

The Environmental Bi-Weekly



High Country News

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New confederacy

Governors unite on energy rights

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by Carrol W. Cagle

"Mankind is clearly borrowing time," the governors of the energy-rich Western states agreed last month. "As we seek to gain national energy self-sufficiency we must guard against jeopardizing future food production, or penalizing energy-producing states, or lowering the quality of our life from pollution, or stripping the planet of its fossil fuels and thus denying them for any use to future generations."

The wording was a little awkward, but the sentiment seemed clear: the 10 governors were determined to avoid seeing their region, the last relatively unspoiled area in the continental U.S., laid waste by an energy-hungry nation.

As the two-day session ended, however, three things still were not as clear as the sentiment expressed by the governors:

1. Did they really grasp the seriousness of what must be done?
2. Will their actions speak as loud as their words?
3. Were the right people listening?

A NEW CONFEDERACY

The answer to the first question will be coming, piecemeal, over the next several months. The organization that the governors have formed — the Western Governors' Regional Energy Policy Office, with headquarters in Denver — is just getting fully staffed and beginning to operate.

Last month's session, although not the first for the member governors, was the first to grapple with specific energy policies for the region. It also was the first time the staff and its director, former Democratic Gov. William Guy of North Dakota, received fairly clear marching orders from the governors.

One sign that WGREPO (as it inevitably has come to be known among staff and among the governors themselves) is beginning to hit its stride was the almost-unanimous attendance by the chief executives themselves. (Among them: New Mexico's Jerry Apodaca, chairman of the organization; Richard Lamm of Colorado; James Exon of Nebraska; Arthur Link of North Dakota; Thomas Judge of Montana; Richard Kneip of South Dakota; and Ed Herschler of Wyoming. The "biggie" of the group, Utah Gov. Calvin Rampton — also chairman of the National Governors' Conference — did not attend; nor did Mike O'Callaghan of Nevada, but both sent representatives. All 10 are Democrats.)

Throughout, there was talk of "states' rights" in relation to the national government. The rhetoric was occasionally reminiscent of the South during the '50s and '60s — but based now on energy, not civil rights.

The governors, along with a parallel organization of their top energy advisers acting as alternates, moved swiftly and efficiently during the two days to hammer out general policies on energy issues for the region. They adopted a "preamble" on energy matters from which the

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RESERVOIR PLANNED. A dam and reservoir to supply water for coal development in north-eastern Wyoming is planned for Sunlight Basin in northwestern Wyoming. Site of the dam would be near the center of the photo, at the foot of the white slide area. A coalition of local residents is opposing the reservoir.

Photo by Lynne Bama

Use it and lose it?

Speculators want Sunlight Basin

by Lynne Bama

In the spring of 1974 the *Casper Star-Tribune* commented in an editorial that Wyoming's water was up for grabs. As the Wyoming newspaper put it, "Industry is anxious to finance the building of dams on any streams where water rights can be obtained, and to pay the cost of transporting the water to coal-power or coal gasification plant sites in the Powder River Basin."

The rush for Wyoming water in the 1970s will eclipse the gold rush in the South Pass area more than a century ago, from all indications. It probably won't end until every acre-foot of unappropriated water in the state is 'sewed up,' it commented.

The editorial also noted the existence of some filings for reservoirs that had been discovered on the Clark's Fork River and its tributary, Sunlight Creek, in Park County, Wyo.

The area involved is in the northwest corner of the state, just east of Yellowstone Park and north of Cody —

seemingly quite remote from Wyoming's northeastern coal fields.

By late April, 1974, a total of six applications in the Clark's Fork drainage had come to light — all of them containing water for industrial use.

Four of them — an offstream reservoir, a ditch to supply it, and two mainstream reservoirs that were overflings of the same site — were on the lower Clark's Fork, not far from where it flows into Montana. Besides the Sunlight Creek site, there was a sixth filing for a reservoir at Hunter Mountain, high in the mountains of the upper Clark's Fork.

There were two applicants involved, Henry Burgess and Alan Fordyce, both of Sheridan, Wyo.

According to the *Cody Enterprise*, no Park County agencies had been aware of the applications until the *Casper Star-Tribune* had accidentally come across them.

Almost immediately, the Park County Planning and

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Letters



BELL FOR PRESIDENT

Dear High Country News,

Please let me know if the High Country News is still being published. If not it should be. I want to subscribe, as the old copies I have seen, indicate to me that it is one of the few American publications which is trying to alert the public to the increasing dangers of **government by propaganda** of nuclear and other conglomerate polluters.

J. C. Briggs
Raton, New Mexico

(P.S. I think Tom Bell should be a "sacrificial lamb" and run for U.S. prexy — if Joe Betit will not — just to get some important issues to the U.S. Public; issues which NONE of our current politicians will touch because it might diminish the amount of \$\$\$ they hope to get from the huge corporate interests.)

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Dear HCN,

I have just read your article on Ski Yellowstone in the May 23 issue and would like to thank you for a job well done. My family moved to West Yellowstone four years ago from Orlando, Fla., to escape the madness that Disney World brought to the area. In that time I have seen Gallatin Canyon explode with development as Big Sky was finished.

As I was raised in a city I am extremely afraid of the destruction Ski Yellowstone could bring to West Yellowstone and the surrounding area. I love my new home and I love being able to find undisturbed wilderness less than a mile from my front door. It is true that our town needs more business; our survival depends on tourism. But not another ski resort! The economy cannot support it, as mentioned in your article. Especially with 4 other major resorts (Big Sky, Bridger Bowl, Targhee, and Jackson Hole) all within 150 miles (Big Sky is only 40).

I strongly protest Ski Yellowstone and urge, no, plead, that every one of your readers write to the sources listed in your article and stop this project! We have virtually no opposition here as the local businessmen have been brainwashed into thinking that the resort will be good for the town (I dispute this as the plans include restaurants, hotels, laundries, theatres, etc. In other words — why would people drive eight miles for facilities that are provided at the resort?)

Sincerely,
Carol Yarbrough
West Yellowstone, Mont.

THE RIGHTS OF LIVING THINGS

Dear HCN:

I quite understand that you see good in closer ties between environmentalists and ranchers in the Rocky Mountain and Intermountain West. There was a time when I happened to be living in Europe and I worked rather closely with Communists during and after the Hitler years of occupation. But we always worked towards one very definite and limited goal, remaining poles apart in almost all other areas except the one on which we did happen to find that our goals and interests coincided.

So I understand the cooperation, but see it as strictly limited to certain well-defined aims. I can't see how environmentalists — without compromise which they should NOT make — can accept the present situation on BLM and National Forest lands where cattle and sheep grazing are so definitely detrimental to the ecology of the land and above all, I cannot see why we should accept continued grazing rights in wilderness areas — especially in high alpine-type country where the cattle and sheep are actually feeding on what rightfully belongs to the wild animals of the area. And also wrecking much of the delicate vegetative cover of

this easily disturbed land.

As for predators. Obviously a predator — coyote, bobcat, or mountain lion, or any other such animal — must be either destroyed or removed if it is proved to be destroying livestock. But indiscriminate killing of ANY type — poisons, traps, denning, or any other sick idea that may reach some fevered brain interested only in mass destruction — should be banned.

No compromise on these principles, please. Wild creatures may not be abused. I believe in the rights of animals. I believe in the rights of all living things — including trees, for instance. Which means use, not abuse.

I am well aware that all of your ranchers are not "slaughtering the animals and poisoning the earth" anymore than are the ranchers of California. I also find no fault in HCN as far as concern for wildlife and wilderness goes. I am only making a few remarks because animals often bear the brunt of neglect — as do the wild lands. People tend to be "practical" as the saying goes.

Concern for other species on our planet fades as concern for our own threatened welfare grows. So those of us who can, must speak out a little more and a little louder in favor of those who do not know human language and cannot communicate their wants and needs.

"Bless the beasts... they have no voice, they have no choice." And John Muir remarked that any fool could cut down a tree because it could neither defend itself nor run away.

Forgive the chatter. I'd love to meet each one of you personally and tell you just how good I feel about all of you. And how glad I am to receive High Country News. So long as you continue to exist and to stand up for what is right whatever the risks and costs — then hope is not dead for the magnificent country where you live.

Ruth C. Douglas
St. Helena, Calif.

In our July 18 issue we asked our readers to give us a report on the condition of wildernesses they know and their personal ideas about how to solve the problems they see. We received unprecedented response to the inquiry. That must mean that many of you care deeply about wilderness and are devoted to keeping it pristine.

We are printing below a small sampling of the ideas you had to offer. We'll continue the dialogue in succeeding issues. If a solution or point of view isn't represented here, write and let us share your insights.

—the editors

EQUIPMENT STORES WANT CODE

Dear Ms Ambler,

In your article "Wilderness Endangered by Overuse," July 18, 1975, the Wilsons mention their desire to see "mountain equipment stores participating in the education of users by, for example, putting a copy of an **approved code of conduct** in each pair of boots they sell." We have interested several firms in doing this very thing — however, **where do we get them?** We'd be interested in any information you can give us.

Sincerely,
Marcy Kelly
Fremont Ecology
Canon City, Colo.

(Editors' note: For copies of Floyd Wilson's Code of Conduct write him at 1407 Jersey, Denver, Colo. 80220. The Wilderness Society is in the process of preparing its code. For information on when they will be ready, write 4260 East Evans, Denver, Colo. 80222)

USERS SHOULD SUPPORT WILDS

Dear HCN,

Having read your article on groups in the wilderness I would like to comment on a statement by John Hamren, director of NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School).



It was relating to NOLS not engaging in political activity such as testifying for wilderness designation.

