

High Country News

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Environmental Bi-Weekly

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, April 13, 1973



Standing in awesome symbolism in almost the center of Wyoming's Powder River Basin, this butte stands above a mother lode of riches beneath the prairies. It is indeed "... the earth's sweet flowing breast" from which giant corporations will wrest the riches. Ironically, the butte was formed, as it is, by the burning away of coal deposits, leaving a dark cap above fire-reddened shales.

The Crisis in Energy

: Confront or Cooperate?

by John Jenkins
Special to High Country News

The sheer enormity of the Powder River Basin's coal resources has suddenly presented environmentalists with a radically new alternative to its previous efforts at protecting the region. Claiming a new "environmental ethic" based on enlightened self-interest, representatives of the energy industry are approaching several outdoor and conservation groups with offers of money and broad research in return for cooperation and guidance in organizing and conducting the studies.

On March 31, Charles Margolf, formerly head of the Reynolds mining Division in

Wyoming and now a vice president with the Denver consulting firm of Cameron Engineers, addressed the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council. He asked for the Council's input and direction on a massive industry-funded base-line data study of the entire eight county Powder River Basin. (Big Horn, Rosebud, Custer and Powder River Counties in Montana, and Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell and Converse Counties in Wyoming.) Earlier this year, Atlantic Richfield, a major coal lease holder in the southern Basin between Douglas and Gillette, approached the Wyoming Environmental Institute. ARCO has asked the Institute to consider directing a comprehensive environmental survey of the

company's coal holdings in and near the Thunder Basin National Grassland. And some sources indicate that Pacific Power and Light has begun to sound out local government officials in Converse County about their feelings toward and suggestions on the company's impact operations in that area. PP&L operates the 750 megawatt Dave Johnston power plant and the over-one-million-ton-per-year coal strip mine near Glenrock.

What do these surprising, and heretofore unexpected, advances and offers really signify? Some of the most optimistic observers are cautiously hoping that these proposals may reflect a sincere shift in the corporate con-
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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

You start with a global viewpoint. If you look at the earth from the eyes of an astronaut, you see it as a rather small planet in the black void of interplanetary space. It has absolute limits just as the space vehicle has. It has everything to sustain life — even the good life — up to a point. On the space vehicle there are delicate instruments which determine when critical points are reached and the space travelers may be endangered. On earth, we have not yet set up the monitoring system even though we may be reaching critical limits to our health, well-being and ultimate survival. It may be time for us to start thinking of such a monitoring system.

Whether we like to think of it or not, our small planet has become one world. And for Americans in anno domini 1973, we are totally dependent upon the rest of the world for our standard of living. We have committed ourselves because of our high standard of living. But now we are finding that with all of our dependence upon the rest of the world, we must still shift some of our demands back to our own country.

Middle East oil was once cheap oil. It is no longer, neither in the sphere of economics nor of politics. Arab nations are gaining economic and political strength far beyond their numbers. We may already be at their mercy because of our over-indulgence in energy.

So now we cast about for a return to some independence and to alternatives to Middle Eastern oil. Which brings us to the Rocky Mountain Region. Here we have sadly depleted our oil and gas resources—at least the cheap, easily recoverable deposits. And now we are forced to look at coal, oil shale, and gas in "tight" geologic formations.

When we look at these alternatives, we can only deduce that to use them we must change not only the face of the earth on a grand scale but also a whole way of life. It will never be the same again.

Realizing that the exploitation of coal, oil shale and tightly bound gas deposits will bring vast changes to the Rocky Mountain Region, what can we do about it? But before we answer that question we must realize that there are some forces which are beyond our ability to change. One of these is the massive inertia of our way of life. We are hooked on the energy-consuming automobile and an all-electric life. We cannot suddenly scale these demand sectors down without causing massive disruption to our social and economic systems. Scale them down we must but it will take time. Therefore, some development here in the West seems inevitable.

It is up to us to set the timetables for scaling down total energy use and developing toward the goal of a steady state economy. There is no planning to do this now and I have deep reservations that President Nixon's forthcoming energy policy will delineate them for us.

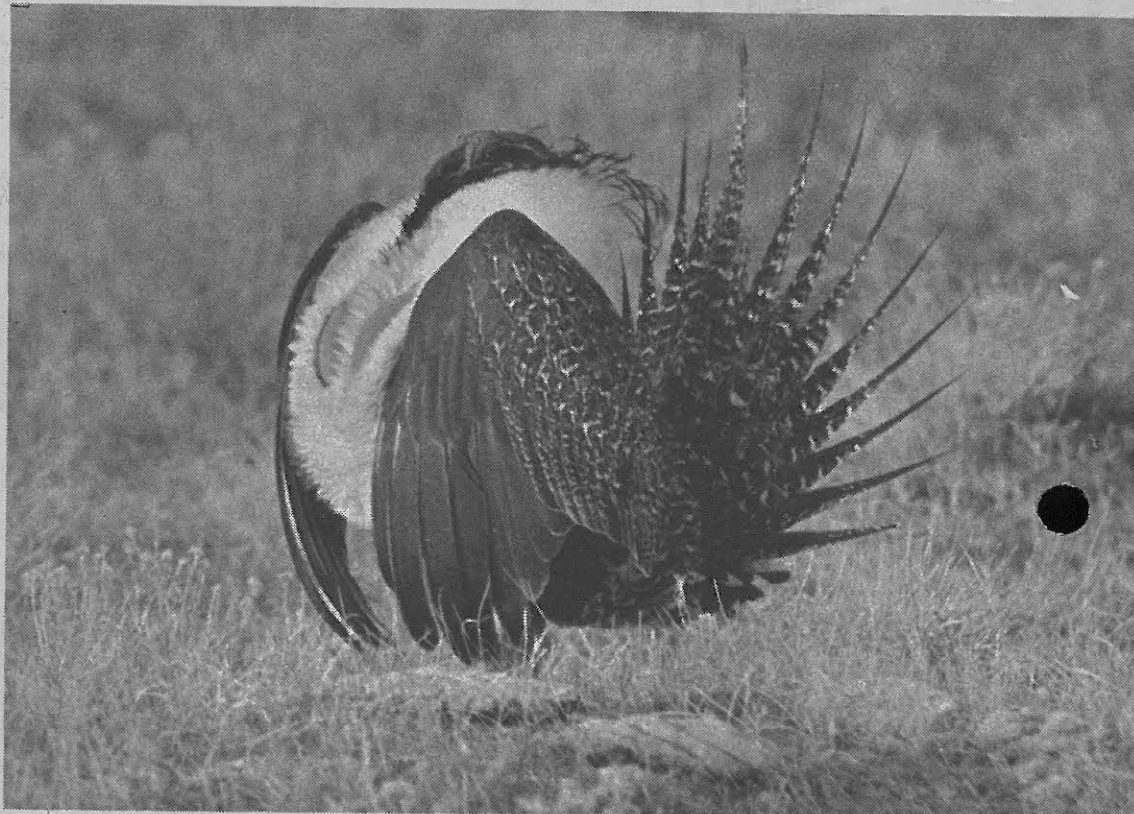
But in order to establish the framework for comprehensive planning of the magnitude required, we must have more knowledge. There are several efforts now being discussed or actually in the works which will give us more knowledge. One of them is discussed in the lead article of this issue of *High Country News* by John Jenkins. It discusses the plans of Cameron Engineers of Denver to enlist the efforts of all concerned in obtaining what is called "base-line data."

Another is the effort being mounted by federal and state government to do much the same thing. This is the Northern Great Plains Resource Program. If it ever gets off the ground, it would provide invaluable planning information.

Still another is being discussed independently by neither government nor industry. It is a fledgling effort by universities from New Mexico and Arizona to Canada, tied together rather loosely by the Rocky Mountains. However, these states are bound together by common problems of great concern. The problems include not only energy in all its ramifications but also public land questions, timbering, water conservation, recreation and recreation developments, and a host of others.

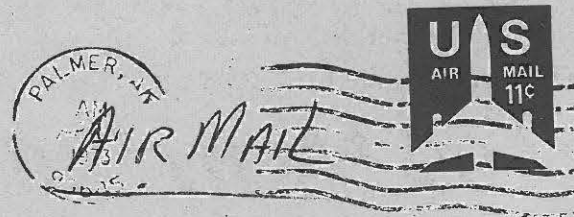
The Institute of Ecology has been formed by far-reaching thinkers in the universities of the country to try to provide information for decision-makers. An extension of that is now being formed in the West. For want of a better name, an ad hoc group which recently met in Denver decided on **Committee on Future Environments of the Rocky Mountain Region**. As one of the Denver participants pointed out, there are "profound implications

Photo by Charles W. Smith



As the days lengthen and snows recede from the high plains and prairies of the West, an ancient ritual begins. Sage grouse cocks are mysteriously drawn to ancestral strutting grounds where they act out the age-old dance of courtship. Accompanied by the eerie booming of deflated air sacs on the breast, the dances enamour the shy and diminutive hens.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Enclosed please find personal check in the amount of \$30.00 to be used by you in any manner that you see fit as long as it assists in some manner in sustaining *High Country News*.

A high quality environmental news paper which is totally unfettered by commitments to advertisers is a highly desirable publication and in my opinion should not be allowed to expire. I hope enough new subscribers can be brought into the fold along with us older subscribers to assure its continued publication.

I intend to visit Wyoming-Idaho-Montana in August on my fifth consecutive yearly backpacking-fishing vacation and hope to be able to drop in and meet you and your staff during that time.

Keep up the good work — may God bless your effort — and may a growing enlightened citizenry furnish the necessary monetary support.

Sincerely yours,
Jack Norton
Grand Rapids, MI

* * *

Dear Mr. Bell:

Your headline "Optimism Reigns" was such good news. I somehow expected there would

High Country . . .

for the region in development of energy. Universities have a responsibility to provide information for the use of states in making decisions."

If we are ever to get a handle on all of our environmental dilemmas, we are going to need some wise decisions. But before we can make the decisions, we need facts. The universities are in a unique position to seek the truths and the facts. Once those are in hand we can set up the monitoring systems which will be necessary to sustain life on Spaceship Earth.

be an immediate and favorable reaction, but the extent of the outpouring was breathtaking — and very heartening. We have all been coasting along on the sweat of YOUR brow — you and your family and staff. I think your plan to establish a policy of annually mailing to your subscribers a pledge card for commitments over and above the subscription price, is a good one. Not only do all the environmental agencies make a practice of it, but almost all of the organizations which depend on the public for support. I am happy to enclose my check in the amount pledged in my letter of March 22, to use as you see fit — and hope that it will help to keep *High Country News* alive.

(Continued on page 4)



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Guest Editorials



Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN, March 28, 1973.

Money Needed To Do Job

The U.S. Forest Service has been crippled by impoundments of appropriations. It lacks money and manpower to meet all the current demands upon it for improved forest management.

Now in a move to increase timber supplies, the administration is ordering an increase of 1.8 billion board feet in the 1973 harvest.

It's totally unrealistic to ask the Forest Service to handle that increase without more money to do the job. Impounded funds should be made available, and the appropriation should be increased.

The added harvest might help the timber supply situation a little. However, it takes at least a year to prepare an ordinary timber sale. That means this decision can have only limited impact in 1973.

Reducing log exports to Japan could provide more effective relief. They amounted to 2.8 billion board feet in 1972 and are apparently running at a higher level in 1973.

Most of the timber that is going to Japan comes from privately owned forest land, rather than public land. But the exports affect the over-all timber supply situation.

The administration is seeking a voluntary agreement for a cut-back. That procedure could take months, with no effective action.

Reprinted from the BILLINGS GAZETTE, Dec. 13, 1972.

Too Many Cuts In Wrong Place

A not-so-funny thing is taking place on road to government efficiency. The federal government is cutting personnel where they are needed more than ever.

We refer to the continual reductions in staff of the U.S. Forest Service, particularly that of Custer National Forest. We suspect the same is true of others in the field.

Custer National Forest, with ranger districts scattered over three states, has half the staff it had five years ago.

The reduction in staff has come about despite the fact that more and more people are asking the Forest Service to do more and more in the way of services to the public.

Forest Service work these days consists of much more than arranging for timber sales and fighting fires.

The recreation explosion calls for more and more work on the part of the Forest

Service to provide the public with facilities and then make certain the public does not abuse them.

