

High Country News

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

Vol. 5, No. 13

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, June 22, 1973



Photo by Roger Clawson, Billings Gazette

Strip mining has already begun in the timbered hills of southeastern Montana and on the rolling grasslands of Wyoming. Exploitation of the vast coal deposits of this area will bring profound changes. Before this happens, many concerned citizens want to know the extent and the effect of the changes. The answers have not been forthcoming from the federal agencies involved. In light of that, a suit has been entered to defer any more coal development of any kind until more is known. A Peabody Coal Co. operation in southeastern Montana is shown above.

The Crisis in Energy

: Stampede Corralled

The stampede into coal development in the Northern Great Plains may be suddenly halted. Citizens and conservationists filed suit June 11 to stop development until a comprehensive analysis is made of the regional impact of such development.

The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The action is led by the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation. Joining in the suit are the Northern Plains Resource Council, the League of Women Voters of both Montana and South Dakota, the Montana Wilderness Association, and the Montana League of Conservation Voters.

The suit was filed by Bruce J. Terris, Luellen T. Keiner, and H. Anthony Ruckel. Terris recently represented the Sierra Club

in the successful decision before the Supreme Court on clean air. Ruckel has represented the Sierra Club in other successful court fights.

The groups seek an injunction against the federal government to forbid any action leading to coal development. They say, "This case involves the massive development of northeastern Wyoming, eastern Montana, western North Dakota and western South Dakota. Based on the most extensive coal reserves in the world, strip mines, power plants, coal gasification and liquefaction plants, railroads, aqueducts, transmission lines, and new cities and towns have been begun or are expected to be built during the next few years."

"Federal agencies have already made many decisions concerning this development and

will make many more decisions to enter into options or contracts for water from federal reservoirs, to permit diversion of water from or placement of structures in navigable waters, to grant permits for transmission lines to cross navigable waters, and to grant rights-of-way across federal lands. No comprehensive environmental impact statement or interdisciplinary study has been made of the entire development or of any single federal action taken as part of it."

They allege that if the federal government allows any more of these actions without first doing the studies and the impact statement, the government is in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act.

That Act, as in the case of the Alaska
(Continued on page 4)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

It is often interesting to go back and review what you have done before. Over a year ago, (May 26, 1972) I wrote the following column. In that time, what I wrote about has changed very little. We are deeper into an energy crisis, and still very little is being done about it. I only hope I couldn't repeat it next year and say the same thing here.

* * *

Last week a concerned rancher's wife called me from Otter, Montana. She wanted information and she wanted to pour out her concern for the future. She is from New Jersey originally but living close to the land in south-eastern Montana has imbued her with the true love of a westerner. She wants desperately to protect the way of life she has come to know. It's a good life under the clear skies and uncluttered open spaces of Big Montana.

She is not alone. There are many others living near such equally obscure and unknown little post offices as Broadus and Birney and Sonnette.

Their way of life is threatened, and, in fact, it is doomed. Their part of the world is going to be expendable. In place of the peaceful ranch life will come the hurly-burly of many thousands of people with high wages, much leisure time, the affluence to buy dune buggies, all-terrain-vehicles, motor bikes, snowmobiles, ad infinitum, ad nauseam. And of course there will be highways, railroads, water aqueducts, high-voltage transmission lines, and cities. The cities may not be too beautiful because for the most part they will be construction-worker shanty towns and endless, dusty trailer courts.

But the implications of gigantic developments go far beyond the coal region itself. The Bureau of Reclamation is notorious for its under-estimation of costs and demands. The Bureau estimates a need for 2.6 million acre feet of water a year. But even this considerable amount of water could be conservative.

The need for water in the Powder River Basin could eventually dry up other parts of Montana and Wyoming. Water, for which industry can pay up to \$150 per acre foot, is not going to be used for long on some of the marginal irrigated lands of Wyoming. Such an eventuality could lead to still greater movement from the land to the industrial centers.

This is progress. It is what Wyoming Governor Stanley K. Hathaway likes to call the "slow, desirable, quality growth which will help build Wyoming!"

It is all pending, of course, because this country has an energy crisis. And because the crisis is going to get worse, not better for the next several decades (if ever), Wyoming and Montana are going to be sacrificed on the altar of human greed, profit ledgers, and gross national product.

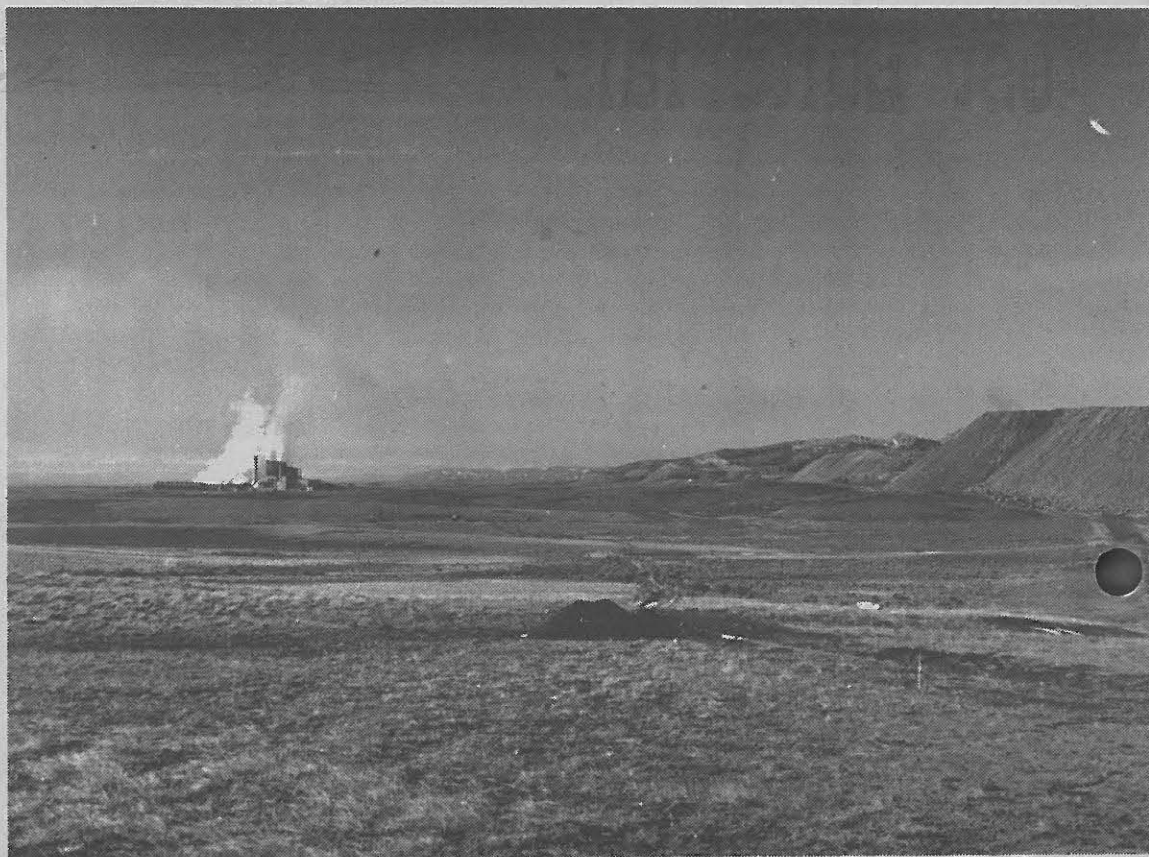
There seems to be no way of turning it around. The energy companies — utilities, mining companies, oil companies — are all so closely interwoven and overlapping in corporate structure and exploitive philosophy that it is hopeless. And of course, they are aided and abetted on the highest levels of government.

Profits from the mining of coal in this area are on the magnitude of billions. Profits from the sale of electricity and the products of coal will be on the order of more billions. Given such an incentive to profit, development will be spurred down to the last pound of coal.

Protest against stopping or curtailing the Powder River Basin coal development is an exercise in futility. The reason for it is readily apparent. In spite of an impending energy crisis, this country has no energy policy. And for a country that runs on energy, that is a frightening commentary on our utilities, our energy companies, and our government.

There is at this time scarcely more than lip service being paid to alternative energy sources. Every knowledgeable scientist, or spokesman for responsible companies, has declared that sooner or later the finite natural resources of planet Earth are going to be exhausted or economically unavailable. And every one of them point to solar energy as the ultimate source which must be tapped. Yet, in spite of this, neither the government nor the energy companies are seriously committed to the technology which will make solar energy feasible.

(Continued on page 7)



The need for an energy policy was never more apparent than it is now. Yet, the years go by, we are further into an energy crisis, and there is still no central, coordinated direction. As a result, environmental disasters wait in the wings. Among them are huge, fossil-fueled powerplants which continue to proliferate across the landscape. This large plant and its attendant strip mine in southwestern Wyoming may soon be joined by another larger plant.

Letters To The Editor



Copernicus
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Dear Tom,

The attached short article on the mountain lion situation in California was written for the Sacramento Audubon Observer. It will probably appear in the March issue. I know that this is a little far afield from your usual area of coverage but I would like to have others fighting similar battles elsewhere to be aware of the problems we are having in California.

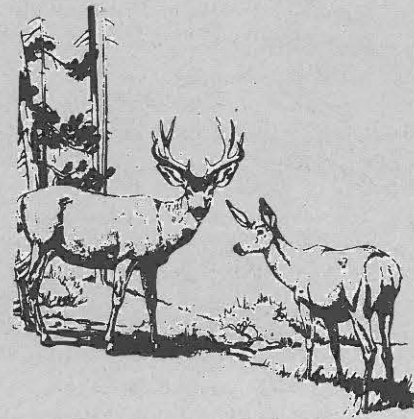
The California Department of Fish and Game are still smarting from their defeat in the 1971 Legislature by the Coalition to Save the Mountain Lion and have started an all out propaganda campaign to get it back on the hunted list when the moratorium ends in 1975.

Keep up the great work, Tom. I feel that you have the best news sheet of its kind anywhere in the country. I wish we had the same type of coverage here on the west coast.

Sincerely,
Jack W. Wilburn
Rancho Cordova, CA

Editor's note: The attached article concerned the disputed results of a mountain lion survey in California. The study is part of a four year moratorium on the hunting of mountain lions in California. The State Fish and Game reported in the survey 2,242 lions with only 80 percent of the state surveyed.

Jack Wilburn is critical of this count because those surveyed (lion hunters, houndsmen, Department personnel, ranchers etc.) are "the very people who want most to see lion killing again made legal." According to Wilburn, "Conservationists, many of them field biologists, who were active in the fight to protect the mountain lion were not surveyed."



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Published bi-weekly at 140 North Seventh Street, Lander, Wyoming 82520. Tele. 1-307-332-4877. Copyright 1973 by HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, Inc. 2nd class postage paid at Lander, Wyoming 82520.

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Subscription rate \$10.00
Single copy rate 35¢
Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520

Guest Editorials



High Country News-3
Friday, June 22, 1973

Reprinted from the IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, April 28, 1973.

We Can Ease The Crisis

An auto that weighs 5,000 pounds guzzles twice as much gasoline as one that weighs 2,500 pounds. As American cars have grown bigger and bigger, gasoline mileage has nosedived.