Hamren explains, "We don't feel like that's our job." Well, John Hamren, I believe it's everyone's job to not only protect wilderness with good conservation practices, but to support it — support it in every way we can. If NOLS is so "dedicated to it," how about standing up and being counted as a wilderness supporter? Wilderness is a very important part of this planet and a very important part of each and everyone of us.

I have always found it saddening to think of all the many wilderness users, and how there is such a small amount of wilderness supporters. And I don't mean those who say they're for wilderness, but those who act for wilderness. Please support your Earth. It's supporting you.

Steve Zachary
Chico, Calif.

IMPACT OF SCAVENGING

Dear Editors:

There is one problem regarding wilderness use which wasn't mentioned in your July 18th issue on the subject — that of scavenging, or "living off the land" (trying to survive totally or partially through the eating of wild plants and/or animals).

It seems to us irresponsible for 20th century Americans to practice or teach this anachronistic skill. As a hobby, it seems just a bit incongruous for a professed lover of wilderness to enjoy eating its plants and animals. And who has heard recently of someone whose survival depended on his ability to live off the wilderness?

At a time when it is nearly impossible (in the contiguous United States) to get more than 25 miles off a road, when one could easily walk out to one's car or beg food from other wilderness users in an emergency, it seems far more sensible to promote and teach people low-impact camping techniques — the skills necessary to allow them to go into an area and leave it essentially untouched. Among these we would include sufficient instruction in the use of stoves so that wood fires could be completely

banned in wilderness areas — as Grand Teton National Park has already done in all of its heavily used alpine backcountry.

Nineteenth century travelers in the western United States had to live off the land — freeze-dried food, lightweight stoves, and nylon tents hadn't been developed. But they did have an impact — and they weren't coming by the thousands into a tiny remnant of wilderness. A July 14, 1975, *Newsweek* article points out that about 2,000 native American plants have already become extinct or are in danger of vanishing due to use and abuse by man — this isn't a nebulous impossibility. An alpine ecosystem is one of the most fragile and easily damaged. Scavenging, as taught and encouraged by individuals like Euell Gibbons and groups like NOLS, is a vestige of 19th century pioneer mentality which has no place in 20th century America.

Sincerely,
Jeremy and Jean Schmidt
Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.

Afterthought: Is this NOLS which is offering its services as teachers of wilderness camping skills the same NOLS which we have seen camped in a group of 90 around a small lake in the Wind River Mountains, teaching its people survival (including the use of edible plants). We can only hope they do not preach what we have seen them practice.

(Editors' note: NOLS teaches the use of edible plants including bistort, spring beauty, stonecrop, mushrooms, and puffballs, according to Bill Jackson, NOLS director of research. Jackson says NOLS hasn't monitored its impact on edible plants and on the wildlife that depends on those plants, "but we would stop the practice if any detrimental impact were proven." When asked about 90 man parties of NOLS students, Jackson said that in 1970 the Forest Service put a 30 man limit on NOLS group size. In 1972 the group size was cut back further to 20 which is the present standard. This group size figure was arrived at by mutual consent between the Forest Service and NOLS, according to Jackson.)

QUESTIONS NOLS STATEMENT

Dear High Country News,

In your July 18th issue on page 6, you quoted the new general in Paul Petzoldt's Army, John Hamren, as saying that he believes the answer to protecting the wilderness (and dollars) is not by controlling the numbers. "That only slows the destruction. It takes five years instead of three."

Mr. Hamren admits that the destruction would still continue if controls were lifted, and even if everyone was a classic NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) camper, you would still have the human impact upon the land because of sheer numbers, not slob. In your article you did not mention how many "conservation minded" NOLS students were pumped into the lower Shoshone National Forest in years past and present. If you have the figure, please print it. I don't blame Mr. Hamren for his comment about controlling numbers, because at \$600 a blow, the more lemmings the better.

Sirs, I firmly believe they should limit the numbers in these large-profit and non-profit wilderness groups. The ideals of NOLS should be learned and practiced by everyone to lessen one's impact on the surroundings. But this facade should not be used to pour hundreds of kids into an already overused area.

This letter was meant to get flak, but the problem still exists.

I like your paper very much, and I hope you folks will fight it out so you won't become the first state wall-to-wall strip mine.

Sincerely,
Bryan Snyder
Lake Bluff, Ill.

(Editors' note: The Forest Service set a man-day limit of 12,000 per summer for the west slope and 12,000 per summer for the east slope of the Wind River Mountains for the National Outdoor Leadership School, according to John Hamren, the director of the school. There presently is no limit on winter NOLS use. About 790 NOLS students and instructors were taken into the Winds this year. The number has been declining gradually since 1970, when 1,100 NOLS people roamed the range.)



Editorial



This time it's COSC

Small is beautiful, unless it's a contribution

We don't know a family without financial problems, and the family of conservation organizations in Colorado, the Colorado Open Space Council, is no exception. In the past COSC has been able to scrimp, have a garage sale or two, and somehow get by. On \$25,000 a year COSC has run a legislative lobby, manned an office full-time, operated a university student intern program, entered key Colorado environmental legal battles, published a newsletter and a legislative bulletin, spawned workshops on wilderness, mining, and clean air, and kept abreast of most of the issues in the state. A miraculous feat! A model that other statewide conservation coordinating councils have been trying to emulate.

Twenty-five thousand dollars isn't much in today's terms — but it's a fortune when you only have \$25 in your general fund. And that was COSC's situation as of an August 17, 1975, *Denver Post* article entitled, "Financial Problems Pushing COSC to Brink of Collapse." It was shocking news. We expect fledgling environmental groups and ones in the conservation backwaters to rise and fall as a matter of course. But COSC is strong, well-respected, 10 years old, effective, expanding — and broke.

"We're not a cookie-selling organization. People will turn out for an activist cause, but not for fund raising," past COSC president V. Crane Wright told the *Post*.

Part of COSC's problem is that it has come to rely partially on business community contributions solicited at an annual picnic. Four years ago the picnic brought in \$2,100 — this year only \$700 was collected. Evidently COSC has become too feisty and politically effective for some contributors.

COSC administrator Bonnie McCuen told the *High*

Country News that several businesses refused to support the fund raiser picnic because of the organization's stand against construction of Interstate 470 and their support of a mass transit alternative.

Since being silent seems to be the best way to raise money, Colorado might save COSC at the expense of losing one of the strongest citizen voices in the halls of the capitol building. But it's just not worth it — and COSC knows it. Business contributions are nice, but independence is more important. In the end, support must come from the people.

Financial stability is an elusive goal for any effective conservation organization. Handouts are great, but they

should not be relied upon. In the end, whether you're an officer in a conservation organization, a member of an activist group, or an editor of an environmental paper, you have to become a cookie salesman as well.

It takes real commitment accepting this second, somewhat distasteful, task. It's a lot tougher than just filling out a membership blank. But without such grassroots commitment, COSC and every other conservation organization will either fold, be afraid to speak out, or always be on the "brink of collapse." We know. We've been there too, many times.

Small is beautiful, unless it's a contribution to help out the conservation organizations you believe in. Then, you just can't give too much. —BH

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Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520

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Photo by Lynne Bama



PLUG THE CANYON? Clark's Fork Canyon at the mouth of Sunlight Creek with Sunlight Falls on the left. Six water developments have been proposed for the Clark's Fork-Sunlight drainage. This particular area would not be inundated, but if Sunlight Reservoir is built and no provisions are made for minimum flows below the dam, the falls could be destroyed.

Speculators. . .

(Continued from page 1)

Zoning Commission unanimously passed a resolution opposing the first of the reservoirs to be made public. They felt such projects would violate the agricultural designation under which the area was zoned.

By the end of the month, then-State Engineer Floyd Bishop accepted an invitation from the North Absaroka Group of the Sierra Club to speak in Cody on the projects. He was evidently surprised to find himself in front of about 100 local people, all concerned about the dams and especially about the reservoir on Sunlight Creek, which would flood part of a spectacular basin used by area residents for recreation.

At this meeting Bishop said that present laws tended to force the State Engineer's Office to approve applications if they were submitted in the correct form. He stated that a permit could be refused if it was not in the public interest, but added that no application had ever been rejected on those grounds, and said that present interpretations of "public interest" tended to equate it with economics.

When questioned about the type of industrial use contemplated for the water, he said he was not sure how much the State Engineer's Office could legally demand to know from an applicant.

He agreed that county agencies should be notified of filings in their area, but noted that the legislature would have to clarify how this would be done.

When the subject of public hearings was raised, Bishop commented that they should be limited to the larger reservoirs. "It's no good to fight Dam A, Dam B, and Dam C," the *Cody Enterprise* quoted him as saying; "what is needed is recodification of the law."

A few months later the State Engineer's Office wrote to Henry Burgess, the applicant for the Sunlight Reservoir permit, asking him several questions about the project. Among them was a request to know the type and location of the proposed industrial use for the water.

The applicant answered, "Primarily the use of such

water will "be in a coal related industry, but from preliminary studies it would appear water would also be available for agricultural use if there is demand for that type of use."

He went on to say, "Location of the industrial use is not at this point in time definitely established," but spoke further of several possible arrangements which seemed to imply a northeast Wyoming destination.

The State Engineer's Office found the answer to this and the other questions inadequate, and gave the applicant a deadline of August 30, 1975, to submit more detailed information. Similar deadlines were set for additional information about most of the other Clark's Fork filings. The office stated that if the information were not forthcoming by that date, the application would be rejected.

In the meantime, the North Absaroka Group had begun a research project into the effects of the Sunlight dam.

They found that the Bureau of Reclamation had surveyed the same site a number of years before for a somewhat smaller reservoir that would have been used for hydropower.