There are good reasons to believe that the Forest Service has cut back its field personnel until the men are not available to do work that is certainly within the province of the federal government.

For instance, the state of Montana should not be called upon to check gravel pits on national forest land. The Forest Service should have the men it needs to properly supervise activity in its domain.

With new environmental considerations involved, the Forest Service needs men in the field to regulate both recreation and mining.

We fear the economy minded federal administrators are cutting in the wrong spot and too much.

Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS, March 29, 1973.

Too Little Management Disastrous

Been to the lumber yard lately to buy a 2x4 or a sheet of plywood? If not, you're in a shock.

Lumber prices have risen steeply in the last few months. The National Association of Home Builders estimates lumber prices alone have added at least \$1,200 to the cost of the average new home in the past six months.

The result has been soaring housing prices. Ever greater income is needed to qualify for mortgages for would-be homeowners, and many families are priced right out of the market for new homes — even for remodeling their old ones.

No wonder the forest products industry is calling for increasing funds to the U.S. Forest Service, as it did this week at a Senate hearing, to help it meet the lumber shortage.

While demand has been growing for lumber, the supply has been dwindling from U.S. forests, which contain about 58 percent of the nation's softwood sawtimber inventory.

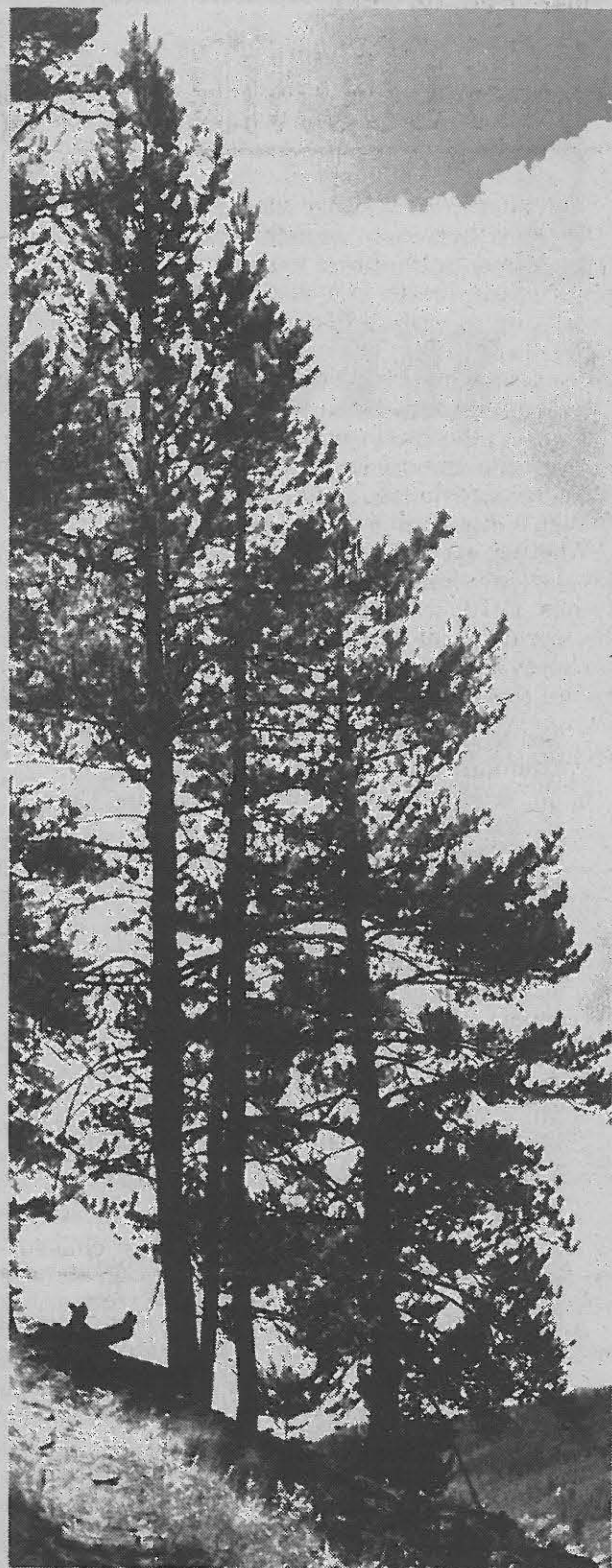
The reasons are budget cuts and new requirements for impact studies, which are slowing timber sales.

"Instead of aggressively pursuing intensive forced management practices to increase timber yields," said one industry spokesman, "the government is cutting the Forest Service's budget for such work and withholding appropriated funds."

That doesn't make sense. Not when new housing starts soared to 42 percent for 1971 over the previous year, and have been growing ever since. And not when timber exports, notably to Japan, have helped cut the supply of timber products domestically.

Immediate savings in any critical area like timber production must be balanced by what happens not only next year, but also 20 to 50 years from now. The results of too little management already appear to be catching up with us.

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Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN,
Feb. 7, 1973.

Neglect Costs

Idaho and the nation have much to lose from proposed cuts in the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets. Sen. Frank Church made the point well Monday before the International Society of Range Management.

Those agencies are faced with crippling cuts in budget levels that were already too low. They are facing laws and pressures for a higher quality job of stewardship for the public lands.

—Demand for timber is rising. The Forest Service must plant more trees and employ better practices to maintain a sufficient timber base for the future.

—Recreation visits to the public lands have increased three to four times in the past 10 years. The land agencies weren't getting the money to keep up with recreation demands before the recent budget cuts.

—Land management is becoming more sophisticated, based on better research. Land managers have the knowledge to do a better job, if they get the funds and the support.

—The land agencies are still faced with a big job in rehabilitating lands damaged by past neglect. Millions of acres need rehabilitation to reduce erosion and restore the

(Continued on page 15)

F R I E N D S of

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Continuing Commitment

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Citizens for the Environmental Enhancement of the
City of Cheyenne

Our readers respond...

Maybe we environmentalists would be surprised at how much "clout" we could have if we really got down to business.

Many good wishes that miracles will keep on happening all over the place.

Yours sincerely,
Marion Byrne
Liverpool, N.Y.

* * *

Dear Mr. Bell:

I travel so much that I am always behind in my reading. So you can well have imagined my surprise when I found out you were going to fold the paper. Well, Hell man, I don't always agree with you, but for God's sake let's keep the paper going for awhile yet. Enclosed you will find my subscription renewal plus a little

something extra.

Sincerely yours,
Lawrence J. Taylor
Omaha, NB

* * *

Mr. Tom Bell,

It is great to learn that you survived and that we can continue to read High Country News. Your efforts are most appreciated and we hope our grandchildren will love your country as much as we do.

Sincerely,
Don Landkamer
Mankato, MN

Tom Bell & Staff,

An exposure of a few short months to High Country News has identified it as a truly extraordinary newspaper among the 8 or 10 conservation publications I receive. To achieve this high level of journalism in an area which has been a hotbed of anti-conservation interests (exemplified by Mr. Werner) is commendable. Because of an absence of several weeks I learned of your recent crisis and its solution at one sitting.

To contribute some support for your efforts, my check for \$50 is enclosed. \$20 for 2 gift subscriptions (names below), the remainder to use as you see fit.

Regards,
Charles Catlin
Boulder, Colorado

Confront or Cooperate . . .

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science, one which would indicate a feel for aesthetic and ecological values beyond the old goal of rigid profit maximization. Others, less generous, view the moves as the out-growth of a new, enlightened self-interest that has blossomed in the higher levels of energy management. Margolf, answering some skeptical questions from Directors of the Council, freely responded that many energy people simply felt the time of profitably riding roughshod over environmental objections had passed. He pointed out that any mutually agreeable method to cut down on litigation and delay was obviously attractive to industry. And he felt that the lack of objective base data often clouds court cases so much that delay is inevitable until some acceptable information can be generated. His argument was that baseline data environmentalists, industry, and government could all feel safe about what would result in much quicker decisions, regardless of whether they were favorable or unfavorable to the energy firms eyeing Powder River coal. A third viewpoint of the new advances hold that they are merely public relations stunts designed to prove industry's concern for "proper development" and to discredit environmentalist charges of adverse impact. In deciding which assessment of these new proposals is more nearly correct, a closer look at the Margolf-Cameron concept is in order.

Keith Becker, executive director of the Council, introduced Margolf as a man interested in "developing a wealth of material on baseline data so we can all start from the same place." Margolf's opening remarks emphasized Cameron's "despair over confrontation." After coming to Cameron last fall, he said he began to cast about for "a way for industry, government, environmentalists, and the public at large to work on a common ground." Following considerable discussion, the firm felt that an extensive study of the region's social, economic, and physical ecology, as it stands today, would generate information valuable to all those groups and interests.

Cameron went to most of the major energy firms with leases or holdings in the Powder River Basin and presented a plan. If they would be willing to consider funding a program like this, Cameron would contact the local and state governments affected, environmentalists in the area, and other planning-oriented groups to see if there would be any interest in such a cooperative venture. That is the stage the effort is in at the moment.

If all the groups seem at least interested in considering the project, then it would enter "Phase I." This would be an open-input attempt to define the ecological systems, both human and natural, existing in the basin that ought to be inventoried before any development on a massive scale disrupts the region. Then all parties to the venture, working through Cameron as the mediator, would assign priorities to those items designated as important for study. Margolf pointed out that comprehensive data on Basin air circulation, Basin air quality, migratory patterns of various species that might be affected, and community planning characteristics might be probable topics. He emphasized that the study definition is wide open at the moment. This stage would simply be a brain-storming period where as many groups as possible would list potential study topics in hopes that diverse perspectives would prevent important aspects from being overlooked.

Then Cameron would ask all the groups involved about which research bodies they would have faith in. That is, consulting firms, university departments, and other organizations would be nominated to carry out the actual studies. The aim would be to agree on impartial research bodies mutually acceptable to all interests. Then these contractors would carry out the individual studies and make the

results known to the public. Cameron would then function essentially as a librarian, disseminating the information among all interested parties, including environmentalists and industry.

Margolf repeatedly emphasized that the project's intention was not to evaluate specific plans or mines, or even to prepare a theoretical environmental impact statement. Instead, it would simply try to develop a comprehensive picture of "what is there now." Informal estimates of the level of funding available from an energy industry "kitty" have been heard ranging from several million dollars up to \$30 or \$40 or \$50 million.

The Cameron proposal sparked intense questioning from members of the Council and others present. One of the first questions was, "Who decides what finally gets studied?" Margolf answered that hopefully most of the topics proposed would be studied, if only to establish industry's good faith, but that, in the final analysis, "it has to be decided by money." Industry is picking up this tab.

This reporter asked what assurances could be built into the project that the results of each study would be impartial and reliable, other than simple faith in the firms or universities who do the studies. The possibility of expert environmental and industry oriented "ombudsmen" was discussed. Such experts would be provided with the funding to keep tabs on the actual study specialists, to check up on the methodology and reliability of the various studies, and then to advise their own organizations of the level of impartiality actually being displayed in the study. Such a monitoring mechanism was not ruled out by Margolf. Lee Nellis, an active member of the environmental lobby in Cheyenne, cautiously asked why industry might want to cooperate in a study that might eventually be used against it. Margolf responded that a number of executives felt the old days of "fait accompli" were over, and that it was better to get input now than to undergo costly delays later while projects are fought out in state legislatures and the courts.

Laney Hicks, Sierra Club Northern Great Plains Representative, wanted to know why industry didn't rely on the potentially more neutral findings of the Northern Great Plains Resource Program. Margolf answered that he felt additional sources of information wouldn't be such a bad thing but that the problems of long-range funding for a five-state study like the NGPRP might be insurmountable. Sources within the Wyoming state BLM office seem to independently support that view. Those sources are privately dubious about the future of the study due to Nixon fund cutbacks and other bureaucratic problems. Still, it is unclear exactly what effect industry initiatives like the Cameron proposal will have on government's willingness to spend money in this crucial area.

Margolf indicated that at the moment his firm is only sounding out potential parties to the program. He has, to-date, spoken with only a few local government groups. In Buffalo, Wyoming, he met three weeks ago with the city and county planning commissions. Those bodies expressed some interest, especially in getting community development data, and are currently drafting a reply. The Big Horn County, Montana, planning commission, along with the Hardin planning body, hasn't responded yet after a brief talk April 2. Margolf has also met briefly with the Wyoming Department of Economic Planning and Development and plans to contact Montana environmental groups soon.

