

1-76
 82834
 BUFFALO, WYO.

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country

News

Vol. 7 No. 16 35¢

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, August 1, 1975

by Bruce Hamilton

Wheatland, Wyo., doesn't have coal, oil, or other energy resources nearby. Just thousands of acres of corn, wheat, sugar beets, alfalfa, and grazing land.

Consequently, Wheatland hasn't experienced the energy boom town growth of other Wyoming communities such as Gillette, Casper, and Rock Springs. While Wyoming has evolved into an energy center for the nation, Wheatland has stayed pretty much the same.

But on June 7, 1974, the Missouri Basin Power Project filed an application with the Wyoming Public Service Commission for a permit to construct and operate a 1,500 megawatt coal-fired power plant — a plant almost twice as big as the Dave Johnston plant near Glenrock, Wyo. Later the power project chose a site just north of Wheatland along the Laramie River for their station and proposed damming the river to supply water to the plant. The following year, contracts for coal from the Powder River Basin were signed.

The project sponsors are five consumer-owned electric power suppliers in the Missouri Basin — Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency, the Heartland Consumers Power District, and the Lincoln Electric System of Nebraska. In addition, nine Wyoming cities have formed the Wyoming Municipal Electric Joint Powers Board to buy power from the plant. The power will go to eight states in the region to meet 1979-1994 projected power demands.

Since the announcement of the plant, Wheatland area residents have had something to talk about besides water, weather, and the price of beef and wheat. In fact, for some, the power plant has become a preoccupation. They can talk of little else. Businessmen and bankers are readying plans for expansion, while those concerned with social services are trying to prepare for a near tripling of the present population.

A number of ranchers and farmers in the area have banded together to form the Laramie River Conservation Council and oppose the power plant as presently planned. These people have been defending the state's tough new air pollution regulations, opposing the transfer of water

Wheatland Power Plant Ahead



from agricultural to industrial use, distributing information on the plant, and making alliances with the state's environmental organizations. Farmers and ranchers who once called the Sierra Club "kooks" are now teaming up with them, says Bob Harman, a former Wheatland high

school science teacher and a rancher in the Wheatland area.

Some residents see the power plant as a blessing, a breath of new vitality for the economy, a chance to save the community from stagnation. Others see the plant as the end of a way a life they have always known, the introduction of industrial problems into an agrarian society.

GAMBLERS IN TOWN

Bud Dower builds high quality trailer courts. Standing on the bulldozed lot that will be Park Lane Village, he points with pride to the spots where he will put fish ponds, tennis courts, and a shuffleboard game area. "About 25% open space," he says.

Dower is a gambler. He's banking on a go-ahead for power plant construction. If the plant is built, he will put in 116 mobile home spaces and bachelor quarters for 360 — and he'll have no trouble finding tenants. If the plant isn't built, he'll put in about 60 units and hope they are filled sometime.

Dower isn't the only gambler in town. Since the power plant was announced last year, others have started investing. A new department store is going up, a bigger grocery store, and another trailer park. Construction workers have arrived already in search of jobs.

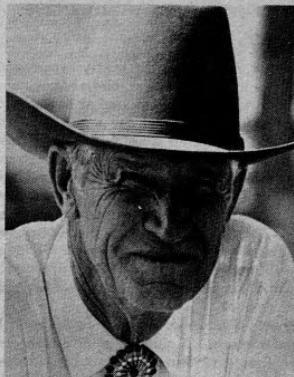
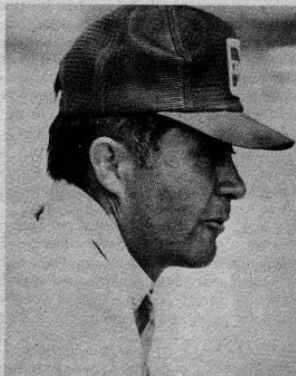
"Wheatland is growing without the plant," says Dower, "but not by leaps and bounds. Most of the growth is in anticipation of the plant. It'll be bad for everyone that's expanding if the plant isn't built."

Dower, a landscape architect, flower shop owner, and a former mayor of Wheatland, serves on a task force set up by the power company to help the community prepare for the social impact caused by the plant. Wheatland's population is now about 2,500. Dower says his task force has been told to anticipate about 2,200 construction workers at peak. This could mean an influx of 5,100 people, counting those who would be providing services.

"I think it's great," says Dower. "I can't say that the status quo is great. I don't want to live in a place like

(continued on page 4)

"WHAT'S WATER WORTH? Just think of what you can't do without it."
 —Tyler Dodge, president
 Laramie River Conservation Council



RANCHER Phil Rietz. Rietz's father homesteaded in the Wheatland area in 1890. His family is one of more than 30 families in the Laramie River Conservation Council, which opposes the proposed power plant.



INJURY to existing water users will undoubtedly occur, says George Wilkinson, president of the Middle Laramie River Water Users.

2 HIGH COUNTRY

By Jane Bell

A grassroots movement is taking place in this country which bodes well for a democratic form of government in the biennial year. It is especially noteworthy in the hinterlands, and in those small towns across the land.

People are discovering they do have an influence on government. They find that the common interests of the land itself can pull them together in common cause.

Wyoming is a good example of what has taken place in just one year's time. The real threats to a way of life that is unique became apparent in the 1974 Legislature. Suddenly, massive industrialization of a hitherto rural society became imminent. The alarm was sounded.

Large companies within huge industries have a built-in advantage over the general society in which they exist. They have specific interests and common goals always in sight. And they have tremendous resources of money and manpower at hand to realize those interests and goals.

Thus, they not only have well-paid, well-trained lobbyists at work, but they can send the company presidents and lesser minions to do their bidding. They exert a constant pressure against state officials from the congressional delegation, through the governor and legislators, to the bureaucracy of government itself. And the pressure doesn't end there. It is felt in chambers of commerce, the local Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, and even in city hall.

The citizen-at-large is a member of an amorphous mass of society, having many individual interests and only a few common goals. In order to mobilize citizens, you have to show them that there are specific, common interests threaded through their individual interests.

But they are still drastically limited in what they can do. There is no readily available pool of money and manpower to throw into a given situation. They have no trained lawyers retained to give them counsel and no board of directors to give them direction. They are mostly people doing their own thing and wanting to be left alone to pursue that thing.

Massive industrialization means many more people and threats to clean air, clean usable water, and a use of land incompatible with existing lifestyles.

The normal citizen finds himself confused, bewildered and a little frightened of the prospect. He seemingly has no place to turn.

The Wyoming Citizens' Lobby was a joint effort put together to work with legislators and the public in the 1975 Legislature. It was organized and mostly staffed by citizens' organizations: the Wyoming Outdoor Council, the Powder River Basin Resource Council, and the Sierra Club. The first was organized in 1967 to deal with a number of existing and imminent environmental problems in Wyoming as a whole. It is broad-based and acts somewhat as a coordinator for other outdoor and environmental groups. PRBRC was organized by residents of northeastern Wyoming in response to the threat of large-scale strip mining and power plant siting in the area.

These two groups acted as the catalyst for an effort which brought amazing results. Citizens of Wyoming had an outlet for their frustrations, and they responded.

The two groups mounted a massive effort to institute in Wyoming a coal "export only" policy. (Their slogan, "Say Goodbye to Coal, Not Wyoming.") With the help of the Northern Rockies Action Group (a Montana-based, non-profit organization designed to assist other regional citizen groups), a petition campaign was researched, designed, pretested, produced, and funded in just six days. (The Wyoming Legislature was due to convene in a matter of days.) Some \$2,300 was raised in 24 hours to fund an advertising campaign. Just under 8,000 people signed the petition in six days. Over 2½% of Wyoming's adult population had signed the petition after only one week of exposure.

The "export only" policy was killed in a legislative committee. But the Citizen's Lobby was instrumental in getting through the Legislature a utility siting act, land use legislation, an increase in the coal severance tax, surface owner consent to strip mining, water use planning, and a strengthening of the Environmental Quality Act. And the Lobby was able to defeat an attempt by the electric power utilities to suspend new sulfur dioxide regulations — some of the toughest in the country.

Citizens can organize, petition, and make their presence felt in government when they really want to. Thanks to small organized groups who unselfishly dedicate their efforts, talents, and resources, citizens can be mobilized to take part in the great decisions. It is a healthy movement and one in keeping with our Founding Fathers' philosophy.



Letters

TABLE SCRAPS OF WILDERNESS

Dear Editors,

Wilderness in Montana is nearly synonymous with austere mountain ranges, badlands, marshy, or other areas long since dismissed as having marginal economic utility. (Much the same can be said for the remaining prime wildlife habitat.) These isolated outposts of wildness are mere table scraps, vestiges of the sub-continental wilderness explored by Lewis and Clark. The more productive areas have been long since preempted by intensified agriculture; the thought of, say, a Northern Great Plains Grassland Wilderness, is absurd. Other potential wilderness options have been foreclosed by the urbanization and industrialization of this technological age.

Wilderness is our historical homeland, the birthplace of our species. Through the Pleistocene and until the first agricultural civilizations, it alone fostered development of an unusual animal with characteristics generally described as human, although at times exhibiting inhuman behavior toward one another. Wilderness is still the home of certain peoples: the Indians of the Amazon Basin, the Bushmen of Africa and Australia. In each case

the human population lives within nature and the wilderness unit is ecologically viable from the standpoint of sustaining its small band of human occupants.

We have long ago abandoned the possibility of living within nature — our technological drive won't allow it. As a token of our past we preserve only the uninhabitable cast-off vestiges of our wilderness heritage, lands that were probably scorned even by our distant ancestors. Is this enough? For some, like Dr. Bradley, it is reassuring to know only of the existence of a small piece of wilderness — a remote mountain lake. For others less fortunate, living in distant cities and a day-to-day "wilderness" of people and machines, just this knowledge may have to be enough.

Perhaps some day, out of necessity, our species will evolve to a point where vestiges of wilderness or even dim memories of their existence are no longer required for our individual sanity or social well-being. But of one thing I am certain: if and when we reach that point we will be less human than we are today.

Sincerely,
Loren L. Bahls
Helena, Mont.

Letters

WILDERNESS LAW DEMANDS MAINTENANCE

Dear Editors:

Public Law 88-577 (The Wilderness Act) not only defined wilderness but mandated that this definition be maintained.

As citizens, we are duty bound to obey the law, and the Forest Service is in violation of the law if they do not enforce it.

We were pleased to see the definition of wilderness printed on the front page (HCN July 18, 1975). Would you PLEASE print the portion of the Wilderness Act we have enclosed?

We feel that it is very important for the public to know that it was the purpose of Congress to establish and maintain a PERMANENT Wilderness System, with a very explicit mandate to the administering agencies to manage these areas.

Our experience has taught us the need to quote BOTH the definition and the mandate. The Wilderness Act is meaningless otherwise.

Sincerely,
Floyd and Irene Wilson
Wilderness Education Foundation
Denver, Colo.

(The excerpt from the Wilderness Act which the Wilsons refer to follows.)

For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as "wilderness areas," and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. . . and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.

GARRISON MISSTATEMENT

Dear HCN:

The article appearing in your paper (July 4, 1975, p. 13) concerning Garrison water rights is typical of the misstatements made by the Committee to Save North Dakota and other opponents of the project.

Eight years ago the Bureau of Reclamation obtained water rights to 3,145,000 acre-feet of water annually for the Garrison Diversion Unit. Of this amount, 871,000 acre-feet will be used for the first phase. This amount is guaranteed to the project and will be more than adequate to take care of all of the functions of the Garrison Diversion Unit including irrigation, municipal water supply, lake restoration, and fish and wildlife. This permit has been on file at the North Dakota Water Commission for eight years.

The point I made in the Associated Press article was that the state of North Dakota did not automatically receive the rights to all the Missouri River water because they lost a half million acres when Garrison Dam was built and calls attention to the clamor for this Missouri River water by interests downstream; and while the Garrison Diversion Unit has a permit to protect our interests, North Dakotans better become water conscious and use this water or we will lose it.

To say that I called for a moratorium on the project is ridiculous, as I testified before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Works last month. I called for full funding of the Garrison Diversion Unit in order to proceed full speed ahead with the project.

Sincerely,
Homer M. Engelhorn, Manager
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District



Editorial

Aug. 1, 1975 — High Country News-3



Revolution for survival

We are witnessing small, positive changes in the West. Some are too minute to register on conservationists' tally of wins and losses. But taken together, encouraging and potentially revolutionary.

The changes are people. People in government dedicated to conservation. At the state and local levels in Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana, for instance, we see new faces that are actually old friends. We take their presence in government as a healthy sign of the public's increasing concern for natural things.

David Broder of the Washington Post sees similar changes of a broader scale:

"While the political cast of characters (on the federal level) seems frozen where it was a quarter of a century ago, time has moved on and America has changed. New issues have emerged, old alliances have been broken, and new coalitions are being formed. There has been a jump in voltage of local government and local politics that contrasts vividly with the stalemated atmosphere of Washington during the past decade. The new face of American politics is barely visible from Washington. At

the local level, in city councils and mayors' offices, on county boards and in state capitols, men and women are making decisions now who literally could not have been imagined there a decade ago."

It's an age when some conservationists previously on the outside of decision-making are becoming inside leaders. They may find themselves in a no-man's-land. They will be criticized by their old friends and ignored by their new colleagues. But we believe that the very forces which brought them into government will bring them increasing power and effectiveness in time.

Those of us who still remain critics on the outside must also prepare ourselves for a new era. We can no longer say the answers are easy, that decision-makers are blind. We have partially succeeded in getting attention, in educating. Now we must help devise the complex strategies which will preserve life on this earth. The answers are difficult. Implementing them requires statesmanship.

We wish the insiders courage and patience. Together we form the core of a very quiet, sensible revolution for survival.