The Bureau's reservoir would have inundated over 1,900 acres at maximum high water, including "some of the best bottom land in the upper Clark's Fork Basin." Included in this was over 1,700 acres of deeded land, both private and land owned by the state Game and Fish Department. The remainder of the affected land is part of the Shoshone National Forest, including the Sunlight Ranger Station.

The deeded land owned by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is managed as a winter game range. A check with Game and Fish revealed that inundation of this land would mean the elimination of 500 or more elk. The area was also used by deer and moose, though the numerical effects on them were not known.

Reservoir construction would also mean the loss of campgrounds and a fishing access site. Sunlight Creek itself is a Class 2 trout stream, of statewide importance, and the several miles of this that would be under the reservoir would be destroyed. If no provision were made

for minimum flows below the dam, about six more miles would be lost.

The Sunlight Reservoir application lists the total capacity as for industrial use, implying at least the possibility of a total drawdown for part of each year. As winds of 35-40 miles per hour are common in the basin, a substantial impact on air quality also seemed possible from winds blowing across the barren mud flats.

The group further found that the Wyoming statutes and constitution provided for condemnation for reservoirs for a number of purposes, including agriculture, mining, milling, domestic, electric power transmission, municipal or sanitary uses, and transportation of coal. Though industrial use is absent from this list; according to an attorney consulted, the issue is not clear cut, especially if some other uses were to be included.

(The government lands could not be condemned — a right of way from the State Land Commissioner would have to be obtained for the Game and Fish property and a special use permit for the Forest Service acreage.)

Conversations with the State Engineer's Office also revealed that it is the responsibility of the holder of a water right rather than the state to notify any landowners who may be affected by a project. Injury from the taking of private property does not come under the State Engineer's jurisdiction. He may hold a public hearing at his discretion, but is not required to do so unless, for instance, granting of a permit might impair the rights of another water user.

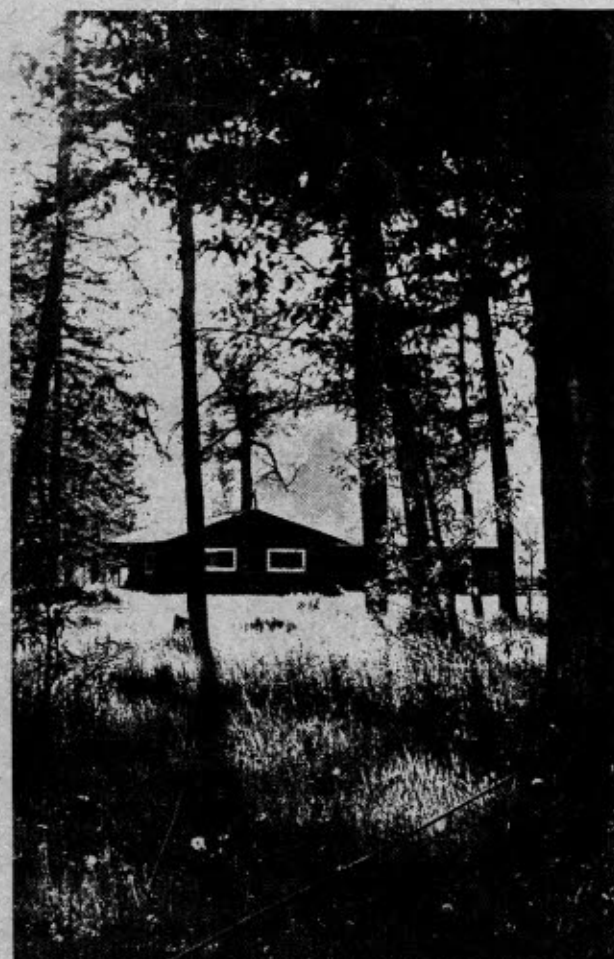
Study of Bureau of Reclamation documents revealed that there might be some problems with the dam site itself, since it was partially located on a terminal moraine with erratic permeability characteristics.

But it appeared that under Wyoming water laws, once a permit to store water has been obtained, it is possible to petition for a change in the point of diversion or place of storage. In most cases such change does not affect the priority of the water right — in other words, the original filing date is retained for the new site.

The problem appeared to be that Wyoming's water laws had been written for simpler times, when agriculture was the major appropriator. The system had not been designed for industrial giants, for whom water was a valuable commodity involving millions of dollars of investment.

A quick look at the water supply situation for the whole state of Wyoming further revealed the potential importance of water from the Clark's Fork area, remote from the Gillette coal fields though it may seem.

The Bighorn Basin as a whole has more "available" water, according to the Wyoming Framework Water Plan (issued by the State Engineer's Office in 1973), than any



INUNDATION AHEAD? The Sunlight Ranch, owned by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, would be inundated by Sunlight Reservoir if it is constructed.

Photo by Lynne Bama



ELK FLOODED OUT. If Sunlight Reservoir is built, 500 elk or more would be flooded out, according to the Game and Fish Department. Part of the land to be inundated is a state-owned winter game range. Moose, deer, and other animals would also lose important habitat. Photo by Lynne Bama

other area of the state — over 2.2 million acre-feet per year. Of this, 1.8 million acre-feet is in the Bighorn River and 429,000 acre-feet in the Clark's Fork.

By way of comparison, all of northeast Wyoming — Tongue, Powder, Belle Fourche, and Cheyenne rivers combined — has only 239,000 acre-feet a year to spare.

Still, how could water from the Clark's Fork be conveyed to northeast Wyoming, almost 200 miles away?

There are three possible methods: One is a water exchange between Wyoming and Montana, in which Montana could agree to take more water under its Yellowstone River Compact allocation from the Clark's Fork, in exchange for letting Wyoming keep more out of a river near the coal region, such as the Powder.

Another solution could be an interstate agreement whereby Wyoming could let Clark's Fork water run into Montana, to be taken out of the Yellowstone further east and shipped south to the coal fields in Wyoming. Under present law, however, once water leaves the state of Wyoming it becomes the property of the downstream state.

The Wyoming Water Plan mentioned a third possibility — Wyoming could build a transbasin diversion from Bighorn Lake (which is behind Yellowtail Dam on the Bighorn River) eastward across the Bighorn Mountains.

The Plan also showed a pipeline which could transfer Clark's Fork water southward to the Shoshone River, which would then carry it to Bighorn Lake.

Since the Bureau of Reclamation has already signed option contracts for a large amount of industrial water in Bighorn Lake, there is going to be some pressure for a solution to the problem of transferring Bighorn River water eastward. And any solution that will work for the Bighorn River will probably also work for the Clark's Fork.

Concern about the implications of the Sunlight Reservoir filing has generated an organization to oppose it, and to express concern about other reservoir applications on the Clark's Fork — the Clark's Fork Steering Committee. It is composed of the Cody Country Outfitters Association, the Cody Country Sportsmen's Club, the North Absaroka Group of the Sierra Club, the Powell-Cody League of Women Voters, and a number of concerned individuals.

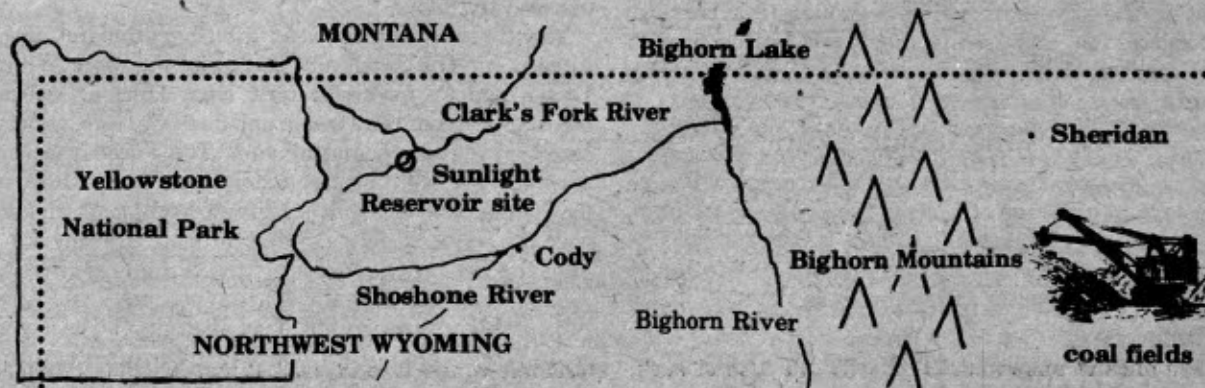
The Committee has written to the State Engineer requesting a public hearing on the Sunlight project, and recently retained an attorney. They were also recently given an opportunity to express their concern about Sunlight Reservoir personally to Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler in Cheyenne.

On August 6, 1975, the deadline for information on three of the other Clark's Fork reservoirs passed. Though the applicant had sent in additional information, it was considered inadequate by the State Engineer, and the applications were rejected. (The Hunter Mountain site had also been rejected in September, 1974, for a technical defect.)

Evidently a new concern about industrial, and potentially speculative, water projects is being felt at the state level. George Christopoulos, the present State Engineer, feels that the Wyoming Water Development Program passed by the 1975 legislature now gives him authority to take a more comprehensive look at such projects — and to fit them into a broad picture of industrial water development for the whole state.

A decision on the fate of Sunlight Reservoir is still pending, but one thing seems clear — it is not only the water situation that has changed in Wyoming, but the attitudes of many people here. Awareness of the vital importance of water to the life-style and economy of the state is growing, as is the concern about the threat industrialization poses to this crucial resource.

Lynne Bama is a photographer-writer living in Wapiti, Wyo., near the proposed Sunlight Reservoir site. She is a member of the North Absaroka Group of the Sierra Club which is circulating information on the project and its implications.



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Governors. . .

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quotation in the first paragraph of the article is taken, 19 policies, and eight resolutions.

