gas shortages is the nuclear stimulation of rock formations in the West. Dr. Edward Fleming said about 300 trillion cubic feet of gas can be recovered from the tight rock formations in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. (He did not say how many nuclear explosions would be necessary.)

* * *

A \$150 million, 500-megawatt, coal-fired generating plant has received the go-ahead from the Utah Water Resources Board. The plant will be built by Nevada Power Co. and the St. George Utility Commission at a site 12 miles northeast of St. George, Utah. A 14½-mile canal would be built from the end of a 7½-mile canal in existence to provide water. A 30,000-acre foot reservoir is planned on the East Fork of the Virgin River. Coal would be piped by a slurry line from Kane County where Nevada Power holds some 200 million tons of coal.

* * *

Montana's controversial coal moratorium bill died in the House of Representatives on a final 62-35 vote. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Dorothy Bradley, a young environmentalist serving her second term. Earlier in the session the bill had been killed but then revived by a one vote margin.

Our readers respond...

Dear Tom:

Yesterday I received the March 2 issue and the terribly sad news.

Enclosed is my check — for you personally — to use as you see fit, but I hope you will use it for yourself personally as a small token of my admiration, affection and respect for the dedication, leadership and wholly unselfish ways in which you have given inspiration to me personally and to thousands of others whose lives you have touched and enriched. I, too, shall pray for the miracle.

Just now my heart is too full and heavy to write more.

God Bless you, Tom, my friend.

Fred Schneider
Columbus, Ohio

* * *

Dear Tom,

Enclosed please find \$20. Perhaps if other subscribers do likewise, the paper will continue. HCN is too valuable to be lost. If my contribution cannot help the paper, perhaps it will pay a small part of your debt. I would not be opposed to an increase in subscription rates. Considering the quality of the paper, subject matter, and being biweekly, I don't see how you've come this far, and I hope to see your work not end.

Enclosed, also find 35¢ to cover cost of Vol 5, Number 4 HCN that I have not received. Sometimes all our mail does not make it to West Lafayette.

Sincerely,
Bob Meyer
West Lafayette, Ind.

* * *

Dear Tom:

A drop of water added to a lake won't make much of a rise in the lake's surface. But maybe if enough drops are added, a change will occur. So please accept the enclosed drop of water with my prayers that the miracle you spoke of will occur.

Our country needs a paper like the **High Country News** — we need many like it, in fact — and even more, we need a dedicated person like you to fight for our ecology. I know that it must seem like a mostly losing battle at times when you see the denuded hills and mountains and the strip miners plying their destruction. It must be discouraging.

Moreover, I can well understand your decision. But it is Hell for those of us who live in and love our Rocky Mountain states.

Sincerely,
Marie H. Harrison
Lakewood, Colo.

* * *

Dear Mr. Bell:

The answer to your problem is a simple one. All you need is \$30 each from a thousand subscribers. So here is my check for \$30.00.

Come on, subscribers! What's \$30.00 from each of us, compared to the tremendously greater loss to everyone if we lose **High Country News**. What's one day's pay compared to the two years of unselfish and very effective effort which created this remarkably incisive, accurate and honest publication — **High Country News**.

Send in that \$30.00 check right this minute to encourage this great effort on the part of 4 or 5 hard working, creative, and unselfish persons. **High Country News** deserves to live on.

Very truly yours,
Louis A. Bibler, Geologist
Kalispell, Montana

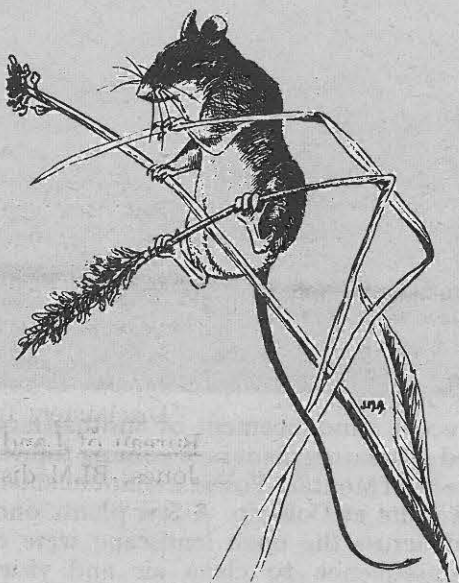
Dear Mr. Bell:

I read your editorial in the March 2 edition with sincere regrets. Loss of your paper to the public will be a severe blow to all interested in management of our natural resources. Your courage in publishing has been greatly appreciated even when it wasn't always agreed with.