—JN

WOOD RIVER VALLEY

Editors:

Reading about Meeteetse Preservation's struggle to save the Absarokas and the Yellowstone ecosystem from open pit mining and milling, watching ABC-TV filming scenes along the Wood River, and looking at those magnificent mountains and thinking about what's supposed to happen to glorious northwest Wyoming, all kind of inspired me to update an old Western favorite — "The Red River Valley." It goes like this:

To this valley they say you are coming,
We shall miss our clear streams and bright skies.
For they say you are taking our mountains, and will leave us an AMAX surprise.

Chorus:

Stop and think for awhile ere you strip us,
This great land you will never renew.
Do not ruin the Wood River Valley
For the people who love it so true.

Now you claim that removing Bald Mountain
Will do much towards improving our view.
But we think that your thoughts have got twisted;
We like God's handiwork—why don't you?

Oh, your tailings will pour down the valley,
And they'll rise in a dump that's so high,
That whenever your pipeline gets busted,
They will blow 'til they blot out the sky.

Amelia Earhart (?) sure wouldn't like it
Ranchers and cowboys won't like it too.
Some folks think you'll make 'em richer,
'Til they find out the joke's not on you.

So if you don't mind Mr. AMAX,
We would like you to go far away.
"Stop AMAXium Disaster" is our motto;
We will fight 'til you see it our way!

Sincerely,
William D. Lamdin
Meeteetse, Wyo.

(?) Before her final flight, Amelia Earhart arranged for a cabin to be built on the Wood River, high in the Absarokas, near the site of the proposed open pit copper mine and mill.

THANKS FOR COVERAGE

Dear HCN:

Thanks for your mention of our battle over transmission line routes in a recent issue of **High Country News**.

Keep up the good work. I read your publication cover to cover and consider it absolutely essential to being well informed on what is current in the West.

Thanks also for giving my name for the Hathaway petitions. I was able to get five of them filled (had to send for more).

I'll keep you posted about the power line. Now, the four cities, (Ft. Collins, Loveland, Longmont and Estes Park) have dreams of their own nuclear plant in the future!

Sincerely,
Rusty Muller
Platte River Protective Assoc.
Berthoud, Colo.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Published biweekly at 140 N. Seventh St., Lander, Wyo. 82520. Telephone 307 332-4877. Second class postage paid at Lander.

Publisher Thomas A. Bell
Managing Editor Joan Nice
News Editor Bruce Hamilton
Associate Editor Marjane Ambler
Office Manager Mary Margaret Davis
Advertising Manager August Dailer
Circulation Manager Georgia Nations

Subscription rate \$10.00

Single copy rate 35¢

Material published in **High Country News** may be reprinted without permission unless it is copyrighted. Proper credit should be given to **High Country News**. Contributions (manuscripts, photos, artwork) will be welcomed with the understanding that the editors cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. Articles and letters will be published and edited at the discretion of the editors. To send a sample copy to a friend, send us his or her address.

Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520

4-High Country News — Aug. 1, 1975



I think it's great. I can't say the status quo is great. I don't want to live in a place like Denver, but at 2,500 people Wheatland can't supply some of the services existing residents want.

—Bud Dower

Wheatland businessman

Wheatland. . .

(continued from page 1)

Denver, but at 2,500 people Wheatland can't supply some of the services existing residents want."

Dower says the city is reluctant to move until they are sure the power plant is coming. The passage of a new state industrial siting law and tough state sulfur dioxide air pollution regulations in the last year makes the power plant's fate uncertain.

Dower thinks it is unfair to have the Laramie River Station come under the new plant siting law.

"With the added delays, we don't know whether to build or not, because we don't know if the plant will be turned down by the Industrial Siting Council."

Dower says Wheatland isn't in the same fix that Rock Springs, Wyo., was in when Pacific Power and Light and Idaho Power Company decided to build a power plant, and social chaos broke loose. "Basin gave us advance warning — unlike at Rock Springs. For a different community that hasn't been told it will have a plant, the siting legislation will do some good. But Basin came in and told us what they were going to do, and we tried to prepare. Now, with this new legislation, we don't know what to do."

Dower says most residents don't say they're either for or against the power plant; "they just want a yes or a no. Somebody has to make the decision and get us out of this uncertainty." Site preparation, originally planned for this summer, has been postponed until the spring of 1976.

The delays may cause more social problems than the legislation was designed to prevent, Dower believes. "This is a good community, and we want to develop it properly," he says.

TASK FORCE ACTION

When the project was announced, the power consortium pledged an "open planning process." In August 1974 a Platte County Task Force was set up by the power companies and county leaders to "collect information, conduct studies, establish needs, and develop guidelines for orderly growth and development of the area."

John Allen, owner of a furniture store in Wheatland and chairman of the Wheatland Planning Commission, was named head of the task force. Russ Bovaird, the local representative for the power project, was named secretary. Bill Schott, a member of the area development staff of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, was designated task force coordinator.

Power plant critics were noticeably absent from the task force. It was not until July 1975 that an opponent of the project was asked to join.

The task force established seven working committees:

city government, county government, schools, housing, day care centers, transportation, and airport.

In March 1975, task force chairman John Allen told the *Wyoming Rural Electric News*, "I feel the task force is really working and is providing good local input into the MBPP project. We are as far along as we can be at the present time with the information and data available."

DISSENTERS

While the consensus on the task force seems to be to accept the power plant as a good neighbor and an inevitable circumstance, a vocal group of ranchers and farmers have set up their own task force, raised questions, and challenged the "inevitable" before it comes to pass.

The first challenge was at the state Environmental Quality Council's hearings on sulfur dioxide air pollution regulations in December 1974. The electric utilities, including the promoters of the Laramie River Station, were strongly opposed to the regulations, claiming they were too stringent and would place a financial burden on the consumers. A group of eight Wheatland farmers and ranchers went to the hearings and said they were willing to pay the added cost. They said that if they had to live with a power plant, they wanted to minimize its pollution, which might affect their health and their crops.

In the end, the state adopted the regulations. Subsequently, several utilities, Tri-State G and T included, sued the state. The state is now trying to work out an agreement with the protesting utilities.

In June 1975 Basin Electric Co. petitioned the Department of Environmental Quality for a 10 year variance of the state's sulfur air quality regulation. Despite this request, the plant's promoters continue to tell the public that they will meet or exceed all state and federal regulations.

ORGANIZED RESISTANCE

One evening last winter seven or eight ranchers and farmers met to talk about their problems concerning the Laramie River Station. The group had been meeting secretly, "because we knew once the word got out that it would be harder to get information," said one of the men. But that evening the dissenters decided to organize, and from that meeting the Laramie River Conservation Council emerged.

Today the council numbers 30-35 families. Clayton Rietz, a leader of the organization and a rancher west of Wheatland along the Laramie River, says, "A few members have gotten out and feathered their nests, but most have stuck it out."

Joyce Nolan, another council member, says the LRCC has had trouble getting members because the business community in town is behind the power plant. Some ranchers whose sympathies are with the LRCC are afraid to join, because each year they must borrow money from the bank to run their operation and some bankers are proponents of the power plant, she says.

Most of the members joined reluctantly because they're used to minding their own business. But this issue threatens their whole livelihood, so it seemed worth getting involved.

"We're getting better every time we have a confrontation," says Linda Rietz, "but I wish they'd just leave us alone. We don't want to become experts (at fighting power plants). We just want to be ranchers."

WATER WAR

Up and down the Laramie River, water is every bit as important to a rancher as his land. "What's water worth?" asks rancher and LRCC president Tyler Dodge. "Just think about what you can't do without it."

The LRCC members are afraid that there isn't enough water in the Laramie River for both existing agricultural

agricultural land that will be inundated by Grayrocks Reservoir, and unappropriated spring runoff.

The power plant will require 31,000 acre-feet. When evaporation loss and percolation loss at the reservoir and water guaranteed to agricultural projects are added, Bob Harman of the LRCC figures they will need at least 76,694 acre-feet total.

The consortium is planning on having 66,454 acre-feet available from a stream that is "notoriously erratic in flow," says Harman. Harman has checked the records at a gauging station on the river and has found that for 18 out of 34 years of records, the needed 66,454 acre-feet were not in the river. In some years, Harman says, the flow has been as low as 14,000 acre-feet, or less than one-fifth what the companies plan on. That means, according to Harman, that in a dry year there wouldn't be enough water to go around.

Power project officials have said that there's plenty of water for both industry and agriculture in the region. But, the companies haven't just gone after the available water — they have bought up agricultural rights and threatened other agricultural users with a water shortage, according to the LRCC.

"If all they wanted was the excess water, I don't think we would have fought this plant," says Clayton Rietz. "But they want to build a monstrosity in a dry region and use all the water."

Forrest Kepler of J.T. Banner and Associates in Laramie says a "reservoir operation study" his firm did for Basin convinced him that the LRCC's fears of shortages are unfounded. The results of that study will be published in an upcoming Environmental Impact Statement on the plant, Kepler says.

"This difference of opinion over the availability of water is the crux of the matter," says Pam Rich of the Sierra Club's Northern Plains regional office. "If nothing else, it points out the need for the state to do an independent assessment of the situation."

SMALLER PLANT — NO RESERVOIR

If the plant were 1,200 megawatts or smaller, a reservoir wouldn't be needed to supply the power plant's needs, according to Paula Ward of the project's environmental advisory group. But project planners remain committed to the larger 1,500 megawatt plant size. The reservoir would cover 3,450 surface acres, much of it prime agricultural bottom lands. In addition, the reservoir would inundate historic homesteads and at least one family cemetery dating back about 100 years.

Florance Daly says she and her husband didn't want to sell their ranch and cemetery for a reservoir site, but they were told their land would be condemned if they didn't. After they sold, they found out that the power consortium didn't have condemnation power after all.

FIGHTING WATER TRANSFERS

One of the first steps in the power companies' plan to acquire water is to buy Boughton Ditch water on the upper Laramie River. The consortium plans to change this water from agricultural to industrial use, send it down the Laramie River and catch it in Grayrocks Reservoir. The Boughton Ditch right amounts to about 4,000 acre-feet per year, according to Missouri Basin Power Project engineers.

In order to change the use and the point of diversion, the companies had to go before the state Board of Control.

Those protesting the transfer before the board included the Upper Laramie River Water Users, the Middle Laramie River Water Users, the Wheatland Irrigation District, the Laramie River Water Users, Inc., and the Albany County Commissioners.

At the July hearings George Wilkinson, president of the Middle Laramie Water Users, cited a Wyoming water

This difference of opinion over the availability of water is the crux of the matter.

—Pam Rich, Sierra Club

users and a 1,500 megawatt power plant. Once the plant is built, in a water-short year the ranchers and farmers would probably not have the water they need, according to the LRCC. Rather than face that situation in the future, the LRCC members are prepared to fight now.

"I think we're going to run out of water in the West before we run out of electricity," says Dodge.

To service the Laramie River Station, the power companies plan to build a dam on the Laramie River downstream from the power plant which would have a capacity of 100,000 acre-feet of water. To fill the reservoir, the consortium plans on a combination of wells, purchased upstream agricultural water rights, rights from the ag-

law which says, "The change of use, or change in place of use, may be allowed provided that the quantity of water transferred by the granting of the permit shall not . . . in any manner injure other existing lawful appropriators."

Wilkinson says injury will undoubtedly occur if the power companies use the Laramie River to move the Boughton Ditch water, because the river hasn't been carrying that much water. Injury will result from "channel damage to ranchers' ditches, diversion works, hay crops, fences (and), the inconvenience of being unable to cross the river at times . . ." he says.

The power consortium says it will not hurt the ranchers along the river because it plans to "increase the flow in

Aug. 1, 1975 — High Country News-5

the river on an average of April: 4%, May: 18%, and June: 24%." The consortium says these increases will not cause overflow problems on the Laramie.

"Our primary concern is that we want to be certain if the petition is granted, that the quantity of water and rate of diversion is equitable to all water users on the river," says George Millet of the Upper Laramie River Water Users.

The Board of Control has yet to rule on the matter. Tyler Dodge of the LRCC feels that if the consortium can't get the Boughton Ditch water, it may drop or reduce plans for the Laramie River Station.

"If we don't win this one, we'll be fighting water transfers until we have to pack up and leave," warns Clayton Rietz.

CORN CREEK CONNECTION

Not all irrigators along the Laramie are fighting the Laramie River Station. In fact, the Corn Creek Association entered into an agreement with the power firms to have 22,500 acre-feet of irrigation water stored for it in Grayrocks Reservoir.

The pact appears to be mutually beneficial. Corn Creek had an earlier filing date on the Grayrocks dam site, and the power companies needed to settle that matter. Also, by entering into a joint agricultural-industrial water project with Corn Creek, the consortium became eligible for low interest state Farm Loan Board money to fund dam construction. In return, Corn Creek got a dam built right where it wanted one in the first place, without a prohibitively-expensive capital investment.

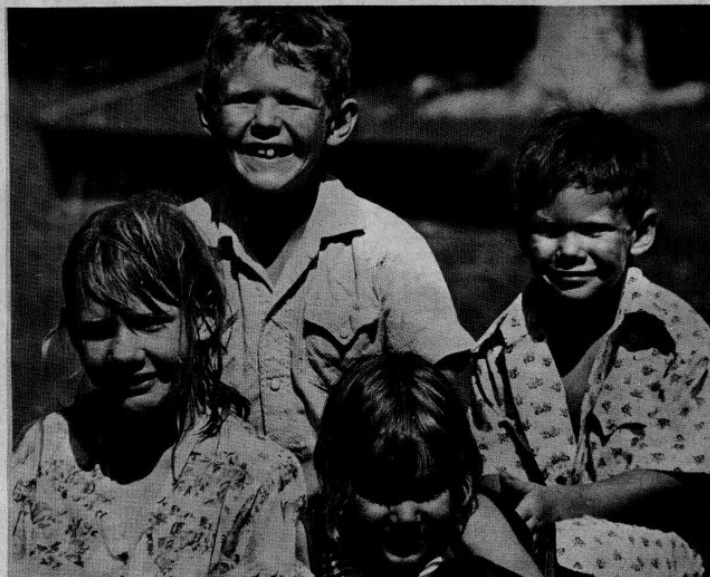
Corn Creek needed this partnership with industry, partially because the federal Bureau of Reclamation had studied the project and found "the construction and operation of this plan to be infeasible," according to the Corn Creek Unit Concluding Report, December 1974. In that report BuRec estimated Corn Creek's annual costs to be three times its annual benefits.