The Cameron project is roughly paralleled by a similar, though much smaller, plan being advanced by Atlantic Richfield. ARCO wants the Wyoming Environmental Institute to hire experts from the University of Wyoming and direct them in a thorough environmental impact study of the ARCO coal holdings north of Douglas. ARCO will apparently pay for the entire study in an attempt to get an idea of the environmental constraints before they begin mining. The WEI is currently evaluating the objectives, costs, and potential specialists for the job. Dave Olson, member of the Institute, (Continued on page 10)



Studies, hopefully soon to be launched, may determine the fate of Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota because of coal development. Ranches such as this one in Wyoming's Powder River Basin may soon give way to massive industrial plants. With them come railroads, highways, transmission lines, aqueducts, gas pipelines, and many more people. Changed will be a whole way of life and whole ecosystems.

The Year of the Tule Elk

The American elk or wapiti had several subspecies when White man began the conquest of the North American continent. *Cervus canadensis canadensis* once ranged from Maine to eastern Oregon and from northern Canada to Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. In the Mogollon Mountains of western New Mexico and the White Mountains of Arizona, there was a subspecies, *Cervus merriami* which is now considered to be extinct. Along the West Coast, there were two subspecies. The large, dark Olympic or Roosevelt wapiti occurred on Vancouver Island, in the Olympic Mountains of Washington and parts of western Oregon and Washington. Further south, in all of the central valleys of California, lived *Cervus nannodes*, the California or tule wapiti.

The latter is the smallest of the American elk, much smaller than the other members, with shorter legs, paler color, and more white on the ears. By 1885, it had been reduced to a remnant herd of 28 animals. In the 1930's a few head were transplanted out of the ancestral ranges into the Owens Valley on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. There the tule elk have increased to a herd of around 300 animals.

But, as has been the case with other species of big game, the inexorable pressure of humans has put a limit on further increase. Livestock operators are not willing to concede any more range either on public or private lands. If the elk are to be saved, other measures must be taken.

Beula Edmiston is one of those rare individuals who becomes involved with an issue and never lets go. As a result of her persistence and dedication, California Sen. Alan Cranston has introduced Senate Joint Resolution 6, to establish the Tule Elk National Wildlife Refuge. A similar H.J. Resolution 204 has been introduced in the House by Rep. John Dingell of Michigan.

Sen. Cranston's resolution calls for the establishment of a refuge for the elk, and declares it to be a federal policy to cooperate with the State of California in restoring the elk to a herd level of at least 2000 head. To carry out the policy, the Secretary of the Interior would be authorized to acquire such lands in the Owens Valley as to give the elk room to increase. The acquired lands plus all other lands in the Owens Valley watershed administered by the Department of Interior would comprise the elk refuge. In addition, some of the elk could be moved back to some original ranges; and grazing permits on the Inyo National Forest could be adjusted to accommodate more elk.

The accompanying articles by Beula Edmiston and the interview by Roger Slocum tells more of the story about the tule elk and the dedicated woman who has done so much for them.

* * *
The editor.
by Beula Edmiston

Today, I revisited the Owens Valley, the beautiful, long, narrow valley that lies some two miles deep between the lofty Sierra Nevada Range and the White and Inyo Mountains in eastern California — home of the tule elk.

This was a special visit to again capture on film and to organize the story of the tule elk's struggle for survival for High Country News.

Near Lone Pine on U.S. 395, I gazed past the scenic Alabama Hills to Mount Whitney's summit, 14,496 feet, the highest point in the United States this side of Alaska. My meter indicated there would be no pictures in the fast gathering storm, and I wondered what words could best tell the story of the need for permanent habitat for the tule elk, all resident wildlife, and the preservation of open space for the well-being of people — the

millions of people existing in the concrete jungle only four hours driving time to the south.

I clutched two precious pieces of paper in my hands — Senate Joint Resolution 6 and House Joint Resolution 204 — to establish a Tule Elk National Wildlife Refuge. As a snow plume lifted from the crest of the Sierra, my spirits soared. Those papers, crackling in the wind, tell the story by distinguished leaders in the United States Congress of the need of the national wildlife refuge for the tule elk.

From the preamble to S.J.Res. 6, speaking for himself, and Senators Gaylord Nelson, and John V. Tunney (and we understand Seantor Gale W. McGee and others will co-sponsor), Senator Alan Cranston says in part, "... in 1971, the official count of tule elk in the Owens Valley was 291. Unfortunately, the official count made by the Department of Fish and Game for 1972 is down 11 from the 1971 level with only 280 tule elk.

"These 280 in the Owens Valley are the only survivors — unhybridized — of a species which formerly was common in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys of California. The tule elk has waged a persistent and remarkable struggle for survival during the past century.

"The reasons for saving the tule elk range from scientific to ethical to pragmatic. Perhaps the best way I can summarize my feeling about the urgency of insuring a future for this little elk is that in an age where man's defilement of the biosphere has reached the state where there is serious question about whether environmental degradation is still reversible, at such a time every variety of life-form must be considered a precious resource to be protected and nurtured. We can view them as genetic reservoirs, so to speak, which at some time in the future we may discover to be essential to the continuation of life on earth..."

I remembered, too, that John D. Dingell, whose H.J. Res. 204 has 27 co-sponsors (including a majority of the California delegation) after personal inspection of the Owens Valley, declared that the nation's heritage of wildness must have priority over privileged grazing leases, and that "the protection and maintenance of tule elk in a free and wild state is of educational, scientific, and esthetic value to the people of the United States, and its

struggle to survive epitomizes the worldwide threat to the larger browse and grazing mammals whose environments are shrinking and are being depleted as a result of civilization's incursions."

I thought of the spirited outpourings of a thousand Americans in behalf of a permanent home for the tule elk.

Then I remembered the advice of Roger Slocum — teacher, environmentalist, citizen extraordinary — who said, "Tell them how it feels to see a tule elk — if they should be so lucky!"

I'll never forget the day I saw my tule elk.

A small group of seasoned outdoorsmen, supplied with latest field reports from the Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service, set forth determined to see tule elk.

"No use," the young man who filled our gas tank declared. "They're a phantom herd."

"Why not settle for jack rabbits?" the girl in the restaurant said. "I've lived here all my life and have never seen one."

"Good luck, but it's like looking for a needle in a haystack — awful few critters in a lot of space," the man observed as he reached for the color film.

"I saw a tule elk — once," an old timer observed and allowed he'd join us. "But they're on the way out," he declared.

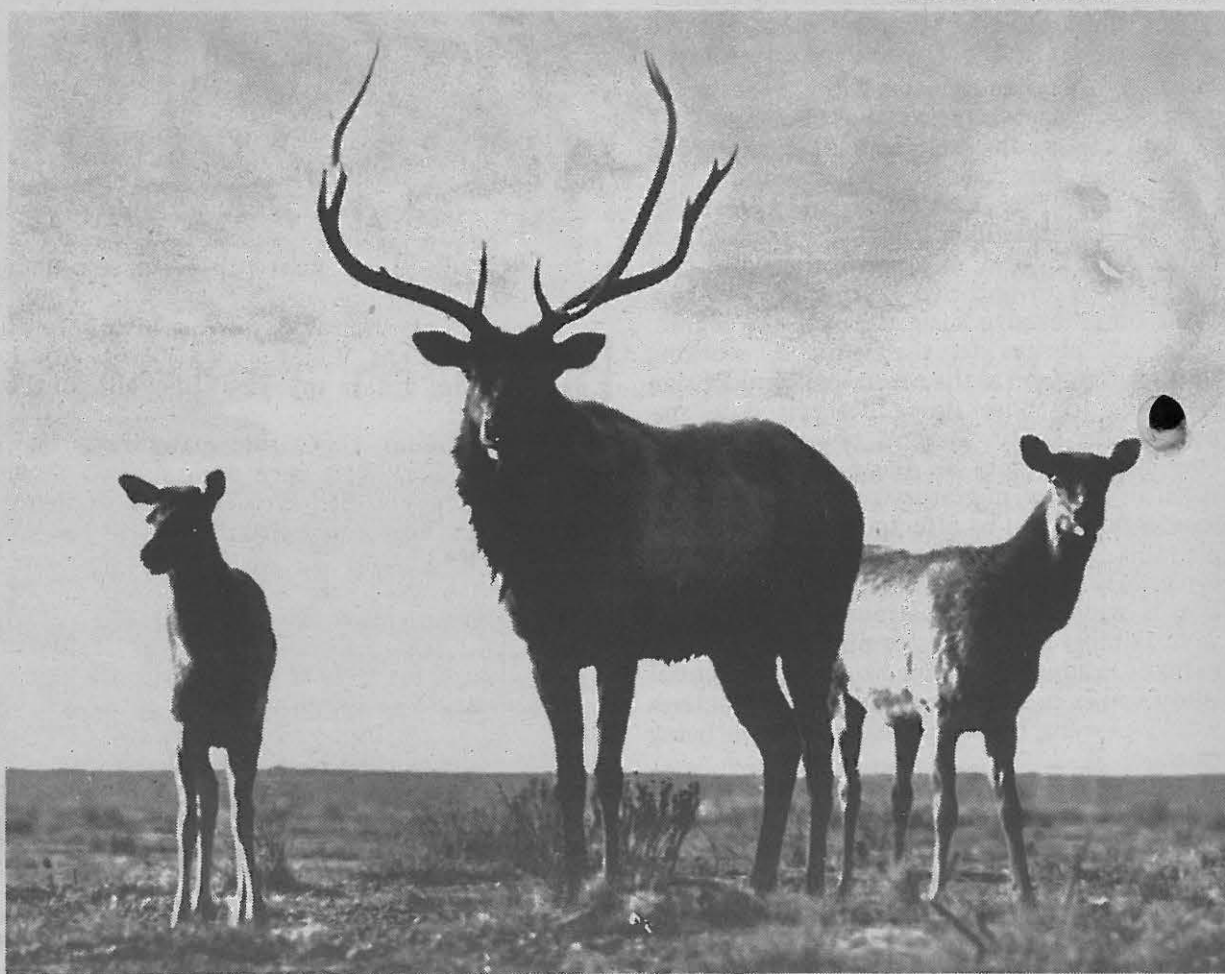
It was a hot day in late summer. We could understand why the plants on the valley floor are so widely spaced with small, hairy, or scaly leaves, or without leaves at all. Fishermen lined the Owens River but none had seen tule elk.

We moved up Majorka Canyon in the Inyos and looked across to the Sierra. It was easy to see why the Owens Valley is lovingly dubbed "America's Deepest Valley" and "The Land of Little Rain." Prince's Plume waved in the breeze. A white-tailed ground squirrel scampered across the trail. A roadrunner made plain the rightness of his common name, but neither binoculars, spotting scopes, trained eyes of the naturalist, nor bright eyes of a child, could locate tule elk.

We crossed the valley near the Tinemaha Reservoir where, with luck, we could hope to

(Continued on page 7)

Photo by Gerhard Bakker



Tule elk in the dry, sandy, desert area of California's Owens Valley.

... Tule Elk

see tule elk. We noted some of the more modest of the still undeciphered petroglyphs, but saw no tule elk.

Hot and weary, we moved toward a sparkling stream, fed by the Sierra snows, that tumbles into the desert valley. A hummingbird investigated my red bandana. A coyote moved like a shadow into the sagebrush. A sparrowhawk dived upon an unsuspecting grasshopper. I feasted my eyes on the delicate tracery of a desert trumpet. But scan the near and far horizon as we would, we could locate no tule elk.

The conversation grew dull with multiple-use, other uses for the land, and grim statistics on the rare and endangered species. For the hundredth time the old timer mused that he had seen a tule elk — once, but that they're on the way out. For at least the hundredth time the young lad said, "I'd like to see one."

Then suddenly, I saw a tule elk! Out of nowhere rose the little giant — the smallest, rarest, most specialized elk on earth stood before us. The glow of the setting sun shone on his light tan body, burnished his sable brown head and neck, turned his tawny rump to gold, and shimmered on his antlers.