Unfortunately, too many of us who read and enjoy your paper do so from a single subscription passed through the reading circulation process. Our failure to personally subscribe has only added to your financial problems. No doubt this is the situation in many offices.

We only hope the miracle you mentioned will happen and that March 30 will not be your last edition. If by any chance, you do continue to publish and you do decide to again accept subscriptions, please advise and I will personally subscribe and urge members of my staff to do the same.

Sincerely yours,
Glen D. Fulcher
Chief, Division of Standards and Technology
Bureau of Land Management
Denver, Colorado



Editor:

I don't know where you can come up with \$30,000, but here's ten, if that will help.

Also, if you think you can hang on until October, I am prepared to submit your name to the contest mentioned on page 14 of your latest issue.

More than anything else, your newspaper has made me aware of the urgency of the environmental crisis which faces this nation and the world; and you can bet that I have gone about transmitting that sense of urgency to others who have crossed my path in life.

If you go ahead with your decision to discontinue **High Country News** it will be a great loss to our state and to our nation. It is the most excellent publication of its type I have yet run across. Maybe the \$150,000 prize is a long shot, but I think you have what it takes to win.

Laverne Rison
Basin, Wyoming

* * *

Tom Bell & Staff,

We, your subscribers, have no way of fighting those big interests in this country who care for nothing but endless big profits, and to see one of the biggest fighters go down in defeat is unthinkable. I wonder how many of your subscribers feel as I do? Why don't you try to find out?

Let's say that the subscription price for **High Country News** is \$10 per year plus \$10 additional to enable you to continue this fight. With 2,000 subscriptions the amount of money you suggested in your editorial could be reached. Please ask your subscribers and

you may be surprised how many feel as I do. We, the little people, have no way of fighting. Yours is an honest fight — let us help!

Yours truly,
Louis Huebl
LeSueur, Minn.

* * *

Dear Mr. Bell,

It is with regret that I read your column of March 2. I can remember my first hand written reply from Marge Higley asking if my address, No Name (for No Name Creek) was some sort of code name, & if she was supposed to keep my identity a secret.

It breaks my heart to see the Bureau of Reclamation spend millions for nothing but damage when a lousy \$30,000 would give **High Country News** a chance.

Sincerely,
Clemons M. Kopf
Glenwood Springs, Colo.

Check for \$5 enclosed.

* * *

Dear Sir:

Being an independent supermarket manager, I can visualize some of your problems that you so aptly described in your March 2 issue.

So many times while reading the "News" I have marvelled at the quality of the printing and pictures but most of all at the concise contents. Dates, places, quotes, with very little left for theory and generalities.

I have been a conservationist since 1923 when I was 10. It all started with a stack of old copies and a gift subscription to *Outdoor America*, the Izaak Walton League magazine.

Just last Sunday while rummaging through some incidentals I came across both copies of the Senate and House hearings on S 174 (The Wilderness Act) in 1961 and 1962. Wilderness supporters then were few and far between.

I was fortunate at that time in having two one-half hour television appearances on a Denver station concerning backpacking in the Bridger, Popo Agie, and others. I was emphatically warned to say nothing in favor of the Wilderness Act so that opponents could demand equal time.

Back in the 50's, Bobby Lane, Detroit Lion quarterback, wore no face mask. When going back to the huddle after being smeared, you could tell that someone was catchin' it for letting his man through. When I asked Thurman McGraw, our only CSU all-American, who played with Detroit, if Lane was as hostile as he looked, Fum said, "No, he wasn't mad — he was just intense — he wanted to win. In fact, Bobby never lost a game. His only trouble was that time ran out."

You have my greatest admiration for the way you play the game. Thank God for conservationists like you. Please accept this token amount for the Cause. If the miracle happens, which it may, please send me a notice and I will renew my subscription.

To you, your wife, crew, and all concerned with the **High Country News**, God Bless you all.

Ned Mitchell
Fort Collins, Colo.

PS Many years ago we rented a basement room to college students. In the News this week you mentioned Senator Malcolm Wallop. He was one of our renters.

(Continued on page 15)



Western..... Roundup



High Country News-13
Friday, Mar. 16, 1973

Motion Granted In Eagle Case

Herman Werner, Wyoming rancher accused of killing scores of eagles, was granted a motion for separate hearings on himself and on his Bolton Ranch. Federal District Judge Ewing T. Kerr granted that motion but denied a motion for dismissal of the 374 counts of eagle killing and conspiring to kill eagles. There has still been no date set for trial for either Werner or his ranch company.