Corn Creek is designed to irrigate 15,000 acres of rangeland in Goshen County, Wyo. If Grayrocks Reservoir is built, Corn Creek will have no water storage problems. Irrigators will have to find the capital to pay for pumping and sprinkler irrigation systems, however. That may make the water too costly for most farmers to put on the land.

And Corn Creek can't use its water, the Laramie River Station backers may find themselves heir to 22,500 acre-feet of much needed water.

COMMUNITY SPLIT

No one seems sure how the number of supporters lines up against the number of opponents of the Laramie River Station. One thing is certain — the Missouri Basin Power



FOURTH GENERATION WHEATLAND RANCHERS. (From left) Sarah, Cory, Laray, and Jamie Rietz. The Laramie River flows through the ranch that they and their parents, Clayton and Linda, operate. The Rietzs believe that the transfer of water from Boughton Ditch to the Missouri Basin Power Project will make it difficult for them to keep on ranching.

Project ran into more opposition than was ever anticipated.

At a recent Wheatland Rural Electric Association meeting — presumably a stronghold for power plant advocates — two power plant opponents ran for the board of directors and tallied nearly one-third of the total votes in their unsuccessful attempts to unseat pro-power plant incumbents.

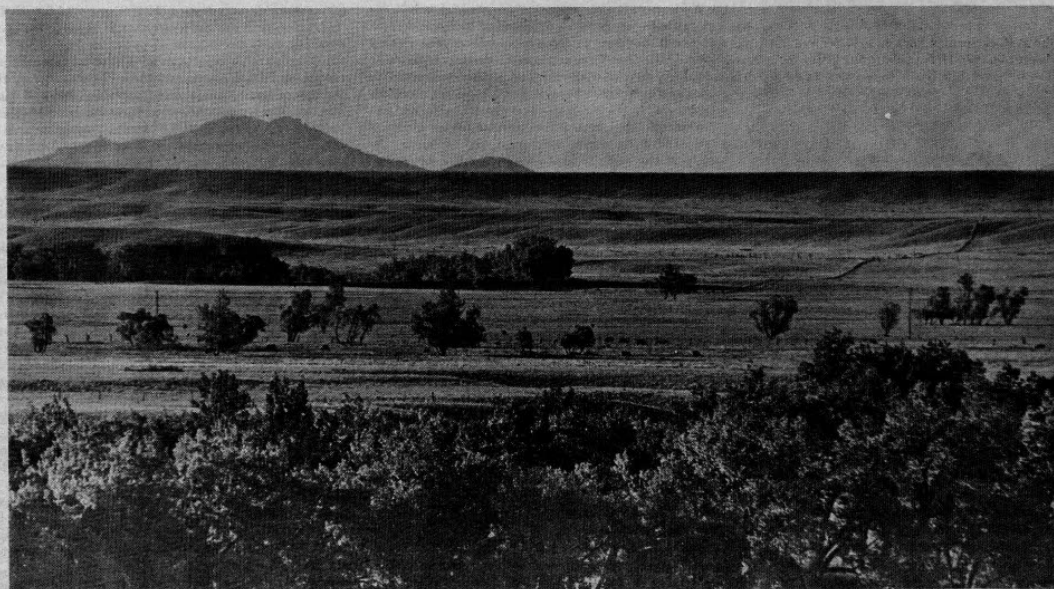
In April of this year, a local developer who is not a member of the REA circulated petitions to recall the one strong anti-power plant director on the REA board. When the recall vote on Willard (Tony) Weber came up, he was ousted by 20 votes — 187 to 167. Weber was then nominated to fill the post he had just been removed from and

lost re-election by a slim five votes — 143 to 138.

Hard feelings don't stop at the REA meeting hall doorway. For some, the daily arguments over the power plant have resulted in boycotting and isolation.

"I used to do all my Christmas shopping in Wheatland even though it was more trouble than going to Cheyenne because I felt I owed the town something," one opponent of the plant said. "But now I won't shop in many of the stores here because I feel some of the businessmen have betrayed me."

Bud Dower, a store owner and power plant booster says, "If there's one thing I feel bad about, it's in seeing the community split. I've lost more than a few friends over this." ■



CHANGES ARE AHEAD for the Laramie River Valley near Wheatland, Wyo. "Missouri Basin Power Project plans to build a 1,500 megawatt power plant nearby — a plant double the size of the Dave Johnston plant at Glenrock. Townspeople are anticipating about 2,200 construction workers at peak.

6-High Country News — Aug. 1, 1975

Organizations, schools, and Girl Scouts take groups i

Six years ago, during an early spring vacation, a friend and I took a backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon. After the first day's crowds on the canyon's rim and below on the Bright Angel trail, we were delighted to find that we had the inner canyon all to ourselves. At least we could hold that illusion since we met only one couple the second day and a family of four the next. We fancied ourselves as pioneers, or as members of Powell's party, mapping a new frontier, as we trod the desert trail, seeing only an occasional skeleton whitening in the sun.

Our illusions were shattered the fourth day when we started our ascent and encountered a "huge" camping party, their blue and green tents covering the canyon plateau. Although there were probably not more than 30 campers — all backpackers, too — I remember feeling bitterly disappointed and resentful of their intrusion into "our canyon."

A rational response? Not really, especially in a National Park. But according to attitude surveys of wilderness users, the reaction is not uncommon in the wilderness. Two-thirds of those surveyed said that "seeing a large party (a dozen or more people from a club) reduces the feeling that you're out in the wilderness." (from George H. Stankey's *Visitor Perception of Wilderness Recreation Carrying Capacity*)

Stankey went further and asked the users about their reactions to meeting ten groups of three in the wilderness, as compared to meeting one group of 30. More small groups were preferred. Consequently, he concluded that a large party has an "extraordinarily detrimental effect upon user satisfaction" — that a large party is perceived as something more than the simple sum of people in the group.

Stankey suggests three possible reasons why people might resent large groups in the wilderness: 1) they think such groups are inappropriate in a wilderness; 2) they recognize ecological damage caused by such parties; and 3) they find that such groups contribute to the feelings of crowding.

In interviews with groups using the wilderness, representatives told the HCN how they try to avoid both ecological damage and feelings of crowding. They also explained why they think it is important that they continue taking groups into the wilderness. Those interviewed included the Wilderness Society, the Girl Scouts, and the National Outdoor Leadership School. The policies adhered to by those interviewed are not necessarily the same as others of the same profession or organization, but their comments may give some indication of what could be done or should be done by others.

by Marjane Ambler

The coming of the '70s marked the turning point in wilderness use: the backcountry boom. John Hamren, recently named director of the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, Wyo., says that when the school took courses into the Wind River Mountains in 1970, they rarely saw any other people after they got five miles off the road. Now that is no longer true; the Winds are well-known. Hamren admits that NOLS, based at the foot of the Winds, is partially responsible for this boost in the reputation of the area for backpacking. But he also credits guidebooks, *National Geographic* articles, proximity to the Tetons, and the boom in climbing.

Reacting to this increased usage, Hamren says that NOLS has reduced the number of people they take into the Winds, even though NOLS enrollment overall has expanded considerably. Now NOLS courses go to less used places in the Rockies and to such remote locations as Africa, Baja California, and Alaska. "It's kind of like a farmer rotating his crops," Hamren says. "We can't burn out the Winds."

When they do go into the Winds, NOLS limits classes to about 17 students with 3 instructors. They camp in areas where no one else wants to camp — usually getting there by bushwhacking rather than by trails — and discourage bright colors to lessen the "visual pollution."

WINTER TRIPS AN ALTERNATIVE

The Wilderness Society also recognizes that times are changing — that since more people are using the wilderness, people have to use the wilderness in a way that won't impair it, according to Cliff Merritt, head of the Denver field office.

Wilderness trips have always been an integral part of

Creating friends? Or just causing trouble?



Many people think of excursions into the mountains as being opportunities for solitude and quiet talk with one or two friends around the campfire. On wilderness trips, this is especially anticipated. However, use patterns are changing, and more and more groups are using the wilderness. The opportunity for solitude is diminishing in some of the areas, and the campfire itself is becoming less acceptable there. Above, campers in Colorado.

the Wilderness Society program since the society believes that getting more people acquainted with the wilderness will result in more wilderness defenders. The Denver regional office has three employees in the trip department and takes 100 trips each year. The society contracts with guides and outfitters who must meet standards set by the society.

Horseback trips, one of the most criticized modes of group travel, have been used most extensively by the society in the past. To lessen their use, the society has broadened its program to also include walking trips with pack stock, backpacking, canoe and raft trips, and winter trips. Merritt points out that by providing skiing and snowshoeing trips, the society is offering an alternative to the more intensely used summer excursions.

To reduce the number of horses needed, and thus reduce the impact on trails and on grazing areas, the Wilderness Society pioneered in requiring outfitters to use dehydrated and freeze dried foods, according to Merritt.

"We feel that horseback trips, if appropriately conducted, are a useful and desirable means of seeing and enjoying wilderness areas," Merritt says. Horses allow some people to become acquainted with wilderness areas who might otherwise not be able to do so and who might join the ranks of the wilderness defenders. Merritt says that vegetation, fragility of the ecosystem, and topography are all taken into consideration when deciding where to take horses.

SETTING GROUP STANDARDS

Large groups of campers have the potential for a much larger impact on such factors as wildlife, sanitation, and vegetation. Yet Hamren insists that a group of four campers that doesn't follow good conservation practices will

leave more damage than a NOLS course of 20. NOLS instructors drill the students on strict conservation practices (see examples in Wilderness Conservation Code). To avoid undesirable impacts on wildlife or the natural environment, NOLS meets with the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Game and Fish. The agencies recommend certain areas to go to and others to avoid. For example, NOLS won't be using one area of the Winds during August because of mountain sheep migration and won't go into another area at all because the Forest Service says it is being overused. The Forest Service sets a man-day limit for NOLS each season, a limit that Hamren considers fair to NOLS and fair to the public.

Merritt says the Wilderness Society tries to make sure that good conservation practices are followed on its trips by setting high standards for guides or outfitters and then by sending a conservation director on most trips. The conservation director informally teaches the participants about the natural features of the area and their ecological relationships, as well as about health and safety practices and how to use the wilderness. "Our trips adhere to strict standards — we want to set an example," Merritt says.

The Wilderness Society has its own printed guide to proper wilderness use, but it is filled largely with health and safety tips, including what clothing to bring and what to do when lost. It includes a few tips designed to protect the health of the wilderness resource, such as how to tie horses, not to cut across trail switchbacks, instructions to carry out litter and use detergents far from water. However, the guide is 10 years old and shows it. For example, the guide says, "To reduce cutting, leave tent poles for the next camper." Cutting poles at all is generally unacceptable now.

Merritt says the society is now in the process of updating the guide and will be following much of the code

into wilderness

suggested by former seasonal Forest Service ranger Floyd Wilson. Wilson founded an enterprise called the Wilderness Education Foundation (see HCN July 18, 1975), and his code is very strict.

THE SCOUTS CHANGE, TOO

Talking to rangers can give one the impression that Scouting groups have been guilty of more damage to wilderness resources than other groups of the same size. One ranger said that if he had his choice, he would exclude Boy Scouts from the wilderness. Another said she dreads their coming, especially when they offer volunteer help.

The problem apparently has been a philosophy of conquering and manipulating the environment rather than living with it, but this orientation is changing, at least at the top. A recent article in *Backpacker* on the revised Scout Handbook reported that Boy Scouts are "burying the hatchet" and learning skills that destroy less.

"It used to be that lashing elaborate camp sites and building fires was not that hazardous to the environment because there were not very many people going into the wilderness. . . .," Lorna Wilkes, field executive for the Wyoming Girl Scout Council, says.

"The objectives of camping for Boy Scouts were in the past more skill-oriented with more emphasis on competition than they were for the Girl Scouts," she says, although she's not sure that is true now. Although Girl Scouts always included camp skills in their program, there was always more of an emphasis on appreciation of the out-of-doors, according to Wilkes.

Policies have changed with the changing times. Once

Girl Scouts advocated trenching around tents, digging grease pits to pour liquid waste into, using pine boughs under sleeping bags, and burying garbage. Now they encourage using backpacking stoves instead of fires, greasepits only in established camps, and packing all garbage out.

To assure that individual groups of girls are aware of the new policies, leader training sessions are mandatory before taking groups out, according to Wilkes. The Scouts also work closely with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management on educating the girls.

"The objectives of Girl Scout camping are to develop each individual's understanding of the environment, which will lead to responsible action. It's to provide an inner satisfaction, a sense of awe and wonder, and a deep enjoyment for both girl and leader," Wilkes says.

GROUPS STILL SPOIL SOLITUDE

No matter what steps a particular group takes to lessen its ecological impact or to avoid feelings of crowding, there will always be some degree of resentment. Part of this resentment will be from those who have seen other outdoor schools or clubs or organizations that are less conscientious. There will be bothers, as Stankey points out, who believe that large groups are inappropriate in the wilderness, who scorn those who go to the wilderness for a "social experience" when they perceive its purpose as being an opportunity for solitude.

Others explain their resentment stems from the knowledge that these groups are encouraging use of the wilderness resource. NOLS Director Hamren reacts to this



Aug. 1, 1975 — High Country News-7

criticism: "The only way we can rationalize going into the wilderness is that we're an educational institution—that we're teaching people how to conserve the out-of-doors and protect the environment. We're all dedicated to it. I couldn't work for NOLS if it were a guide outfit. . . ." he says.

"The answer to preventing overuse of the wilderness is not limiting the numbers of people going in—that only slows the destruction. . . . We want to teach people how to use it so the damage never occurs," Hamren says.