His nostrils distended as he breathed. His steady eyes held mine. No word passed among our group. No one even clicked a camera. We saw a tule elk. Then, after a long moment, with calm and stately step and rhythmic swaying of his gallant head, this monarch of the wild moved down the ridge and out of sight.

"Remember the sight," the old timer cautioned, they're on the way out, you know."

"I've seen a tule elk," the ecstatic youth cried out. "It's not too late to give them a home and chance for survival."

There was a different tone to the conversation when at last it was resumed. The old clichés and dogmatic formulas don't sound the same after you've stood eye to eye with a tule elk.

I knew that from that day forward I would fight for the tule elk's right for survival, its right to freedom, its right to the land, its right to wilderness — My right to a wild heritage! But how?

Then, in the distance sounded the bugle of a tule elk. It is the sound of wildness that sends a tingle down the spine. I can't describe it. But we would be the poorer if the bugle of the elk should ever be stilled.

Man does not live by bread and beef and belching factories, alone.

That memorable day was more than a decade ago when only a handful of people knew or cared about the tule elk, the urgent need of permanent habitat for both predator and prey; the importance of wildness to the preservation of the world, or realized that beauty, not beef, is the most valuable asset of the Owens Valley — one of the great scenic resources of the earth.

It's different now.

Sleet, and perhaps a tear of joy, stung my cheek. S.J. Res. 6 and H.J. Res. 204, still in my hands, were proof that people know and people care. Distinguished people in the Congress of the United States have affixed their names to these Resolutions to establish a great national wildlife refuge for the tule elk — and to save a spot of wildness and infinite beauty for America.

Snow plumes billowed from the Sierra crest. I seemed to feel the winds of destiny. With enough effort, this can be the year of the refuge!

For more information and to help, contact: Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk, 5502 Markland Drive, Los Angeles, California 90022.

To express yourself where it matters most, write your own Congressman and your own two Senators. The wild heritage you save is your own!

Photo by Gerhard Bakker

High Country News-7
Friday, Apr. 13, 1973



From the Owens Valley looking toward the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Interview With Mrs. Edmiston

I interviewed Mrs. Beula Edmiston at her home in Los Angeles on October 17, 1972. She lives here with her husband, Tasker, and her son, Joe, who is in his third year at Law School. I was interested in finding out her background for working for the tule elk.

Roger L. Slocum

Slocum: Tell us something about your youth.

Edmiston: I cannot remember the time that the wildlife around me wasn't the big thing. My first memories were of our home ranch at Hastings Mesa, Colorado. The whole thing was wonderful, the buildings, the farm animals — especially my dog and my pony. But the really great thing about living there was just knowing that far away off there somewhere in the quakies they said there were a few mountain lions. And way off yonder, two or three mountain gorges away in the Bookcliff Mountains there were some wild horses. And in the mountain meadows in the summertime you might see an elk or in the fall be thrilled with the bugle call of a bull elk or hear the ruffle of a grouse nearby.

Slocum: Did you ever see a mountain lion in the wild?

Edmiston: No, and to this day I have never seen a mountain lion in his wilderness — but it added a little bit of a thrill to think that as I rode off into the quakies some place out yonder there might be one. Of course, I was always hoping to see one.

Slocum: Before you took up the cause of the tule elk, had you ever seen one in the wild?

Edmiston: No (with a ripple of laughter) and I had not seen a tule elk for a number of years afterwards. It took a lot of traveling to the Owens Valley and a lot of shoe leather before I saw my first tule elk. But what a thrill!

Slocum: Gosh, that really is something. All this work you have done and so much of it before you had even seen one of them. Now then, how come you did it?

Edmiston: We were somewhere and heard there was to be a meeting about the tule elk. I went to that meeting at the little courthouse in Independence, California. At the time of this hearing, held by the Fish and Game Commission of California, they planned to hold a hunt for 150 of the estimated 300 tule elk in the Owens Valley — and 300 represented all the free-roaming tule elk in all the world! They were to be killed off so that the grass would be left for the stockmen. I was raised on a ranch. I knew that the stockmen do not own the public lands. I knew that it belongs to all of us. My blood boiled. Yes, I got mad, real mad! (even now her eyes flashed and her fist

clenched as she related these facts from long ago — for that was over a dozen years ago.)

There were fifteen of us at that meeting on July 9, 1960. We decided that if people really knew that the tule elk needed a "home on the range" they would help to secure one! I was soon tagged for the job of "telling the world." Now thousands of concerned Americans have joined in the crusade. And do you know, Roger, we are not going to quit until we get the job done!

Slocum: Beula, you are a dedicated and hard worker in this cause. But is this outdoor thing just your ball of yarn to wind up by yourself or does your family take an active part in conservation work?

Edmiston: Our home life is wonderful and we do not need to get away from it all. But all three of us feel that we are a part of this universe and we also feel that it is the "Now Time" to keep some of its parts together.

Tasker, my husband, has a regular job — we have to eat, you know. But he is at his best in the great out-of-doors. Fortunately, I married a man with the same feeling I have — a firm belief in the Schweitzer philosophy of life, a reverence for all life — that is the root of my philosophy of life. I think people are wonderful — but people are only a part of the ecosystem. I believe this so strongly that I am willing to work for that way of life. Tasker has been on the board of directors for conservation groups and was president of one of them for more than one term. And we are lucky to have a son who wholeheartedly joins us in these endeavors. Sometimes, he even takes up some of these conservation causes more vigorously than we do. We love him for it. We do not do these things to escape from each other, not to be alone far from the crowd, but to work together with ourselves and those we can persuade to work with us.

When we go to the out-of-doors we are sure to take along a camera. We are great hunters with a camera — believing that we can bring back a trophy in living color and put it on the wall to enjoy while the animal can go on living for others to see it alive in the wild.

We try in our way to keep nature in balance even though many others are trying to upset it for their financial gain.

But right here I would like to say that not only people like yourself and your wife, Alma, but thousands of others helping have made the Tule Elk Cause "tick."

Slocum: Would you illustrate?

Edmiston: Yes, my mind brings up lots of names. There is that little, old widow living on the East coast who will never be able to come West to see a tule elk, as she is not able to travel. But she wrote letters to over two

(Continued on page 12)

Tule Elk in t

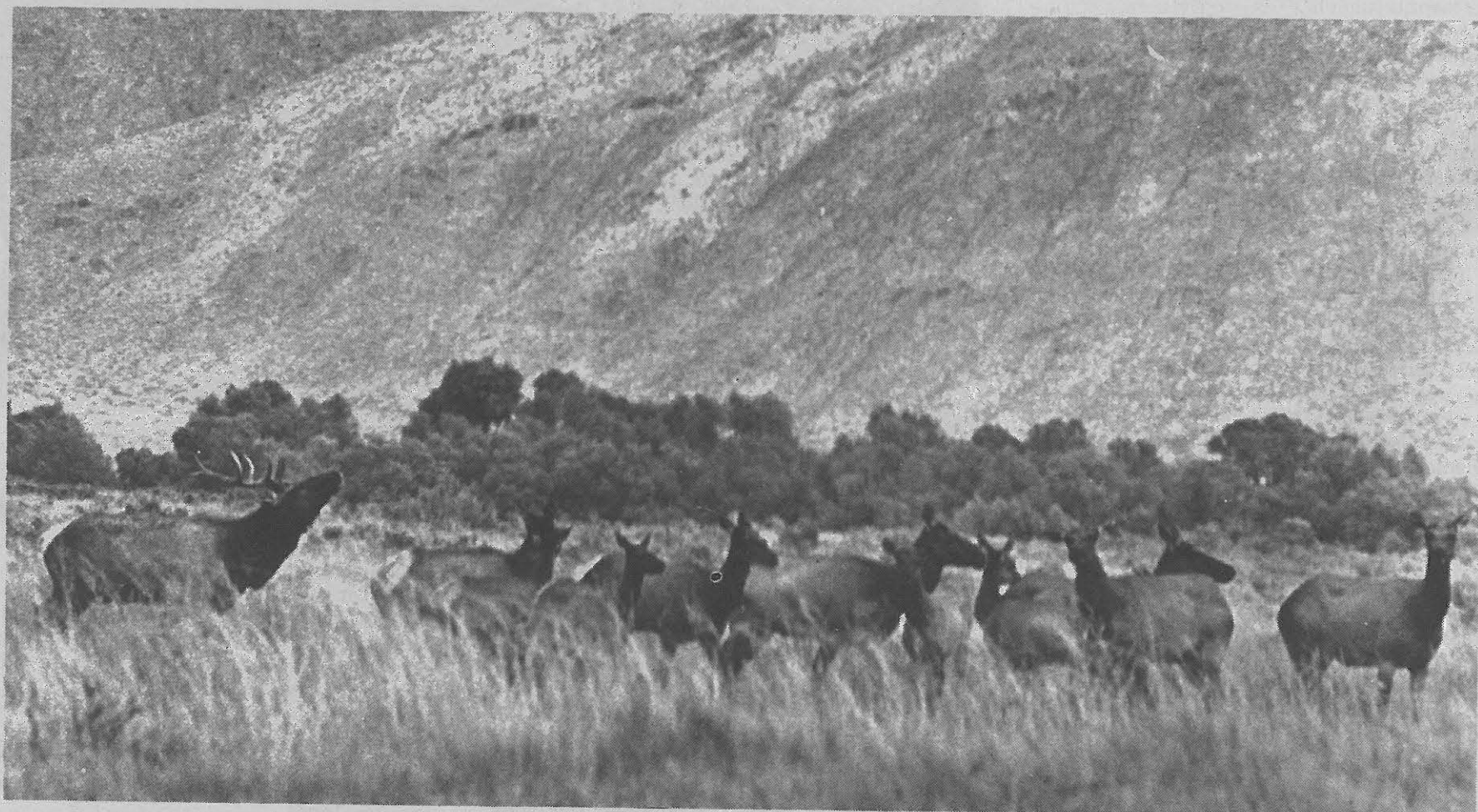


Photo by Duncan McCasker



Photo by David Dunaway

wens Valley

High Country News-9
Friday, Apr. 13, 1973



Photo by Gerhard Bakker



Photo by John Tyler

Confront or Cooperate...

asserts, "I think ARCO is genuine, you know . . . in the sense that they don't want to get into this until everybody concerned has some input, and they genuinely want to do a good job. I think they can possibly set an example for Peabody, Consolidation, and the rest of them."

These proposals by industry are not to be taken lightly. Their unfolding at this point in time, on the eve of massive coal development in the region, may well place us on the brink of a new and untested political and strategic watershed. No one really knows what cooperation with industry in ongoing programs like these will really do to the goals and members of the environmental movement in the West. But it is vital to pose a few questions before committing ourselves one way or the other.

First, do environmentalists want to make common cause with the energy industry under any circumstances? Some Council Directors at the March 31 meeting felt that cooperation would give industry a political concession in the eyes of public opinion. By joining hands, it would be difficult to appeal to public opinion later, goes the argument. Conservationists would only be accused of sour grapes. Others felt that by facilitating the gathering of this information, we might be giving up a valuable legal tool, the "club" of delay. Still others seemed to resist the joint effort out of an instinctive distrust. If certain conservation groups do accept the plan, some fundamentalists might leave the movement in protest, splintering the fairly high degree of unity displayed up until now. And while such action may well be nothing more than indulging our sense of righteousness at the cost of pragmatic action, the split must still be weighed as a possible cost. However, the time may have passed when environmentalists can afford to oppose industry at every turn, even on a potentially acceptable effort like this, without losing the public's confidence.

No one would endorse this plan of action unless the environmental movement stood to get at least as much or more than it gives. The benefits must be worth the costs. So what is the potential value of "base-line data?" Information on the region's airsheds might just show that the region cannot possibly support new industry. It might show that reclamation in many parts of northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana is, indeed, impossible. And it might give us the lead time to develop ways of mitigating the harm of development that eventually does occur. A willingness to generate factual pictures of such a region, in conjunction with industry, might go far toward combating the "radical, hysterical" tag many political opponents of environmental protection have tried to attach to these people. And as Laney Hicks pointed out to Margolf when she took issue with his comments on environmental delaying action in the courts, "... the values of delay are often simply improving the base for sound decision making." The Cameron and ARCO proposals seem to further that decision-making base.