The blame for low gas mileage is frequently assigned to the pollution control equipment on newer cars. But that's only part of the story. The biggest factor is their weight.

Tests by the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed that fact. Some of the cars in the 2,000 pound range got as much as 28 and 26 miles per gallon. Some in the 5,500 pound category got less than 9 miles per gallon.

The biggest problem with the gas guzzlers is not the pollution control equipment, but the weight they're hauling around.

Perhaps nothing is more wasteful of gasoline than our prevalent patterns of transportation — large cars carrying one person to work in an urban area. Nothing could be sillier in those urban areas than building more and more miles of freeway for more and more gas-hungry autos.

What those areas urgently need is mass transportation — bus and rail systems that would carry people to work with far less

waste of fuel.

Emphasis on mass transportation and de-emphasis of the auto in the traffic-choked metropolitan areas would help everyone. It would ease the demand for gasoline, hence easing the pressures that push gas prices upward.

More mass transportation in the Los Angeles area should help ease gasoline prices in Idaho.

Most of our Idaho congressmen — Hansen and Symms and Senator McClure — oppose letting cities use some of their share of the Highway Trust Fund for mass transit. Yet Senator McClure comes out and speaks to us about the energy crisis.

Certain economic interests want to keep all the trust fund money in highways — the road builders, the trucking lobby, some of the oil companies, the auto industry.

Yet it is obviously in the interest of most Americans to give cities the option. Let them provide optional sources of transportation that use less fuel, that create less congestion, that cause less air pollution.

There are two ways to ease the tremendous energy drain for auto transportation. One is a shift to smaller cars. Another is a shift to mass transit in the urban areas.

Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, May 31, 1973.

We Can Save Gasoline

The U.S. not only has produced the highest standard of living the world has ever known, but inevitably the most wasteful as well.

The fact is particularly significant in the current gasoline shortage. It is a problem that can be eased significantly if consumers can be persuaded to think and drive for greater gasoline economy.

That's why the Deseret News is sponsoring a drive to "save a gallon a week" in gasoline. If Utah owners of some 800,000 cars and trucks could save only one gallon a week per vehicle, that would amount to 41.6 million gallons a year — enough to fill 4,160 railroad tank cars holding an average 10,000 gallons.

Chances are you won't cut down if you don't recognize any of the characteristics of a gasoline waster. He's the man who:

— Always is in a hurry to get someplace. He accelerates fast, drives fast, screeches to a halt at stoplights. Not only is that hard on gas mileage, but on the car, tires, engine, and driver.

— Drives to and from work alone, regardless

of whether he needs his car on the job. Just count the gasoline wasters on your way to work tomorrow, and be sure you're not one of them.

— Not only does he insist on all the automotive comforts — big engine, air conditioning, large car — but uses them when he could easily walk on short errands, or when he could use mass transit.

There are numerous ways to save gasoline. Just keeping the car tuned up, for example, can easily save a gallon a week.

The advantages of a small car should not be overlooked. At 37 cents a gallon, the driver who gets 20 miles per gallon over 10,000 miles pays \$185 for his gasoline, while the supreme guzzler (8 mpg) pays \$462.50. The savings will get even higher as gasoline prices inevitably rise.

It shouldn't take gasoline at \$1 a gallon to spur Americans into gas economy. Unless we tighten our consumptive belt, however, that may be the inevitable result.

Reprinted from the CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE, Wyoming, May 22, 1973.

We Can Form New Habits

Events and portents keep reminding the American public that the era of heedless consumption of energy in this country is rapidly drawing to a close. It will be hard to break the habit of using as much power as we please, but break it we must. The alternative is involuntary curtailment of energy consumption.

A potent new reminder of this comes from Los Angeles. City officials warn that there will have to be "brownouts" — imposed cutoffs of electricity — starting Sept. 1 unless additional fuel oil supplies become available.

The situation is not unique. New York City, for one notable instance, has suffered power shortages which played hob with the daily lives of millions of people. It is noteworthy, however, that the West Coast metro-

polis has never previously experienced any power cutoffs except those caused by floods or storms.

Something new is in prospect, therefore, unless as Los Angeles city officials say the "immediate and urgent" need for additional fuel oil commitments is met. And the rest of us — whether in metropolitan areas or smaller communities drawing electricity from power networks covering wide areas — are reminded that if we want to avoid shortages we had better form a new habit: voluntary restraint and discipline in use of power.



Reprinted from the BILLINGS GAZETTE,
March 29, 1973.

Here They Come!

Here they come. The warnings and predictions about eastern Montana are coming true.

First it was Montana Power at Colstrip. Then came the announcement by a group of electric cooperatives that it was considering a steam generating plant somewhere in eastern Montana or northern Wyoming.

Last week, two natural gas companies announced they are studying the feasibility of a massive coal gasification project including four plants for the region.

The plants, being planned by Northern Gas Co., Omaha, Neb., and Cities Service Gas Co., an Oklahoma City subsidiary of Cities Service Co., New York, will each be capable of producing 250 million cubic feet of pipeline quality gas daily.

Peabody Coal Co., St. Louis, pledged 500 million tons of Northern Cheyenne coal — enough for two plants — for the project. A pipeline of an estimated 700 miles in length is also planned. The first plant is anticipated to begin operation in 1976.

By now, there should be no doubt that big plans are in the air for Montana's coal, and most of the users will not be Montanans. Let's just hope that the new state reclamation and coal mining legislation can deal with the booming development.

Here come the miners. And soon, there will go our coal. Hopefully, something will be left.

(Continued on page 7)

Stampede....

(Continued from page 1)

pipeline, may be in for one of its severest tests. The nation's governors recently called for accelerated development of coal to fulfill many of the needs for energy in the years immediately ahead. And a real dilemma is posed by way of the recent court actions on clean air. Coal from the Northern Great Plains has a relatively low sulfur content and therefore is more desirable for uses in steam-generating plants.

PLANS CALLED FOR

Conservationists have been calling for such comprehensive studies for at least a year. Kit Muller, secretary of the Northern Plains Resource Council at Billings, noted that the National Environmental Policy Act was passed by Congress in 1969. In a prepared statement on the suit, he said, "A data base starting at least in January of 1970 would have been provided had the relevant agencies complied with NEPA. We should have had some three years of data and planning and would now be in a far better position to evolve sound planning procedures, accurate evaluation of resources, and orderly development.

"Instead, we have chaos.

"Since the passage of NEPA, hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water in the Northern Plains region have been committed by the Bureau of Reclamation in a series of water contracts and options to energy companies.

"Since the beginning of 1970, the Bureau of Land Management has granted leases and prospecting permits covering hundreds of thousands of acres of coal in Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota.

"None of these leases, prospecting permits, or water contracts or options have been accompanied by an environmental impact statement, let alone a social or economic impact statement."

Tom Kimball, executive vice-president of the National Wildlife Federation, puts it another way. He says, "The problem is that the government has simply not put its plans out on the table. Unless we can see them, we have little confidence that the government really has a handle on this thing or whether it has really studied the best ways to go about it. In fact, we're concerned that they might not even have a plan at all."

FACTS

There is much at stake. This region is largely vast, open plains, flat-topped buttes, long narrow divides, ridges, and badland topography. The chief vegetation is grass with small stands of cottonwood and brush along the larger streams. The region has a semiarid climate with only fourteen inches of average annual precipitation. Its economy is chiefly agrarian, based on large farms and ranches. There is little industry and a very low population, averaging about 1.4 persons per square mile. Some sections are serviced by highways and secondary roads and the Burlington-Northern Railroad crosses the area at several points, but much of the area is isolated from main transportation systems. Most of the present population derives its livelihood from ranching on the rangelands and farming in the river valleys.

The area contains vast coal reserves. The coal, known as the Fort Union formation, is the largest known coal basin in the world. Its total reserves have been estimated at 1.3 trillion tons which is approximately 40 percent of the coal in the entire United States. Some 34 billion tons of coal lie close enough to the surface to be extracted by strip mining, this amount constituting approximately 47 percent of the strippable coal in the United States. The thick coal seams,

small amount of overburden, and low sulfur content make strip mining extremely profitable. Within the last few years, tremendous interest has developed in exploiting the region's coal in constructing the electric powerplants, aqueducts, transmission lines, gasification and liquefaction plants, railroads, and new towns and cities which will be required for such development.

The North Central Power Study, prepared jointly by the Department of Interior and the utility companies in the area, projected the construction of mine-mouth, coal-burning electric power plants with a capacity of 53,000 to 197,000 megawatts. Most of these plants will have individual capacities of 5,000 or 10,000 megawatts, in comparison to only 2,000 megawatts at the Four Corners power plant in New Mexico. A total capacity of 197,000 megawatts would be greater than the total electrical energy capacity of any country in the world except the United States and the Soviet Union. The Study further proposed a vast network of ultra-high voltage transmission lines reaching as far away as Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, in the Far West and St. Louis, Missouri, and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Middle West. Some 4,800 square miles of right-of-way would be required for the transmission line network.

The Bureau of Reclamation estimates that up to 2.6 million acre feet of water will be needed for the coal development in Wyoming and Montana alone. The electric power plants will require 855,000 acre feet of water annually for every 50,000 megawatts of operating capacity. Large amounts of additional water will be needed for other elements of the coal development. In order to obtain much larger quantities of water in this semi-arid region, the "Appraisal Report on Montana-Wyoming Aqueducts" of the Bureau

of Reclamation has proposed the construction of an extensive system of large aqueducts, 36 to 144 inches in diameter and extending from 20 to 200 miles. For example, one major proposal is for an aqueduct to transport water from the Green River in the Colorado River Basin of Wyoming to the Powder River in the Missouri River Basin. New dams and reservoirs have also been proposed in order to ensure an adequate water supply during dry periods.

Plans and proposals exist for at least 25 coal gasification plants which, using large amounts of water, will convert coal to gas to be piped to the Middle West; for slurry pipelines, which will use large amounts of water, to pipe small pieces of coal; for railroads, which will haul out the coal in its present form; and for new towns and cities to house the more than one-half million people who are expected to come to the area within the next twenty-five years.

The various aspects of these proposals for exploiting the area's coal reserves are closely interrelated. All the plans and proposals depend on strip mining large quantities of coal. The coal can be converted into electricity, gas, liquid fuel, or petrochemicals by a variety of processes at mine-mouth plants, thus requiring electric transmission lines, pipelines, or other methods of transporting these products to distant markets. Alternatively, some or all of the excavated coal could be transported by trains or slurry pipelines to generating plants located near the points where the electricity will be used. Most of these proposals for exploiting the area's coal will require tremendous quantities of water, thus necessitating the construction of aqueducts, dams, and reservoirs. The large increase in population needed to construct and service these projects will require housing, schools,

(Continued on page 5)



Beneath this wrinkled landscape lie billions of tons of coal. Here, two interstate highways come together near Buffalo, Wyoming. In the center of the photo lies the valley of a small river, Clear Creek. It joins the Powder River far in the distance toward Montana. Vast coal beds in mid-center of the photo have been leased by Tipperary Resources of Midland, Texas. The coal even underlies Clear Creek itself. To provide water for a proposed, large, steam-generating plant, Tipperary has requested permission from Wyoming's State Engineer to drill 58 deep water wells. The wells would be placed along the east face of the Big Horn Mountains. To the left (out of photo) lies Lake DeSmet where Reynolds Metals proposes a \$2.2 billion installation. These and many more planned developments proceed without an overall environmental impact statement. No one knows the ultimate impact of such huge industrial developments on society, on air quality, and on many more of the natural resources of the area and the region.