No matter how strict its conservation practices, critics insist that NOLS is naive to claim that damage never occurs.

NOLS does not engage in political activity, such as testifying for wilderness designation, and many wilderness advocates criticize them for that. Hamren explains, "We don't feel like that's our job—we're not that big. . . . We have an affinity for the groups that do, and they do their job well," he says.

Most groups that encourage use of the wilderness can prove that they are, at the same time, making friends for the wilderness: both friends who will treat it with respect when they visit and friends who will help fight to expand it.

What is the cost? Are the solitude-seekers willing to make the trade-off? Stankey's statistics indicate that the level of tolerance seems to increase as the usage increases. Significantly, however, he theorizes that the intolerant don't change their attitudes, they instead seek less congested areas, such as Alaska or Canada. But those frontiers, too, may be invaded.

Wilderness Conservation Code

(Editors' note: The following conservation practices are excerpted from several sources. Some may seem extreme. They are, but the condition of some overly used wildernesses demands radical changes in use. The individual must use his or her own judgment, keeping in mind the cumulative impact that may occur—not just what they cause.)

WHERE TO CAMP

A. **Well below timberline.** Our tundra areas are too fragile to serve as campgrounds. There are few areas in the West where more than an hour is lost by walking from a camp in the heavier timber to the high alpine areas.

This is especially so where horsemen are concerned. Horses should never be picketed or tethered in the timberline areas. The acres of alpine trees destroyed by tethered horses around the high lakes in the Rawah Wilderness is evidence enough for this statement.

(from: "A code of conduct for those who visit wilderness" by Floyd Wilson)

B. **Proximity to water.** Select the location so that you will have a choice of several routes to the water hole. Alternate them to avoid any visible evidence. If you leave a beaten path, you are in the wrong location or have stayed too long.

(from: Wilson code)

C. **Not beauty spots:** There should be no camping in beauty spots, in lush meadows, or at the edge of lakes or streams. These areas are most fragile and susceptible to damage.

(from: "NOLS Conservation Practices," National Outdoor Leadership School)

FOOD WASTES AND FISH VISCERA

A. Leftover food is burned in a hot fire.

B. Water waste (i.e., dishwater or too much water from macaroni) is poured along the perimeter of the fire. This helps prevent damage to nearby grass and plants.

C. Dishes are washed well away from streams and lakes, so that unsightly food particles are not left in beauty spots.

D. Fish viscera are burned in the campfire to avoid attracting flies.

E. Individuals catching fish where no fire is available should carry the viscera in plastic bags to the next fire area.

F. When cooking with stoves, waste water is disposed of in a sump hole. Any leftover food is eaten by others, carried out of the wilderness, or carried to the next fire where it can be burned.

(from: NOLS)

HUMAN WASTE

A. Latrines are located on hillsides away from rivers, lakes, and marshy areas, so that decayed human waste will be filtered through soil and sand.

B. Latrines are dug twelve to eighteen inches deep. This depth allows the waste to be covered thoroughly and also prevents fouling the air. This is an appropriate depth to allow maximum bacterial action. Below eighteen inches, there may not be enough bacteria to decompose the waste.

C. Even while on the trail, urination must be taken care of well away from water for good filtration.

D. Toilet paper is burned; whenever possible snow or other natural toilet paper is used. Good substitutes include: damp Douglas fir cones, witch's broom, wet moss, and skunk cabbage leaves, to name a few.

(from: NOLS)

SOLITUDE

The true wilderness enthusiast expects to find a basic quality in all areas he may visit: solitude. This means different things to different people, but mainly it means freedom from the intrusion of unnatural sights, sounds, and odors.

Respect the solitude by avoiding boisterous conduct and loud noises which are disruptive to others. The discharge of firearms is discouraged except in hunting season. (The possession or use of firearms is prohibited in National Parks.) The use of motors or motorized vehicles of any sort is expressly forbidden in all areas of the National Wilderness Preservation System and in National Forest Primitive Areas.

(from: U.S. Forest Service)

OFF TRAIL CONDUCT

Do not travel in single file. Wander in an aimless fashion over the tundra and through the trees. Walking one behind the other, or riding nose to tail, is responsible for the myriad trails, and erosional gullies seen in so many of our mountains.

(from: Wilson code)

FIRE

A. **Fire pit method:** Dig up sod to mineral soil. The fire is built inside this pit. Replace sod and thoroughly landscape area after sticks and ashes have been completely burned down and doused.

B. **Fire on flat rock method:** Spread several inches of mineral soil on a flat rock. The fire is built on this area

(Continued on page 10)

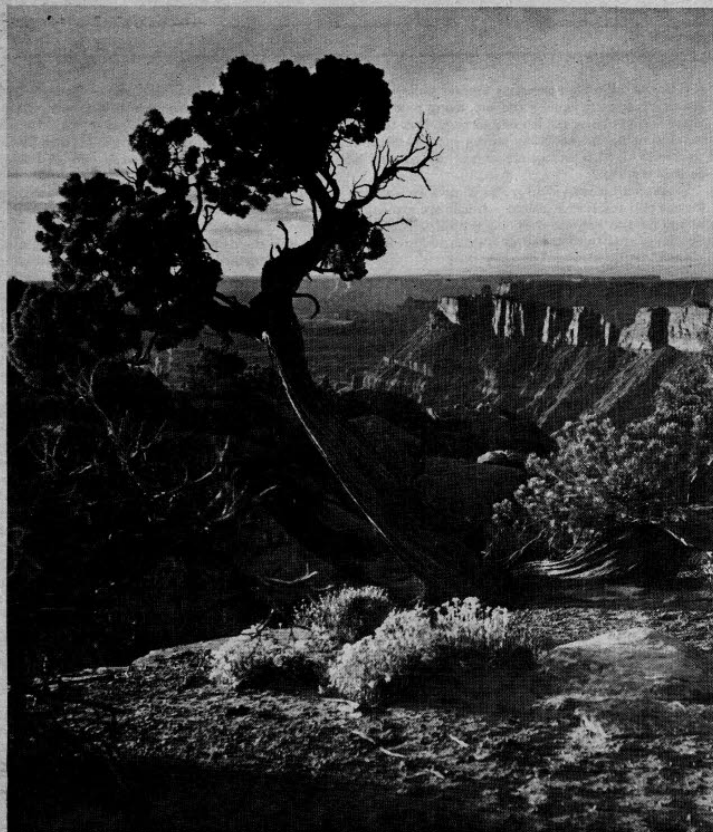


The existence or absence of certain species of wildflowers can be an indication of how much use a wilderness area is being subjected to. Careful camping techniques can help protect the flowers.

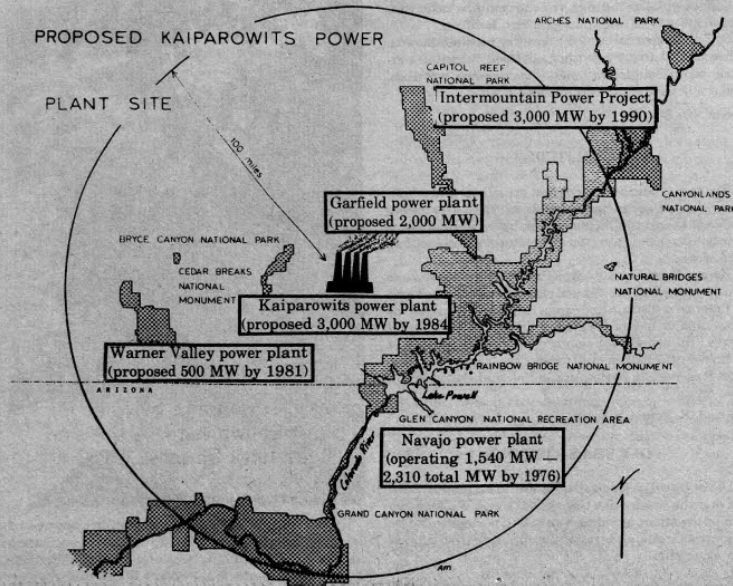
Photo by Charlie Smith

8-High Country News — Aug. 1, 1978

Photo by Jack McLellan



PARKS AND POWER. One-fifth of our National Park lands are in the Colorado plateau region of the Southwest. By 1990, the region may also be providing the nation with 25,000 megawatts of coal-fired generating capacity. The photo above shows a view from Needles overlook in Canyonlands National Park.



Kaiparowits comes before the people

by Jack McLellan

"The Kaiparowits coal-fired power plant will be delayed again," ruled the Interior Department this spring. "But we will proceed toward approval with all possible haste."

This most recent delay was caused by the need for rerouting power lines, according to the Interior Department. Utah's Senator Jake Garn attributed it to the department's being "so damn afraid they are going to be sued" by environmental groups.

Garn's pointed statement pretty well sums up the battle lines being drawn: politicians and developers on one side of the billion dollar project and environmentalists on the other. Many people in the Southern Utah communities are for the huge plant, in the belief that they will be good for the area — increased taxes and more jobs. But a rapidly growing number of the residents are beginning to have second thoughts. Ranchers in the coal mine areas are asking for help from environmentalists. Some local politicians are beginning to realize the problems they will be facing when community populations grow up to 10 times faster than they are growing today, and new cities of 15,000 to 20,000 people are built.

I got them standin' in a quagmire,
Workin' up a perspire,
'Fraid I'm gonna expire,
Coal-fired power plant blues. . .

Within and adjacent to the Colorado Plateau is some of the most fantastic and fragile land in the United States. Within a 250-mile radius are eight National Parks, 26 National Monuments, three National Recreation Areas, two National Historic Sites, and one National Memorial — one-fifth of the total National Park Service acreage.

The area also contains three Bureau of Land Management primitive areas, and several National Forests, state parks, Indian reservations and sacred areas, and de facto wilderness such as Escalante Canyon.

Also on this plateau are seven coal-fired power plants — with many more to come. Current plants are capable of producing about 6,000 megawatts of electrical generating capacity. According to utility plans, by 1990 14 power complexes, capable of generating almost 25,000 megawatts, will be operating in the Southwest.

Some of these plants, including Kaiparowits, will be as large as 3,000 megawatts. That is half again as large as New Mexico's Four Corners plant.

Each of Kaiparowits' four planned units will be about the size of the entire four-unit Dave Johnston complex in Wyoming.

AN END TO CLEAR SKIES

If you have good, clear-air photographs of Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, Arches, Canyonlands National Parks and other scenic areas on the Colorado Plateau, better save them. They may be valuable some day.

In the Southwest, views grow more hazy each day with pollution from the Navajo, Four Corners, and Mojave plants. As each huge new plant is built, even utilizing the "best technologically available pollution control devices," millions of tons of fly ash, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, mercury, radioactive elements, and other trace elements will be spewed into the air as waste products from the burning coal.

A preliminary Environmental Impact Statement on Kaiparowits made the following statement on air pollution effects:

"By far the most severe impact in the study area and conceivably to the entire region is the visual pollution created by smoke and other airborne particulates emitted from the plant. In spite of the great effort put forth at the



Aug. 1, 1975 — High Country News-9

Photo by Jack McLellan

VISTAS CLOUDED. Visual pollution created by smokestack emissions will be "by far the most severe impact in the study area," says a preliminary report put out by the Department of Interior on the Kaiparowits power plant. Since the plant will be on public land, it is subject to Interior Department approval. The final decision is expected to come in January of 1976. A draft environmental impact statement on the project is being circulated for public comment this summer.

The photo above, taken from Yovimpa Point in Bryce National Park, shows (from left) the proposed Kaiparowits site the existing site of the Navajo plant.

Navajo plant to reduce these emissions, there is a definite plume or dark cloud drifting on a horizontal plane for many miles from just the one generator unit. When the two remaining units at the Navajo plant are operational, a permanent haze could be created which would significantly reduce visibility and have a devastating effect on the sky-landscape relationship as well as obscuring many of the geologic formations which are important for the total scene of this area.

"If this visual pollution consistently drifts into the nationally and internationally important scenic areas such as Grand Canyon, Rainbow Bridge, Lake Powell, Zion Canyon, Bryce, Arches, Canyonlands, etc., the effect on the panoramic viewing values could be catastrophic. . . . There is enough evidence from the one unit operating at the Navajo plant and the units operating at the Four Corners plants to cast grave doubts on the capability of clearing up the emissions to a point where they will not have a serious adverse visual effect."

DEVELOPERS' POSITION

The developers' position is simply that this area is the easiest and cheapest place to build a plant. And their

reasoning is logical. More than enough cheap coal is present. Water, although scarce, is inexpensively available. Land is incredibly cheap, thanks to the open hearts of state and federal officials. Utah has no plant siting laws or land use planning laws (other than ineffective county ones), and the Utah air quality people are very quiet about degradation of clean air areas and possible health effects.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS' POSITION

The environmentalists' position is that energy use must be reduced, cutting down on the size and number of plants required. Truly needed plants must be built near the area of energy consumption, and meet the stringent pollution controls set in those areas. No urban area should be allowed to have cheap electricity at the expense of polluting the air and endangering the health of people in the less-populated areas of the Southwest.

No coal-fired power plants should be built anywhere near national parks and monuments, or any other scenic, historical, or sacred site. In addition to air pollution, "human overgrazing" will result from the influx of outsiders, environmentalists insist.

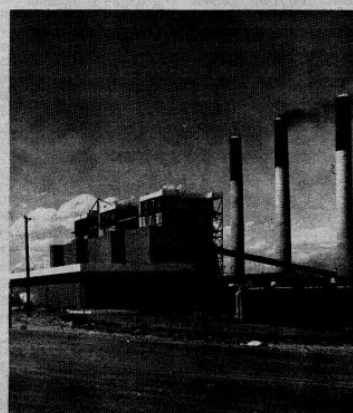


Photo by Jack McLellan

LARGEST. The proposed Kaiparowits plant would be the largest power facility ever built in this country. It would be twice as big as the plant shown here — the Jim Bridger near Rock Springs, Wyo.