Some were strong and specific (urging continuance of the moratorium on Federal coal leases), others inarguable and general (encouraging "multi-state regional coordination and cooperation" on energy matters).

WATCH WHAT WE DO

But, as with any such bureaucratic organization working in the national political arena, more can be learned by watching how those proposed policies are translated into action than by marveling at the eloquent or stilted language of hastily passed resolutions.

"If we just sit here and pass resolutions three or four times a year, we're not going to have any impact at all," Montana's Gov. Judge said after the first day's session had ended.

Judge and Lamm, the two most ardent believers in maintaining the clean environment and easy social atmosphere of the West, were the most outspoken of all the chief executives and their assistants — persistently making the point that "passing resolutions" alone is a fruitless exercise.

In putting forth their views in the formal sessions and in discussions with the press, the two sometimes upstaged Chairman Apodaca, who usually was able to keep his discomfiture well disguised.

Judge said in an interview that the key question is how much power the states will have in the decision-making process on energy issues at the Federal level — where several agencies and the international energy corporations are scrambling to set policy (emphasizing Washington-mandated production levels to the detriment of state-level environmental and social considerations). Scanning a list of proposals that the WGREPO staff might be called upon to undertake, Judge said: "We really need to define what we need specifically. Thirty-seven projects for the staff is really impossible."

He noted that he had sought unsuccessfully, as WGREPO was being formed, for the creation of a staff office on Capitol Hill to deal directly with Congressional energy legislation. "The decisions are going to be made in

Lamm and Judge were the two most outspoken of the governors, persistently making the point that "passing resolutions" alone is a fruitless exercise. In the process, they sometimes upstaged chairman Apodaca who usually was able to keep his discomfiture well disguised.

Washington, not Denver," Judge said. "And the governors themselves have to get involved" by personally testifying on Federal legislation, he added.

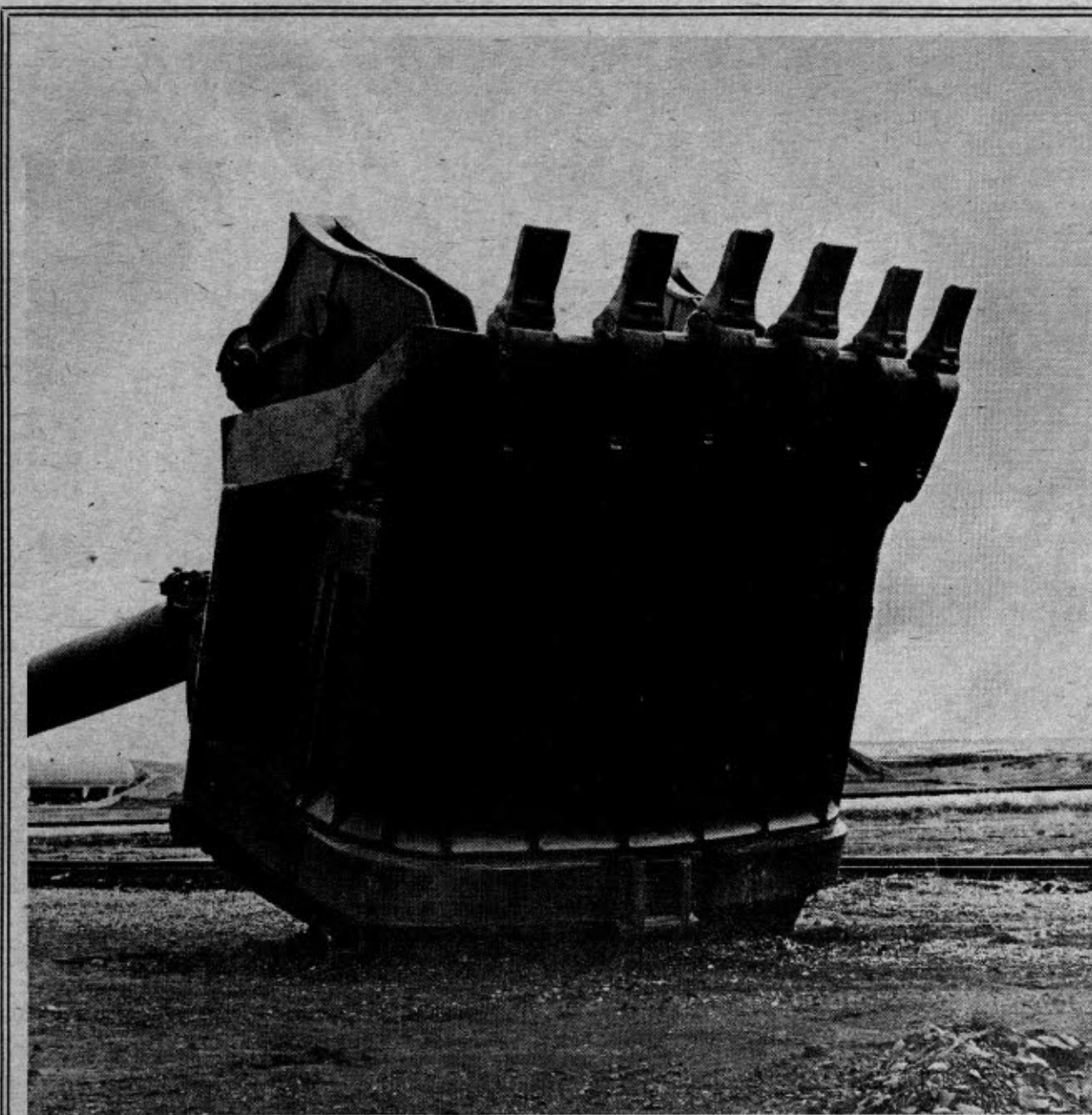
In spite of his reservations on the scope and style of WGREPO's operations so far, he continued to defend the organization: "The only chance we've got is getting together regionally. Otherwise, the states are going to be played off against each other."

Lamm retained his reservations, saying as the conference neared its end that "the whole answer to that question (about future WGREPO effectiveness on the national level) is in the future," and specifically depends on "whether the governors will have enough interest to go back and testify" and whether they would "follow up with state laws" of their own on energy and environmental matters.

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

Lamm also noted that only the Department of the Interior had sent its top officials to Santa Fe — and even then that agency is operating without its top two leaders, Secretary Stanley K. Hathaway having just resigned after a five-week tenure and the under secretaryship still remaining vacant.

Other Federal agencies with authority on energy issues, each scrambling for ascendancy, are the Federal



Coal bucket.

Photo by Lynne Bama

Energy Administration (FEA), the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), and, to some extent, the Commerce Department. In spite of frustrations with the Interior Department, Lamm said, "We'd sure as hell rather deal with Interior than the others."

An aide to Lamm agreed, noting that Interior has a well-defined, regionally located and experienced staff in the field in the West, unlike the newer energy agencies: "I think they've shown a lot more willingness to talk with us than the other agencies."

FEA and ERDA practically boycotted the conference. FEA Director Frank Zarb had been scheduled to attend and was listed on the agenda. Both agencies sent lower-echelon officials who barely participated in the sessions except to observe. Apodaca, questioned by a *New York Times* reporter about what the absence of FEA and ERDA leaders said about the "clout" of WGREPO, responded rather lamely that their failure to appear was "just a matter of circumstance." He said negotiations were under way for top administrators from each agency to attend, but "things kind of deteriorated until by mutual consent we just forgot about it."

Hathaway's hasty resignation on the Friday before the Monday conference left the three second-level Interior Department officials who did show up visibly disconcerted. Still, their presence did result in a dialogue — however halting — between the governors and the Washington bureaucrats on the issue of "energy colonialization of the West," as Apodaca and others have phrased the issue.

The three who trekked to the Sheraton Inn, atop a hillside on the north side of Santa Fe, were William Lyons, deputy undersecretary; Jack Horton, assistant secretary for land and water; and Jack Carlson, assistant secretary for energy and minerals. The Tuesday morning session began with Lyons attempting to soothe the governors' anger and fear that Washington will run roughshod over the western states — and, in fact, already is — to grab the region's fossil and synthetic fuel resources.

"You need a role in the decision process," said Lyons. "The problems are gigantic. They shouldn't all be handled out of Washington." He added that any resumption of coal mining leases on Federal lands within the western states

— under a moratorium since February 1973 by order of former Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton — still would be dependent on area-level environmental impact statements (not just the national-level impact statement concerning total coal strip mine policies) and on the development of a "total leasing program."

Lyons said Hathaway during his short time in Washington had made a "tentative decision" to end the leasing moratorium, which had raised the question: "Is leasing going to resume in the very near future?"

Lyons responded, "The answer is no. The department will continue the moratorium until such time as Federal coal leasing regulations are made final. They will be put out for comment. We want the comment of the governors of the states and the public at large. The department (also) is committed to a series of regional impact statements . . . which will cover all coal mining activities."

Carlson later added that if state coal mining laws are stronger, the Federal government will comply with them rather than with its own regulations. (He added that an assessment of geothermal resources — important to New Mexico and several other western states — should be ready for release by the U.S. Geological Survey "in a couple of weeks.")

After Lyons and Carlson had made their brief presentations, Judge and Lamm began the "states' rights" presentation. They were the most vocal and articulate of the chief executives present, but the others — more conservative in style and manner — seemed to agree on most points, and, in fact, the votes on most policy declarations were unanimous. Herschler of Wyoming, a grey-haired

Two of the principal federal energy agencies practically boycotted the conference. Apodaca lamely explained, "It was just a matter of circumstance. . . things kind of deteriorated. . ."

man who was silent during most of the sessions, spoke up at one point after Lamm had strongly criticized Federal heavy-handedness. "I agree with Dick," Herschler said. "In the past there has not been a dialogue, and sometimes you play one state off against another. The only dialogue comes after you make the decision."