... Corralled

High Country News-5
Friday, June 22, 1973

police and fire protection, sewage treatment, shopping facilities, transportation, communications, cultural and recreational resources, and even entire new cities.

DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

The development has already begun. Leases and permits for coal exploration, mining and development have been issued by the Bureau of Land Management on over 320,000 acres of land. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has leased over 516,000 acres of land, and the states of Montana and Wyoming over 490,000 acres. Vast but unknown acreages have also been leased by the Burlington-Northern Railroad and other private interests.

Large strip mines are already operating in northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana, and new strip mines are announced almost every week.

Two coal-burning electric power plants, each with a 350-megawatt generating capacity, are now under construction by Montana Power and Light Co. at Colstrip, Montana. Two more plants, each of 750-megawatt capacity, are planned there. Construction has begun on transmission lines to Billings from Colstrip, and the same company has claimed rights to more than sufficient water from the Yellowstone River for all four plants.

New power plants of 200-300 and 1,200 megawatts respectively have been announced in 1973 for Campbell and Johnson Counties in Wyoming. Four large plants are planned for North Dakota.

Over a year ago, Reynolds Metals Co. announced a proposal for a \$2.2 billion uranium enrichment plant near Buffalo, Wyoming, in Johnson County. The plant would require a 3,600-megawatt electric generating unit just for its own electrical requirements. Reynolds controls some 43,000 acres of land containing a calculated 2 billion tons of coal. It also controls some 100,000 acre-feet of water in Lake DeSmet and has requested additional water from Bighorn Lake. Such an installation would almost double the assessed valuation of all property in the State of Wyoming. Even if Reynolds does not receive a permit from the AEC for its proposal, it controls enough coal and water to portend a large development, probably gasification.

In March, 1973, the Cities Service Gas Co. and the Northern Natural Gas Co. announced plans for four coal gasification plants in northern Wyoming and southeastern Montana and for a 700-mile gas pipeline. The Northern Cheyenne Indian Tribe in southern Montana has received several proposals for gasification plants.

The Michigan-Wisconsin Pipeline Co. has asked the State of North Dakota for enough water — 375,000 acre-feet — for 22 huge 250 million cubic feet per day coal gasification plants.

Coal and electric power companies have obtained options from the Bureau of Reclamation for approximately 700,000 acre-feet of water from Bighorn Lake and Boysen Reservoir. Other companies have requested almost 1,500,000 more acre-feet. The State of Wyoming wants to purchase 60,000 acre-feet of water from the Bureau of Reclamation in Fontenelle Reservoir on the Green River. The water could be diverted from the Upper Colorado River to northeastern Wyoming.

The Burlington Northern Railroad Co. has begun building a spur-line into the coal mining area at Sarpy Creek, Montana, and has applied for a new line from Douglas to Gillette, Wyoming. The application to the Interstate Commerce Commission is for a 126 mile connector, and the longest new railroad line to be built anywhere in the U.S. in over 40 years.



Not all of the Powder River Basin is worthless land. These were the productive grasslands for which the Sioux fought to protect their buffalo herds. Now, they are wheat fields and valuable grazing lands. This field is only a few miles north of the Belle Ayr Mine of AMAX in Campbell County, Wyoming. Beneath the field are thick beds of coal.

NEWS Promotes Conservation

The Deseret News is promoting a drive to save 800,000 gallons of gasoline a week in the state of Utah. "The scope of our problem is staggering," said the News. "A net increase of 207 cars, trucks, trailers and motorcycles is added to Utah's highways each day."

Their plan is a simple one: a gallon a week saved by each of the state's 800,000 car and truck owners. To help Utahns support the campaign, the newspaper published the following tips:

- Do more walking or bike-riding. Don't use the car to go one or two blocks to church, the store, or school. It will be good for your health, as well as your pocketbook. (And tell the kids to walk, too.)

- Plan your days more effectively and stop being a creature of impulse. Don't go shopping, then hop in the car and take a dress to the cleaners an hour later.

- Ride the bus. Let someone else fight the traffic for you.

- Start car pools. You and your neighbors can split expenses by taking turns driving.

- Slow down. It isn't mandatory to drive the maximum speed limit. You can save 8 to

11 percent on your gas consumption by traveling 10 miles an hour slower than usual.

- Improve driving habits. Avoid jack-rabbit starts, rapid acceleration, or sudden stops. Drive at a consistent speed. Such habits save wear and tear on the car and tires, as well as cutting down on gasoline.

- Keep your car tuned up. Your engine will run more efficiently if it's kept tuned. Have your mechanic check it to see if carburetor, spark plugs, ignition points, electrical system and emission controls are operating as they should.

- Avoid idling your engine unnecessarily. When you stop for any reasonable period of time, turn off the engine.

- Go easy on the air conditioning. Avoid using it on days when the heat is only marginally uncomfortable.

- Warm up your engine. On a cool morning, it takes from 30 seconds to a minute for the engine to warm up after it is started.

- Consider a smaller horsepower car.

- Take the first parking stall you find and walk to where you're going. Avoid circling the block.

- Stay closer to home on vacation trips. Don't pull your boat to that far-away lake when there's a suitable one closer to home.

- Consider alternative means of transportation for vacation travel.

- Set a personal goal of cutting down two miles a day from what you have been driving. Keep a record to see how you're doing.

Plant Nixed

The huge 5,000-6,000 megawatt Kaiparowits steam-generating power plant was nixed last week. Interior Secretary Rogers Morton said he would not grant construction permits for the plant "for environmental reasons."

The plant has long been criticized because of its size and location. The Environmental Protection Agency warned in 1972 that the combined air pollution from Kaiparowits and the Navajo Power Plant, now under construction, could be "expected to have a dramatic effect in nearby canyons of the Colorado." The proposed plant site is near Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and upwind from Lake Powell.

EPA also said, "The possibility that such impairment of visibility may extend down the river as far as the Grand Canyon cannot be ruled out."



People Are Concerned

The following Statement of Concern for the Future of the National Forest Service was prepared by the Billings Audubon Society, Mrs. Leon Hicks, President, and the Last Chance Audubon Society of Helena, Montana, Dr. Jean Smith, President. It was submitted to Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz for his consideration. The ill-fated scheme to consolidate Forest Service Regional offices has been temporarily delayed but the concerns voiced by these two groups concerning increases in allowable cuts and other matters still exist. Only an out-pouring of citizen concern, such as that voiced here, can possibly bring a change of policy. A change is certainly needed if the national forests are to be saved from long-term damage from excessive cutting and cut-backs in appropriations for sound management.

The editor.

* * *

The National Forests were established for the protection and development of the reserves which became the National Forests in 1907. They are governed by the Organic Act of 1897 and the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, the 1872 Mining Act, 1964 Wilderness Act and the 1969 Environmental Policy Act.

The Forest Service is charged with Federal Responsibility for National Leadership in Forestry and has adopted the following objectives:

1. To promote and achieve patterns of natural resource use that will best meet needs of people now and in the future.
2. Protect and improve quality of air, water, soil and natural beauty.
3. Help protect and improve quality of open spaces and environments in urban and community areas.
4. Generate forestry opportunities to accelerate rural community growth.
5. Encourage growth and development of forestry based enterprises that readily respond to changing needs.
6. Seek optimum forest land ownership pattern.
7. Improve welfare of under-privileged members of society.
8. Involve public in forestry policy and program formulation.
9. Encourage development of forestry throughout the world.
10. Expand public understanding of environmental conservation.
11. Develop and make available firm scientific base for advancement of forestry.

The guiding principle is greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run.

If we, the public, were invited to be involved in the policy and program planning on the nation level, as in objective No. 8, we haven't received the invitation. We certainly would not agree to the escalation of recreation and resource uses of the national forests while management grows progressively less due to inadequate and fluctuating funding.

Increased use of public lands, including forests, by all segments of the population, demand more supervisory personnel, not less. The population of this country is utilizing the public lands at a rate 3 to 4 times that of only 10 years ago and we see many abuses in our area which probably would not have occurred if Forest Service offices were adequately staffed to handle this increase.

Forest Service budgets have been less than adequate for several years and show no signs of being adjusted upward to a more reasonable figure. Those positions open due to retirement or vacant for other reasons are not being filled in our region and we suspect that the same situation is present in other regions due to the lack of adequate and continuous funding. Needed supervisory personnel at the

ranger level are in such short supply as to be practically non-existent in our area. The territory that the available men must cover cannot possibly be managed so as to assure recreation, grazing, mining, logging or any of the other many uses consistent with the Multiple Use Ethic while allowing only the minimum possible impact on the environment.

The sheer magnitude of the problems in recreation and resource management and the diminishing numbers of men available to accomplish the stated objectives indicate a massive gap between the actual conditions in the field and those that the general public and Audubon would find acceptable.

Many man hours of time are needed to adequately supervise recreational areas and to do the necessary field work for filing impact statements for logging sales and mining and logging access roads, to inventory resources, involve the public in all stages of management at the local level and provide educational programs to the public. While these are only a few of the jobs within the Forest Service, they do demonstrate the need for a balanced program based on coordinated land use planning with full public participation.

The latest announcement from Washington of an ordered increase in the annual allowable cut of board feet of lumber in our national forests has encouraged our members to voice their concerns for the ability of an understaffed Forest Service to continue managing the forests on a sustained yield and multiple use basis as set forth in the Multiple Use Act of 1960.

The stated purpose of the latest increase in allowable cut was to create an over supply of lumber and thus drive the prices downward. This was presumed to be the key to escalating home building and securing steady employment for those in the building trades industry.

Is this sound economic reasoning? Will allowing logging over and above the annual cut recommended by the experienced men in the field really be in the best public interest

as stated in objective No. 1? Won't action of this nature use up our forests faster than they can replace themselves? The order to cut more timber must be measured against the effects such actions will have on the resource.

Surely the national forest men of the Regional and District Offices can be relied upon to give an accurate estimate of available loggable trees and we feel that more consideration should be given their recommendations.

We question the wisdom of using recreation road and trail construction funds in timber sale preparation. We also understand that the timber sale purchasers will do their own surveying and staking of access roads and that road standards are being lowered.

Aren't we going to need more supervisory personnel to do the overall supervision and inspection? The public convenience is being sacrificed in order to realize increased use by the logging industry and this underscores the danger of underfunding the Forest Service. We would like to suggest that if there is a lumber shortage in this country and such drastic action is needed, then we should not be exporting a single board foot to other countries. It would be in the best interests to manage the forests on a sustained yield basis so that the next generation may also enjoy the many uses of our national forests, both economic and recreational.

The land must be treated as a resource, not a commodity. The historical damage from allowing commercial interests to override our true national interests is unassessable and certainly not compatible with the principles which guide the national Forest Service.