Jack McLellan, a High Country News correspondent in Utah, was chairman of the Sierra Club's Southwest Regional Conservation Committee and is now vice-chairman of the Uinta Chapter of the Sierra Club. McLellan is a professional photographer and executive director of the Utah Nurses' Association.

10-High Country News — Aug. 1, 1975

Illness forces Hathaway to resign from post

In the midst of one of the most crucial times in the history of public land administration, the Interior Department is without a leader. Secretary Stanley K. Hathaway resigned July 25 after hospitalization due to depression. He had been in office 32 days.

Nominated for the post April 5, when former Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton shifted to the Commerce Department, Hathaway spent a grueling 67 days seeking Senate confirmation. He was sworn in as Interior Secretary June 12.

The reasons for the former Wyoming governor's sudden illness are unclear. He endured harsh criticism at Senate confirmation hearings. He also encountered resistance in the department and the administration in his first days on the job.

"My doctors estimate that it would be two to three months before I could resume work. Considering the time involved and the uncertainties about the time required for recovery, it is in the best interest of the nation that I step aside in order that action can start toward nomination and confirmation of a new secretary," Hathaway said.

About a week earlier, President Gerald Ford had rejected Hathaway's verbal offer to resign. Ford told him to "go off and take care of yourself," according to an Administration source. Hathaway was hospitalized July 15 for what doctors called "depression brought about by physical exhaustion."

The Idaho Statesman reported that Hathaway aides said that when Hathaway first entered the hospital, the Interior Department was in "complete chaos" over the handling of the secretary's problems and deciding who will run the department during his absence.

Both the positions of secretary and undersecretary are now vacant. Filling the void is Interior's number three man, Kent Frizzell. Frizzell has been solicitor general in the department since 1972 and has served as acting secretary on several other occasions.

He is reported to be one of the men Ford will consider for nomination as official secretary of the Interior. Prior to his job at the Interior Department, Frizzell served as assistant attorney general for land and natural resources at the Department of Justice.

Others whose names have been mentioned for the job include: Harrison Loesch, the Senate Interior Committee's minority counsel, and William S. Banowsky, a former supporter of Ronald Reagan and president of Pepperdine University in California. Utah Gov. Calvin Rampton has suggested Mitchell Melich, a Salt Lake City attorney. Melich ran against Rampton in the 1974 gubernatorial race and is a former solicitor for the Department of Interior.

Two former officeholders in Colorado have also been mentioned, Sen. Gordon Allott and Gov. John D. Vanderhoof.

Expressions of sympathy for Hathaway filled the pages of the Wyoming newspapers. The Casper Star-Tribune said that environmental groups "harried the man unmercifully and unfairly, basing their attack on their extremist interpretation of his record as two-term governor of Wyoming."

Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler called it a "sad day for the country." "I know what he's gone through, and I think it's a tragic day when leaders of our government are subjected to harassment as he was during Senate hearings on his nomination," Herschler said.

The Deseret News, published in Salt Lake City, speculated that, "Hathaway's unhappy experience could easily deter able Americans from accepting positions on which feelings run as deep as they so often do regarding the job at Interior."

The Deseret News said that the resignation was a particular disappointment to Utah "because of the big role Governor Rampton played in winning support for Hathaway among the nation's governors and because of the setback the resignation inevitably deals to the much-delayed Kaiparowits project (a 3,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant, see HCN p. 8)."

During the Senate confirmation battle, environmentalists testified that, as governor, Hathaway had favored industry over environmental concerns. At one point after an Environmental Defense Fund presentation, Senate Interior Committee Democrats forced Hathaway to concede that a statement he had issued praising his en-

vironmental record was not completely balanced or accurate.

Interior department officials have speculated that Hathaway's recent collisions with conservative western Republicans might have also been at the root of his health problems. Hathaway chose William W. Lyons, a deputy undersecretary under Morton, as his number two man. The White House preferred a conservative Republican from the outside, William S. Banowsky, according to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

The Casper Star-Tribune reported that Hathaway was also having trouble with his six assistant secretaries. "Each of them, before Hathaway, had made all decisions,

and wanted to continue," the Wyoming newspaper said.

Hathaway supporter Sen. Cliff Hansen (R-Wyo.) said "the principle reason for the failure of his health and his subsequent resignation has to be the near impossible task he assigned himself in trying too quickly to become fully knowledgeable in the many areas for which he had responsibility as Secretary."

An Interior official called it "inexperience. Hathaway is very intense, but he kept it bottled up inside him. He was still smarting from the grilling they gave him during the confirmation fight, . . . and then came all these internal conflicts," according to the New York Times.

Colstrip hearings halted — momentarily

After six weeks of power company testimony, a Montana district judge ruled July 25 to halt hearings on two proposed Colstrip power plant units. A day later, the Montana Supreme Court reversed the district court order, and the hearings were expected to proceed as scheduled.

Opponents of the power plant expansion went to the district court after they had failed in an attempt to make the Board of Health stop the hearings. Opponents said that the utilities, which had completed their testimony, had failed to demonstrate to the board that they would not pollute the air and water. The board decided not to rule on the dismissal until they examine a hearing transcript, which won't be available for at least a week.

The Board of Health hearing is to determine whether the proposed units can meet state and federal air and

water quality standards. Compliance is required under a state industrial facility siting law.

Both the state Board of Health and the Board of Natural Resources must approve the plant before construction can begin.

The "writ of prohibition," issued by the district court and negated by the higher court decision, came at the request of the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Health, the Northern Plains Resource Council, and the Northern Cheyenne tribe.

Montana Power Company, Puget Sound Power & Light, Portland General Electric, Pacific Power and Light Company, and Washington Water Power have applied for permission to construct the two new coal-fired units.

Wilderness Conservation Code . . .

(Continued from page 7)

USE OF SOAP

and prevents the rock from being scarred. After the fire is doused completely, the ashes and mud are buried or scattered.

C. Fires are built far enough from trees that the branches and/or root systems are not damaged.

D. Firewood is taken first from loose branches and sticks on the ground, and only secondly from downed trees. No limbs or branches are taken from living trees, in order to keep a naturally appearing campsite and to avoid damage to the tree. No wood is taken from dead, standing trees, as the resulting scars on beautiful, old snags would be unsightly for other wilderness users. In over-used areas, one can often see that all branches within an arm's length have been removed. This gives an unnatural appearance.

E. Axes and saws are not used on trees.

F. Fires are always attended.

G. Fires are for cooking only, not for warming or social purposes. They are, therefore, kept small.

H. Stoves are used where wood is scarce. Wood is not used for fires in areas where replenishment is slow or non-existent.

I. Fires against reflector rocks should be avoided. This will cause exfoliation and permanent scarring. Fires are not rimmed with rocks.

J. Outdoorsmen must be able to recognize litter, duff, and mineral soil, in order to develop the judgment to place fires with the minimum of fire danger.

K. A special effort should be made to disperse any partially burned wood from the fire area. All unburned wood is scattered, not left in piles.

(from: NOLS)

PACK IT OUT

Cans, bottles, metal foil, and other refuse must be packed out. Do not bury your trash. Paper and other burnable material should be burned. Don't litter the trail. Put gum and candy wrappers and other similar material in your pocket while traveling. Everyone could help maintain a litter-free wilderness if they will pick up trash which may have been thoughtlessly discarded by others.

(from: U.S. Forest Service)

Also pack out or burn soiled tampons and disposable diapers, which are becoming a big litter problem.

A. Soap must not be used in lakes and streams. Clothes can be efficiently cleaned away from lakes and streams in cooking cans or pots.

B. Personal bathing can be accomplished by jumping into water, lathering on shore far away from water, rinsing off completely by pouring cans of water over body, and finally diving in one last time. This allows the soap to be filtered by the soil and to biodegrade quickly.

C. Dishes and pots are not cleaned near water.

D. Biodegradable soap should be used whenever soap is needed.

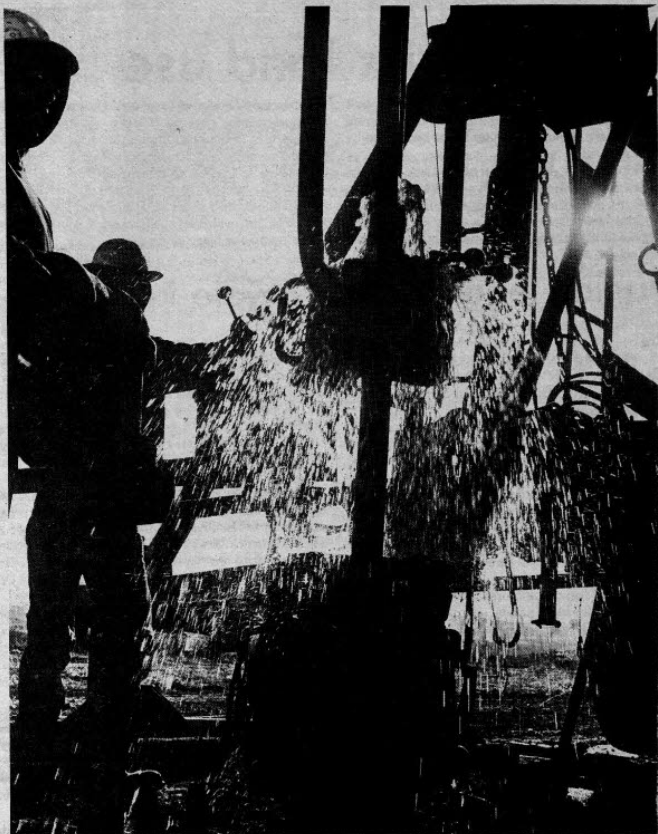
(from: NOLS)



NO MORE DISCOUNTS FOR BIG USERS. Pacific Power and Light Company officials in Casper, Wyo., have declared an end to promotional discounts for power users. Traditionally, customers using more power paid less per kilowatt hour. Now customers will pay for what they use "without any inducements to use more," says Bob Moench, Wyoming division manager. The company filed a request July 16 with the Wyoming Public Service Commission for "electric rate consolidation and simplifications." Moench estimated that for 73% of PP&L's customers the proposal would mean either no change or a reduction in their annual bill. With the economic situation utilities are facing, Moench says, "it just doesn't make sense to promote the use of electrical energy."

COLORADO ENERGY COUNCIL. Gov. Dick Lamm has formed an Energy Policy Council to advise him on energy development in northwestern Colorado. He made that announcement at a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association. Lamm said after the meeting

Aug. 1, 1975 — High Country News-11



CLEAN-UP NOT THAT COSTLY. Despite industry claims to the contrary, the cost of cleaning up the nation's oil refineries to meet federal clean air and water standards would have a small impact on consumer prices, according to a study by the Council on Economic Priorities. The council studies pollution clean-up costs for 61 refineries for major companies. Assuming that the consumer bears most of the clean-up costs, the council concludes that the price of refined petroleum products would have to be increased an average of one-third of one cent per gallon. It contends that the costs of implementing air and water pollution controls in refineries are reasonable compared with estimated spending programs of the industry between 1974 and 1983, according to the ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS story. Defending oil industry profits, the council says the pollution costs should largely be paid by consumers since the return on investment for refinery stockholders was only 10-11% during the past decade.

Photo of oil well with water gushing by Jeff Clack.

Emphasis ENERGY

in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains

that it "would benefit the state of Colorado to start as soon as possible on a limited basis (to develop oil shale). . . . The existence of the energy policy committee is a means to expedite our decision-making process."

COAL LIQUEFACTION. A group called the Coal Operators is planning a coal liquefaction plant for Carbon County, Mont., near Red Lodge. To fuel the plant, the company is proposing to re-open underground mining operations at Bearcreek which have lain dormant for 27 years. The company made a presentation before Lt. Gov. Bill Christiansen's Montana Energy Advisory Council in June, but Christiansen said the plans were only preliminary in nature. "I am certain it will be several years before Carbon County sees major activity of the sort proposed."

ULTIMATE DUMP AT N.M. The U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) has selected a site in New Mexico for a pilot program which may lead to

a permanent repository for nuclear waste, according to the Idaho Statesman. About \$1 million has been budgeted this year for the pilot program to start putting the waste in bedded salt deposits.

WYOMING WANTS MORE ROYALTIES. The two Wyoming senators, Cliff Hansen (R) and Gale McGee (D), have proposed an amendment to raise mineral royalty payments on public lands. The proposal is to raise the payments from 37.5% to 60%. The senators added it to both the Coastal Zone Management Act and to a mineral leasing bill. The amendment says that the additional money will be used as state legislatures dictate with priority going to areas of the state which are hit with impact as the result of mineral development. McGee pointed out that the intent (to help impacted communities) is the same as a section of the vetoed strip mining bill.

The Hot Line

energy news from across the country

BAGGE LIKES SLURRIES. Carl E. Bagge, president of the National Coal Association, testified in favor of coal slurry pipelines before the House Interior Committee. "One of coal's major competitive disadvantages over the years has been the availability of pipelining technology to its major competitors, natural gas and oil," he said. He urged giving slurry pipelines the power to exercise eminent domain to "insure that such pipelines can be built where economics and technology as well as other factors indicate that they should be built. . . . Without eminent domain, any coal slurry pipeline is at the mercy of a single or a small group of landowners."

ENERGY MOBILIZATION OPPOSED. Critics ranging from Standard Oil to the Sierra Club spoke before the Subcommittee on Energy Research and Water Resources July 14. The speakers opposed establishing a National Energy Mobilization Board to assure the development of domestic energy resources. Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) is sponsoring the bill (S 740). The Sierra Club opposed the bill, saying it would circumvent both the National Environmental Policy Act and Coastal Zone Management Act. The Standard Oil board chairman opposed the government intervention. Jackson said the bill is "imperative to accelerate domestic energy development." He stressed the importance of "a single, specialized mission-oriented action agency empowered to prepare and carry out programs," according to Conservation Report.