Meanwhile, Vern Vivion of Rawlins, Wyoming, and past president of the National Wool Growers Association, may have given a tip-off as to how Werner will defend himself. Speaking as an apologist for Werner, Vivion in a recent talk said Werner had not hired helicopter pilot James Vogan to kill eagles. That Vogan had actually hired himself out to sport hunters who were paying for the fun of shooting eagles. Vivion said that since Werner was paying Vogan to kill coyotes and other predators, some of the eagles were hauled to the Bolton Ranch in the hopes that Werner would pay a bounty for them. Werner is then alleged to have ordered Vogan to stop using his (Werner's) helicopter to shoot the eagles.

Vogan testified before a Senate sub-committee that Werner had paid \$15,000 to the Buffalo Flying Service for killing eagles and coyotes. Wyoming Dept. of Labor records show claims were filed for back pay by some of the eagle shooters later prosecuted and fined. This would indicate they were not wealthy sportsmen. Doyle Vaughan, manager of the Buffalo Flying Service at the time Vogan was hired as a helicopter pilot, pleaded guilty to charges of taking part in 74 eagle killings in Wyoming, and to similar charges in Colorado. He was fined \$500 in Wyoming.

Public Policy Says No Poisons

In speaking to the National Wool Growers Association convention in Washington recently, Presidential Counselor Earl Butz told the sheepmen that specific environmental decisions are not going to be made "in terms of individual producer equity. Farmers need to understand that. The body politic equity — what the public consensus demands, even though some people get hurt — will be the deciding factor. Public policy decided that we are not going to poison coyotes." But in spite of his words, it appears the wool growers will continue to press for the use of poisons.

Land Use Acts Fail

The Utah Legislature finished its session without passing a Land Use Act called for by Governor Calvin Rampton. The "Utah Land Uses Act" was rewritten four times and was acknowledged to be nothing more than a study bill. It was criticized by land developers and builders as having been hastily put together without consideration of their viewpoints. Also failing of passage was a bill providing for stronger county and municipal control over subdivisions, and another designed to update and strengthen antiquated city and county planning and zoning laws.

The state is also left without any kind of mined land reclamation act. After passing in the State Senate, the House killed a proposal which supposedly had been agreed upon by both industry and environmentalists.

Mining Act Implemented

A compromise Coal Surface Mining Act passed by the 1972 New Mexico Legislature is about to be implemented. Applications for three strip mine operations will be heard in April. One of them, the Navajo Mine, is considered to be one of the largest strip mines in the world. The act will be administered by a seven-member commission composed of three ranchers, three miners and an environmentalist lawyer. Some 14,650 square miles of the state is considered to be potentially strippable.

Clarks Fork Canyon Saved

Wyoming's magnificent Clarks Fork Canyon has won a reprieve from the highway builders. The highway proposed for the area will go over Dead Indian Hill. The Wyoming Highway Department says the final draft of the environmental impact statement on the Clarks Fork Road in northwestern Wyoming will request the alternate route. The Department said originally two routes were proposed. But public sentiment expressed at several public hearings dictated the road should use the Dead Indian Hill alternative to avoid scarring the picturesque walls of Clarks Fork Canyon. Meanwhile, the Department has announced a new program designed to give citizens a more effective voice in the planning, location and design of highways.

Commodity Interests Heard

Industry spokesmen told the Senate Interior subcommittee on public lands that a proposed federal land management act was concerned too much on environmental matters and not enough on "multiple use" development. The commodity users — gas and oil, grazing and timber — offered varied criticisms which would subject their interests to greater restriction and more management. The Organic Act for Public Domain Lands (S424) was introduced by Sen. Henry M. Jackson.

Island Wilderness Proposed

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is proposing wilderness designation for eight islands, shoals and reefs of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The entire Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge except Tern Island in the French Frigate Shoals would be included. The wilderness would total some 303,036 acres. The designation is being made as a continuing attempt to protect many species of island wildlife.

Horses Die of Starvation

Cole Abbott, a rancher near Laramie, Wyoming, will be brought to trial March 15 on charges of cruelty to animals. A deputy state veterinarian, Herman Hancock, said he saw six dead horses and that others had reported as many as 20 dead horses on the Abbott ranch. The man is accused of allowing the animals to starve to death.