The moving of the Regional Offices and consolidation in Denver would in our opinion be a complete lack of realism and concern for the resources and users of the national forests. The management and supervision must remain in the area and be very personally involved with the public in order to be responsive to the public needs and requirements. Consolidating offices 600 or more miles away might

(Continued on page 7)



Public concern with our national forests and how they are managed are widespread and well-grounded. This logging road in a beautiful and important recreational area near Dubois, Wyoming, was left as it is shown here. The logging was done by U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers. Many recent management decisions have been made for political reasons rather than concern for the natural resources. Special interests invest in the political process through campaign contributions. They then expect the political decisions to favor them — and they do. The Forest Service was recently ordered to supply 18 percent more timber from the national forests, and do so with fewer men and smaller appropriations.



High Country . . .

The only other source of energy which has the potential magnitude and the environmentally desirable characteristics which seems capable of fulfilling our needs is fusion power. And, here, too, the technology is being starved for lack of funds.

Through all of this, there is no clarion call from on high to ask Americans for some restraint. There are some voices speaking out on the need for a change in basic philosophy and life style. But the real statesmanship demanded of the times is not being displayed by those in either the economic or political power structure.

On the contrary, powerful United States senators, such as Wyoming's Clifford P. Hansen, have been enveloped by the oil and gas industry. They are no longer spokesman for the people and the public interest, but instead have become the Charlie McCarthy's of the petroleum companies.

Senator Hansen's answer to the energy crisis is for more exploration and production, an increase in the depletion allowance, and increased prices for oil and gas to spur still more exploration and production. Not once has he publicly uttered a serious statement on restraint in use of petroleum products, a commitment to put less money into the highway trust and more into mass transit, or any other alternative which requires less use, and not more, of our dwindling oil and gas resources. He is not alone, of course, but he is the avowed spokesman for the oil and gas industry in the United States Senate.

Last January, *High Country News* ran an article by Eric Hirst, entitled *Debunking Madison Avenue*. It pointed out the savings which could be effected by recycling, by more efficient use of fuels, by more efficient electrical appliances, by mass transit over the single automobile, and a host of others.

It is not that we don't know how to effect savings in energy, or wouldn't if so directed by official policy. It is not that many Americans would not sincerely exercise restraint in use of electrical energy if so advised. It is simply that it is not in the best interests of high profits from a sure thing to change direction. And when the American public finds it has been duped it will be too late.

People . . .

be a paper savings in dollars, but it definitely is not in our best interests in the long run. We urge reconsideration of this move.

Audubon would like you to consider and implement the above recommendation to adequately fund the national Forest Service so that we might achieve our stated objectives.

Billings Audubon Society
Mrs. Leon Hicks, President
1131 N. 31st
Billings, MT 59101

Last Chance Audubon Society
Dr. Jean Smith, President
1821 Grizzly Gulch
Helena, MT 59601

Acts Determine Future

High Country News-7
Friday, June 22, 1973

Both doctors and environmentalists foresee more rigid management of man's actions and restrictions of individual freedom in the near future.

Dr. William A.H. Rettberg, president of the Colorado Medical Society, said physicians are deeply concerned about "a human crisis in ecology" that is requiring increasing regimentation of human activity.

Dr. James H. Sterner of the School of Public Health at the University of Texas in Houston reported doctors are becoming increasingly involved as physicians and citizens in environmental matters.

Action taken by physicians will not be based solely on health effects, said Sterner. Despite lack of complete medical evidence, doctors know that air pollution affects respiratory diseases, cancer and heart disease. "We can't wait until we're sure we're not wrong (about health effects of air pollution) before we take action," said Dr. Wood, director of the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division of the State Health Department.

In a similar prophetic vein, secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Maurice Strong, stated, "From now on, man's acts will be the principle determinant of our own future." This presents us with two alternative courses of action, he said. The first, to reduce the scale of man's activities, has met with little social willingness. We are therefore left with the second alternative. This is to subject man's acts to an unprecedented degree of control in an era in which every private act becomes a public act.



The Senate vote on the Alaska Pipeline issue may be early this week (possibly Tuesday, June 26). Letters expressing your concern are urgently needed to both your Senators. We urge you to ask them to support and vote for the Mondale-Bayh Amendment. For background on this amendment see the story on page 10 of the June 8, 1973 *High Country News*.

Wyomingites. . . It is very important that Senator Gale McGee be contacted and committed to the Mondale-Bayh Amendment. We understand that Sen. McGee's vote is a key one, and that he does not have a stated position on the issue.

Call, wire or write your Senators at the U.S. Senate Office Building, Washington D. C. 20510.

Strong emphasized he was not referring to a socialistic society. Although stating that socialistic societies have some advantage in land use control, he said that private industry has proved far more capable of dealing with the problems of a technological society.

Strong cited a new environmental consciousness in the American public. A case in point is the decision of Colorado citizens to reject hosting the 1973 Winter Olympics. "A few years ago," Strong said, "it would have been unthinkable that a community would have made a decision like this based to such an extent on environmental factors."

What Would You Do?

by Norma Hentges

QUESTION: What would you do if you awoke one morning and found men and machinery drilling a hole in your backyard or garden?

Readers' answers would vary, but in essence they would probably say, "Stop them!"

Approximately 2,000 home owners in the Tucson Mountain Area, west of Tucson, Arizona, are currently facing this problem. On April 18, 1973, it was made public that Continental Oil Company (CONOCO) had filed 175 claims totalling 5.5 sections of land in the South Tucson Mountain Area for copper exploration. Much of the land is privately owned.

But even though the surface rights are held by private individuals, the minerals were reserved to the Federal Government. That means that CONOCO is entirely within the law to go in and stake claims. And under the antiquated 1872 Mining Act, CONOCO can also legally go in and explore for minerals.

The region lies just three miles south of Saguaro National Monument. The entire area is covered with dense native vegetation and has abundant wildlife. The Tucson Mountains separate the area from the City of Tucson.

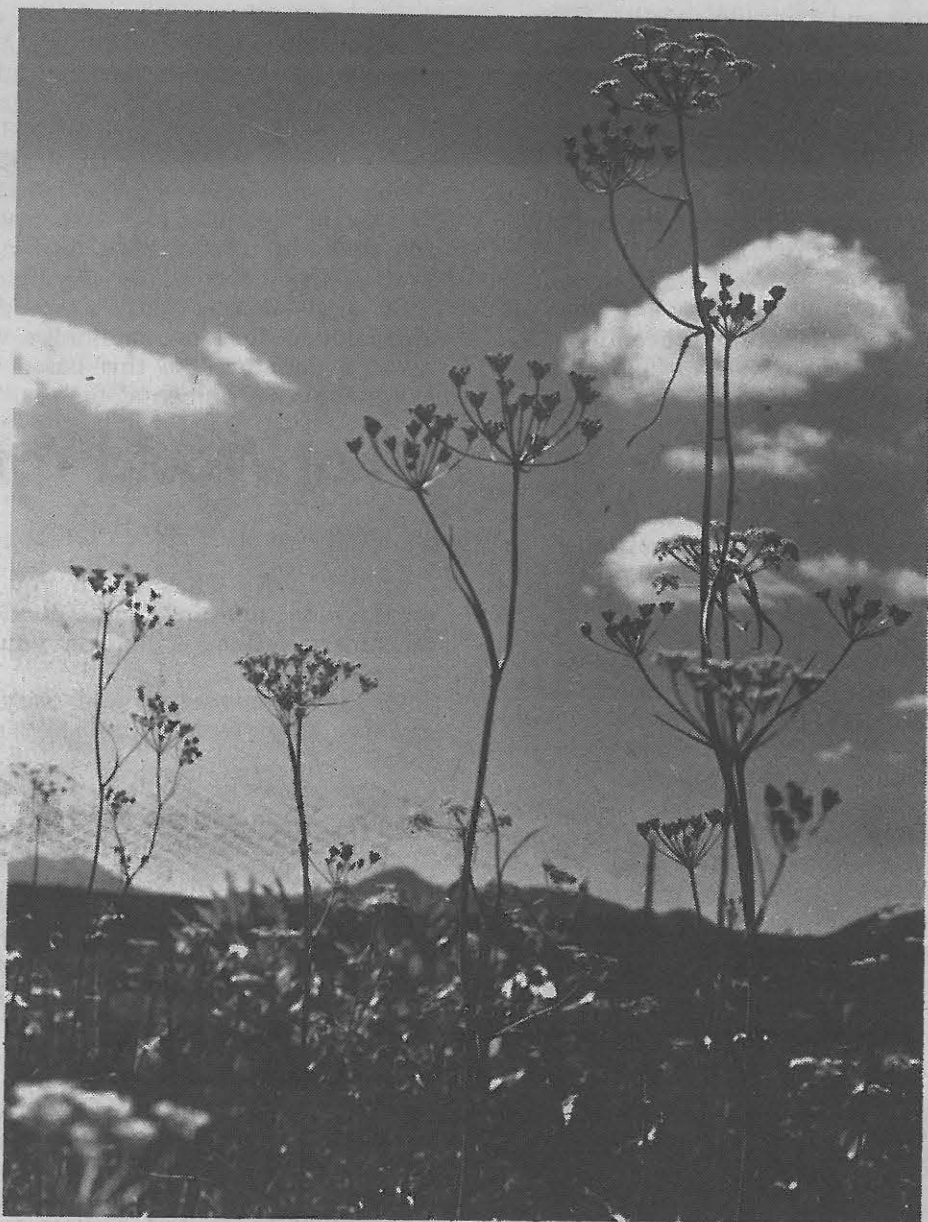
Pima County has a report on the area showing it to be high in potential mineralization — yet the area was zoned to permit dense housing development. More than 50 percent of the United States' copper and nearly 25 percent of the free world's copper comes from mines within 150 miles of Tucson.

Home owners have banded together in an attempt to stop CONOCO. Picket lines are up daily. People have attempted to put pickets across the areas of desert where the drill machine has to enter. The heat is intense — 95 degrees. The people range all the way from pre-school children to the elderly — one man walked with a cane. Most carry posters telling CONOCO to leave.

The fight has just begun. The temperatures and the tempers are sure to rise. Should Continental discover copper of such quality and quantity to warrant mining, this area of native desert will become just another open pit mine. The people, the giant saguaro, and the eternally green Palo Verde trees will have become helpless victims of progress!



W I L D F L



W E R S

High Country News-9
Friday, June 22, 1973



Judge Answers The Developers

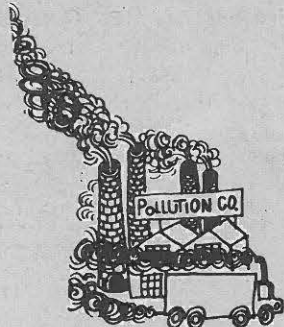
Montana's new Utility Siting Act has received its first test and been put into perspective by Governor Thomas L. Judge. Last month Montana Power Co. and four other Pacific Northwest utilities asked for a meeting with Montana officials. They wanted a waiver from compliance with Section 6 of the Act. It requires that an application for a construction permit be submitted two years prior to the anticipated commencement of construction. It applies to a powerplant and any related facilities.

The utilities told officials that the power from two more units, of 700 megawatts each, at Colstrip would be needed by 1978 and 1979. Units one and two are now under construction. In order to have the additional units on line by then, the state would have to grant a waiver so construction of the additional units could begin in the near future.