CONTROLS DON'T COST MUCH. Environmental requirements were responsible for no more than five per cent of the electricity rate increases during 1974, according to a recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency. During the same year, an average consumer's costs for electricity rose an unprecedented 30% on a per kilowatt hour basis. Higher fossil fuel prices accounted for 60% of the rate increases. EPA Administrator Russell E. Train noted that the "rate increase attributable to environmental regulations may increase over the next five years as the utilities phase in capital expenditures for pollution control."

ENERGY PRIORITIES "TRAGIC." Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) says it is "tragic" that the federal government has virtually neglected development of solar energy while pouring billions of dollars into nuclear research and development. Nelson says that by 1973 the federal government had spent more than \$5 billion on nuclear development, and private industry even more. But the total federal investment in solar energy by that time was only about \$1 million, with less being spent by small businesses, he said.

LOW COST DESULFURIZATION. Battelle Laboratories has developed a new process to remove sulfur from coal before combustion and has said it can remove sulfur at least 20% more cheaply than any alternate means for producing coal that meets federal emission standards. The process involves heating a water slurry of coal and a chemical leaching agent. The process is now ready for the pilot plant stage, and Battelle is trying to attract sponsors from electric utilities and industrial consumers. Government energy officials are treating the claims with caution.

POLLUTION CONTROL COSTS. The cost of a gallon of refined petroleum will rise less than a third of a penny when refineries institute the pollution control necessary to meet government standards. **Cleaning Up**, a study released by the Council on Economic Priorities, analyzes this dollar impact on eight major oil companies and indicates that if these additional costs are shared by consumers (75%) and the companies (25%), the probable overall reduction in profits will range from a low of 0.1% for Exxon to a high of over 1.0% for Gulf. The petroleum industry is among the hardest hit by the Clean Air Act of 1970 and the Federal Water Quality Act Amendments of 1972 because the industry's pollution potential is so great. It has the fourth most expensive clean-up job to bring existing facilities up to standards, and most of the clean up will be at refineries.

12-High Country News — Aug. 1, 1975

House Interior committee kills land use bill

Environmentalists suffered a major defeat in the Congress July 15 when the House Interior Committee voted 23-19 against the federal land use bill. There is virtually no chance for land use legislation until the next Congress, according to the National Wildlife Federation's **Conservation Report**.

Two Rocky Mountain region legislators were among the three swing votes credited with the bill's defeat, Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.) and Rep. Allan T. Howe (D-Utah). Howe sympathized with supporters of the bill on an earlier vote. His constituents, however, rejected state land use legislation by a two-to-one margin in a November referendum. Melcher, who is chairman of the House Public Lands Subcommittee, opposed the section on public lands. Melcher also objected to the large amount of federal money that would be available in grants.

The bill would have provided for 75% federal, 25% state matching funding. Funding was the only sanction provided for federal control over state planning.

Rep. Roy Taylor (D-N.C.), the third swing vote on the defeat, said the lobbying pressure was greater than any he has seen during 15 years in Congress. He called on citizen groups and press organizations that favor the bill to begin a campaign to educate the public and end what he called "misunderstandings" about land use legislation, according to **Conservation Report**.

Voting in favor of reporting the bill favorably were: Rep. Benitez (P.R.), Bingham (N.Y.), Burton (Calif.), Carr (Mich.), de Lugo (V.I.), Eckhard (Tex.), Kastenmeier (Wis.), Meads (Wash.), Miller (Calif.), Mink (Hawaii), Roncalio (Wyo.), Santini (Nev.), Seiberling (Ohio), Steelman (Tex.), Tsongas (Mass.), Udall (Ariz.), Vigorito (Pa.), Weaver (Ore.), and Won Pat (Guam).

Voting against sending the bill to the House were: Reps. Bauman (Md.), Byron (Md.), Clausen (Calif.), Howe (Utah), Johnson (Calif.), Johnson (Colo.), Kazen (Tex.), Lagomarsino (Calif.), Lujan (N.M.), Melcher (Mont.), Patman (Tex.), Pettis (Calif.), Risenhoover (Okla.), Runnels (N.M.), Ruppe (Mich.), Sebelius (Kans.), Skubitz (Kans.), Smith (Nebr.), Steiger (Ariz.), Stephens (Ga.), Symms (Idaho), Taylor (N.C.) and Young (Alaska). Rep. Haley (Fla.) voted "present."

Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), who sponsored the bill,

said as a result of its defeat, "planning decisions will continue to be made by developers in search of a buck and mindless of the environmental hazards," according to the Associated Press.

Two possibilities for getting federal land use action are being discussed. Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), sponsor of the Senate land use bill, has said he will block energy siting legislation unless it is part of a comprehensive land use planning bill. Administration energy facilities siting

legislation is a part of President Gerald Ford's proposed comprehensive energy program. Consequently, some supporters of land use legislation hope the House may pass an energy facilities siting bill with a land use rider, according to **Land Use Planning Reports**.

Another possibility is broadening land use controls under the Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) says he may now try to do.

Cyanide legalized for coyote kills

July 18 President Gerald Ford partially lifted a ban on the use of predator poisons on public lands.

The president's order allows the Interior Department to carry out an "emergency" attack on coyotes with sodium cyanide for one year. The order does not permit the use of any other poisons.

The move, considered a concession to sheepmen, amends an executive order issued by President Richard Nixon in 1972 banning the use of any poisons on federal lands. "Secondary" effects — the killing of non-target animals who feed on poisoned bait — were a major reason for the original ban. Sodium cyanide gas is not considered to have many secondary effects because it dissipates rapidly and leaves little residue. Other poisons, such as 1080 and strychnine, are considered to pose more secondary poisoning danger.

Sodium cyanide gas is generally used in an M-44 spring-loaded device which can be adjusted so that smaller animals cannot trigger it. The device is released when a coyote tugs on a scented wick.

"It's true that occasionally a hunting dog will get the poison, but that would be rare under the strictly controlled use proposed by Utah stockmen," said David R. Waldron, deputy commissioner of the Utah Department of Agriculture.

John Spinks of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said that preliminary tests show that coyotes comprise 78% of all animals killed by the devices. The devices have been used on an experimental basis in six western states this year.

"Sodium cyanide isn't enough," says Jessie Baker, executive secretary of the Wyoming Woolgrowers Association. Baker feels that nothing less than the use of 1080 poison on public lands will bring sheepmen's losses to an acceptable level.

"In my opinion, it's a total sellout to those groups which would much rather have coyotes running around than cattle and sheep and deer herds," said Sen. Jake Garn

(R-Utah).

On the other side, Thomas L. Kimball, executive vice-president of the National Wildlife Federation, questions the need for any relaxation of the predator poison ban now, because "the Department of Agriculture presently is considering a study on predators, their impact on the sheep industry, and possible types of control." Kimball says his group supports the use of "target-selective controls if used only in cases of proven need and administered by trained government professionals."

The Interior Department will hire 140 to 200 federal agents to assist ranchers in the experimental program, according to the President's order. That will cost about \$2.5 million in fiscal 1976.

A permit to use cyanide against predators on public lands will require approval of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The order will only affect the use of poisons on federal lands, where about one-third of U.S. flocks graze. A recent court ruling made the use of predator poisons on private lands possible — at least temporarily — by rescinding an EPA ban on shipments of poisons in interstate commerce (see HCN July 18, 1975, p.13).

EPA cyanide hearing

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced that it will hold public hearings on a proposal which would allow expanded use of sodium cyanide predator poison.

The hearing will be Aug. 12-15 at the Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Washington, D.C.

On March 9, 1972 EPA cancelled the registration of sodium cyanide, strychnine, and 1080 poison, an action which banned those substances from interstate commerce. Now EPA will consider a proposal from the Fish and Wildlife Service to re-register sodium cyanide for use in M44 capsules.

To testify or submit written statements, write Hearing Clerk, Attention: Sonia G. Anderson, Room E-1019, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.



BULLETIN BOARD

LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

There is a young singer named Collar Quits
Who belts out the song of Kaiparowits.
Parks and pollution
And not a solution,
A bleak blues song, it scares out your wits.

WILDERNESS COURSE

A 17 unit wilderness studies program will be offered at the University of Montana School of Forestry in the fall quarter this year. The program, "Wilderness and Civilization," will focus on understanding wild land in itself and in relation to contemporary society. The program will begin with a two-week wilderness trek. A schedule of classes, lectures, workshops, and field trips will follow. Academic credits will be awarded in the fields of forestry, English, and philosophy. For information write, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula, Mont. 59801.

SEE BATTLEFIELDS

Friends of the Earth is offering group trips to a number of conservation battlefields this summer: the Rogue River of Oregon (Aug. 25-29), the Green and Colorado Rivers in Canyonlands National Park (Sept. 9-13), the Grand Canyon of the Colorado (Sept. 16-27), Hells Canyon of the Snake River (Sept. 25-30). Write to Journeys With FOE, Friends of the Earth, 529 Commercial, San Francisco, Calif. 94111.

IDAHO JOB

The Idaho Conservation League is looking for a person familiar with Idaho issues, to help coordinate a statewide energy education program this fall. Eight workshops in eight towns are planned. The effort will be funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Write ICL, Box 844, Boise, Idaho 83701.

MAROON BELLS — ENDANGERED?

A wilderness workshop conducted by conservation groups and the Forest Service will be held in Aspen, Colo., Aug. 9. The workshop will focus on the protection and proposed expansion of the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area, one of the most heavily used wilderness areas in the country, according to Forest Service statistics. One sign of this use is hiking trails eroded to depths of 12 to 36 inches in some places. For more information write The Wilderness Workshop, Box FF, Aspen, Colo. 81611, 925-3510.

FEDERAL SOLAR CATALOG

Two federal agencies want information about solar energy products being manufactured or in the advanced stages of development. The agencies, the Energy Research and Development Administration and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, plan to publish a catalog of solar hardware and to use the information to assess the state of industrial development. Information is due by Aug. 11. Contact Solar Energy RFI, USERDA, Division of Solar Energy, Washington, D.C. 20545.



Photo by Dick Randall

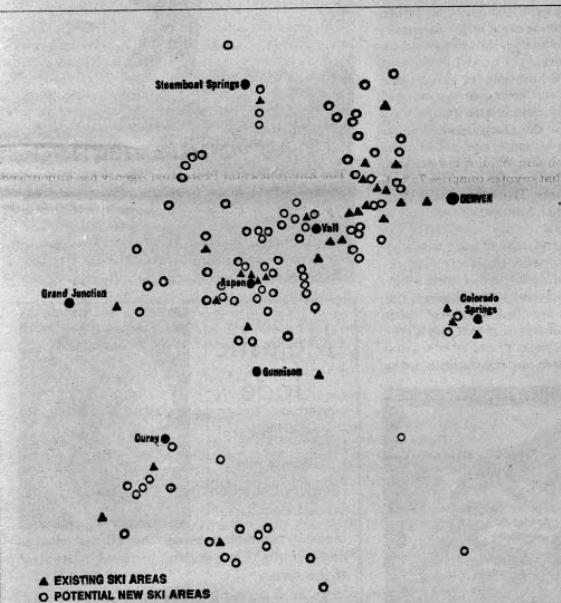
Western Roundup

Industry pleas shape Montana air regs

A recent decision by the Montana Board of Health on air regulations is touted as a major victory for industry. The board adopted only six of the 16 rules recommended by the Montana Health Department, tabling or killing nearly all the proposals that would toughen air quality standards. In an analysis by Charles S. Johnson printed in the *Billings Gazette*, the decision was attributed to one-sided testimony, concern over economic effects and over too many regulations, and the present composition of the board. At the air hearings in March and May, only industry and labor officials testified for the public. An environmental engineer with the Health Department said that environmentalists are apparently more concerned with land use and coal development. "The air pollution movement has probably lost a little of the glamour it had four or five years ago," he said. Industry representatives who testified said the regulations would require costly adjustments. Conoco threatened to close its Billings refinery if new standards were adopted. The board tabled the oil refinery emission recommendation.

Ranchers challenge BLM boards

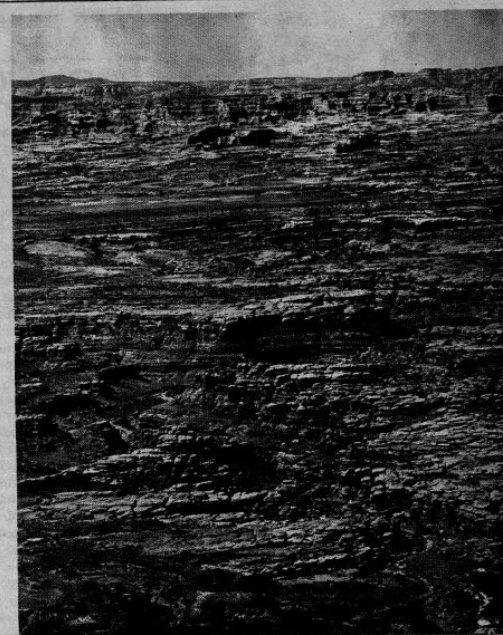
A group of Nevada ranchers has filed suit against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) challenging the BLM's interpretation of federal grazing laws, especially the composition of advisory boards. In the past, district grazing boards composed of ranchers and one wildlife representative have recommended who would use grazing lands. The BLM now is in the process of appointing multiple use advisory boards at the national, state, and district level. The new boards will include several representatives of various interests, including grazing, depending upon the resources of the particular area. For example, the Montana BLM Multiple Use Advisory Board includes representatives of environmental concerns, recreation, wildlife, non-energy minerals, energy minerals, state government, forestry, and livestock. The ranchers claim the old boards are still legally active so they filed suit in U.S. District Court in Reno, according to *Land Use Planning Reports*.