Judge, responding to Lyons' statement that the governors would have "input" into the Federal decision-making process, said: "It's fine to have input, but when it comes down to the final decision, what role will the governors have?" When Lyons answered that "we are charged by law with carrying out certain functions, and in doing that, we clearly want the input of the governors and the public," Judge persisted: "What if we say 'no'? Can you come back and say 'yes'?"

The specific case in question was regarding state-level authority over allocation of water for energy projects, particularly if governors consider other uses — primarily agriculture — as having a higher priority. Jack Horton stepped in to aid the somewhat beleaguered Lyons. "If you would like to have the first right of refusal on virtually any allocation (of water), we will offer that to you," Horton said. "In no sense are we going to approach this with a big club." Horton added that the Federal courts consistently have recognized that Washington has dominant authority on such issues, but added, "We are not going to push that. Decisions will be made on a specific case instance."

Lamm followed up with another verbal sally. He noted that Washington had "unilaterally decided" to launch a massive on-site, oil shale leasing program in Colorado as an example of his assertion that "the decisions you make have such an overriding impact on our states."

"One of the big questions we have is the level of entry and the time of entry (into decision-making)," Lamm said. "We come in at a time when the decision is all but made, or has been made. We want part of the decision. Telling us

Washington is not going to "plan the West" from the Potomac, claimed the Interior official.

"You are planning the West," Lamm shot back, "and that's what we're trying to tell you."

what you've decided, in time for us to comment on it, is not enough." Lamm added that the preparation of environmental impact statements, supposedly a step guaranteeing that local areas won't be trampled by the federal energy scramble, "is becoming increasingly a pro forma thing, a hurdle that has to be cleared after the decision has been made."

Carlson kept the dialogue going by saying Washington is determined to protect the West, that President Ford, in spite of his veto of strip mining control legislation, "is firmly on record in support of reclamation." He asserted that Washington is not going to "plan the West" from the Potomac, but instead is seeking a "controlled, orderly process to respond to the (energy) market."

"You are planning the West," Lamm shot back, "and that's what we're trying to tell you — much more than the governors, more than the state legislatures. The decisions you make determine how much water we're going to have for agriculture, whether new towns will develop and old towns will die." The oil shale exploitation in Colorado, decided by Washington, "will move more earth than has been moved in the history of Colorado," he said.

Horton came up with one of the better lines of the session as the spirited dialogue finally sputtered to a halt. "We're not going to allow free enterprise to run rampant," Horton said. And Lamm got off one of his own later that day when he noted the relative helplessness of the states in dealing with the political and economic power of Washington: "We have no option but to mobilize our ski patrol."

In the meantime, the fight continues in Washington over energy decision-making authority. One Interior Department official volunteered privately that the states, in spite of their problems with Interior, would be better off if Interior has top energy authority than if that role goes to the Federal Energy Administration. "The real conflict," the official said, "is between FEA and Interior. FEA is totally centralist oriented" and wants to make all decisions in Washington, he claimed.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE WEST

The Denver-based staff of WGREPO, under the direction of former Gov. Guy, a quiet and seemingly efficient administrator, was given its first firm orders from the

Lamm noted the relative helplessness of the states in dealing with the political and economic power of Washington. "We have no option," he said, "but to mobilize our ski patrol."

governors, acting as the "board of directors" of the new organization, formed — according to a press release from Apodaca's office — "in an attempt to unify efforts of the western states during the energy crisis."

Guy's own highest-level priority, he said, would be to use the tax expert of WGREPO, in concert with state-level tax officials, to develop firm information on adequate levels of taxation for energy exploitation. There should be "adequate and equitable taxation of these resources as they come out of the ground," Guy said. The governors responded, at the urging of Judge and Gov. Kneip of South Dakota, by setting priorities for the small staff to work on and including among them: "Analyze and compare the western states' methods of the taxation of energy production."

Among the other priorities, winnowed from a list of 37 prospective jobs for the WGREPO staff, were to:

- Evaluate state and federal laws dealing with growth of energy "boom towns" and social and environmental effects of rapid development on small communities.

- Identify the "adequacy and validity" of basic information on energy resources in the West.

- Publish a "weekly condensed report" to the governors and their energy staff alternates on energy developments by other levels of government and by industry.

- Investigate national freight rate structures related to shipment of coal.

- Develop practical ways for governors to bring about serious energy conservation practices in their states, ranging from changes in utility rate structures to development of wiser land use patterns.

The 19 "general policies" adopted by the governors to guide the general course of WGREPO were prefaced by the preamble which cited, sometimes using apocalyptic language, the grave problems associated with "our expanding demands on planet earth's finite energy resources."

The growth of total population, and the corresponding growth of energy usage by each individual, the preamble reads, are placing "unacceptable stresses on our quality of life — stresses such as air and water pollution, top soil destruction, heat, noise, nuclear contamination, and the frustrations (that result) from concentrations of heavy

The governors' assertion seemed to be that the West will not be raped. Rather, it will willingly turn prostitute if the price is right.

industry and people." In some western states "the competition for water between energy and beneficial uses is becoming severe and cries out for solution."

"We must move in concert," the governors agreed, "to protect our citizens and our environment as we seek to provide our share of energy in a situation where comprehensive national energy policy is not yet fully stated or clearly defined."

BETWEEN THE LINES

The "general policies" which followed were not listed on a priority basis, but it was significant that the No. 1 policy was a reminder of the region's "responsibility," not to protect its people and the natural environment mentioned so solicitously in the preamble, but to supply "an equitable share of energy to the region and to the nation in order to operate our economic system, provide jobs and

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an acceptable standard of living, undergird our national security, and strengthen our role as a world leader."

It was classic Cold War rhetoric, based on continued economic and population growth rather than equilibrium, and the one paragraph — placed in the lead position of the policies, spoke volumes about the gap between the governors' rhetoric and their genuine awareness of what the new era requires.

The second policy is to develop pricing and taxation practices "which pass all costs of production — including social and environmental costs — to the ultimate consumer." Again, it was an assertion that the West will not be raped, but it will willingly turn prostitute if the price is right. Nor did anyone attempt to explain how the "cost" of a loss of scenic vistas in the West can be passed on to the remote consumers — the "dismal science" of economics prevailed over aesthetics throughout the session.

It was not until the third-listed policy that the governors mentioned their placement of a "high value and priority on protection of the environment and ecosystems," and not until No. 6 that conservation of energy was mentioned. In the governmental, political and industrial circles where such policy statements are read and interpreted, such subtle placement of priorities is not missed.

The linguistic tea-leaf reading practiced by industry and the bureaucracy also would pick up the phrase "where appropriate" in this policy statement seeking political muscle for the governors in setting national policies: "It is our policy to develop better methods of coordination and cooperation with federal agencies, and we seek, where appropriate, to provide input in the early stages of the federal decision-making process."

After the 19 general policies were adopted, virtually unanimously, the governors turned to the consideration of eight separate resolutions offered by the governors themselves. They also were adopted with little discussion or debate, but their sponsorship and wording is illustrative.

Utah's resolution, adopted in the absence of "Silent Cal" Rampton, stated that the governors "reaffirm our commitment to the orderly development of the natural energy resources within our region while maintaining the unique physical and cultural environment of the American West." Gov. Exon of Nebraska got a resolution on record in support of the use of food-grain byproducts as a grain-alcohol energy resource. Lamm resolved "that the states should be afforded a full and early opportunity to provide meaningful input, at the inception, to federal energy related programs and policies."

Apodaca, who contended himself primarily with a silent but efficient job of keeping the meetings moving along, offered his sole resolution on the issue of de-controlled oil prices. (Wells producing before January 1972 have had controlled prices — the so-called "old oil." Wells drilled since then — "new oil" — is not price controlled.) Apodaca's resolution urged "gradual de-control" of old oil prices, rather than an abrupt lifting of controls, and an "excess profits tax" on windfall profits resulting from de-control.

Petaluma beats slow-growth suit

Petaluma, Calif., can attempt to control its growth by limiting housing construction, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled. The decision reverses a January 1974 district court ruling which held that the controversial Petaluma approach to growth control violated the constitutionally protected right to travel.

The appeals court ruled that the Petaluma plan, which limited new housing starts to 500 units a year, was "a reasonable and legitimate exercise of police power." The court said the city was within its rights in seeking to preserve "its small-town character, its open spaces, and to grow at an orderly and deliberate pace."

Only subdivisions of five or more units would be affected by the plan, and they would be judged according to a point system measuring the quality of the development and provisions for public facilities, according to **Land Use Planning Reports**.