A third aspect is whether these kinds of joint studies really will be "noncontroversial" and impartial. "Are they really going to dig out accurate facts?" seems to be the question here. And the answer would seem to be that they can be accurate, but you can't just play Pollyanna and assume that they will be fairly done. However, the reservoir of astute academic talent within the ranks of the environmental movement would seem to be good enough to hold its own and protect our interest in unbiased information gathering. Again, some sort of meaningful overview seems to be a prerequisite for cooperation. The possibility remains that industry's real intent is to take us for a ride. We simply have to determine whether we can deploy adequate safeguards against such a gambit.

Conclusions are by their very nature awfully tentative on an unknown quantity like these programs. That they involve certain risks is a fair statement to make. That there are also tremendous risks in resisting all such ventures may be equally true. Environmentalists are locked in a battle for the confidence of the public at large. Unjustifiable stubbornness may not do much to enhance confidence, especially in light of potential "Energy Crisis" smear campaigns. We should not lack so much self-

confidence that we automatically assume that industry can use us every time we establish a liaison. As Bernard DeVoto said, "Pessimism is the name that men of weak nerve give to wisdom." The knotty issues of tactical advantage and political advisability are neither clearcut nor pleasant. But for the environmental movement, concerned with results, and concerned with making maximum impact on the political system at every turn, those issues cannot be ignored.

Energy Analysis Prepared

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, has released a staff analysis of Federal Energy Organization prepared for the Senate National Fuels and Energy Policy Study.

In releasing the report Senator Jackson expressed surprise that until very recently "almost no formal consideration has been given to the way the Federal government is organized to administer energy policy. When the Senate Study of National Fuels and Energy policy began, there was not even a good description of the existing Federal energy organization available."

"In the course of its study of energy organization, the staff has identified 46 agencies which administer programs or implement policies with specific impacts on the energy system. There are 18 other agencies which administer programs or policies which probably were not intended to be energy oriented, but which currently have unique impacts upon the energy system. These 64 agencies are distributed among nine Executive Departments, 15 independent agencies, and the Executive Office of the President.

"There is little doubt that this multitude of agencies can be better organized and

directed than it has been in the past. It is increasingly clear that as new, more comprehensive national fuels and energy policies are developed, the implementation of these policies will depend upon a more effective organization. The demands upon Federal energy agencies are destined to be greater than ever before.

"This staff analysis describes present energy organization and its historical development. It also indicates principles which might govern organizational changes. There are a number of specific energy-related reorganization proposals already pending in the Congress, and it is probably that the Administration will be making further proposals in the near future.

"I believe this analysis will be useful as organization proposals are considered. The Committee invites the comments of anyone who has an interest in energy organization."

The committee print was published by the Senate Interior Committee as a background document (Serial No. 93-6 [92-41]) for the Committee's National Fuels and Energy Policy Study being conducted pursuant to S. Res. 45. Single copies may be obtained by writing the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 3106 NSOB, Washington, D.C. 20540.

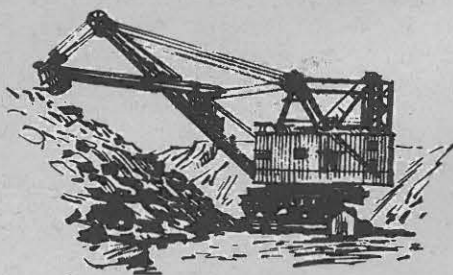
Alternatives Listed

David Freeman, a Ford Foundation energy consultant and researcher and a former assistant to the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission, says the "energy crisis" has been "manufactured right here in Washington." Freeman says the crisis could be alleviated by: 1) Revamping electric rate structures so big users would bear the brunt of rate increases and would therefore be encouraged to save. 2) Diverting Highway Trust Fund money to mass transit and by implementing taxes and regulations favoring cars with good mileage. This could save 25 percent of the nation's energy uses for transportation. 3) Properly insulating buildings which could save 25 percent on heating oil consumption. 4) Encouraging industry to implement studies of their own which show output could be maintained at present levels and prices with a 10-15 percent cut in energy consumption. 5) Pushing tax incentives to mine trash rather than virgin materials since recycling takes less energy to reclaim valuable metals.

Costs Infinitesimal

A report by the Council on Environmental Quality says reclamation costs for strip-mined coal in Montana and Wyoming are only a "small fraction" of per-ton costs in other parts of the country. It says the average per-acre production of coal in the two states will run about 66,000 tons, with coal seams running 25 to 100 feet thick and overburden of only 50 to 200 feet. Such conditions will result in average costs of 1.6 cents per ton for every \$1,000 of reclamation work done.

The report also says that because of poor topsoil and little rainfall, successful reclamation may be doubtful. It says that, "With growing demand for low sulfur fuels, the answers to questions on reclamation in the far West become increasingly important."



Standards Tougher

The Environmental Protection Agency is forcing the hand of electric utilities in the Southwest. Wm. Ruckelshaus has ordered coal-fired powerplants to reduce both sulfur dioxide and particulate emissions. The SO₂ emissions must be reduced by 70 percent. A March 15, 1976, deadline was set to meet primary federal air standards in the region. The plants are in the Four Corners Region of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

In the wake of the EPA announcement, E. Allan Hunter, president of Utah Power & Light, said it will be an "economic waste" to put SO₂ removal equipment on the Huntington Canyon powerplant now under construction. Pacific Power and Light Company said it was reassessing the situation on installation of sulfur control equipment. PP&L had not planned to install SO₂ emission controls on the 1,500-megawatt Jim Bridger plant now under construction near Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Interested in Oil Shale

Some 15 companies are expected to pledge \$500,000 each toward an experimental oil shale processing plant near Rifle, Colorado. Five companies have already made the pledge. The companies hope to have the pilot plant under construction by October.

Oil Companies Questioned

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sen. Gaylord Nelson made the following statement March 20 on the U.S. Senate floor on three articles on oil that are in the April issue of *The Progressive Magazine*:

"Mr. President: I have just had an opportunity to read three articles in *The Progressive Magazine*, a distinguished journal of opinion, which is published in Madison, the capital city of my home state of Wisconsin. These articles present dramatic and deeply disturbing material and charges about the policies, practices, and procedures of one of the great industries of our country, the oil industry. These articles were written by unusually competent and qualified men. One of them, our former and still much valued colleague, Fred Harris. The second is Philip M. Stern, whose books on taxation, and especially taxation loopholes, and on other subjects, have won widespread acclaim, and, to the best of my knowledge, have never been challenged on factual grounds however much some critics might disagree with some of his viewpoints. The third author is Laurence Stern, the able, award-winning writer for *The Washington Post*, who has previously written on the oil industry.

"The overall title of the three-part presentation in *The Progressive* is 'The Power of Oil.' The three independent articles are entitled:

'Oil: Our Private Government,'

by Laurence Stern.

'Oil: How It Raids The Treasury,'

by Philip Stern.

'Capitalism Betrayed in Its Own Camp,'

by Senator Harris.

"The issues raised in these articles are not only of great concern to all of us in the Congress and indeed all citizens of America, but they come at a most vital and timely moment when the House Ways and Means Committee is embarked on a major exploration of tax loopholes (the total potential yield of which is bitterly debated) and the Senate Finance Committee also will soon be deeply involved in these matters.

"Moreover, the presentation in *The Progressive* takes on further significance in view of the widespread debate over the 'energy crisis.'

"These articles represent a significant challenge to the oil industry on many important points involving major public policy questions. I am sure the oil industry would not wish to ignore the challenge of these articles. There is always more than one side to all important issues. In order to assure that the record will be balanced I will ask for the comments of leading oil executives on the issues raised in these articles and submit their response for printing in the *Congressional Record*.

"If in fact it is a true picture of the oil industry that emerges from a reading of these articles in *The Progressive Magazine*, it is a picture of what could well be the most privileged, the most nearly monopolistic, and politically the most powerful industry in the country.

"What Members of the Congress and the Administration must decide is:

"First, is this picture accurate or inaccurate. Congressional hearings could help answer that

question. And if the answer is affirmative, the next step would be to explore, without delay, what legislation should be enacted, and what Administration actions might be taken to protect the public interest.

"Senator Harris, an Oklahoman who knows the oil industry first hand, points out in his article, 'Capitalism Betrayed in Its Own Camp' that 'The oil and gas industry is a shared monopoly. Standard Oil of New Jersey, Mobil, Texaco and Gulf,' he writes, 'accounted for 55.4 percent of all petroleum sales in 1970. Jersey Standard alone controlled nearly twenty percent of sales. In particular areas or regions, the company names are somewhat different, but a few of the major companies nevertheless control the market.'

"One result of this noncompetitive marketing system, Mr. Harris contends, 'is that the 211,000 filling station operators for major oil companies have an extremely precarious economic existence. The turnover rate of dealers in the gasoline industry is far higher than in comparable industries — as many as forty percent of the dealers in some markets change jobs every year.'

"The main crisis in energy is that energy sources are monopolized, Mr. Harris says. The twenty-five largest oil companies are involved in natural gas. Eighteen of them have invested in oil, shale, and uranium. Eleven are in coal. Seven are in tar sands. Six of the ten largest oil companies are involved in all four major domestic fuels — oil, gas, coal, and uranium.

"In short, Senator Harris contends, the giants have taken over the oil industry and plan to dominate other fields of energy as well. These oil giants are also the beneficiaries of multi-billion dollar tax exemptions according to Philip Stern in another *Progressive* article, 'Oil: How It Raids the Treasury.'

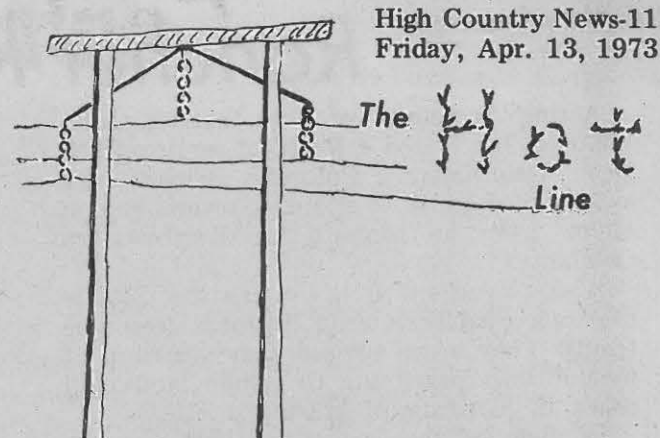
"Philip Stern quotes figures on five of the giants — Gulf, Texaco, Mobil, Standard of California, and Standard of New Jersey — which show that for the year 1971, on a combined profit of \$7,389 million, these companies paid only five percent in federal taxes. Stern asserts that if they had been paying a share comparable to American corporations as a whole, or two-fifths of their net income in taxes, these five companies, taken together, would have paid two and a half billion dollars more in taxes than they did under our present laws.

"One of the ablest of our Washington newsmen, Laurence Stern of *The Washington Post*, rounds out *The Progressive's* series of reports on the oil industry. He describes some of the major links between the government and the oil industry.

"The State Department also 'has serviced the needs of the American oil majors,' Laurence Stern writes in his article, 'Oil: Our Private Government.'

"The President's energy message, Stern reports, may 'ratify some of the most insistent demands of the major oil companies, foremost among them may be federal abolition of regulation of interstate natural gas prices.'

"All in all these articles raise major questions which must be addressed by the Congress and the public."



High Country News-11
Friday, Apr. 13, 1973

The International Institute for Strategic Studies says world shortages of fuels and other raw materials could lead to future wars. It says Arab nations will become world powers by the 1980's by virtue of their oil supplies.

* * *

The eleven nations which produce 85 per cent of the world's oil have decided they need a higher price for crude oil following the devaluation of the dollar. Experts look for a 10 percent price increase. Most of the nation's are Middle East countries.

* * *

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry says that country must conserve energy. Faced with increasing restrictions on oil supplies, the Ministry is scaling down estimates of future energy needs. Japan, the largest oil importer in the world, gets most of its oil from American oil companies.

* * *

Speaking at an Environment-Energy Seminar in New York, Edward Frieman of the Plasma Physics Laboratory at Princeton University, says the Nixon Administration has refused to release the results of an investigation into energy needs. However, he said through his participation in the investigation he was aware of some parts. He says, "We can't get through 1990 unless the government pushes coal gasification and liquefaction. That, of course, still leaves the serious question of strip-mining."