USFS TAGS BEAVER CREEK SPORTS SITE

The regional forester's designation of Beaver Creek as a Winter Sports Site has been upheld by the chief of the National Forest Service, John R. McGuire. However, at the same time, McGuire granted a one year delay in approval of the special use permit for the ski area. He also indicated that he expects another environmental impact statement will be required. Vail Associates bought the Beaver Creek site in Colorado in 1972. Its development became a major campaign issue in the governor's race in 1974 (see HCN, Jan. 31, 1975). Gov. Dick Lamm views the Forest Service delay as a victory in his efforts to expand the state's role in federal decisions affecting Colorado. The president of Vail Associates, Richard Peterson, says he is pleased with the approval of the site designation and that he had no quarrel with McGuire's one year delay. However, he thinks that requiring another environmental impact statement is "redundant," according to the *ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS*. Meanwhile, Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) is planning hearings in Colorado this fall on several problems related to ski rates and to the permit system for ski areas on National Forest land.

The map above shows potential and existing ski areas in Colorado. Map courtesy of the DENVER POST.



The seven-state Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum has proposed water quality standards for salinity control in the basin. The forum recommends prompt construction of four salinity control units to control the introduction of salinity from both natural and manmade sources. Twelve other salinity control units will be constructed later. The plan also provides for 1) placing effluent limitations on industrial discharges, 2) changing plans for several federal water projects to reduce potential salt loading, and 3) using saline water for industrial purposes whenever practical. The report says that many natural and man-made factors affect the river's salinity. It predicts that with full implementation of needed salinity control measures, the average salinity can be maintained at or below 1972 levels during the study period of the next 15 years.

Public hearings will be held: Aug. 4 in Las Vegas, Nev.; Aug. 7 in Grand Junction, Colo.; Sept. 3 at Price, Utah. Copies of the full report may be purchased for \$5 from Ival Goslin, secretary, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, 355 S. 4th East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. The Environmental Protection Agency last year issued a regulation requiring the states of the Colorado River Basin to adopt water quality standards. The standards are to be submitted to the EPA for approval by Oct. 18. The salinity problem has been worsening for several years.

Above, the Needles overlook in the Canyonlands National Park, through which the Colorado River runs. Photo by Jack McLellan.

Mid-State Project benefits questioned

A group of landowners is charging that most of the land to be benefited by the Mid-State Reclamation Project would be ruined for agricultural use after the project's completion, because it would be either inundated from the top by the reservoir itself or would be waterlogged from the bottom up by rising water tables. The landowners, Mid-State Irrigators, Inc., say the U.S. Geological Survey estimates that 40,000 acres would be waterlogged, in addition to the 51,000 acres that would be inundated by the reservoir. That sum is two-thirds of the total 140,000 acres that the Bureau of Reclamation claims would be served by the project. Mid-State Reclamation Project involves a diversion dam below Lexington, Neb. The dam diverts waters of the Platte River through a canal north of Kearney, Neb., and into several reservoirs and smaller impoundments. Another Geological Survey study indicates the Platte might be dry below the dam much of the time. The Platte is important for migrating waterfowl as well as bald eagle and white-tail deer.

Briefly noted . . .

Under a new Nebraska law, localities that fail to enforce zoning and subdivision regulations will forfeit that land use power to county governments. "Counties with cities of over 5,000 population are required to prepare and enforce comprehensive land use plans under the law (LB 317), which does not become effective until July 1, 1977," according to *Land Use Planning Reports*.

About 400 wild horses from central Nevada will be transplanted into foster homes from New Hampshire to Hawaii this year. The Bureau of Land Management is removing the horses from the Stone Cabin Valley because of overpopulation which is damaging the range, a BLM spokesman said.

14-High Country News — Aug. 1, 1975



This past week up here at the cabin, I have had the feeling that I'm occupying a ring side seat at a very special show produced by Mother Nature. The birds have cooperated with the flora and fauna and yes, even the weather, to create this spectacular.

Spring came very late this year, but has made a valiant effort to catch up. Now, at the very end of July, June's fragrant wild roses are blooming with gay abandon amid the blue columbine and flax. The pale yellow dandelions in the meadow have been replaced by deep yellow of mule's-ear, dotted here and there by red paintbrush and dark blue larkspur. Tall clumps of green gentian are tipped with creamy-white spikes. All the colors seem especially vivid — perhaps because they are cleansed almost daily by afternoon thunder showers.

The sound of distant thunder adds drama, but most of the sound effects for this show are created by the birds. There's one little fellow who lives high in the treetop at the side of the porch. Each morning and evening he fills the air with his cheerful melody, but is so elusive that I have been unable to see or identify him. Then there's the tiny golden-crowned kinglet who has a nest in a niche over the porch. She flits nervously from nest to tree, to the nearby electric wire, and back to the nest. I think that surely her eggs must be hatched by now, but can see no signs of movement in the nest. Maybe it's the lateness of spring — or maybe she's just the nervous type.

There's a yellow-bellied-sapsucker who adds an occasional drumbeat on the side of the utility pole across the road, and a couple of days ago some of his relatives paid us a visit. We were sitting under the trees back of the house when we heard a strange, almost cooing sound, and saw a flash of black and white and russet. The bird landed on the trunk of a tree and, naturally, immediately disappeared from sight by hopping to the other side of the tree. I picked up the binoculars and waited for him to return to my side of the tree trunk, but he had different ideas. He flew to the aspens across the way where, to our delight, he joined several others like him who flitted busily from trees to the ground and back. They stayed long enough for us to get a good look, so we were able to find them in the bird book — red-shafted flickers.

The clowns of the show are the tiny striped chipmunks and the larger grey squirrels. One little chipmunk seems to think he's a bird. He sits on a high branch and adds his squeaky voice to the songbirds' morning serenade. And the mother squirrel scolds loudly as her youngsters race almost carelessly near us.

For me, the main attraction has been the deer. For years we've enjoyed watching them feed along the willows in the meadow, but this summer they often graze near the house. We don't even need the binoculars to see the beauty of their tawny hides, or the graceful movement as they lift their heads to listen.

We've speculated a bit about why they seem tamer this summer. It's been cool, so maybe they don't need the shade of the willows. Or perhaps the rains have kept the grass near the house as fresh as that by the creek. Then, too, this is the second summer that the developers' power saws and bulldozers have been silenced, and that may have something to do with it. There's something else, too, which may be very far-fetched. Last fall someone brought up a portable phonograph, and since we all enjoy music, there is often the sound of it wafting through the open doors. Could it be that the deer enjoy it, too? It would make an interesting experiment!

I wonder — do you think they'd prefer Brahms — or Floyd Cramer?



Classified Ads

SOLAR DEALERSHIPS

Sunglow Solar Systems, Inc. is seeking dealers to market our solar furnace in the states of Wyoming and Montana. Contact: Bob Greene (303) 484-5242, mornings.

Book review

The Big Woods

by Ellis Lucia, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1975. \$12.95, hard cover, 222 pages. Photographs.

The Green Desert — that's what glum pioneers called the thick forests of Oregon and Washington. To them, the tangle of oversized trees and brush was a nuisance. Masses of giant weeds stood in the way of their idea of progress. Then the California gold rush inflated timber prices, and overnight The Green Desert became what continues to be the area's richest treasure.

The Big Woods is an account of the resulting changes in attitudes and technology in the forests of the Northwest, from the crude lumbering days of the 19th century down to the smooth computerized operations of modern times. In the early days the mammoth trees defied the handling techniques used in the East. Hence, the region either spawned or perfected inventions and techniques that now have universal application: chain saws, mobile spar poles, and logging with balloons. Railroad buffs will take special delight in Lucia's chapters on lumbermen's uses of locomotives, which hauled out timber over shaky toothpick trestles and were so unpredictable, some grumpy loggers swore, that they ran as often over the ground as they did on the badly laid tracks.

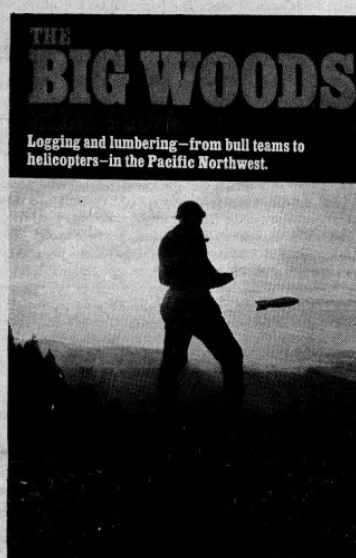
There's a great deal here on the social and political history of the nation as encapsulated in the rough-and-tumble logging camps and communities of the West Coast. Like the cowboy, the logger, though highly skilled and performing an invaluable service under dangerous conditions, was a cheap commodity. He was treated accordingly. Almost every month in the woods he saw one of his buddies cut in half by a lashing cable or crushed by a rolling log. Trying to escape his memories on a binge in town, he was easily robbed, then perhaps dumped in a nearby river to join the logs heading for the mill. Chapter IV is a picture of the transient logger's brutalized existence on the fringes of the underworld — a disturbing contrast to the atmosphere of the better parts of towns like Portland, where the timber barons lived with their families amid tree-lined streets and rattling teacups.

One of the biggest changes in forestry resulted from the Tillamook Burn of 1933. Up until then, most people accepted forest fires as inevitable. As with so many things in the nation's affairs, it took a disaster to shock people into a different perspective. In two weeks the Tillamook fire devastated 220,000 acres, an area half the size of Rhode Island, containing enough choice timber to supply all the sawmills in the country for a year. The story of the first massive efforts at fire prevention and reforestation, led by

Oregon forester Ed Schroeder fighting to break down public prejudices, lends a dramatic subplot to the book.

The Big Woods is valuable for its information. Mr. Lucia, however, tends to romanticize from a distance what was cruel and brutal in its time. Like a bright-eyed high school boy admiring his heroes, he tends to gloss over the greed of the timber interests. While admitting they went overboard on occasion in their desire for "progress," according to him the environmentalists are "do-gooders" who want to "lock up" all the forests for their own misguided pleasure. Ignoring the cut-and-run record of the industry and the influence of its monied lobbyists in Washington, he innocently professes not to understand why the conservationists "simply don't trust the timbermen." All of which has a tinny ring. Nonetheless, there is enough genuine history here to make the book worthwhile for the person whose blood pressure can tolerate the glib spots.

Review by Peter Wild



THE BIG WOODS

Logging and lumbering—from bull teams to helicopters—in the Pacific Northwest.

Majestic Jade

announces its
Bicentennial
Jewelry Collection



Jewelry commemorating the United States bicentennial. The pendant pictured is the first of the series.

Each of the six jewelry items is essentially handmade in processes requiring several steps. All items will be produced in Sterling Silver and each will bear an official legend of origin. This is a limited edition; if orders received exceed certain numbers, we reserve the right to limit their acceptance.

Bicentennial pendant \$29.95

Please enter my application for the bicentennial pendant.

Name
Address
State
Zip

(add 90¢ sales tax)

Mail check or money order to:
Majestic Jade, Box 1507-N,
Riverton, WY 82501

PAUL PETZOLDT WILDERNESS EQUIPMENT

Manufacturers and distributors
of fine mountain equipment

Write for free catalog.
Box 78-H Lander, WY 82520

SAVE THE WHALES!

THEY ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED TO EXTINCTION BY JAPANESE AND SOVIET WHALERS

BOYCOTT JAPANESE PRODUCTS

SUCH AS CARS, MOTORCYCLES, TELEVISIONS, STEREOS, CAMERAS
DON'T FLY JAPANESE AIR LINES
DON'T BUY RUSSIAN FURS AND VODKA

The great whales are being ruthlessly hunted to extinction by Japanese and Soviet whalers. Their vast whaling fleets use air planes, helicopters and sonar to chase down the terror-stricken whales, then grenade-tipped harpoons blow up the whales in agonizing death. Every 14 minutes another of these gentle, intelligent animals dies.

The Japanese whaling companies are owned and controlled by the great manufacturing and trading companies that produce and market the vast array of Japanese products sold in America. For example, Nissan Motor Co., the maker of Datsun cars and trucks, has major whaling interests. Nissan's insurance affiliate, Nissan Fire and Marine Insurance, is the largest stockholder in Nippon Suisan, Japan's biggest whaling company. Nissan and the rest of the Japanese business community have done nothing to halt the whale slaughter. Between them, the Japanese and Soviet whalers account for 85% of the annual whale kill.

YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE WHALES BY REFUSING TO PURCHASE ANY JAPANESE AND RUSSIAN PRODUCTS UNTIL JAPAN AND THE SOVIET UNION AGREE TO STOP WHALING.

Why are whales still killed? To make pet food, fertilizer, soap, cosmetics, milk food and lubricating oil. How "civilized" is mankind to wipe out these magnificent mammals for such selfish purposes?

More than 2,000,000 whales have been killed in the past 50 years. The economics of whaling are the economics of extinction. Species after species of whales has been driven to commercial extinction, one step from biological extinction. The blue whale, the greatest creature ever to live on Earth, was so overhunted that scientists now believe it will never regenerate.

NEXT: THE GRAY WHALES?

The whalers may soon aim their deadly harpoons at the California gray whales, the only species protected by special international treaty. New classifications by the International Whaling Commission would allow renewed killing of the gray whales. The Japanese IWC delegation has already been claiming the right to "harvest" the gray whales. And a representative of the Taiyo Fishery Co., one of the major Japanese whalers, recently made inquiries in California and Mexico about setting up whaling stations in the lagoons of Baja California. The magnificent spectacle of the annual gray whale migration, enjoyed by millions of Americans, could become another ghastly slaughter.

Japan and the Soviet Union have defied unanimous appeals by the United Nations, in 1972, 1973 and 1974, for a ten-year moratorium on whaling. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization last year issued this pessimistic report: "It is not realistic to presume (the whalers) will ensure either the maintenance or even the continued existence of a whale stock. It pays to exploit a resource (the whales) excessively heavily, even to extinction, and not on a sustainable basis."

Japan and the Soviet Union have consistently opposed whale conservation measures adopted by the International Whaling Commission. When the IWC set reduced whaling quotas in 1973, the Japanese and Soviets defied them. New IWC quotas set recently merely perpetuate the needless whale slaughter.