The Petaluma plan was adopted in 1972, and challenged by construction firms when more than 1,600 units were turned down in 1973. James L. Beyers, attorney for the construction interests, told **LUP Reports** the decision would probably be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

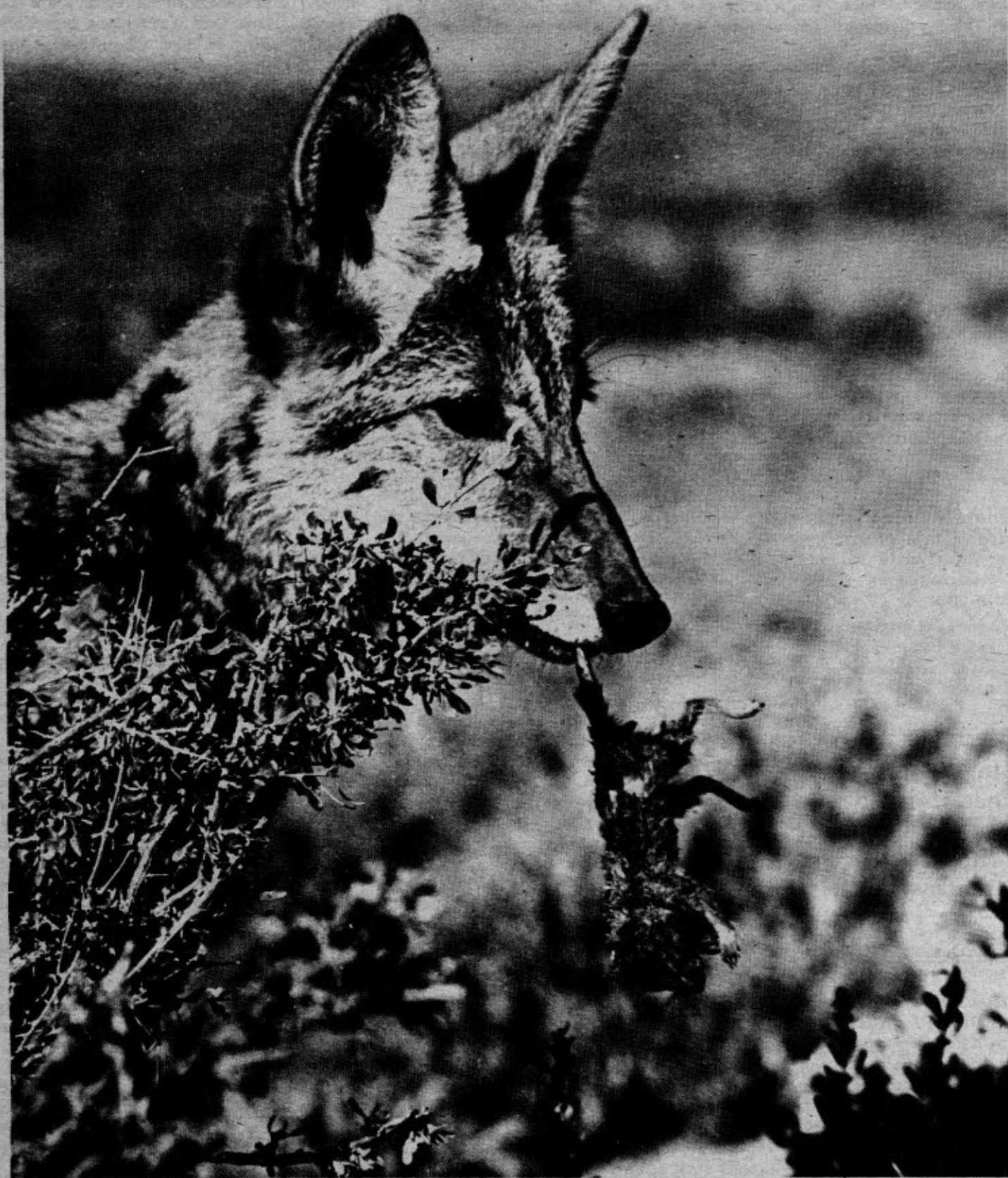


Photo by Dick Randall

God's Dog

Review copyright 1975 by David Sumner

Hope Ryden's *God's Dog* is a lovely book. It is warm, patient, sympathetic, detached, broad, precise, mostly about coyotes and also about their control. More than any other book on its subject with the possible exception of J. Frank Dobie's *The Voice of the Coyote* (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1961) it attempts to meet the predator controversy head on by doing something few others have ever taken the time to do. For the better part of two years, she studied, observed and photographed coyotes doing their thing in the wild. In so doing, she has pieced together a sustained, coherent picture of coyote behavior much at odds with the prevailing demonology.

Comparing *God's Dog* (this title, by the way, is simply the Navajo epithet for the coyote) with two other recent and excellent books, Ryden's book seems a logical and necessary step. Faith McNulty's *Must They Die? The Strange Case of the Prairie Dog and the Black-*

by Hope Ryden (Coward, McCann & Geoghegan; New York, 1975), \$12.50. Hardcover. 288 pages, 89 photographs (color, black & white).

dissection of the old federal government varmint poisoning establishment; its best sections are the result of tireless combings of Interior Department files in Washington, and of incisive interviews with bureaucratic fixtures. Jack Olson's *Slaughter the Animals, Poison the Earth* (Simon & Schuster, 1971) is a more rhetorical and relentless examination of poisoners here in the West. Both are solid examples of investigative journalism, a craft which Ryden also knows well. Her great strength, however, is that of a patient, painstaking naturalist in the field with her subjects.

The bulk of her observations take place at two northwestern Wyoming sites. In the winter, Yellowstone National Park is largely free of human intrusion — thus an apt area for following more or less natural coyote behavior. But come spring and the visitor influx and those conditions no longer hold (any more than they do on most BLM and Forest Service land where decades of control have long since altered the coyote's historic behavior). So Ryden shifts her base to an area of Jackson Hole's Na-

she is able to observe the coyote in the wild — living much as it did throughout the entire West a century ago.

The logic behind selecting such sites is clear: understand the animal's natural behavior first before dealing with deviations and adaptations necessitated by the westward American advance. Basic logistics were also involved: despite many reports that coyote populations had exploded following the Executive and EPA poison ban orders of early 1972, Ryden had a deuce of a time finding any coyotes in areas where control has been in force. When she did turn up individuals, they were abnormally furtive; for the most part, all she witnessed were invisible howls in the night.

The story of wintering coyotes in Yellowstone is a hard one. The seasons were comparatively mild, the large prey herds (deer, elk, bighorn sheep, pronghorns, bison) in excellent health, and many coyotes scrawny, ratty and hungry because carrion was so sparse. In fact, there was a major crash in coyote numbers late in the second winter of Ryden's work. Despite these extremities, however, she was able to document a fascinating range of coyote behavior, hunting, scavenging, associating with humans,



Photo by Dick Randall

and magpies to find relations especially animals' hoofs bring coyotes access (neath), communities, howls), coyotes.

For two winters running, hamsters is so often alleged 10-month-old elk coyotes at bay on selves and wand-

The spring ob Again for two ye was able to watch "the Miller Butt litters of pups, th From her observ done the pioneer first of its kind e

Year one. The and Redlegs), pl and "uncle" (Bro the parental ch doggy-like names account; on the c reiterated through a separate and un sonality." At this instance of a coy close to the pups away.

Year two. On return from the y surrogate parent Dog's and Redleg Ryden to make d plex and subtle emergence of san the fine details of den changing, tea



by Dick Randall

and magpies to find food, eating at carcasses (hierarchical relations especially visible here), following elk (the large animals' hoofs broke through the heavy snow cover, giving coyotes access to semi-dormant mice wintering beneath), communicating (facial expressions, bodily gestures, howls), courting, and copulating.

For two winters Ryden searched in vain for coyotes running, hamstringing and consuming game animals as is so often alleged. In striking contrast, she observed a 10-month-old elk calf almost casually keep 13 hungry coyotes at bay until they became divided among themselves and wandered off on their own accord.

The spring observations are even more impressive. Again for two years, this time on the Elk Refuge, Ryden was able to watch a group of from four to seven adults — "the Miller Butte pack" she named them — raise two litters of pups, three the first year and nine the second. From her observations and careful field notes she has done the pioneering study of wild coyotes at a den — the first of its kind ever written.

Year one. There are only the two parents (Grey Dog and Redlegs), plus a subordinate, non-breeding "aunt" and "uncle" (Brownie and Harness Marks) who assist in the parental chores. Giving wild animals domestic doggy-like names does not undermine the veracity of this account; on the contrary, it underscores a point quietly reiterated throughout the book: each individual coyote is a separate and unique creature with its own distinct "personality." At this site, the author also finally witnesses an instance of a coyote chasing deer; the animals graze too close to the pups' den and Harness Marks drives them away.

Year two. Only the two dominant breeding coyotes return from the year before, but with them are five new surrogate parents, all of whom assist in raising Grey Dog's and Redlegs' nine pups. The larger numbers allow Ryden to make detailed observations of the pack's complex and subtle hierarchic organization, likewise the emergence of same among the young. She is able to note the fine details of raising the pups (feeding, baby sitting, den changing, teaching) as well as the learning activities

(pawing, pouncing, hunting first grasshoppers, then mice, then ground squirrels).

In addition, she also takes in elements of the Miller Butte pack's territorial behavior, though the close-up, social focus of her study precludes her exploring larger relations among packs, their boundaries, or the outmigration (forced?) of young who must leave home territory to prevent its overpopulation.

Ryden's sympathetically related natural history accounts are fascinating in their own right. They are breakthroughs; they are likely to stir fresh research that will further sharpen and extend our image and understanding of the coyote. They also provide new information for the second major thread of *God's Dog* — a firm, steady critique of predator control, its purveyors and the myths that fuel both.

As a conservationist, this book raises many questions (some new, some not) about the profound ecological implications of predator control.

* To what extent have the lethal carcasses and baits scattered across the West turned coyotes away from carrion to live prey only (including live sheep)? Ryden describes the extremely tentative approach of a group of coyotes to the discarded paunch of a poached Yellowstone elk; the human taint is enough to induce drastic caution — even though the coyotes are desperate with hunger.

* As control measures disrupt natural hierarchies, what happens to breeding patterns? At Miller Butte only one pair out of seven animals bred. Kill off Grey Dog or Redlegs and how many of the subordinates would raise young to fill the void? Might excessive numbers of pups be produced?

* How does constant disruption (including killing, by whatever means) affect territorial behavior and boundaries? Animals with stable territories normally confine their feeding to natural prey species within the "home" area; itinerant coyotes are more apt to take what they can get wherever they can get it (again including sheep).

Upon finishing *God's Dog*, the biggest question I have is not about coyotes, but rather about man. While Ryden's research on coyotes and poisons is excellent, it fails to teach the reader why some men hate coyotes and ignore science.