* * *

The 190,000-member United Mine Workers Union has come out in favor of strict regulation of strip-mining. UMW President Arnold Miller, who is from West Virginia, said his union advocates banning stripmining unless damaged areas can be properly restored.

* * *

Texaco gasoline distributors started rationing gas to some 200 service stations in Los Angeles. It is the first time a major oil company's retail outlets have been affected by gasoline shortages. Both Texaco and Mobil have announced on a national level that distributors would be limited to supplies equal to last year's.

* * *

Gasoline shortages have already showed up in eight states before the summer travel season has even begun. The shortage is said to be a world-wide scarcity of crude oil and some refinery shutdowns in Texas. The Office of Emergency Preparedness says gasoline inventories in Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri were down by 25 percent from a year ago.



"Energy consumption cannot continue to increase indefinitely into the future at its present rate since our planet cannot cope with the vast amounts of thermal and material pollution which this would produce. Research programs directed toward more rational and efficient utilization of energy, health and safety of our people, and protection of the natural environment should have highest priority."

Task Force on Energy
U.S. House of Representatives
April, 1973



A new railroad spur being built to the strip mine now operating at Decker, Montana.

Rancher Reprimanded for Eagle Incident

Acting Secretary of the Interior John Whitaker has issued a letter of reprimand to Dean Visintainer, a Colorado rancher who had pleaded guilty to shooting several golden eagles from an aircraft in northwestern Colorado.

Also placed on notice were the 25,000 livestock operators using National Resource Lands. They were advised that violation of federal laws pertaining to public lands will result in jeopardy of grazing privileges.

In view of the fact that Visintainer has already been fined and placed on probation by the United States District Court, and based on Visintainer's record of past dealings with the Department, the Secretary found that little purpose would be served by further punishment in this particular case.

Whitaker specifically told Visintainer that he could not terminate the rancher's grazing privileges under the Bald Eagle Protection Act. "However," he said, "Department counsel have further advised me that I have other authority to suspend or terminate your grazing privileges on public lands, if I decide to do so." He then said that because of severe financial effects, "... I have tried to make my decision judiciously."

Whitaker continued, "Obviously, your admitted illegal activities are abhorrent. No one can repair the harm you have done, but the Government can and should take all means at its disposal to prevent such an act from being done again, by you or anyone else. . . Your case affords me the opportunity of advising all persons holding grazing privileges on the public lands that, if any person kills or otherwise harms any protected wildlife, that person's grazing privileges will be terminated or suspended, in whole or in part, whenever it is legally possible for the Department to do so."

Visintainer Sheep Company holds Federal grazing privileges on approximately 60,000 acres of public lands in northwest Colorado, managed by the Interior Department.

The Department has proposed regulations which would make ranchers holding grazing privileges on public lands subject to loss of those privileges if they have violated Federal or State conservation laws or have been found guilty of placing chemical toxicants on public lands.

The Secretary said that more important than imposing additional sanctions on Visintainer was the prevention of the killing of eagles and other protected wildlife. In reprimanding Visintainer the Secretary said, "I

want to impress upon you that the leniency I have afforded you will not be repeated if you commit further violations. In addition, I want it to be clearly understood by you, and all others, that my decision not to impose additional sanctions in this case does not create a precedent for other cases. It is my intention to act sternly in these cases, and the sanctions which I shall impose will hurt."

Acting Secretary Whitaker issued further instructions to Interior Department employees, particularly those in the Western States, to be continuously on the alert to apprehend violators of the Federal conservation laws.

Environmental Education In Trouble

Environmental education is about to flounder on the shoals of fiscal "responsibility." The Nixon Administration says that environmental education will "be terminated in 1974." It is not consistent with the "New Federalism"!

The original Environmental Education Act was never given a forthright chance to succeed. It was never funded properly, and wallowed in bureaucratic confusion for a year before it could be put into operation. But it was ground-breaking legislation when it was originally passed and it could yet be one of the most important instruments for change still available.

It needs your help. Rep. John Brademas has introduced H.R.3927 to extend the act for another three years. He should be encouraged to hold well-publicized hearings. Write your own representative as well (House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515). Write to Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Department

of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20201, and express your concern.

A system of subsidizing industrial and commercial users (of electricity) by residential users is like taxing citizens to provide funds for business. Since this practice is usually not undertaken explicitly, it is dangerous, if not immoral, to do the same thing masked in the electric-rates charged.

Dr. Charles J. Cichetti
Professor of Economics
University of Wisconsin

Interview . . .

hundred editors of newspapers about the Cause and I think at least a hundred of them got printed. People in every walk of life have put their personal wants aside and done something constructive to help the cause of the tule elk, or the mountain lion, or the wild horse, or the cause of wild space itself. Those, to me, are the people that are the hope of saving a decent environment — perhaps even a beautiful environment.

Slocum: In conclusion what are you personally getting out of this work?

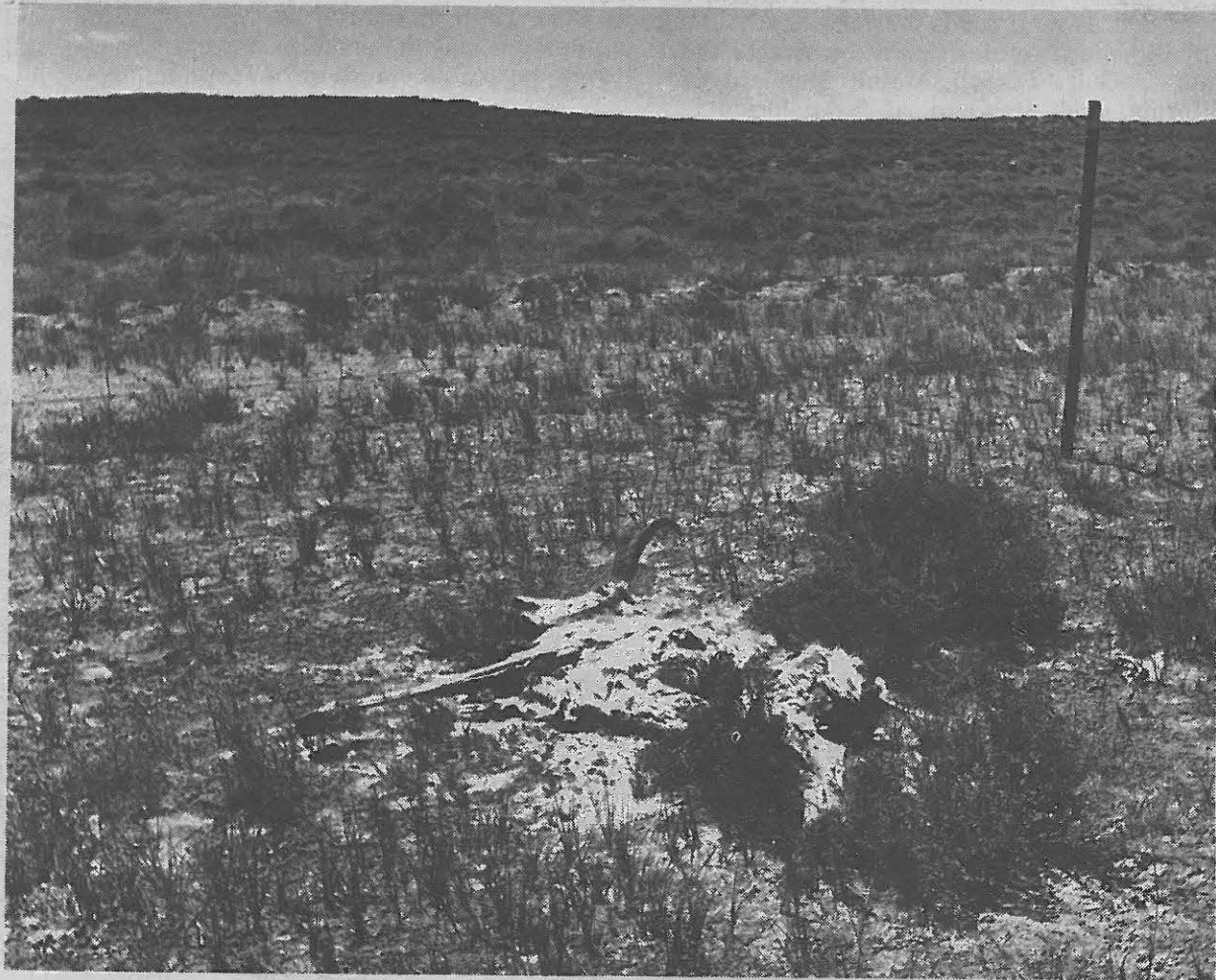
Edmiston: I'm getting about ten hours a day of work answering letters, answering the phone, going to meetings, and giving talks, etc., etc. Sometimes it is a little boring. And job that is worthwhile is difficult. But this work is really fun for me. It is thrilling to know that you are working for a Cause and taking it to the places where it must go. Sometimes you listen to the double talk and it is devastating. Then again, you penetrate beyond all this and you really hit pay dirt. The Cause gains in stature in the eyes of the politicians and the general public.

Few people have seen the tule elk, few people know their problems, and it is a great satisfaction to represent for the American people this rare and endangered species that cannot speak for itself. The more I work the more interesting it becomes. I can't wait for the mailman to bring in the day's mail. So many times there is a letter of help, of understanding, and yes, even one directed to me personally giving some warm thanks for being the one here working for such a wonderful Cause.

And I'd like to say that most anyone can help — join with some group and work with that group to help save some of America's wildness and wildlife for this and the oncoming generations.

Slocum: One last question: How do you feel about the Owens Valley today?

Edmiston: I've been there many times and every time I go there I see new beauty and new devastation. It makes me know that we will have to work hard to keep developers from ruining this valley not only for the tule elk but for all the other wildlife and Man himself.



A dead pronghorn buck — a not uncommon sight on the fenced ranges of Wyoming. Recently, 32 mature antelope were killed outright when a herd of about 60 were trapped within the highway right-of-way. A truck ran into the herd in a snowstorm north of Farson, Wyoming. The highways are fenced sheep-tight to keep unherded sheep off the roads, but such fences trap game animals and make them vulnerable to such accidents. Citizens in the Rock Springs area where there has been unusually high losses of antelope because of fences are now asking for animal overpasses. They say these could get antelope across fences without endangering either the animals or highway travelers.

On the open ranges, fences are built for better management of livestock but disregard the values of game animals. One now being planned along Wyoming's Upper Sweetwater River would cut off many miles of unrestricted access by both game animals and wild horses. The fence and cross fences would be built with federal funds for the benefit of one rancher. Most of the fence would be on public lands.

Western..... Roundup

High Country News-13
Friday, Apr. 13, 1973

Photos by Thomas M. Baugh

Coyotes Aren't Out of Business

Only days after he announced the sale of 10,000 breeding ewes, Wyoming rancher Van Irvine said he had bought into still another large ranch. Irvine said he was selling his sheep from the Diamond Ring Ranch because coyotes were putting him out of business. The new acquisition, a 50,000-acre ranch northeast of Casper, has only about 30,000 deeded acres with the rest being public or state lands. Irvine also owns all or part of three other large ranches and recently acquired the Town-House Hotel in Casper. Irvine pleaded no contest to charges filed in 1971 on 29 game violations. He was fined \$679 for killing antelope on his ranch properties and loading the carcasses with poison.

Horse Deaths Bring Suit

The killing and capture of wild horses in Idaho has triggered a lawsuit against the federal government. The suit has been filed by the American Horse Protection Association and the Humane Society. The groups contend the district manager of the Bureau of Land Management and other government officials did not require proof of ownership or exercise their authority in protecting the wild horses. The suit also contends the Idaho ranchers who killed and captured the wild horses used helicopters and snowmobiles to chase and pursue the horses. Such actions are in violation of federal law. The suit asks that federal land managers be required to comply with and enforce the provisions of the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act.

Problems With Too Many Horses

A top level meeting of Bureau of Land Management officials in Billings decided wild horses are reproducing so fast that they might soon overrun their ranges. Bureau officials said there are more wild horses on the public lands of the West than they had estimated just two years ago. Nevada has now been found to have some 17,000 wild horses, or about as many as were estimated to exist in all western states.