Congress is now considering legislation to bring economic pressure to bear against the whalers. Rep. Alphonzo Bell of California has introduced a bill (H.J. Res. 448) in the House calling for the immediate embargo of the products of all foreign enterprises engaged in commercial whaling. The embargo threat is aimed at the Japanese and Soviet fishing/whaling enterprises that each year export to the U.S. more than \$100 million worth of tuna, halibut, salmon, crab, oysters and caviar.

Sen. Warren Magnuson of Washington has introduced similar embargo legislation (S.J. Res. 81) in the Senate.

In response to the whalers' defiance, every major American conservation, environmental and humane group has joined to call for a boycott of Japanese and Soviet products. Until the whale slaughter is stopped, the boycott campaign will be pursued and publicized in all Japanese and Soviet markets.

Please write to the presidents of big Japanese companies telling them why you are boycotting their goods. Urge them to use their influence on their country's whaling industry to stop whale killing. Following are some names and addresses:

Automobiles
TOYOTA
Union Bank Tower
Suite 1200
21515 Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, Cal. 90503
DATSUN
18501 S. Figueroa St.
Carson, Cal. 90744
MAZDA MOTORS
60 New England Ave.
Piscataway, N.J. 08854
SUBARU
7040 Central Highway
Industrial Park
Airport Circle
Pennsauken, N.J. 08110

Cameras
CANON
3113 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, Cal. 90010
NIKON
Nippon Kogaku
623 Stewart Ave.
Garden City, N.Y. 11530
MINOLTA
200 Park Ave. S.
New York, N.Y. 10003
PENTAX
Honeywell, Inc.
5501 S. Broadway
Littleton, Colo. 80120
Cosmetics
SHISEIDO
540 Madison Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Motorcycles & Bicycles
HONDA
100 W. Alondra Blvd.
Gardena, Cal. 90247
YAMAHA
6600 Orangehorpe
Buena Park, Cal. 90602
KAWASAKI
1062 McGaw Ave.
Santa Ana, Cal. 92705
SUZUKI
13767 Freeway Dr.
Santa Fe Springs, Cal. 90670
FUJI BICYCLES
Toshoku America, Inc.
551 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10017

SCHWINN BICYCLES
(Distributor)
1856 N. Kostner Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60639
Air Lines
JAPAN AIR LINES
655 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022
JAPAN TOURIST OFFICE
45 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020
Tires
BRIDGESTONE
16921 S. Western Ave.
Gardena, Cal. 90247

Watches
SEIKO
640 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.
10019
Liquor
SUNTORI INTL.
551 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10017
Food
SGW FINE FOODS
(Distributor)
233 Schwerin Street
San Francisco, Cal. 94134
GEISHA BRAND
Nozaki Associates, Inc.
(Distributor)
1 World Trade Center
New York, N.Y. 10048

TV & Stereos
SONY
47-56 32nd Pl.
Long Island City, N.Y.
11101
HITACHI
437 Madison Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022
PANASONIC
200 Park Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10017
SANYO
1200 W. Artesia Blvd.
Compton, Cal. 90220
PIONEER
75 Oxford Drive
Moonachie, N.J. 07074

THE BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN IS SUPPORTED BY THESE CONSERVATION GROUPS:

National Audubon Society	National Wildlife Federation	Sierra Club
Friends of the Earth	Society for Animal Protective Legislation	The Fund for Animals
Environmental Defense Fund	New York Zoological Society	The Wilderness Society
Humane Society of the United States	National Parks and Conservation Assoc.	Rare Animal Relief Effort
Environmental Policy Center	Explorers Club Environment Committee	Environmental Action
		Defenders of Wildlife
		Animal Welfare Institute

Modern whaling is a savage, ruthless exercise, nothing like the romantic days of 19th-century whaling. Here is an eyewitness description of modern whaling by Dr. Harry Lillie, who sailed as a ship's surgeon:

"The present-day hunting harpoon is a horrible 150-pound weapon carrying an explosive head which bursts generally in the whale's intestines, and the sight of one of these creatures pouring blood and gasping along on the surface, towing a 400-ton catching vessel by a heavy harpoon rope, is pitiful. So often an hour or more of torture is inflicted before the agony ends in death."

SAYONARA WHALES

The fate of the great whales was foreseen more than a century ago by Herman Melville. The author of the whaling classic "Moby Dick" wrote: "The moot point is, whether Leviathan can long endure so wide a chase, and so remorseless a havoc; whether he must not at last be exterminated from the waters, and the last whale, like the last man, smoke his last pipe, and then himself evaporate in the final puff."

Jacques Cousteau, the famed French oceanographer, writes: "Our century, as it turned out, was much more destructive to the whales than the period of the great romantic hunts as described in the work of Herman Melville. A hundred years ago, a whaler's three-year expedition netted him 37 whales. Today, a whaler's modern weapons and fast boats give him one whale a day, and sometimes three or four."

"The only creatures on earth that have bigger—and maybe better—brains than humans are the Cetacea, the whales and dolphins. Perhaps they could one day tell us something important, but it is unlikely that we will hear it. Because we are coldly, efficiently and economically killing them off."

THE WHALES NEED YOUR HELP

Please support the boycott. If a product says **MADE IN JAPAN** or **MADE IN U.S.S.R.**, don't buy it. Purchase goods made elsewhere. Tell merchants **WHY** you are boycotting Japanese and Russian products and urge them to stock

goods made in other countries.

Tell your friends about the plight of the whales and how they can help. The more people who act NOW, the sooner we can halt the slaughter that is driving the great whales to extinction. The fate of the great whales must be decided by mankind, not by a greedy few. Extinction is the ultimate crime against Nature.

You can help save the whales and publicize the boycott campaign by making a TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION to the Save The Whales Campaign. If you believe in this effort, please give generously.

For a donation of \$10 or more, you will receive a beautiful four-color lithographed print (14" x 18"), suitable for framing, of the Sei Whales above from the original painted by renowned artist Richard Ellis.

PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHALES AND HOW I CAN HELP PREVENT THEIR EXTINCTION.

Name _____ 54
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Enclosed please find \$_____ to help the campaign to save the whales.
Please send me free: ☐ bumper sticker ☐ button ☐ petition ☐ poster
Please send me ☐ color whale print (\$10 minimum donation)
(Make checks payable to Animal Welfare Institute)

ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE P.O. Box 3650 Washington, D.C. 20007 Christine Stevens, Pres.

鯨を救おう

16-High Country News — Aug. 1, 1975

Clif Merritt: he leads from behind

by Marjane Ambler

"I think that most of us who work closely with Clif would march into Hell to do a wilderness study on it if he asked," says Dave Foreman of Clifton R. Merritt, western regional director for the Wilderness Society.

That remark likely catches anyone by surprise who has met Merritt but not worked with him. Merritt is a quiet, almost gruff-seeming man—not a person with the sort of charisma that one would expect to inspire the dedication that the staff feels. Not only would they be willing to march into Hell to do a wilderness study, but they also wouldn't be surprised if he asked them to go—if he became convinced that there was a resource there that needed to be protected.

It's this single-minded dedication, this "visionary kind of view of wilderness" that staff members say make Merritt a radical in their eyes and that make him formidable to the Forest Service, despite his low-key, gentle manner.

"He'll go to a meeting with one of the agencies and sit there for half an hour and just talk about wilderness values—and they can't do anything but listen to him," according to Amy Mazza-Scholl, a volunteer wilderness worker.

The Forest Service and other agencies have been listening to Merritt for 11 years in his present role as director and many years before that as a researcher and citizen activist. He started with the western regional office in 1964, gaining jurisdiction over all Wilderness Society activities west of the Mississippi the same year that the Wilderness Act was passed. Consequently, he can be credited with helping to protect most all of the areas in the West which are now classified as wilderness.

His leadership philosophy does not put him on the battle front carrying the banner for each fight. "Often times, one can lead best from behind," he says. This philosophy, too, may help explain the dedication his staff feels for him. "He's an atypical environmental leader. Many of them are flashy and full of fire and brimstone. Clif is one of the best people I have known at motivating people positively. He gives each person responsibility to the degree he can handle it—even if they think they can't," according to Roger Scholl, Wilderness Society staff member in Denver.

NEED FOR EDUCATION

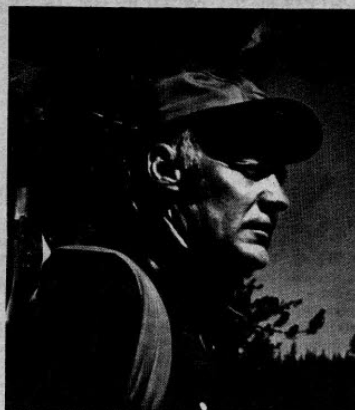
His notoriety with the Forest Service can be attributed to his persistence. Merritt stresses the value of knowing the facts and of educating others prior to meetings with the Forest Service on wilderness. "Some Forest Service people thought it was an insult to their management abilities to pass the Wilderness Act," he says, although he adds that there are others within the Forest Service who do support wilderness.

He says the Forest Service will sometimes provide incorrect information about how wilderness can be used and what the alternatives are. For example, the Forest Service may push at community meetings for support of backcountry designation instead of wilderness. "However, in the U.S. today, to my knowledge, there's never been one backcountry designation. Backcountry is not provided for in the Forest Service manual; there's nothing that says what it is and what it provides for," Merritt says.

"Citizens in the communities around the areas being considered need to become informed and involved in the multiple use process. They need to know what the Wilderness Act and the Multiple Use Act say," Merritt says.

Wilderness designation does not "lock up" the land for a single use, as some people say. It is part of the multiple use principle; it still serves recreation, scenic, historic, and educational purposes as well as grazing, wildlife, and as a watershed.

Wilderness decisions aren't as subjective as many people think, he says. "Wilderness classification is a form of land use planning. If timber or other commodity values of a given roadless area are minimal and wilderness values are paramount, ordinarily proper land use planning would dictate that the area be set aside for wilderness purposes. In no area where paramount (commercial) resources are involved has the Wilderness Society pushed for wilderness designation. But, for example, if it costs more to build roads into an area than can be gained through timbering, and at the same time the area has substantial wilderness and wildlife values that would be



Clif Merritt—gruff appearing, but "a genius at inspiring his co-workers and his staff with zeal and love of the battle."

destroyed by such development, we can only conclude that commercial use is minimal," Merritt says.

However, Merritt says that often conservation organizations have difficulty reaching the public with this type of information about wilderness because the organizations are seldom notified about meetings.

"We are told the meetings are just for local people—that we'll get our chance to comment in the draft environmental impact statements," he says. "But it's been

our experience that the agency has already made up its mind by that point."

NEED FOR FIELD OFFICES

"Informed local public citizens are the nation's best assurance that our natural resources will be used properly," he says. This is one reason Merritt believes that conservation organizations such as the Wilderness Society, which is based in Washington, D.C., need offices as close as possible to the resource issues.

Merritt has had to argue this point with the national headquarters. "The national office doesn't question the need for a field office," he explains. "There's just a lack of funds." The society did have to lay off some field workers last summer when it suffered economic difficulties brought on by the nation's recession. Now, in addition to the main office in Denver, there are representatives in Wyoming (Bart Koehler), New Mexico (Dave Foreman), and soon in Idaho (Dan Lechefsky). The society is also seeking to replace an Oregon representative who recently quit.

Merritt sees the biggest challenge ahead as getting proper consideration for roadless areas on both Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands. For this, the field representative program as well as informational programs with local citizens are essential, he thinks.

He explains that there are thousands of roadless areas which were not selected in 1973 for further study as possible wilderness areas. The Forest Service said the additional areas would be studied before they would be developed. However, Merritt says there are "extremely few cases where the Forest Service has given meaningful consideration to them."

Any successes with this and other challenges come largely because of Merritt's leadership abilities combined with the talents of the staff and volunteers he works with.

"In his quiet, unobtrusive way, he is a genius at inspiring his co-workers and his staff with zeal and love of the battle," according to Mardy Murie, long-time Wyoming conservationist.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS will not be published on the regular publishing day of August 15, 1975. We will be back August 29, renewed by some first-hand experiences in the high country.



Dear Friends,

Ranchers are an independent breed. They can't get together on anything, they tell us. They mind their own business and let their neighbor mind his.

So how did they get together with conservationists in Wheatland, Wyo.?

Perhaps it happened in Wheatland and in a number of other places around the West, because environmentalists show some of the same independent inclinations. We come to meetings, a bit reluctantly, because we know it is necessary to make our voices heard. We agree on many basic conservation issues, but are miles apart on topics like welfare, war, and political parties. We display amazing differences in style, too. Some show up at meetings smartly dressed and some look like refugees from Drop City. Some eat sunflower seeds and some eat steak. Some are people of property and some own little more than a used bicycle.

Yet we continue to work on issues of common interest. The people, as well as the issues, become a binding force, strangely enough. We come to relish our diversity.

With this kind of background, it's not surprising to find the maturing western conservation movement broadening its base. Sometimes the negotiations are difficult. Both sides must be willing to tolerate each others' differences of opinion on peripheral issues. But of prime importance are the things we have in common. With western ranchers those things are concern about clean air, clean water, and wide open spaces. We are also establishing limited common ground with labor, with independent oil men, with social workers, with coal workers in the East, and other interest groups.

Where the need is great enough, people of all kinds rally together to fight. Coalitions, temporarily formed for specific purposes, are an essential political tactic with fascinating human side effects.

It seems that one of the occupational hazards of being a full-time environmentalist is that you have no time to get out and appreciate the natural world you're fighting to protect. We're luckier than many since at least we can do our work here in Lander, at the foot of the Wind River Mountains. But we still like to get away, so we will skip one issue each year to do it.

When we come back, we will be full of new stories, pictures, and, hopefully, new energies to invest in your paper.

—the editors

In the News

Wheatland
a community looks
to its future

1

Groups in wilderness
is it a proper use
of the resource?

6

Conservation Code
Wilderness rules for users

7

Kaiparowits
Parks to be polluted?

8

Hathaway resigns
Interior without leader

10

Clif Merritt
leadership for the
Wilderness Society

16