Gov. Judge spelled out the state's response to the request. In a letter to Donald Hodel, president of the Bonneville Power Administration, he said, in part:

"First, the magnitude of development anticipated by the construction of two 700 megawatt thermal generating units and associated transmission lines is unprecedented in Montana's history. Capital investment will be approximately \$500 million. The construction phase will require 1,600 people; the operational phase 260; and the population of the area can be expected to increase by over 6,000 people within a short period of time.

"The possible long-term economic, social and environmental impacts are also unprecedented and require much more than a cursory evaluation. As Governor, I have the responsibility of being certain that the various impacts are thoroughly analyzed, understood, and evaluated in light of the best interests of Montana. Premature judgements based on inadequate information would violate this responsibility.



"Second with passage of the Utility Siting Act by the 43rd Legislature, we have entered a new era of public involvement in decisions on resource management. I have advocated this involvement and will continue to do so, for the time has passed when government or industry alone can make decisions affecting the lives of many people. No one can deny that problems are likely to arise while this concept is brought to realization, for adjustments in the policies and practices of industry, government, and the public will be necessitated. We can reasonably anticipate delays of uncertain duration.

"I have the responsibility to ensure, and the Act requires, that the public have an opportunity to review and influence the impact analysis and decisions.

"In view of these considerations, and upon the advice of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and other appropriate State agencies, we cannot make a firm commitment on a definite time schedule for completing the necessary evaluations. Nor, in compliance with a policy agreed upon on May 4, 1973, is the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation prepared to consider a time waiver until an analysis and recommendation consistent with the law has been prepared by the Department.

"However, at the same time, I cannot ignore the significance of the proposed development

to Montana or the state seriousness of energy problems in the Pacific Northwest. Montanans are very much aware that we are an integral part of a nation and a region, and we do not want to witness the unnecessary closure of schools, hospitals or industries — if indeed that prospect is before us.

"In short, I believe the State of Montana is willing to make a good faith effort to help solve a real energy crisis. However, we must insist that the same good faith be extended our state as we seek to preserve the values which give meaning to our concept of Montana.

"Beyond the immediate consideration of the two 700 megawatt plants, I believe it appropriate to state a number of concerns I have regarding the national energy crisis.

"If the crisis is as serious in this country as indicated by the statements used to justify rapid development in Montana, then the National Administration has shown an appalling lack of leadership, and a complete change in approach is required.

"First, as President Nixon did not do in his energy message, we must honestly recognize and inform the public of this nation's inability to fulfill the continually growing demands for energy unless we are prepared to absorb monumental environmental and economic costs, even if this admission results in adverse political consequences.

"Once this is done, a program to reduce demand and maximize the use of existing resources should be developed and immediately implemented at the national level. Included in such a program could be:

1. A national energy conservation tax which would discourage the purchase of goods that are highly energy consumptive.

Reprinted from THE MORNING STAR PEOPLE, Ashland, Montana, June 1973.

What Small Profit For Indians!

As we search back through history, we see that the Indian people were primarily traders. Oftentimes they would trade buffalo skins and other artifacts for just a handful of beads and other trinkets. Today we see the injustice of some of these transactions. We may even feel a certain satisfaction that we are not personally guilty of these same injustices.

Unfortunately, many of these same injustices take place today without our even realizing it. The rich coal deposits beneath our Cheyenne and Crow Reservations are an example of this.

The shortage of electrical power in our country today has raised the value of these deposits to nearly one million dollars per acre. Large corporations have seen this coal as an opportunity for large profits. Offers of several hundred dollars an acre and anywhere from 10 cents to 25 cents a ton of coal have been made to our Indians. Many of us can see this as one of the biggest "rip-offs" to hit our nation. But to a people who struggle for a livelihood, any amount of money, however small it may be, can look very good.

Corporate intimidation is another means used to force the people to lease their land. Recently a large corporation came on the Cheyenne Reservation with a deal to lease several thousand acres of land. The Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council was reluctant to lease the land. Soon a letter followed which stated: "If we cannot conclude negotiations with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe at an early date, we will be forced to take this project elsewhere. If it becomes necessary to do this, this project will be lost to the Northern Cheyenne, and it may be a long time before a project of this magnitude comes again, if ever."

In reality, this company was desperate for the Cheyenne's coal. Without realizing this

2. A far greater amount of research funds to find more efficient and less environmentally degrading ways of utilizing energy. A fifty per cent increase of a grossly inadequate base does not represent the rearrangement of priorities that is needed.

3. Financial support for programs designed to determine the consequences of energy development. In our region the Northern Great Plains Resources Program has not been provided the resources so obviously necessary to accomplish the stated objectives.

4. The commitment of federal funds to maximize the capacity of existing energy facilities. In our area the lack of such funds has, by BPA's own admission, 'resulted in significant delay in the schedule of general installations at Federal hydro projects.' Failures to proceed with the reregulating reservoir and additional generating units at Libby Dam are prime examples.

"At the regional level, BPA and the utilities could exercise far more leadership:

1. Funding an educational program in an attempt to reduce the growth in demand by increasing public awareness of the relationship between the environmental costs of production and the consumption of electricity.

2. Adopting more realistic assumptions for planning, as advocated by the Northwest Public Association, and extending the lead time for planning to that used by utilities in other parts of the nation.

"Using environmental analyses to more honestly evaluate alternatives rather than simply to justify decisions already made.

"In summary, it appears to me that everyone expresses concern about the energy crisis, but few are willing to make the commitments and take the actions necessary to guide our nation through the difficult years ahead."

fact and unaware of all of the effects of strip mining and its pollution, the tribe eventually leased one-half of its reservation lands to this and other companies. There is no time line written in the leases, so the companies may disturb the land for as long as they wish.

Other landowners now are leasing their property to corporations out of fear that the land will be condemned. Corporations currently threaten to exercise the state supported "right" to have the land condemned and turned over to them if the owners do not settle for an agreement.

With pressures such as these, it is difficult to hold back. If injustices are present in the leases, these are probably small in comparison to the effect strip-mining will have on this people and its homeland.

Promises of reclamation have been made by all the companies, but so far their records have been very poor. Since our reservation has very little top soil, it is doubtful that very little, if any true reclamation can take place. It has been difficult to get any grass or trees to grow on experimental reclamation projects. It is also expected that trees and vegetation on untouched lands will be killed by the pollution caused by the large power plants planned for our area.

What small profit the Indian people will gain now will be completely destroyed after 20 to 30 years of strip-mining. The people will then be left with ghost towns and little more. The land will not be capable of providing them with a livelihood and the income from coal will no longer exist.

I can't help but wonder: "Is the coal development really worth this price?"





A recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court says the Environmental Protection Agency cannot allow "significant deterioration" of air quality. The ruling essentially means that new industry moving into a state cannot add "significant" amounts of air pollution to that which is already being put out by existing industry.

Colstrip Challenged

"It is the intent of the State of Montana to not allow any significant degradation of the present air quality."

So reads the Implementation Plan for Control of Air Pollution in Montana dated Dec. 1, 1971. It isn't just a statement of ideals of the citizens of Big Sky Country. It is the law.

Non-degradation of clean air has been a contested environmental issue during the past year. The issue was carried all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court (see boxed article, this page). The high court's tie vote, which let the lower court's ruling in favor of non-degradation stand, gives new power to the Clean Air Act of 1970. It also strongly backs state plans to implement the act.

The ruling could have a major impact on coal development and related power generation in the western states. On June 12, Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton announced his refusal of permits for the 5,000-6,000 MW Kaiparowits plant in the Four Corners area. In Montana, the ruling may be applied to the proposed Montana Power Colstrip Generating Plant Units One and Two.

FOCUS ON COLSTRIP

Five professors and graduate students from the University of Montana, known as the Mathematical Modeling Group, challenged the air pollution estimates for the proposed Colstrip Units One and Two. In a letter to the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences the group said, "The cited environmental data and computer analysis are flawed, and in fact do not constitute credible evidence that legal ambient levels of sulphur oxides will be achieved." The Department is responsible for issuing the permit for operation of pollution control facilities.

This challenge is of key importance since the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), dated March, 1973, states "issuance of the permit is contingent only upon adequate demonstration by the applicant of the ability to prevent illegal air pollution."

The Modeling Group suggested that legal levels of air pollution might not be met unless stricter stack emission controls are imposed. The group went on to show that better controls are available. They pointed out faults in the "standard plume model" used in the preparation of the EIS. These faults are compounded when applied to large plants with high stacks such as Colstrip Units One and Two according to the scientists.

Because of the many uncertainties, the group recommended that a decision on a permit be delayed for a year. During this time more information on the air pollution

potential could be gathered and processed. Such an approach could provide the "proof of compliance" which is presently lacking.

WHERE THE STATE STANDS

The Modeling Group's letter of challenge was sent to the Department on April 20, 1973. On April 25 the Department issued the permit for Colstrip Units One and Two in total disregard of the new evidence submitted.

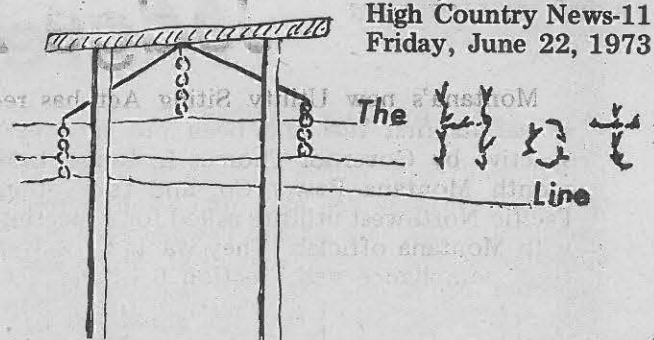
The Department's views on non-degradation were spelled out in the Final EIS on Colstrip. In this document the Department wrote: "The non-degradation clause from the Air Quality Implementation Plan was cited as evidence that the State should oppose construction of the plant. However, since in its literal interpretations, non-degradation is not possible, and since at the national level, the legality of non-degradation laws and variations thereof is before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Department does not feel it has the authority to enforce a literal interpretation on non-degradation."

STAND UP FOR CLEAN AIR

The State Department of Health's argument, and action in granting the permit, are in direct conflict with Montana's Implementation Plan for Control of Air Pollution. The action taken by the Department may be in violation of the State Implementation Plan and therefore subject to Federal enforcement (under Section 113 of the Clean Air Act).

With the Supreme Court's ruling there should now be no doubt that the Department of Health "has the authority to enforce a literal interpretation on non-degradation." If the State doesn't, the Federal Government may have to. It's time to stand up for clean air.

Environmentalists were handed a major victory by a Supreme Court tie vote which effectively bars significant deterioration of clean air. The 4-4 vote affirms a U.S. District Court ruling prohibiting any substantial new air pollution in regions where the air is still unpolluted. The decision has far-reaching applications to all state air pollution plans. The high court ruling also compounds President Nixon's energy problems. In his recent energy message, Nixon called on the states to allow continued use of high sulphur coal. This could be challenged on legal grounds. Environmentalists argued in the case that the federal government "has provided no evidence that spreading pollution across the country is the only solution for pollution in urban areas."



High Country News-11
Friday, June 22, 1973

The *High Country News*
Line

The White House has announced that President Nixon will soon create a new Cabinet-level Department of Energy and Natural Resources. The Department would replace the present Department of Interior. However, it would also include the Forest Service, now in the Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, now in Commerce. It would also include some functions of other agencies. Officials said the new agency would be scientifically oriented, with the goal of developing new sources of energy such as converting coal into gas and using solar energy.