Kay Wilkes, Chief of the Division of Range Management in the Washington office of BLM, said the Bureau had four alternatives of controlling or managing the wild horses: relocate them on other public lands, but only where they existed at the time of passage of the federal law; assign them to private lands where the owner agreed; assign them to individuals for protection and care, or "dispose of them in the most humane manner."

Call For Impact Statements

Two speakers from Boise told the Idaho Chapter of Nature Conservancy that environmental impact statements should be done on public land grazing allotments. William R. Meiners, a former division chief with the state office of the Bureau of Land Management and now a private land use consultant, said, "Every grazing area needs a full environmental statement, and the public needs to voice their opinion on this type of land usage." Meiners also said, "The deterioration (of the range) has been going on so casually for so long that most people do not realize that the present grass cover is not what would normally be there."

Bruce Bowler, a Boise attorney and authority on land and water laws told the group, "We sacrifice too much of the public's western wildlife range for the six percent of the nation's meat supply produced there."

Politics Jeopardize Public Lands

Political influence is once again jeopardizing valuable public wildlife lands along Wyoming's Upper Green River. The wildlife representative on the Pinedale District of the Bureau of Land Management reports that H. Byron Mock has interceded for ranchers in obtaining desert land entries. Mock is a Salt Lake City attorney who served as vice chairman of the Public Land Law Review Commission.

Applications for 4200 acres in the Soapholes area are on file in the BLM office. The lands have been found to be particularly valuable for winter range for mule deer. Findings have also determined that if the lands are cultivated and irrigated, the highly saline soils will contribute to further increases in stream salinity and a degradation of Upper Colorado River waters.

The desert land entries were turned down by the BLM. The Wyoming ranchers appealed the decision to Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel. U.S. Senator Clifford P. Hansen, himself a Wyoming rancher, interceded for the ranchers. However, the BLM decision was upheld until the present time. Now, the decision rests with Assistant Secretary Jack Horton who is a Wyoming native. Mock has asked for a hearing with Horton before he makes a decision.

Some Woolgrowers Off The Hook

Eight Wyoming Woolgrower Association officials have asked to be dropped from a libel suit. The eight were named in a \$1.2 million suit brought by helicopter pilot James Vogan. Vogan is suing the Woolgrowers for what he contends was a letter from Association President William Man which subjected him to "ridicule, scorn, infamy and discredit." Vogan says that because of attacks made against him, he cannot obtain employment. The pilot testified before a Senate subcommittee in July, 1971, about mass eagle killings in Wyoming and Colorado. His testimony resulted in charges being brought against several ranchers. Man and the Association would still be defendants in the case.



Over a year ago, HCN ran a story by Tom Baugh on "The New Tar Pits" (Feb. 18, 1972). It was a story of the destruction of small birds, small animals, and waterfowl in the sludge pits and treater water ponds (see HCN, Feb. 16, 1973) of California oil fields. Now, the scandalous entrapment of possibly as many as a million birds and unknown numbers of small animals has been brought to light in Colorado.

A full-page spread by Charlie Meyers in The Denver Post (April 5, 1973) and a series of programs by Denver's KOA-TV have documented the loss of ducks, geese, songbirds, and small animals. Oil-coated ponds such as those shown above attract migrating waterfowl and animals which live nearby (such as the rabbit, below).

The director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Tom Ten Eyck, has come in for severe criticism for his part in allowing the tragic waste. His department has jurisdiction over both the Colorado Wildlife Division and the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The Denver Post charges, "Fully 4½ years after they were first ordered to clean up the mess, oil companies operating pumping and storage stations in eastern Colorado still leave unprotected sludge ponds which wreak havoc among wildlife." Last week Ten Eyck flew over the area where a reported 1,000 ponds serve as death traps.

Colorado Assistant U.S. Attorney T.S. Halaby said he has requested the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to investigate the reported deaths of 30,000 migratory birds. A report is expected in about two weeks.

Such traps can be found throughout the West, wherever oil operations are found. And now there is frenzied activity to produce more oil and gas because of impending shortages. In addition, other energy installations, such as cooling ponds for generating plants, could become hazards unless they are carefully planned and managed.



Three regional offices of the U.S. Forest Service are slated to be closed and a central office established at Denver. Present regional headquarters in Missoula, Montana; Ogden, Utah, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, would be involved. At the same time, a major realignment and consolidation of Forest offices is taking place throughout the West. Montana's two senators have given notice to Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz that they will fight the closing of Region 1 headquarters in Missoula. Senator Mike Mansfield said, "any plan to move the Missoula headquarters will be met with strong opposition in the United States Senate."

Thoughts from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

It's a poem, and it's a prayer — and it has been lying on my desk for a month. Written by Elizabeth Searle Lamb, it is titled "A prayer in spring." It came in the mail, on a day when yet another storm had dumped some 20 inches of new snow on top of the 16 inches which still lay on the ground.

The atmosphere inside the office was even more dismal than that outdoors. Only a week earlier, we had announced that High Country News would be forced to cease publication at the end of the month. In those few days since the announcement, the letters from our readers had just started to trickle in. Letters with words of encouragement, and with contributions.

Those letters filled our hearts with a strange admixture of gratitude and despair. Gratitude because they wanted to help, and despair because our salvation seemed so unattainable. How could a handful of loyal readers possibly help us keep going?

With only a flicker of hope, we decided not to mail the checks back quite yet. With a flicker of practicality, we didn't deposit them, either. We carefully stapled the address and any other pertinent information to each check, and locked them in a drawer.

On that stormy early-March day, Mary Margaret sat at her desk opening the mail. The pile of envelopes seemed a little larger than the day before.

"Oh — here's a check and a real nice letter from Fred," she said, "— and there's something in here for you, too." She handed me a small piece of paper with "for Marge" written on it.

Fred is a friend who lives in Ohio. He's been a subscriber for about three years but we didn't know him personally until last summer, when he paid us a very enjoyable visit. We have all delighted in the letters he has written since then.

I unfolded the paper and read:

A prayer in spring

Dear God, on this bright spring day
tune all my senses anew!
Let me hear the softest bubbling up
of bluebird's song or chirp of robin.
Let me smell violet and bluebell.
Let me see with a fresh vision
all the shading colors of a daffodil,
the sharp outline of newly-opened leaf.
Give me time to watch the slow change
of shape and color of sunset clouds
after a hard swift shower.
Let my fingers be eagerly sensitive
to birch bark and dandelion fuzz.
Dear God, on this celebration day
let me know my world, all of it,
in a new and ever renewing way,
and let the lift of my spirit's joy
be its own gay spring carolling
of thanks to You for the gift of season!

Through the window I could see that the snow was still coming down. Bluebirds and bluebells and daffodils seemed unreal and remote. As remote as the survival of High Country News.

That was a month ago. The trickle of letters has turned into a deluge of contributions and new subscriptions. With a sense of wonder and appreciation, we have seen our readers make our survival possible. It's sort of like the coming of spring after a long, deep winter!

Speaking of winter — we had another heavy snowfall last weekend, along with below zero temperatures, so we're still up to our knees in the white stuff. Today, the sky is grey and overcast, but spring doesn't seem so remote. Soon we shall behold "the sharp outline of newly-opened leaf," and sensitive fingers will feel the soft fuzz of the dandelion.

Thank you, Fred, for the poem. Once again, your timing was perfect!



One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.

WORDSWORTH: The Tables Turned

Eyes Are On Burlington

The Wisconsin city of Burlington had a unique opportunity to demonstrate to the nation and the world the need for energy conservation and the importance of citizen involvement in "one of the most important environmental challenges of this decade," according to Sen. Gaylord Nelson, the originator of Earth Day and the subsequent Earth Weeks.

"Since Earth Week, 1973, is making a special emphasis on the energy crises," Nelson had earlier explained, "the entire city of Burlington will be taking a significant step in demonstrating to the nation and the world that in our impending energy crisis the average consumer of energy is not helpless, but can be a significant factor in conserving and reducing the amount of energy consumed."

Members of the community were asked to cut back to 1950 levels of consumption of all types of energy, or 50 percent of their current consumption. All segments of the community were extremely cooperative. Industry, while it was not desirable or practical to shut down or slow down production, encouraged employees to limit the use of automobiles driven to work, with walking, cycling and car pools as some alternatives.

Commercial establishments in the small city south of Milwaukee participated by reduction of electrical lighting and heating. Some retailers planned to hold sales on items which require no energy or which help to conserve energy.

A key feature of the city's program was a special controlled demonstration on energy use involving 12 Burlington families. For two weeks prior to Earth Week these families kept daily records of normal energy consumption, to be averaged on a daily basis.

For a 24 hour period during Earth Week, beginning at 6 a.m. on the morning of April 10, the 12 families were rationed the three major types of fuel — electricity, natural gas and gasoline. The ration was based on 1950 use levels, or 50 percent of current consumption.

Five families were given their rations and

instructed on how to conserve the energy available. Another five families were given their rations, but were not instructed on conservation measures, but were expected to devise their own program for conservation.

The two remaining families had "the toughest assignment," Nelson said. They were put on the world ration of energy, which is estimated at 1/6th of the 1/2, or 1/12th of the two week recorded consumption. The percentage they were allowed is based on the best available information that per capita consumption of all types of energy in the U.S. is 6 to 8 times that of the world per capita consumption.

Devices were placed on the lawn of each demonstration home to indicate on an hour by hour basis how the family got along on its allotted fuel ration, to record the hour if and when a family ran out of its allotted ration.

Nelson said that the conservation points to surface from the demonstration "should make the point that the average household can be effective in energy conservation without any special expertise. The allotments of 50 percent are not unrealistic, since studies show that 30 to 35 percent of energy used in this country in households is wasted."



Programs Available

A six-part series of environmental programs have been produced which may be available to local television stations. The series, entitled Earthkeeping, is said to be one of the best on various environmental problems yet produced. The programs assume that everyone knows there are a number of crises, but few seem to know why we have them or what we can do about them. If you wish more information, or you wish to get your local television station interested, write to Sherry Goodman, Project Director, WTTW, 5400 North St. Louis Ave., Chicago, IL 60625.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

According to the latest tally,
Tule elk in the Owens Valley
Are but 300 strong —
And that won't last long,
Unless Man to their cause does rally.

* * *

Recent research indicates the world's oceans may be capable of absorbing much more carbon dioxide than was first thought. Absorption of more gas by the oceans could lead to revision of the "greenhouse effect" theory.

* * *

Two fifth-grade Salt Lake City girls designed their own ecology buttons and sold them at garden shows and similar gatherings. Last week Tricia Staples and Merilee Cannon presented \$775 to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. The money will be used to buy wildlife laboratory equipment.

* * *

The Yellowstone Park Company, a major concessioner in the nation's oldest national park, is discontinuing roadside billboard advertising. Some 75-80 signs will come down.

* * *

The wood which gave Brazil its name may be in danger of extinction. Called "brazen wood" by Portugese explorers, the beautiful, reddish hardwood once covered a wide area. It is now becoming rare.

* * *

The U.S. Geological Survey says rivers in the lower 48 states are estimated to pick up some 1.3 million tons of sediment per day. USGS hydrologist William Curtis says sediment loads can be used to assess land use practices.

* * *

Laser light has been used to destroy unwanted plants on water or land. A Department of Defense chemist says the laser could replace chemicals. The laser can be used selectively to get rid of such plants as water hyacinth.

* * *

The American Public Health Association is coordinating a study by ten scientists on alternative patterns of energy production in relation to public health effects. All known energy sources and processes, ranging from extraction to ultimate use, will be studied.

* * *

Pan Am and TWA, the nation's two leading international airlines, have rejected a bid for Europe's supersonic white elephant — the British-French-made Concorde. They say the aircraft is technically less efficient than present American jets and an economically unsound investment. Their decision is expected to end the possibility of American use of supersonic planes for the next few years.