Abbott has filed a \$541,000 slander suit against Hancock, the Monolith Portland Cement Co. of Laramie, and four other persons, two of whom work for the cement company. The two men reported the dead and starving horses.

Horses Killed in Roundup

Mystery still surrounds the case of the killed and captured horses on public lands in the area of Idaho's Little Lost River Valley. And in an effort to find out what happened, the American Horse Protection Association is offering a \$500 reward. The Association will pay for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons involved in an illegal roundup and slaughter of approximately 60 wild horses on public lands in southeastern Idaho.

The incident in which eight horses either fell or were driven over a cliff and killed was alleged to have taken place over a ten day period from about Feb. 15-25. Several ranchers are said to have driven the herd of 50-60 horses from Bureau of Land Management lands into the Lemhi Mountains of the Challis National Forest. They are said to have used a helicopter and snowmobiles, both of which are illegal under several federal acts. The horses were herded into a natural pen bounded by a cliff on one side. The dead animals were found at the bottom of the cliff. Photographs of the dead horses by the Humane Society showed their nostrils had been clamped shut with hog rings. Such a practice is done so the horses cannot easily breathe and therefore makes them more controllable. At least 30 of the horses were located in North Platte, Nebraska, in the pens of the Crown Prince Dog Food Co.

Disclaimers for responsibility for the horses was made by both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. However, Ed Jones, BLM district manager in Idaho Falls, admits that he pressured ranchers to get the horses off public lands.

Some ranchers claimed the horses were privately owned, and Jones said they were in trespass. Other ranchers said horses had run in the area for at least 30 years. Wild Horse Annie (Mrs. Velma B. Johnston of Reno, Nevada) called the incident a "massacre" and said under current federal law the animals must be considered unbranded, wild horses.

Congressman Gilbert Gude of Maryland, who was instrumental in getting the federal law enacted, said he wanted an investigation.

"I believe that the role of the BLM needs a thorough explanation. I am equally concerned for the attitude that was taken by BLM in even allowing such a thing to occur. Did BLM issue licenses? If they did, were the ranchers paying grazing fees? I am urging the Department of the Interior to immediately convene the National Wild Horse Advisory Board for a special meeting in Washington, D.C. in order that the Board may thoroughly review this distressing situation," Gude said.

Various reports circulating in the West have intimated that ranchers in Oregon, Nevada and Wyoming were contemplating such wild horse roundups. However, the Idaho ranchers seemed to have made the first move.

The American Horse Protection Association has asked all those concerned with wild horses to write strong letters of protest to Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

Photo by Roger L. Slocum



Wild mustangs in the Pryor Mountains of Montana.

Thoughts from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

Sometimes the "final straw" is a very tiny thing, indeed. It's just possible that it can be as small as the little white price tag stuck on a pair of child's snowboots.

Tom — you know him as the editor; we know him as our friend, the boss — Tom didn't say so, of course. But reading between the lines of our conversation a couple of weeks ago (we were discussing the futility of trying to carry on with High Country News) I could sense that that little white tag was the final, backbreaking straw.

Even if you have it, nine dollars seems a lot to have to pay for a pint-sized pair of rubberboots. Especially toward the end of February when, hopefully, the snow will soon melt away. But this has been one of those winters! October's snow still lies on the ground, covered by the snows of all the ensuing months. You can't send a child to school through a foot of snow in tennis shoes or flimsy little slippers, can you? So — when Rachel's last-year's snowboots finally fell apart, Tommy (Mrs. Tom) went shopping, and once again, rearranged the family budget.

Trouble is, that budget can't stand much rearranging. Tom hasn't taken home any salary for months and months and months. Occasionally I have been asked "What in the world do they live on?" Because I really don't know the answer, my reply has been, "Love, I guess."

Well, there is plenty of love in that household. Love enough to share with the three small children they adopted when their "big boys" grew up. Love enough to uncomplainingly do without lots of things, because Tom is a dedicated man. Dedicated to the conservation of this land.

Perhaps his love of nature and the outdoors is a result of a boyhood spent in a rural area. A biology major at the university, he became biologist with the Game and Fish Department, and later, a teacher.

The years brought a growing concern about what is happening to the land. Tom was sounding the alarm long before "ecology" became a household word. He gave up his teaching job to become instrumental in founding the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, to coordinate the efforts of conservationists throughout the state. Because he felt it urgent to "spread the word," he borrowed money to buy High Country News, which at that time was oriented toward outdoor sports. In three "shoestring budget" years he has turned it into the environmental spokesman of the mountain west.