* * *

Gov. John Love of Colorado told a meeting of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission that the energy crisis dictates a need for a national energy policy. The Commission passed a resolution calling upon consumers to conserve all forms of energy, and to switch wherever possible from oil and gas to other sources of supply.

* * *

Utah Governor Calvin L. Rampton has ordered all state-owned vehicles to travel no faster than 60 miles per hour. He said the move was necessary to reduce fuel consumption, and said "appropriate disciplinary action" would be taken against any employee found violating the directive.

* * *

The chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors during the first three years of the Nixon Administration, Dr. Paul W. McCracken, has called for an immediate ten cents per gallon tax increase on gasoline. He said that should be followed by another ten cent boost next year. Purpose would be to make the customer "conscious of it (energy shortage) each time he heads for the station to fill his tank and to the auto dealer when he is shopping for a new car."

* * *

Kerr McGee Corp. has announced a contract to supply some five million tons of coal a year to Arkansas Power and Light Co. The coal would come from Wyoming's Powder River Basin. Deliveries are to begin in 1977 with full delivery by 1979. The contract covers a 20 year period.

* * *

Carl Bagge, president of the National Coal Association, wants quick Congressional revision of the Clean Air Act. He feels this is imperative in light of the Supreme Court's ruling supporting non-degradation. The decision will stop construction of any new fossil fuel plants in most of the United States and will make the energy crisis far worse according to Bagge.

* * *

Wyoming Governor Stanley K. Hathaway told the Wyoming Association of Broadcasters that he would continue to promote tourism in spite of requests by major oil companies to promote conservation of gasoline. He said, "It's inconsistent that state government should promote tourism, yet push for conservation. For the time being, I'm going to continue to promote tourism." He recently attended the National Governor's Conference at Lake Tahoe where a comprehensive resolution was passed. The resolution called for the states to take the lead in energy conservation.

More on Pawnee Grasslands

by Bruce Hamilton

Colorado Rep. Walter Younglund has completely rewritten his memorial to Congress concerning the sale of the Pawnee National Grasslands. The original memorial, which was reported on in the May 25 issue of High Country News, asked that the grasslands be declassified and sold to private interests.

Younglund's revision was stimulated by the strong opposition to his legislation expressed by a broad-based coalition of ranchers,

BLM Act Needed

Senator Floyd Haskell, Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Haskell:

One of the most significant land measures since the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the Wilderness Act of 1964 is now before your subcommittee. I refer to the National Resource Lands Management Act of 1973, sometimes known as the BLM Organic Act, S. 424.

This is urgently needed legislation. For years there has been confusion about the policies which BLM pursues on its 450 million acres, particularly regarding protection for primitive and highly scenic areas. This bill would, for the first time, provide that BLM lands be managed under the same principles as our National Forests, but more importantly, it would require an inventory of these lands, with priority given to identification and protection of areas of critical environmental concern.

Once again, as they did in the ten-year struggle to enact a Wilderness bill, the extractive industries who stand to lose easy access to the minerals and forest and grassland resources of the public's lands are leaping to the fore to defeat this landmark bill. Ultimately, they cannot win this battle any more than they did in 1964.

As S. 424 now stands, it is an excellent piece of legislation. There are, however, two essential changes I would like to urge:

1. Amend S. 424 to require that BLM lands be subject to systematic review under the Wilderness Act of 1964. It has never made sense that these important lands, larger in total acreage than all the national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges, were not included in the wilderness review process. Here is an opportunity to do so.

2. Amend S. 424 to place in the National Wilderness Preservation System several Primitive and Outstanding Natural Areas which the BLM has already identified and designated in several western states. These should be specifically listed in the bill with provision for their immediate inclusion in the Wilderness System upon passage of S. 424.

Enactment of S. 424 would give the BLM specific authority to regulate environmental abuses; at present it is the only federal agency without such authority. And if the amendments suggested here could be made a part of the legislation, the rounding out of the wilderness concept would be complete in that all significant federal lands containing areas of outstanding beauty, solitude, and wild character would be given equal review and legislative designation.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment and would ask that you make this letter a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,
Holway R. Jones
Eugene, Oregon

university researchers and environmental action groups.

Mr. and Mrs. Orval Lynch, ranchers in the area with grazing permits on the Pawnee, wrote to the Denver Post: "State Rep. Walter Younglund. . . in his proposal to sell the Pawnee Grasslands was displaying the sort of



Reprinted from the IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise,
May 22, 1973

How's That?

by Sen. Frank Church

The uproar over wilderness in Idaho has taken on the proportions of an emotional binge. Extremists on both sides are spreading alarm which a little common sense could easily dispel.

On one hand, there are those who claim Idaho can afford no wilderness at all. They would open up every part of our public domain to roads, cabin sites and general development. They sound as if they want all of Idaho subdivided like Southern California, the very wasteland from which a multitude now seeks escape.

On the other hand, there are those who act as though every roadless area left in Idaho should be incorporated into the Wilderness System. They would eliminate from our working forests land essential to support healthy mining and forest product industries, upon which thousands of our citizens depend.

Neither extreme is remotely close to being right. For there is plenty of room in Idaho for both wilderness and work. All we need are common-sense guidelines.

To begin with, the Wilderness Act always contemplated the inclusion of designated Primitive Areas. These were previously administered as wilderness by the Forest Service, anyway. In Idaho, two of our three Primitive Areas, the Sawtooth and the Bitterroot, already form part of the wilderness, while the third, the Idaho-Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area, should go in. This can be accomplished without the least impairment of our working forests, as we've known them.

Regarding new additions, just remember that not a single acre can be designated as wilderness without an act of Congress. As a senior member of the Senate Interior Committee, which exercises jurisdiction over the Wilderness System, I intend to apply a simple test: if the new area recommended is multiple-use ground, it is not suitable for single-use administration. Therefore, it should not be designated as wilderness.

Such a test won't make for a static situation. I fully recognize that recreation is a big money-maker for Idaho, as well as a source of great pleasure for her people. Wilderness contributes a unique dimension to outdoor life in our state. We can add new areas — like the summits of the Seven Devils or the inner face of Hells Canyon — so long as we refrain from infringing upon those lands where multiple-use makes better sense for all concerned.

Yes, there is room enough in Idaho for work and wilderness — if we keep our heads.

irresponsibility that we won't vote for again."

They questioned Younglund's figure that the land would sell for \$48 per acre citing recent sales near \$70 or \$80 an acre in the area. These prices could not be afforded by many local ranchers. "Schools in the area would certainly be affected if these people would have to leave. Purchase of the land would undoubtedly fall to corporations or syndicates, many of whom are not famous for caring for the land. What they are after is a tax write-off," said the Lynches.

On May 30 the Denver Post's opinion was expressed in an editorial, "The State of Colorado could dispense with the services of Walt Younglund of New Raymer as a state legislator a lot easier than it could afford to surrender public ownership of the Pawnee National Grasslands in Weld County."

The Post went on to recommend that the legislature "turn a deaf ear to this proposal" and suggested, "Any legislator, or interested citizen, ought to pay a visit to the Pawnee National Grasslands. It will speak eloquently for itself."

The new version of the memorial, which was accepted by the committee and sent to the floor, requests the Federal Government to institute competitive bidding on the Pawnee National Grasslands. The memorial no longer asks for declassification of the grasslands, but it does request the Federal Government to "trade or sell, for the purpose of consolidation, parcels of the Grasslands which are four hundred acres or less that are totally surrounded by private land to landowners adjacent to such parcels." Such parcels represent less than 10% of the Pawnee.

At present the Pawnee Grasslands are piecemeal. Many small pockets are totally surrounded by private holdings which is a nuisance to federal administrators and local ranchers. Yet to suggest the mandatory sale or trade of all such parcels of land without an inventory might mean risking the loss of unique areas. If consolidation is desirable it should proceed only with careful consideration of the tradeoffs involved.

Rep. Younglund's compromise answers the major objections to his memorial. Competitive bidding should increase the revenue the federal government will receive and it would not raise the animal unit limit presently established to protect the grasslands. The land sale or trade provision deserves careful scrutiny before it is endorsed.



Walk - Don't Run!

In what may come as a surprise to many people, a new study indicates that walking may actually be healthier than jogging.

The May/June issue of Fitness For Living magazine reports on a study from the Physical Fitness Research Laboratory at Wake Forest University. The report maintains that walking is as good as any exercise, and better than jogging in several ways.

The Wake Forest results showed that walking improves body proportions better than jogging and the researchers pointed out that walkers suffer none of the muscle strains, twisted ankles, or foot ailments that joggers do. Walking also puts 28 percent more oxygen into the heart, reduces blood pressure, and exercises muscles in the limbs, neck, spine, and rib cage.

The Wake Forest study involved 16 healthy but not very physically active men between the ages of 40 and 56. Strangely though, walking may not directly result in weight reduction. Walking converts fat and flab to muscle — but muscle weighs more than fat. : : EARTH NEWS

Western.....Roundup

Land Condemnation Fought

The Forest Service has announced that it will condemn 14,984 acres of private land in and around Hells Canyon. The condemnation is in conjunction with a bill introduced in January to establish a 270,000 acre wild and scenic preserve along the Snake River in the canyon. No action has yet been taken on the bill.

Meanwhile, Lem Wilson, a resident and subdivider in the canyon says he will fight, both to raise the appraised value of his land and to keep some of it. "I don't see why the federal government needs to own any recreation land at all," Wilson said. "All they're buying it for is a small group of people — the Sierra Club — so they don't have to see buildings when they float down the river."

A compromise approach is being introduced by Senators James McClure and Frank Church of Idaho. They are working on a bill which takes the recreation area approach. Such a bill would allow for buying scenic easements instead of condemnation. Sen. McClure said, however, that condemnation might be the only way to keep the canyon undeveloped until final decisions can be made.

Nader Project Moves To Denver

The Clean Water Action Project, formed by associates of Ralph Nader, is setting up an office in Denver. It will cover the States of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota (coinciding with the Denver Regional Environmental Protection Agency).

The project is raising money to hire a full time staff of legal and technical experts. The staff "will help citizens gain a stronger voice in complex governmental decisions about pollution control."

Project members urge the public to volunteer skills in the fight against water pollution. Volunteers or financial contributors should contact the Clean Water Action Project, 1325 Delaware St., Denver, Colorado 80204.

Stanislaus River Threatened

Conflict continues over the proposed New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River in California. The dam would be the second largest earth-fill dam in the country. It would flood the most popular whitewater river run in the West.

In May the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) requested the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to enjoin construction of the dam until adequate impact studies have been done. According to EDF, a dam one-fifth the size of New Melones would provide basic flood control and downstream water quality benefits without destroying the wild Stanislaus.

In early April, the State Water Resources Control Board prohibited the Bureau from filling the reservoir more than one-fourth full, except in emergency flood situations.

The Board's decision was based on the Bureau of Reclamation's failure to demonstrate any need for more irrigation in the Central Valley. They also barred permanent inundation of a major portion of the wild Stanislaus calling it "a unique asset to the state and the nation."