* * *

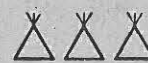
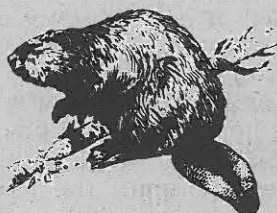
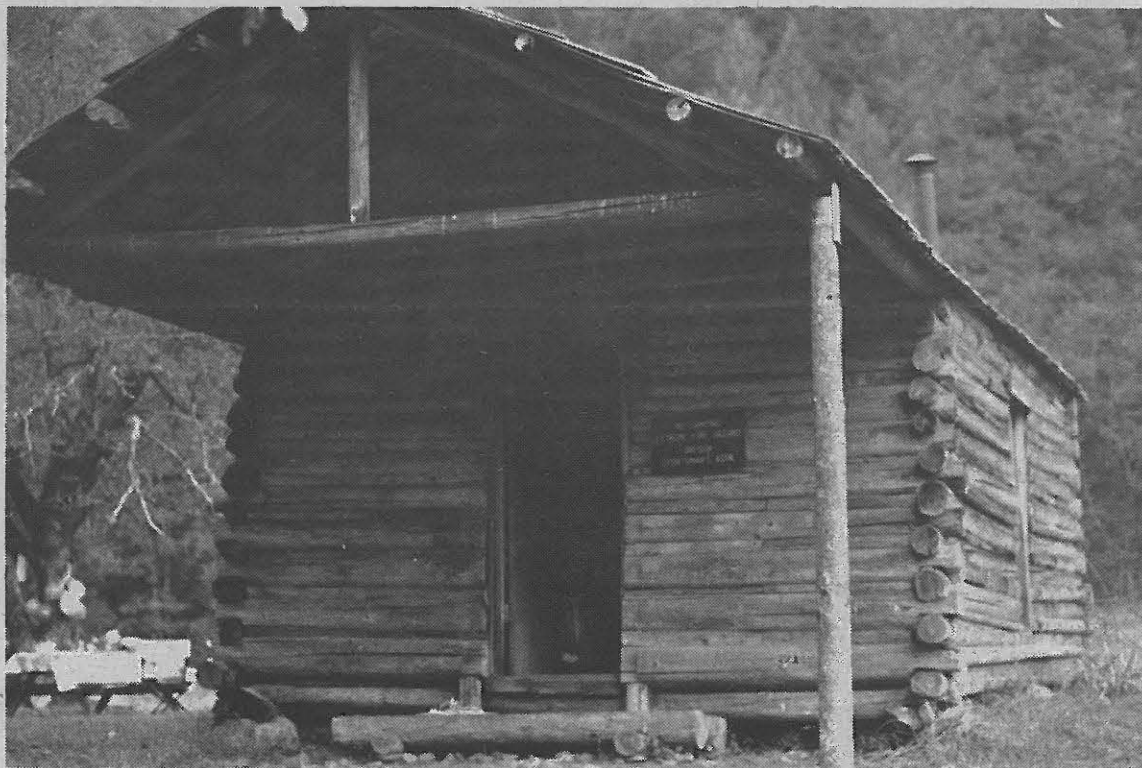
Wayne County, Michigan, is suing Ford Motor Co. for air pollution. Ford is charged with "at least 143" violations of the county's air pollution control regulations since 1970. The subject of the suit is Ford's mammoth River Rouge plant, one of the largest industrial complexes in the world.

Photos by L. J. Costelloe

High Country News-15
Friday, Apr. 13, 1973



Winkle Bar along Oregon's Rogue River is the setting of some of Zane Grey's novels. The cabin which he used is now owned by Wallace Haas, chairman of the board of Levi Strauss, San Francisco, and a Zane Grey buff. Haas has preserved the cabin and now uses it to house artifacts and a nearly complete collection of first editions of Grey's works.



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Neglect . . .

range.

—Environmental laws require more care with such critical activities as road building.

Recreation users, environmentalists, timber users, grazers and miners can all reasonably expect and ask the land agencies for a quality performance. The land's capacity to meet public needs in the future depends on good management today.

If we neglect the land resource with short-sighted budget decisions, we will pay a price far higher than the short-term dollar savings. Budgets of the Forest Service and BLM are relatively small, a tiny fraction of the federal budget.

We are still paying a price today for neglect of the public lands in the past. That lesson should not be lost on the people who determine budgets.

Yosemite Serves As Classroom

A new partnership to enlarge man's understanding of his environment has been formed at Yosemite National Park, which will serve as a "living classroom of endless variety."

Organized in October 1971 with headquarters at the park in east-central California, the Yosemite Institute is incorporated as a non-profit tax-exempt educational institution.

The Institute's Board of Directors consists of business, professional, academic and government leaders, plus representatives of the National Park Service and the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., the Park concessioner. Chairman of the Board is Jack H. Walston, Vice President and Director, Walston & Co., Inc. of Los Angeles.

"Our primary concern and intent are to emphasize environmental understanding through education and communication," Walston said. "Expanded perception of the environment is an essential base, we believe, for effective public and private action."

He pointed out that the 1,200 square miles of Yosemite National Park provide a "living classroom" and that — particularly in the off-season — existing facilities in the Park are more than adequate to meet campus needs.

Initial activities have brought to the Park some 1,200 high school students for one-week environmental education programs. A series of three-day conferences began early in December to acquaint West Coast business and professional leaders with "today's environmental realities."

To implement its objectives, the Yosemite Institute will:

- ... provide pilot courses of environmental instruction and participation for student and adult groups;

- ... stimulate interchange among leading talents in the sciences, industry, labor, government, economics, law, education, the humanities, the arts and communications;

- ... bring advances in environmental understanding to the attention of decision makers, the educational community and the general public;

- ... help develop a talent pool with environmental problem-solving capability to undertake assignments for government and industry;

- ... make Institute programs available for application to national, state, and community parks throughout the world.

The Institute will also enrich interpretive activities in Yosemite National Park by presenting to visitors special programs and visiting participants.

Initial funding of the Institute has been provided by a grant from the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., and by modest fees charged participating students.

Lake Doesn't Live Up To Reputation

In 1948 when Charles Read of Omaha, Nebraska, pulled a world record golden trout from Cook's Lake, little did he know his success would attract hopeful anglers to the lake for years to come. A reliable source now says their efforts are in vain.

Ralph Hudelson, project leader of a three-man team assigned to carry out a comprehensive study of the high country lakes in the Bridger National Forest, broke the news in his 1972 progress report. Says Hudelson, "Fishermen are attracted to Cook's Lake by a 20-year-old reputation for producing a world record golden trout. Disappointment now reigns supreme at Cook's Lake as brook trout now predominate and catches of anything larger than fish of 10 inches in length are the exception."

The survey, a cooperative venture of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Forest Service, is an extensive study of the major lakes in the Bridger Forest. During 1972 another 179 lakes were surveyed bringing the total to 379 lakes and streams categor-

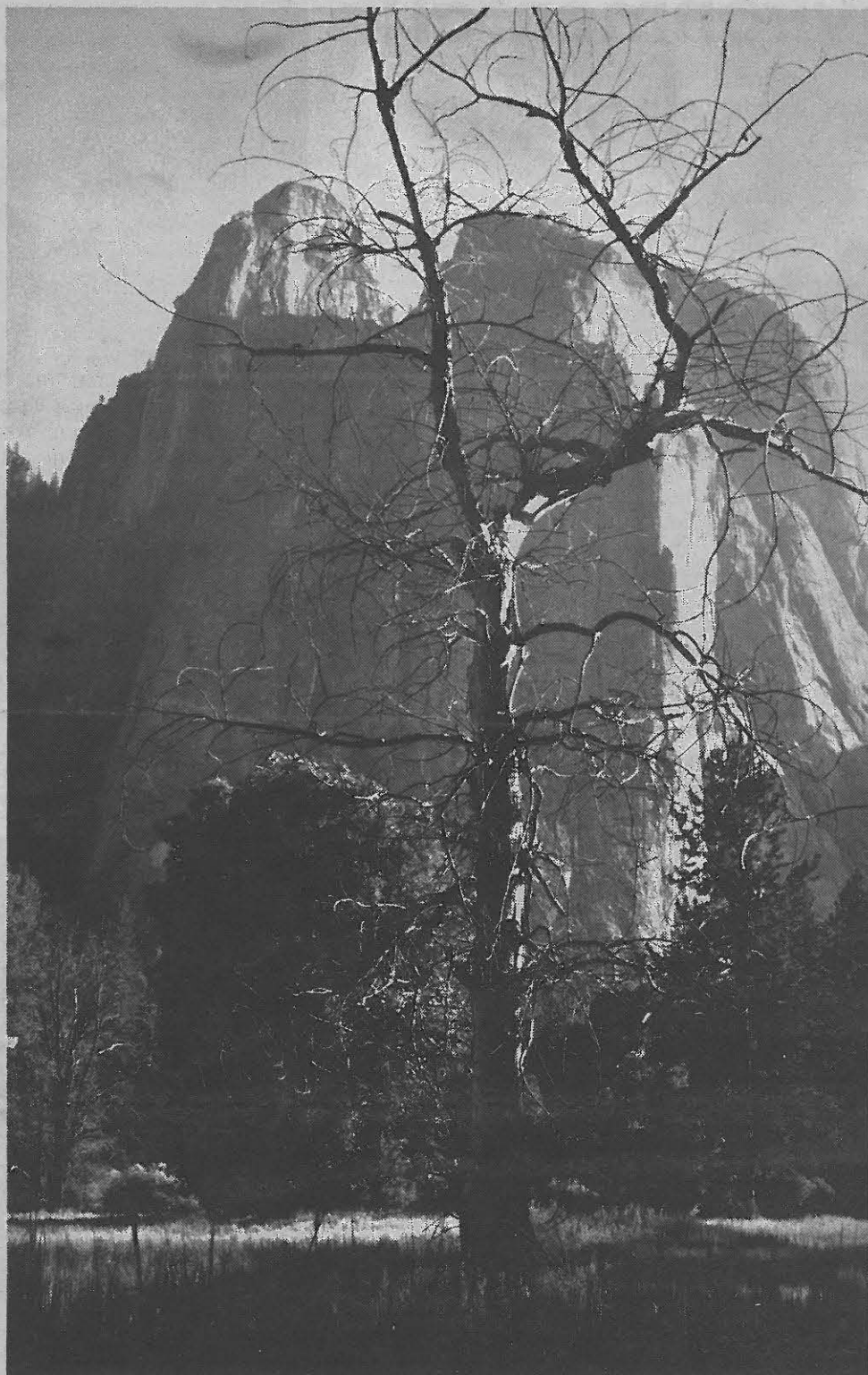
ized in the first four-year period.

All lakes surveyed in 1972 were in the Pole Creek and Fall Creek Drainages.

Hudelson and his crew reported the traffic pattern of wilderness users is essentially limited to the network of main trails, for this reason the three Chain Lakes and Spruce Lake are the only lakes surveyed last year which are realizing an adequate fish harvest.

As soon as the snow melts, Hudelson's crew will again head into the high country to begin the second half of the study. The 1973 schedule calls for completion of the Fremont Creek Drainage from Gorge Lake to Titcomb Basin and the area between Pine Creek and Fremont Creek.

Once the Bridger survey is complete, a comprehensive fisherman's guide to the Bridger Wilderness Area will be printed and will contain information on where the lakes are located, what types of fish can be found, the average size of fish in a particular waterway and what angling results can be expected.



National Park Service Photo by Fred Mang, Jr.

Cranes Congregated Along Platte

LINCOLN, Nebr. — If things have gone according to an age-old script, the central Platte Valley of Nebraska again holds the world's

largest concentration of sandhill cranes.

The last week of March usually sees up to a quarter of a million of the cranes on their Nebraska staging areas, the major stopover on their spring migration to northern nesting grounds. While in Nebraska, they begin performing their courtship rituals, a strange display of bobbing, hopping, and much flapping of wings.

Nebraska's spring concentration is by far the largest gathering of this species anywhere in the world. Sandhill cranes are medium-sized birds, often standing four feet tall and sporting six-foot wingspreads. They gather in such numbers along the Platte that, in early morning light, they seem like a gray stubble covering sandbars on the river.

The birds begin leaving their roosting areas on the sandbars about one-half hour before sunrise, flying to feeding areas a mile or two from the river. Binoculars and telephoto lenses will enable birdwatchers and camera buffs to take in the cranes from their cars. The birds are wary, but will usually not be frightened if viewers stay in their vehicles.

Largest concentrations are usually found near Doniphan, Elm Creek, Overton, and Hershey. The cranes begin arriving in late February, with populations peaking in late March. The birds begin leaving the first week of April, and virtually all will be gone by May.