Most of you know the rest of the story. It's been a slow, uphill climb. Naturally, we lost those readers who were interested only in fishing, hunting and camping. For awhile, renewals fell alarmingly. There wasn't money enough to put on a concentrated subscription campaign. But — even without it, the word got around. Since last September we have watched our reader-numbers finally start to go up instead of down.

But expenses go up, too. There's rent to pay. And the printer. Ribbons to buy for the copy machine. And machinery needs repair. (We are "wishing" the addressograph through each printing week, until we can get the repairman here.) And there's always that monthly note payment to the bank!

Somehow, there's never enough left over so the boss can have some take-home pay. Lots of jobs offer "vacation with pay." So how about a man who has worked for three years with no vacation, and practically no pay? That takes a special kind of dedication — a special kind of love.

How much can a family sacrifice for a cause they believe in? It's easy enough to say "I guess they must live on love!" But love can't buy groceries for a family of five.

It can't even buy a little pair of snowboots.



What a desolate place would be a world without a flower!
It would be a face without a smile,
A feast without a welcome.

FRANCIS BALFOUR

Los Supermachos in Super Task

Mexico's most popular comic book has joined the Mexican government in its battle against that country's population explosion. A recent issue of "Los Supermachos" — which translated means The Super-Males — is entirely devoted to (quote) "how not to have children."

That issue is in support of the government's emphasis on "responsible parenthood" as a way of slowing down Mexico's annual birth rate of 3.5 percent, a rate which would double the country's present population of 52 million by the end of the century.

Los Supermachos warns its readers that, if the population explosion continues, Mexico will become (quote) "a most miserable country

in which people will die of hunger in the streets."

The comic book — with a circulation of 270,000 — outlines the mechanics of human reproduction and various methods of contraception, listing their advantages and disadvantages. Drawings and cartoons are used to illustrate the main points and add touches of humor. The subject is explained by an intelligent Indian through conversations with his fellow-villagers in a fictitious rural town.

The cover shows a highly religious woman on her knees before a statue of the Madonna and Child. The woman is asking the Madonna (quote) "Little Virgin, you who conceived without sinning, help me to sin without conceiving." ::EARTH NEWS



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to give a gift subscription!

HCN SALVATION DAY is March 30

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Poison Plastics

Before you go decorating your home with any plastic furnishings or materials, you might be interested in a recent symposium held in England.

The subject was the problem of smoke from burning plastic, and the situation seems serious. Dr. W.D. Woolley of Britain's Fire Research Station told the conference that half of the 1,000 fire-related deaths in Britain last year were caused by poisonous gas fumes and smoke from burning plastics. With the use of plastics increasing rapidly in household furnishings, fire departments are faced with hazardous situations about which little is known.

It is known, however, that polyurethane foam, widely used as mattress stuffing, can sometimes produce enormous amounts of smoke, along with hydrogen cyanide and carbon monoxide. Another widely used plastic — PVC — produces hydrochloric acid when it burns.

The symposium was organized by the Industrial Materials Research Unit at Queen Mary College in London.

The situation is becoming increasingly important as more and more plastics are used in the home. It is estimated that the use of plastics in home furnishings will triple by the year 1980. ::EARTH NEWS

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Our Readers (God bless 'em!) are striving
To keep High Country News surviving.
That miracle may
Just come our way —
We might yet be alive — and thriving!

* * *

Minnesota's Pollution Control Agency has proposed a tax policy to curb the use of environmentally harmful convenience packaging. The proposal, which was based on the results of a study of the state's solid waste disposal problems, is one of the most extensive to date. Recommendations: 25¢ tax on all aerosol cans; 1¢ tax on plastic throw-aways; require all beverage containers to be returnable with a 5¢ deposit paid; prohibit manufacture or sale of aluminum containers except for frozen foods; ban sale of disposable plastic containers for beverages. The study indicates the state's annual trash pile may increase as much in this decade as in the previous 50 years. Solid waste costs now totalling \$62 million a year are expected to rise to \$111 million by 1980.

* * *

California Attorney General Evelle Younger says he will sue local governments which ignore population problems. Commenting on the action, The Denver Post says Colorado faces some of the same problems as California. In an editorial on "California's Growing Pains," The Post says that if local governments fail to recognize the need to accept limitations on growth, there could be similar actions on the state level in that state.