The Bureau of Reclamation may not abide by the Board's decision. The Bureau called it "irrelevant" to the issues that are being heard in the Appeals Court. Meanwhile Russell Train, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, called the state's decision a "significant new development" and asked for a reevaluation of the project.

Eagles Are No Threat

There is "massive, solid evidence that golden eagles pose no threat to sheep operations," according to Dr. Leslie Brown, a raptor biologist from Kenya, Africa. Brown said, "data available on food usages of the golden eagle in general indicates the eagle isn't a threat to sheep and, indeed, may be indirectly beneficial in that eagles subsist largely on jack rabbits and other species which are in potential competition for sheep forage."

Brown sees an "extremely encouraging" prospect for golden eagle survival. Estimates of North American golden eagles were about 12,000 birds, but recent research shows the population is now at least 35,000.

The U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife recently released partial results of an aerial eagle survey which confirms a sizeable eagle population. The survey revealed the following information: Wyoming — one eagle per 3.1 square miles; northeast Colorado — one eagle per 12.5 square miles; northwest Colorado — one eagle per 2.4 square miles; Utah — one eagle per 6 square miles; Montana — one eagle per 9 square miles; Idaho — one eagle per 6 square miles; New Mexico — one eagle per 14.8 square miles; Arizona — one eagle per 76.2 square miles.

Photo by Pat Hall

High Country News-13
Friday, June 22, 1973



Some stockgrowers in Wyoming have long contended that they were entitled to compensation for forage eaten by game animals grazing on their private lands. Various schemes have been concocted to reimburse landowners. Recently, the Game & Wild Life (sic) Committee of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association sent out a questionnaire. It went to the 2,140 members of the association. It said, "The Game and Wild Life Committee requests your assistance in obtaining factual information to be employed in formulating a program that would provide compensation to the landowner for the forage on his land that is consumed by game animals. Any payments to a landowner would be on a basis that would in no way infringe on his basic property rights. Will you please answer the following questions, add any comment you consider pertinent and return it to the office in the enclosed envelope pronto?"

Approximately one-third (637) of the members responded. Of these, 138 said they felt no attempt should be made to obtain compensation. But 231 said they felt they would favor "A direct payment on application by the individual landowner for the forage consumed by game on his lands. This would require agreement of the landowner and the Deputy Game Warden in the areas as to the number of game animals involved." And 109 said, "I feel that I am entitled to compensation on some basis for: (and then were listed blanks for so many antelope for so many months, so many deer for so many months, and the same for elk.)"

Many Wyoming landowners have been charging trespass fees for hunting game animals on their lands (and in some instances including considerable public lands) for some years. They have also collected so-called "antelope coupons" for years and now will be able to collect "deer coupons." These are attached to the big game licenses and are collected by the landowner from hunters who hunt upon his lands (and again oftentimes on adjacent public lands).

Briefly Noted...

Deer and elk hunting won't be quite so easy in Idaho next fall. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission has cut down the length of deer and elk seasons in many areas. Seasons were shortened to reflect changes in game populations. Compared to last year, 130 days were cut off the deer season and 114 days lopped off the elk season.

* * *

The Bureau of Land Management is going to open a new, eight-man area office at Buffalo, Wyoming, and a similar nine-man headquarters at Kemmerer. Both offices are in areas rich in coal and other minerals. In announcing the new offices, Assistant Interior Secretary Jack Horton said, "A Buffalo office will enable the Bureau's Casper district to intensify supervision of mineral and environmental programs in the Powder River Basin."

* * *

All American Indian Days will be held July 27-29 in Sheridan, Wyoming. The annual event will include the National Miss Indian America Pageant. The three day celebration features an arts and crafts exhibition, historic ceremonies, dancing, Indian athletics and other talent. More than 40 Plains Indian tribes participate.

* * *

The National Science Foundation has a multi-million dollar, long-range study of Lake Powell underway. Special attention is being focused on the effects of saturation on the sandstone walls. This could lead to revised estimates of possible damage to Rainbow Bridge. Surprisingly, studies have already shown increases in natural mercury content in the water. One researcher advises that no more than one pound of fish from the lake be eaten in one week.



Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

by Marge Higley

One morning Red Ridinghood said to her mother, "It's been ages since I've been to see Granny! It's just a couple of hundred miles on the freeway, and a great chance to put some mileage on my new car. Would you like to come along?"

Mother glanced at the calendar and the TV schedule, and said, "I think not today, dear. It's Friday, and the senate hearings won't be preempting all my favorite programs. I guess I'll just stay home and see if young Dr. Darekill's nurse is really having an affair with her husband's attorney's brother. Besides, Granny will probably be at one of her silly Environmental Action meetings. But you run along if you want to — and do be careful of strangers. I can't understand why you're sometimes so naive!"

Red Ridinghood stopped at the filling station, where the attendant put 22.9 gallons of gasoline in her car, then she turned onto the freeway and was soon rolling along at 75 miles an hour.

At that speed she really didn't see much except the highway, but she did notice one or two things as she whirled through stretches of open countryside and into the mountains. She could hardly help noticing the huge bulldozers and draglines which were stripping away the soil, leaving deep scars on the hillsides and unsightly piles of dirt in the valleys below.

"How ugly it looks," she thought. "I must ask Granny about that — she's always loved the mountains and trees and things."

As the freeway dropped away from the mountains into the flatter lands below, Red Ridinghood didn't see much of anything, because the air was thick with smoke from a huge power plant. For a brief moment she even thought about complaining to somebody, but the thought was fleeting.

"I'll ask Granny about that, too," she muttered.

The visibility became so poor that she completely missed the exit that she should have taken to get to Granny's. She felt lost and bewildered. To her relief, she finally saw a building at the side of the road with a big sign reading: "B.B. Wolff, Information for the Public." She parked the car and entered the glass-enclosed, air-conditioned office.

"Please," she asked the man behind the counter, "can you tell me how to get to Countryville? I want to visit my Granny, and ask her why all these horrid things are happening to the land."

The young man showed his sharp white teeth in a leering smile, and told Red Ridinghood how to reach the Countryville road. She didn't know it, but he had sent her by the long route, and as soon as she was out of sight, he hopped on his motor scooter and took the short cut to Countryville, where he promptly gobbled up Granny, donned her wig and her sun glasses, and awaited the arrival of Red Ridinghood.

"How nice to see you, my dear," he said as she entered.

"Oh Granny! How hoarse you sound," she replied. "Could it be from that awful smog from the power plant? Why do they let them dirty the air like that?"

"The better to keep you cool and comfortable, my dear," said Wolff. "It takes energy to run air conditioners, you know."

"Oh," said Red Ridinghood. "But Granny, why are they cutting away the mountains with those great big machines?"

"The better to keep the power plant running, my dear," smirked Wolff. "It's coal they're digging. If they slow down for even a minute we'll be behind in energy production, and we can't have that, you know. We must keep our factories turning out cars and electrical gadgets and all those other things that prove how progressive we are."

"Oh, I see — I guess," said Red Ridinghood, doubtfully. "But what will they do when the coal is all dug up?"

"Don't worry your pretty head about that, my dear," Wolff answered. "By that time someone will figure out some other way. It's nothing serious at all!"

"Well, it's certainly a relief to know that," smiled Red Ridinghood. "I must go now — it's a long way home."



Of all man's works of art, a cathedral is greatest. A vast and majestic tree is greater than that.

— HENRY WARD BEECHER

Rubber Recycled

One of the things that has accompanied the rapid growth of the auto industry is the proliferation of piles of discarded car tires, cluttering up the countryside. And while an estimated 30 to 40 thousand tons of cast-off tires and other scrap rubber accumulate in trash piles every year, industry continues to exploit nature to find more rubber, or to produce more plastic substitutes. Now, a Swiss researcher has come up with a process to recycle all that scrap rubber.

The process developed by Paul Hart uses a machine that resembles a huge coffee grinder. Hart's device can grind up 7500 tons of rubber into powder or small granules every year. In that form, there are many uses for the substance, such as the surfacing of tracks for sports events. Hart says that Swedish engineers have used recycled rubber mixed with asphalt to pave roads. The resulting pavement resists the destructive influence of the Swedish winter to a better degree than traditional paving materials. And Hart says the recycled rubber powder and granules cost only one half the price of regular rubber. : : EARTH NEWS

Distaff

She waved good-bye, and as she left, B.B. Wolff tore off Granny's wig and sun-glasses and chuckled to himself, "Well, there's one more we don't have to worry about!"

When Red Ridinghood got home her mother turned down the TV long enough to ask "How's Granny?"

"Oh, fine, I guess," she answered, "but somehow she didn't sound like I remember her. She sounded — well — sort of strange."

"Well," laughed Mother, "all those environmental people sound sort of strange to me!"

Red Ridinghood started to speak, but turned away with a shrug, as Mother turned up the volume on the TV.



Goin' Fishin'!

High Country News will not be published on the regular publishing date of July 20, 1973. The staff has not had a vacation in two and one-half years. We felt our readers would not begrudge us one now.

The Staff

Affluence Exposed

For those affluent Americans who complain about the so-called energy crisis, Environmental Quality magazine offers this tidbit of information. Out of every 2800 British Thermal Units (BTUs) of energy consumed in the U.S. one BTU goes to heat the estimated 212,000 swimming pools in Southern California. That figure represents .035 (point zero three five) percent of the country's total energy budget.

: : EARTH NEWS

Beware the Gas!

PIERRE — Col. Delton Shultz of the South Dakota Highway Patrol has issued a warning to motorists who are carrying cans of gasoline in their car trunks.

"In summer, temperatures in the trunk of a car can reach 200 degrees," Col. Shultz said. "Unventilated gasoline will expand as it becomes heated, making the container of gas a highly explosive 'bomb.'"

"Ventilated gas cans release toxic fumes into the trunk of a car, making the entire rear section susceptible to explosion if a spark, a lighted match, or a collision should chance to ignite the gasoline."

"Wise driving and gasoline purchasing practices are a better insurance against running out of fuel than the dangerous practice of carrying gas cans with you," Shultz concluded.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

DEVELOP! At any cost —
Though clean air and water be lost!
The power we need
For our energy greed
Our resources will surely exhaust.

* * *

A well contaminated by arsenic caused poisoning of 11 people at a Minnesota building site. An excavation revealed that the arsenic was from a buried pesticide used some 40 years ago for grasshopper control. Soil six feet beneath the surface contained as much as one percent arsenic.

* * *

Grand Canyon Village, on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, is facing a severe water shortage. Water tanks are only 30 percent filled, with heaviest visitor use still ahead.

* * *

The City of Philadelphia and E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company have been granted permits for ocean dumping of wastes by the Environmental Protection Agency. Philadelphia will dispose of 75 million gallons of sewage sludge. DuPont will dump 20 million gallons of sulfuric acid and heavy trace metals every 30 days for six months. The permits were granted just one day before the Marine Protection Act went into effect.

* * *

A former Agriculture Department specialist and recognized authority on world food problems reports global supplies of grain are at their lowest level in 20 years. Lester R. Brown says the leading producing nations also have little reserve acreage to fall back on. He proposes a world food bank.

* * *

The demand for water in the U.S. will more than double by the year 2000. That is the estimate expressed at a recent water meeting in Princeton. Brought out at the meeting — electric power generation consumes the most water — some 63 billion gallons per day, equal to 322 gallons per day per person.