God's Dog tells us beautifully about the coyote. We need someone to tell us about ourselves.



Photo by Bob Roush, Colorado Division of Wildlife

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Kaiparowits EIS describes major canyonland impacts

The Bureau of Land Management released a 2,700-page Kaiparowits Power Project draft environmental impact statement in August. Comments on the statement are due no later than Sept. 30, according to the BLM.

The statement describes the plans of a consortium of three utility companies to build a 3,000 megawatt coal-fired electrical generating station and associated facilities on public land in southcentral Utah. The power generated would serve markets in Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Diego.

Public hearings on the proposal will be Sept. 15 in Salt Lake City, Utah; Sept. 16 in Kanab, Utah; Sept. 17 in Phoenix, Ariz.; Sept. 18 in Las Vegas, Nev.; and Sept. 19

in San Bernardino and Riverside, Calif. (see "Bulletin Board" for exact times and places).

A coalition of conservation groups have called the 60 days allowed for comment after the draft statement was released "totally inadequate, considering the magnitude of the project, and the fact that the draft is a compilation of years of work by inter-agency teams." The groups have joined the Environmental Protection Agency in requesting the Secretary of Interior to extend the review period.

According to the BLM study, some of the project's significant impacts will be: four underground coal mines to supply 25,000 tons of coal per day, washeries, waste disposals, water supply lines, a limestone quarry, about 2,000 miles of new roads and highways, a 1,500-mile network of electric transmission lines, a power generating plant with four 600-foot concrete stacks, and a new town to accommodate an influx of 15,000 to 20,000 people in sparsely settled southern Utah.

The coalition of conservation groups is fearful that smokestack emissions from the plant "will create a permanent haze over the entire Lake Powell-Grand Canyon

region, making it the most polluted non-urban area in the country."

Air emissions are expected to degrade vistas in the area, which is rich in National Parks including Zion, Canyonlands, Arches, Bryce Canyon, and Capitol Reef.

The coalition says the project is "incompatible with the fundamental purpose of the National Parks." The groups cite the goal set in the National Park Service Act of 1916 "to conserve the scenery, and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein . . . in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Park officials also have qualms about the plant, according to an unpublished memo quoted in a recent *New York Times* story. The memo, from the director's office of the National Park Service to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, warned that the power plant could mean "severe impairment of loss of the prime esthetic qualities and resources unique to this region," would "threaten cultural, archeological and human resources," and would "impose an insidious pollution load" on nearby Lake Powell. The memo requested relocation of Kaiparowits and other plants further away from Utah parks, according to the *Times* story.

The conservation coalition includes the following groups: American Rivers Conservation Council, Arizonans for a Quality Environment, Colorado Open Space Council, Council on Utah's Resources, Desert Protective Council, Ecology Center of Southern California, Environmental Policy Center, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Four Corners Wilderness Workshop, Friends of the Earth, Interested in Saving Southern Utah's Environment, National Parks and Conservation Association, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Trout Unlimited, Ute Alpine Club, and Wyoming Outdoor Council.

For more information about the coalition contact Ruth Frear in Salt Lake City at 801-581-6283 (office) or 801-533-9384 (home); or the Wilderness Society in Denver at 303-758-2266.

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

Both sides of the coyote poisoning controversy are arguing over a "political bone" President Gerald R. Ford tossed to the livestock industry in July.

Its puny size has infuriated ranchers because they expect it will do little to protect their besieged sheep. Conservationists are no less outraged because, in their view, it was tossed in the wrong direction.

The President's order allows the use of sodium cyanide to be used in a spring-loaded device called an M-44 on a one-year experimental basis. Sheepmen have been using the contraption for the past year under another kind of experimental system, so the order came as no great salvation.

Still, the livestock industry argued in an Environmental Protection Agency hearing this month against any nibbling away at the bone EPA might want to do, and can do since that agency is responsible for registering the devices and setting up restrictions for its use. The Interior Department, a company in Texas, and the states of Wyoming, Montana, Oregon, and Nevada are seeking registrations.

Laird Noh, former president of the National Woolgrowers Association and now head of that group's committee on predator control, called the coyote's appetite for mutton "the most serious problem facing the wool grower of today."

In a letter to EPA, Wyoming Agriculture Commissioner Larry Bourret cited figures to support Noh's testimony. In 1971, before President Richard M. Nixon banned the use of poison on public lands and its shipment across state borders, 81,000 sheep and lambs were estimated to have been killed by coyotes — about four per cent of Wyoming flock then of 2.8 million. Last year, coyotes killed nearly 122,000 sheep and lambs, according to Bourret. The percentage, from a smaller flock of 2.4 million, rose to nine per cent.

Greater use of the M-44, Noh said, would help counter the trend.

The M-44 is controversial because of its questionable "selectivity." It may zap other animals. That very characteristic in the M-44's predecessor, the "coyote-getter," did much to generate the protest that resulted in the 1972 poison ban.

Conservationists favor a technique that would eliminate any prospect of an unwary fox or wolf getting poisoned. They are therefore sympathetic toward a research program planned under the President's order. It would test a collar adorned with pouches of poison and fitted on sheep.

However, they agree with sheep industry spokesmen that the collar presently lacks adequate human safety features to be used on any widespread basis.

Conservationists also favor a method called "food aversion." Lamb meat is injected with a chemical that causes the coyote to vomit and conclude that lamb meat is not such tasty food. That method is the topic of current research and some experimentation.

Meanwhile, ranchers are grasping for whatever they can get to cope with the coyote problem. Noh said rifles or hunting dogs are of little use "in situations where you can't see the coyote — brush, rough terrain, night, bad weather" and "where coyotes are too shy to be seen." He would use the M-44 in those circumstances.

But he would remain discontented. And until another solution is found, so would his adversaries.



Numbered prints of the pen and ink drawing are available by writing
HCN, Box K, Lander, WY 82520

\$2.

Desert Bighorn by Bob Lewis.

Profits go to High Country News.

Report from Alaska

by Greg Capito

GULF OF ALASKA E.I.S. RELEASED The Bureau of Land Management has released a draft environmental impact statement for proposed oil and gas lease sales in the northern Gulf of Alaska, covering about 1.8 million acres of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lands. The sale is scheduled to be held in late 1975. The draft EIS notes that some impacts are unavoidable. Oil spills are a distinct possibility, development will take place in formerly pristine areas, and native villages such as Yakutat will be impacted by the development project.

Governor Jay Hammond is urging the Interior Department to delay the lease sales so that social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed development can be fully assessed. Meanwhile, former Interior Secretary Walter Hickel favors immediate development of the OCS oil and gas reserves. He says that the nation cannot be brought to its knees by energy shortages.

The issue is highly controversial with public hearings on the proposed lease sales due to continue in Alaska and the Lower 48 states.

MUSK OX SEASON SET. On Sept. 1, the nation's first legal musk ox hunting season opens on Alaska's Nunivak Island. Ten permits will be issued. Hunters will have to travel 40-50 miles in open boats to reach the remote Southwest Alaska island. Weather is usually rugged and hunters may encounter high seas. The tag fee for nonresidents is \$1,000. However, hunters should be prepared to spend at least \$5,000. Large bulls weigh from 700-900 pounds. Friends of the Earth's Alaska representatives are opposing the hunt. The group "sympathizes with the dilemma of Nunivak Island but urges the Wildlife Service to explore alternate solutions. One such answer would be to transfer superfluous musk oxen to other parts of Alaska," said an article in the Mid-August 1975 issue of the group's publication, *Not Man Apart*.



NUCLEAR PARKS POSE PROBLEMS. The location of vast nuclear energy centers in the West could lead to serious water shortages and adverse social impacts, according to Robert Siek, head of environmental programs for the Colorado Department of Health. Siek spoke for the state at a Nuclear Regulatory Commission workshop in Denver, which focused on concentrating future nuclear plants in sprawling parks — each covering up to 75 square miles. The NRC will report to Congress on the feasibility of nuclear parks in October of this year. Public comment is invited.

MHD ON THE WAY. An official of the Energy Research and Development Administration said that planning and site location have begun for two major magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) test facilities scheduled for construction in Butte, Mont. Groundbreaking could begin this fall, according to the Associated Press report. MHD is a new process for generating power which uses magnetic force and the creation of hot gases to convert coal with more efficiency and less air pollution.

NEW SHERIDAN MINE. The Public Service Company of Oklahoma plans to open a new 500,000 ton per year open pit coal mine outside Sheridan, Wyo., and just south of the Montana state line. The firm hopes to begin work in early 1976 and employ 40-45 workers.

WYOMING IN APPALACHIA? Wyoming Sen. Gale McGee is sponsoring a bill to include Wyoming under impact funding provisions of the Appalachian Regional Development Act. The bill would authorize \$200 million annually in grants to deal with impacts of natural resources development. "It is my view that this year, with renewed authority for Appalachia, it is time to provide parity for other deserving regions of the country, especially Wyoming," McGee said.

Aug. 29, 1975 — High Country News-11



STRIPPING RULES TAGGED ON LEASING BILL

Strip mining restrictions on federal coal lands slipped through on a Senate rider to a coal leasing bill July 31. The Senate approved the measure 84 to 12 and sent it on for House consideration.

The bill's environmental and reclamation standards are reported to be as stiff as those in two previous bills vetoed by the President in December and May. The scope of the legislation is narrower, however, because it applies only to federally owned coal, which is nearly all in the West. Thus, eastern coal mining would not be affected.

The new legislation also does not include a 35-cents-per-ton reclamation tax, which was a part of earlier regulations drafted.

Louise Dunlap of the Environmental Policy Center in Washington, D.C., says she opposes the legislation because it might deter Congress from attempting to pass a comprehensive strip mine bill.