* * *

ERTS-1 (Earth Resources Technology Satellite) is quickly proving its worth, especially in pollution control and resource management. Vermont is suing a paper mill located across Lake Champlain in New York state for water pollution. Part of its evidence will be a photograph of the pollution taken from ERTS-1. The satellite has also uncovered photographic evidence of greatly accelerated erosion in southern Arizona.

* * *

University of California scientist Robert Feeney has discovered the original anti-freeze. It's called glycoprotein and is found in polar fish — not car radiators. The chemical, which allows the fish to survive in waters with a year-round temperature of 29 degrees, is thought to be unique among living organisms. Dr. Feeney believes his discovery may have important consequences for space travel and exploration relating to human survival in extreme temperatures.

* * *

According to a report by Air and Water News, on two separate polls taken of the nation's top priority problems, environmental pollution scored highest and lowest. In an Atlanta bank poll, pollution scored a 46% rating as compared to 35% for law enforcement, 33% for transportation, and 32% for education. It scored lowest of nine categories in a poll of district voters taken by Rep. Martha W. Griffiths of Michigan.



Our readers respond . . .

High Country News-15
Friday, Mar. 16, 1973

Editor:

I would like to address this letter to the readers of High Country News.

The sun does not fail to rise in the morning, the air does not fail to warm come spring, and High Country News does not fail to arrive every two weeks.

It was not with dismay, but rather with deep shock that I read the editorial column in the March 2 issue of HCN. Having been a subscriber to the paper since shortly after it started, I have always been aware of the razor edge of financial disaster with which Mr. Bell has been forced to work, but somehow it just did not seem possible for the paper to succumb.

Mr. Bell stated in his editorial column that, "The state of the economy and the oncoming energy crisis do not bode well for a venture such as High Country News. If people get in a financial squeeze, they have to cut back, and they cut those items they feel to be least necessary." But these are the very reasons why an endeavor such as Mr. Bell's must not be allowed to fail!

One of the reasons national inflation is skyrocketing at such an atrocious rate, is simply because more people are demanding higher wages for less work. Mr. Bell pulled a salary of \$910.97 for two years. Obviously, he is not a prime offender.

And who is going to give us the straight information during this energy crisis? I find myself disinclined to believe it will be the energy producing companies themselves. Big business is not notorious for being self critical. And personally I feel the future of our environment is not the "least necessary" but rather the most necessary problem facing this

nation in general, and the Rocky Mountain states in particular. Of what good is money if you succumb at 40 to pollution related disease — a phenomenon that is becoming increasingly familiar in this "modern world."

A labor union collects dues from its members to use for championing its cause. A large manufacturing firm charges extra for their goods to pay for advertising. But we, as citizens concerned with the environment have no mandatory, fixed source of income with which to support someone to bring our story before the public eye. How can we let someone like Mr. Bell be bled dry without accepting at least partial responsibility?

I, as a veteran going to the University of Wyoming on the G.I. Bill, am enclosing a check for \$30 to help out Mr. Bell. If everyone with a subscription to HCN would do the same, Mr. Bell would not only be out of the financial straits that threaten to eliminate this paper, but would also have a little, though very little breathing room.

Are we, as concerned individuals, willing to invest only \$30, the cost of a night on the town, or a few more horses under the hood, in the paper in which the Bell family has already invested \$30,000?

If not, then we certainly will not be in a position to complain as the Red Desert power plants befoul the air, as the dams spring up to destroy the last of the free, clear water, and as the fences contain and "civilize" the last of the open spaces. Are these the legacies to leave posterity?

Edward A. Lonsdale
Laramie, Wyoming

Teach Environmental Awareness

Teachers interested in developing greater environmental awareness may wish to obtain a packet of cards from the Conservation Center for Creative Learning, 863 Sweetwater St., Lander, Wyoming 82520. A set of more than 300 cards, classified into the four areas of earth, air, water, and life, is available for \$5.

The unique packet of imaginative materials and activities for environmental education was developed under a Title III, ESEA, grant. It came in response to a request from the Wyoming State Board of Education to develop guidelines for local environmental education programs. It is a culmination of three years of study and work on the part of not only teachers but concerned citizens. (I was privileged to serve on an advisory committee. Ed.)

The materials are broad enough and yet individualized enough to be used in either grade school, junior high or high schools, and can be used for individual, group, or class instruction. Flexibility is built in, to meet varying local situations and to encourage the use of local resources and resource people.

Further information may be obtained by writing the Conservation Center.