* * *

The Serbian Academy of Sciences has become concerned with rapidly rising pollution levels in the major cities of Yugoslavia. It proposes government action to deal with environmental problems.

* * *

Colorado State University will make a study of how lead moves through the environment, and how it alters man's surroundings. Some historians point to the use of lead as one of the leading causes of the downfall of Rome. The CSU study will try to determine how lead is carried by wind and rain, and what happens to it in soils.

* * *

A U.S. plan to desalt the Colorado River calls for a \$40 million "reverse osmosis" plant. The plant would desalt return flows from Arizona's Welton-Mohawk Irrigation District.



Lose First Round

Wyoming environmentalists and hunters lost the first round but are coming back for the next. U.S. District Court Judge Ewing T. Kerr said the U.S. Forest Service does not have to do an environmental impact statement on two timber sales on the Teton National Forest. Kerr dismissed the suit and dissolved a temporary restraining order against U. S. Plywood-Champion Paper Corp.

The suit was brought by the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, the Wyoming Division of the Izaak Walton League, and two outfitters who use the area of the proposed sale for hunting. The groups were backed by a resolution from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, a state agency.

The suit charged that the Forest Service had not complied with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Forest Service maintained, and the court upheld, that no impact statement was needed because two timber sales were not a "major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." The judge stated that



dismissal of the suit was in the public interest because an injunction would harm U.S. Plywood-Champion and the plaintiffs failed to show there would be irreparable damage.

Robert Lindgren, area manager for the timber company, said, "We are certainly pleased with Judge Kerr's decision. We hope to get our men back to work on the logging road as soon as weather permits."

Lindgren threatened that without the two timber contracts, he would have to shut down operations in Riverton and Dubois thereby causing "severe problems to the economy of the area."

"Our operations in Wyoming are completely dependent on Forest Service timber," Lindgren added, "and every year the raw material problem seems to be more acute. We need to have more timber made available if the industry is to have a long term future in northwest Wyoming."

Budgets Threaten

Recent budget cuts in the national wildlife refuge system are threatening several species of animals already on the endangered species list, including the peregrine falcon, southern bald eagle, and the alligator.

According to the Wildlife Management Institute, at least 26 wildlife refuges face reductions in staff and maintenance during the coming fiscal year. And several of these are homes for endangered species.

The move to strip funds from the refuge program comes at a time when the Department of the Interior has been given expanded authority for the protection of rare species. The move worries environmentalists who are supporting the Administration's plans to more than double the wildlife refuge system by adding 46 million acres of new refuges in Alaska. How, they ask, can the system run twice as many wildlife refuges on a much lower appropriation? : : EARTH NEWS

High Country News-15
Friday, June 22, 1973

Conservationists have long contended that the areas from which U.S. Plywood cuts its timber were being overcut. Actions by the Shoshone National Forest and the Teton Forest tend to bear the conservationists out. Both forests have drastically reduced the allowable cut after an extended period of very heavy cutting.

"The environmental-conservation movement is pushed by a small minority of affluent people. They are immune to the economic pressures of the average citizen. They do not recognize, or perhaps even care, that their activities are contributing to a lowering of the standard of the living for the low and moderate income in the United States."

Nicholas J. Kirkmire
Executive Vice President
Federal Timber Purchasers Assoc.

Conservationists also contend that due to past overcutting, the U.S. Plywood installations in the area will eventually close. One smaller mill, owned and operated by State Sen. Robert Novotny and his brother, has already closed because of the pressure on the forests.

For these reasons, and because evidence points to reductions in elk herds and damage to trout streams, the conservationists say an environmental impact statement is needed.

If the case is appealed, it will go to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. An appeal seems likely.

Forest Service Biased

The Environmental Protection Agency has told the U.S. Forest Service that its draft environmental statement on 45 million roadless acres is "biased" and "inadequate." EPA thus joins conservation groups in contending that the study of the roadless areas was hastily and inadequately done.

EPA says that instead of allowing development, the Forest Service should more fully consider protection of the lands. It noted that the draft statement showed the Forest Service hadn't considered recreation, grazing and wildlife adequately, and "apparently" hadn't considered "water quality and soil stability."

EPA criticized the Forest Service for the evaluation system which reduced wilderness to a single numerical quantity. It recommended in-depth environmental studies of each of the 1,448 roadless areas before a development or preservation decision is made.

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My Neighbor Is An Addict

The following article was written by a Wyomingite who doesn't want to be identified. He could live in Cheyenne, or Lander, or Jackson. Or, for that matter, in Fort Collins, Idaho Falls, or Livingston. The article was submitted to High Country News some months ago. But I find it more timely now than I did then and I think you will also.

The editor.

* * *

My neighbor is an addict. No, he's not addicted to drugs, good whiskey, or even bad women. He is addicted to the gasoline engine and the various vehicles and devices to which it has been adapted.

He and the finance company own a late model car and four-wheel-drive pickup, both of the most powerful design and equipped with every possible option. In addition, he owns nothing less than three snow machines (two for himself and one for his wife), two motorcycles, one go-cart, and several other vehicles in various stages of disassembly.

He cuts his 12x40 foot lawn with a "battering" mowing machine, which is capable of harvesting the hay for the Jackson Hole elk herd, and good naturedly ridicules me when I roll out my ancient, iron-wheeled manual lawn mower. His fondest dream of late is to possess a chain saw; one never knows when one might need a chain saw to pioneer a road through the timber for a four-wheeler or clear a trail for a motorcycle.

Admittedly, I am a misfit. For some unknown reason I am destined by fate to live my earthly time here and now. But I think of those hardy mountain men of 140 years ago. I read their journals and although I'm appalled by their wanton destruction of wildlife and amazed by the hardships they endured, I feel that those were my times; those were my men. My contemporaries should have been men like Bridger, Jackson and the Sublette brothers, not men like my neighbor who constantly smells of gasoline fumes. My transportation should be a good horse between my knees; not the shiny tin vehicle that keeps me broke and the parts man rich.

My neighbor, and the millions like him, are the type of people who are strongly opposed to classifying this country's remaining wild areas as wilderness. What on earth would these people do with wilderness? You can't ride motor bikes and snow machines in an official wilderness; you can't drive four-wheel-drives and pull camper trailers into a wilderness. And what would one do in the mountains if you couldn't bring these things along?

Wilderness is in jeopardy today, be it officially designated wilderness or any other unspoiled back-country. Not only is wilderness threatened by direct wilderness opponents, but also by wilderness users. In order to save wilderness, you must make people aware of it and what it can offer. As people become aware of it they want to experience it. The wilderness areas are being overused.

During the peak of the summer vacation month, the Bridger Wilderness in the Wind River Mountains takes on the appearance of a huge carnival. People, people everywhere constantly coming and going. Some are bent double under poorly planned packs; others are two days from the road and carrying no pack at all — they sure look hungry.

We have a people problem. A large number of people have learned to appreciate the mountains and wilderness, but their very presence depreciates the wild experience. Then there are people like my neighbor who do not have the capability to appreciate the natural world. All they want is a place to ride a motor bike and park a camper trailer. You can do that in a supermarket parking lot.

This fellow really enjoys his contraptions; I cannot rightfully deny him that. I only pity him that he cannot appreciate the more genuine things in life.

What especially has me irritated, though, is his recent drive to convert me to his way of life. I do a lot of hiking — at least one good hike of about fifteen miles every week. Occasionally, I use a saddle horse. I'm no purist; I'd just as soon warm a saddle as wear out my boot soles. I'd guess that I know my range of mountains almost as well as anybody, save the old timers in the area.

Now my neighbor comes to me and says, "As much as you enjoy traveling in the mountains what you need, ol' boy, is a motorcycle!"

"No," I reply, "I'd rather use my own two feet; I can go anywhere you can go and to a whole bunch of places that you can't."



I get a sympathetic smile and he says, "Yeah, but I can get there quicker."

Well, I have no doubt that he can get "there" quicker, but to me, getting "there" is more than half the reason for being in the mountains in the first place. What does he see, hear, or smell on his way "there?" He sees the scenery zip by in a blur; for he must keep his eyes glued to the tricky trail, and he wouldn't think of traveling at less than maximum speed. He hears the deafening roar and smells the acrid smell of his machine, the very things that I am trying so desperately to escape.

He won't see that sleek doe over there nursing her brand new twin fawns. And I doubt if he will notice where that bear crossed the stream just minutes ago, the muddy water still unsettled in the huge track. These are the things that I'm there for.

And when my neighbor gets "there" or wherever he's going, does he appreciate what he sees? No, he looks behind him and admires the long scars that his knobby tires have dug into the hillside, and then is off to conquer another mountain, another adversary.

If the motorcycle fans could only appreciate the country they travel through, I wouldn't be so annoyed. But to them (most that I have met anyway) the mountains are merely a proving ground for rider skill and machine endurance.

It seems that everyone in town has a

trailer full of motor cycles sitting in the driveway. In the back yard is another trailer full of snow machines eagerly waiting for the first snow in the fall. Everybody is mechanized. I can't understand it. Is man's lust for power so great that he must surround himself with artificial objects of strength and endurance?

Everybody is on the mechanical band wagon. Here come the tourists now, endless convoys of tourists and week-end vacationers. Ten years ago the tourists came with cars equipped with top carriers. All the equipment for their holiday was rolled up in a tarp on top of their car — tent, sleeping bags, etc. The occasional camper trailer that had belonged to the guy driving the Lincoln Continental, who parked in the park anyhow.

Today, they come with a brand new four-wheel-drive pickup, complete with mounted camper, motorcycles hanging on the bumpers, A.T.V.s lashed on a trailer, and sometimes a camper trailer behind the whole mess.

Oh yes, the camp trailer — certainly not as annoying as the motorcycles and A.T.V.s, but just as obtrusive to my eye. Every forest camp site and pull-over parking place is full of camper trailers clustered together. Inside, their inhabitants drink cold beer from the gas refrigerator while the meal cooks in the gas oven. The televisions and transistor radios are attempting to drown one another out.

My camps are tent camps, summer and winter. My refrigerator is a snow bank or spring seep; my stove is an open fire. I derive a definite pleasure from knowing that I can leave the luxuries of civilization behind and be just as comfortable and twice as happy.

I just can't understand these modern campers. I go to the mountains to escape the everyday life. Most other people bring their everyday lives with them.



Parks Crowded

Vacationers to six national parks need advance reservations for campgrounds if they want to be assured of a site this year. A computerized reservation service has begun for Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Everglades and Acacia National Parks.

The reservation system is being tried on a pilot basis in parks with heavy campground use. Reservations cover 4,000 of the 7,000 campsites in the six parks.

Overcrowding is also evident in the country areas of the National Park Service. In the Grand Tetons, hiking use has risen from 84,000 to over 126,000 between 1967 and 1972. This use is concentrated in a 2½ month period in the summer. There is concern within the Park Service that "substantial ecological damage will result if numbers of backcountry users continue to increase as the trend indicates."

Regulations on backcountry use to minimize damage have been instituted in Grand Teton. Capacities for 1973 on a per day basis in major camping areas will be a maximum of 156 parties, not to exceed 910 people. Use of open fires is no longer allowed in most areas. Research underway will assess visitor impact on ecosystems and monitor the success of Grand Teton's backcountry management program.