Wildlife Week, March 18-24



For thirty-five springtimes, the National Wildlife Federation has been sponsoring Wildlife Week. Our thirty-sixth observance will be celebrated from March 18 through 24, 1973. This year our theme is "Discover Wildlife — It's Too Good To Miss."

The young wood duck on the front of our poster is about to discover a whole new world — the world of wildlife. All of us can learn about this new world too, for wildlife can be found almost everywhere. We can see it in city parks or vacant lots. We can see it on field trips to nearby refuges or national parks. We can see wildlife at the seashore, in the mountains, on the prairies. Many of us can even discover it in our own back yards.

Let this be a time for new discovery — perhaps rediscovery — of wildlife, not only during the one week, but throughout the entire year. While we are observing wildlife and learning more about it, we must also rededicate ourselves to maintaining a healthy environment. A world that has natural places for wild creatures is a better world for all living things.

Sincerely,
Thomas L. Kimball
Executive Vice President
National Wildlife Federation

Peregrines Are In Danger

by Anne Turner

Photos by James H. Enderson

A rare and magnificent bird has recently been relegated to the endangered species list. Once a symbol of nobility and the sporting bird of kings, the peregrine falcon was even worshipped as a deity by the ancient Egyptians. Now the peregrine is among the latest casualties of man's folly and the indiscriminate use of DDT and other persistent pesticides.

Before the extensive use of DDT began in 1946, the peregrine was one of the most prolific and widespread birds of prey in the United States. Now it is doubtful if the species can survive. Once widely distributed across the North American continent, the peregrine is found in significant numbers only in Alaska. The breeding population in the eastern United States has been completely extirpated and it has rapidly declined in the West.

There are three subspecies of the falcon in North America. *Falco peregrinus anatum* (the American peregrine) and *Falco peregrinus tundrius* (the tundra peregrine) are on the endangered species list. *Falco peregrinus pealei* (Peale's peregrine) is not yet considered endangered.

Peale's peregrine is distributed along the coastline of British Columbia and southern Alaska. The tundra, or arctic peregrine as it is sometimes called, is found in northern Alaska and the Canadian tundra. The American peregrine is found throughout the rest of North America. Its breeding range extends from the taiga portions of Alaska to Baja California.

Research biologist Carol Snow has compiled a detailed report on the peregrine falcon for the Bureau of Land Management (Habitat Management Series for Endangered Species). Statistics gathered by Miss Snow from various authorities substantiate a serious decline in the peregrine breeding populations of the United States. In California, the number of breeding peregrines has dropped at least 95% over the last 25 years. In 1969 it was estimated that the nesting peregrine population in Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, western Wyoming and western Montana had declined by 80 to 90%.

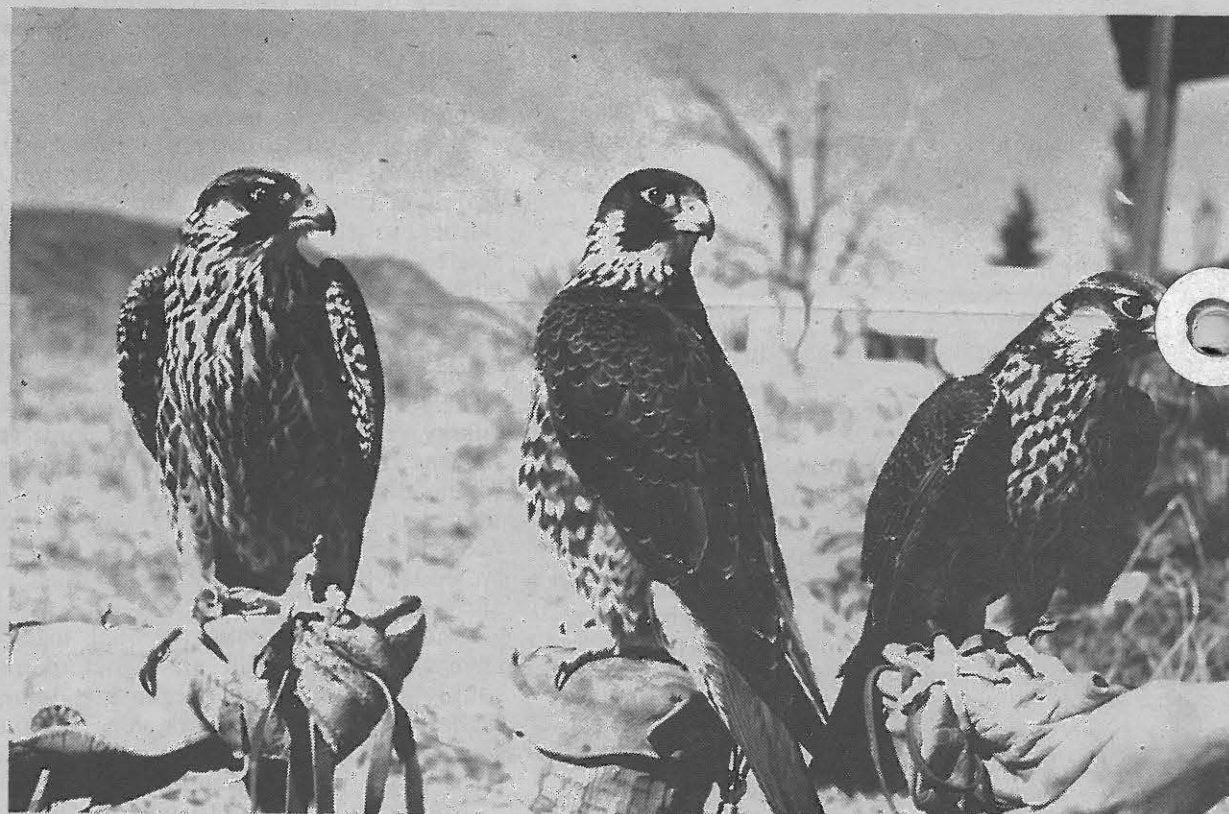
Although population estimates for both species are largely conjectural, the American falcon is presently more seriously imperiled than the tundra falcon. There are believed to be approximately 200 breeding pairs of American peregrine and 2,000 breeding pairs of the tundra peregrine at the present time.

Extensive studies attribute the major cause of this serious decline in peregrine breeding populations to the widespread and non-selective use of chemical pesticides in recent years. Research conducted in England and later in the United States shows that DDT, its derivative DDE, the PCB's and other chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides have seriously affected the life span and reproductive system of the peregrine.

Increased mortality rate does not appear to be as significant a factor as the failure to breed successfully. Eggshell thinning is a major problem. Accumulation of pesticide residues upsets the calcium balance in the female's bloodstream. As a result, when eggs are laid they are unusually thin-shelled and frequently break under the weight of the brooding female or other slight stresses. Abnormalities in behavior patterns such as eating eggs and nestlings, and improper brooding are also attributed to persistent chemical influence.

Eggshell thinning first became a noticeable occurrence in New England and Great Britain in 1947. This was at the time that agricultural pesticides, in particular the organochlorine compounds, came into general use. DDE, a derivative of DDT, has since been pinpointed as the major cause of eggshell thinning.

DDE is also one of the most potently



The three peregrine falcons shown here in these truly unique photos are representatives of each of the recognized subspecies. What is even more remarkable, the photograph above is of the juvenile birds while the one below is of the same birds when mature. They are from left to right, Peale's peregrine, American peregrine, and the tundra peregrine. Dr. James H. Enderson, the photographer, is located at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo.



cumulative chemicals affecting marine, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. This is a highly significant factor to be considered in the falcon's food chain since the peregrine is the top predator in its ecosystem. It feeds largely on smaller birds, mostly carnivores or insectivores which contain higher pesticide levels than herbivores. Even in remote areas of Alaska the peregrine's migrant prey is contaminated with pesticide residues. It is believed that the peregrine contains one of the highest levels of DDE residues of any known vertebrate.

Sublethal chronic poisoning of this nature is thought to be far more harmful than acute poisoning. Few peregrines seem to have died directly from lethal doses of pesticides. More often, birds continuously subjected to small sublethal amounts are considerably weakened and succumb to new mortality factors that would normally not affect them.

There are, of course, other factors involved

in the fate of the peregrine. Increased development in the West as in the East has resulted in the loss of suitable habitat. Yet studies show there are many apparently suitable eyrie sites that are unaccountably unoccupied. High cliffs near rivers are the preferred nesting sites, although peregrines have actually been known to nest on city skyscrapers.

Increased human activity such as rock climbing near nesting sites is also a disturbing influence. It is believed that chemically altered behavior patterns have also made the birds less tolerant of human activity.

Peregrines apparently have very few natural predators with the exception of man. Shooting may be of little consequence but illegal capturing could be exerting significant influence according to game biologists close to the situation. Falcons of various species may bring as much as \$10,000 from buyers in the Middle East where falconry is still practiced

(Please turn to page 10)