Sen. Paul J. Fannin (R-Ariz.), also an opponent of the measure, said it would slow the nation's progress toward energy self-sufficiency and predicted another presidential veto.

Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.), who introduced the rider, says the bill is vital because he believes state laws will not apply to federal coal. "The only agency that can take care of federal coal is the Congress of the United States," he says.

Some House leaders are reluctant to revive only part of the strip mine regulations, according to the ASSOCIATED PRESS. They want the bill to cover all coal, or to let the issue go until later.

Emphasis ENERGY

in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains



SIERRA SUIT APPEAL. The Justice Department has declared that it will appeal to the Supreme Court a lower court decision that has frozen coal development in the Powder River Basin. The case, originally brought by the Sierra Club and several other conservation organizations, sought the preparation of a regional environmental impact statement before coal development is allowed to proceed in the Northern Great Plains.

DOUGLAS GETS IMPACT GRANT. Douglas, Wyo., will receive the first Wyoming coal impact grant made possible by a law passed last session. "Impact is overwhelming to us. We're just being overrun," Douglas Mayor Gene Payne told the State Farm Loan Board which oversees the grant money. Douglas gained 2,000 new residents in the last year, but received a mere \$781 in additional tax revenues, says Payne. The grant is for \$40,000.

COAL-GAS PLANT PLANNED. Southwest Missouri is being considered as a site for at least one \$700 million coal gasification plant using Wyoming or Montana coal, according to the *Tulsa Sunday World*. Companies promoting the plan are Cities Service Gas Co. and Northern Natural Gas Co. Peabody Coal Co. has agreed to dedicate about 500 million tons of coal in southeast Montana for the project, according to an Associated Press report. Additional coal supplies are still being sought in the Powder River Basin.

ANTI-PIONEER GROUP. Citizens for Alternatives to Pioneer is a newly formed group of Idaho residents opposing Idaho Power Company's proposed Pioneer coal-fired power plant south of Boise. The group is stressing revised rate structures, energy conservation, and solar energy development as viable alternatives. The group is an affiliate of the Idaho Conservation League. Membership and contributions are being sought.

FORD BACKS SHALE. Interrupting his Vail, Colo., vacation, President Gerald R. Ford toured the Paraho Oil Shale facility near Rifle, Colo., and spoke enthusiastically about development. "From what I have seen and heard here, on this tour, it is a process that can be carried out without disruption of the environment," he said.

CANADIAN MINE WON'T POLLUTE. At a British Columbia government hearing on a coal mine just over the border from Glacier National Park, Mont., Mines Minister Leo Nimsick told the public there is no danger of polluting the Flathead River. U.S. environmental groups have been concerned that waste water discharge from the coal operation could pollute U.S. waters. Nimsick said any waste water will be recycled and if there is any discharge it will be pollution-free, according to an Associated Press report.

OIL SHALE LEASING REVIVED. With the first four federal oil shale lease tracts still undeveloped, the federal government has begun a second round of leasing. Six companies nominated 10 tracts in Colorado and Utah — once again no tracts were of interest in Wyoming. The Interior Department plans to narrow the tracts down to two, and then put them up for bid next year. The latest round of nominations are for tracts suitable for in-situ development — a process of extracting the oil from the rock while it is still in the ground so no mining is needed.

IMPACT GROWTH PROJECTED. A six-state Rocky Mountain region can expect 450,000 to 600,000 new inhabitants because of increased mining activity in the next 10 years, a Federation of Rocky Mountain States report reveals. Coal will bring in 300,000 people, uranium 150,000 more, and oil shale, if developed, another 150,000, according to the report. The report covers Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico and North Dakota.

The Hot Line

energy news from across the country

OIL FROM TRASH. By recovering the energy from just one out of every four tons of major municipal solid waste, the nation could supply 10% of the 1985 production goal President Gerald Ford has set for synthetic fuel, says Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell E. Train. Train made the estimate at the ground breaking ceremony for a facility near San Diego, Calif., that will convert 200 tons of municipal waste daily into liquid synthetic oil through a thermal process known as pyrolysis. Production of shale oil and coal gasification and liquefaction are other sources of synthetic fuel. The President has called for one million barrels of synthetics per day by 1985.

FEDS LOOK TO SUN. The sun will provide seven per cent of the nation's energy requirements by the year 2000 and as much as 25% by 2020, according to officials at the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). The agency's solar budget for the current fiscal year is \$89 million. ERDA's deputy assistant administrator for solar energy says he expects private industry will spend \$50 million in 1975 on solar research and development.

TRUST A-BUILDING? Standard Oil Co. of California has purchased 20% of the stock of AMAX Inc., the firm which operates the Belle Ayr coal mine near Gillette, Wyo. The United Mine Workers claims that the transaction will undermine the union's position in the West. "Cal Standard is bankrolling AMAX's attempt to break the UMW in the West. The Cal Standard-AMAX trust would rip off the American consumer while denying Wyoming coal miners their union rights," says union president Arnold Miller. The UMW has asked the Federal Trade Commission to nullify the stock purchase.

ENERGY THRIFT. Ten to twenty per cent of the energy now used in residential buildings could be saved if standards approved by the influential American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) are widely adopted. Most of the group's previous standards have been written into state and local building codes. The new standards require, among other things, that the shell of a building must be constructed of high insulating materials. Twenty-five per cent less glass is required unless windows are double glazed in northern areas. Systems must be designed so that indoor temperatures don't exceed 72 degrees in the winter or fall below 78 degrees in the summer.

ALASKA'S PIPELINE NO. 2. The Interior Department sees no insurmountable environmental objections to building a 6,280-mile, \$9.6 billion pipeline system to bring Alaskan natural gas to the lower 48 states. The opinion was just published in a 17-volume draft environmental impact statement. The project was proposed by Alaskan Arctic Gas, a consortium of 18 companies who want to build a pipeline from Alaska's North Slope oil fields, across Canada, to the U.S. A competing proposal by El Paso Natural Gas Co. would route the pipeline through Alaska, parallel to the oil pipeline now under construction. The two proposals are now before the Federal Power Commission seeking a certificate. Interior Department permission for a right-of-way across federal lands is also required.

GAS FIRM TRIES SOLAR HEAT. Southern Union Gas Co. is building the first non-experimental apartment house heated by solar energy and natural gas. The company figures that the less gas it sells to one customer, the more gas customers it can serve, according to a UPI story. The building will be heated by water which is warmed by the sun on clear days and by natural gas on cloudy or rainy days. Instead of a glass cover on the solar panels over the water, the system uses a material called Teplar which lets more of the sun in and less of the heat out. Teplar is manufactured by DuPont.



Filled by speculation Interior's top spot

A whole potful of names have been mentioned in connection with the vacant Secretary of Interior spot since Stanley Hathaway's resignation in July.

Dale K. Frizzell, chief counsel and number three man in the department, has been named acting secretary. "If President Ford opts for a caretaker secretary to run the department until the 1976 elections occur, Frizzell has a good chance of being appointed," says a Washington, D.C., publication called *Land Use Planning Reports*. Four out of five Senate Interior Committee Republicans are backing Frizzell, says Sen. Paul Fannin (R-Ariz.). John Kyl, Interior's assistant secretary for congressional and legislative affairs, has also been mentioned as a possible caretaker secretary.

If the President wants a more active department, LUP Reports says, he is likely to appoint someone else — like Frank Zarb, Federal Energy Administrator, or Gov. Daniel Evans of Washington.

LUP Reports also mentions as possible appointments to the top Interior post: William Ruckelshaus, formerly administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Walter Hickel, Interior Secretary under President Richard Nixon; John Dellenback (R-Ore.), former member of the House Interior Committee; Michael McCloskey, executive director of the Sierra Club; Harrison Loesch, Senate Interior Committee minority counsel; and John Vanderhoof, former governor of Colorado.

Coal News says President Ford is considering Iowa Gov. Robert Ray for the post. Other names that have been mentioned are Dan Lufkin of the Connecticut environmental protection council and a former assistant Interior secretary; former Colorado Sen. Gordon Allott; and Utah Gov. Calvin L. Rampton.

Interns assist Wyoming planners

by Jim Hufferd

Huge and complex modern-day energy exploration and recreation-based impacts are hitting Wyoming. The state's answer is planning, Wyoming style.

The Wyoming-WICHE Planning Internship Program, sponsored jointly by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, the Wyoming Manpower Planning Office, and 18 counties, municipalities, and special districts across the state, is part of that answer. The internship program is designed to prepare resident college-trained specialists to assist in the state's regional planning program.

The emphasis is on local participation. Each intern is involved in a separate 12 to 24 week program supervised by a local planning or administrative agency staff. Eighteen to twenty reports related to aspects of regional planning will emerge, ranging from a county land use, water, and road inventory to a minority population survey.

Each report is designed for use in planning efforts of the sponsoring local agency and each will be published and distributed by WICHE. In cooperation with the WICHE staff, the local sponsors will, in turn, either absorb successful interns into their planning staffs, or attempt to place them in suitable jobs in the Wyoming area.

The two internships in Fremont County, Wyo., under the direction of County Planning Director Ron Martin, typify the statewide effort. The two interns being trained in the Fremont County office in Lander are cooperatively doing two projects. The first, a combination land use and available resources inventory of the county, is nearly complete. The second, a study of Fremont County's available water resources and sewage disposal facilities, is slated to start in September.

Interns to work on similar projects are needed for Campbell and Sweetwater counties in Wyoming. For more information contact Robert Hullinghorst, WICHE, Drawer P, Boulder, Colo. 80302.

Jim Hufferd is a WICHE intern working in the Fremont County Planning Office in Lander, Wyo.



Forest yield not sustained

(Editors' Note: G. M. Brandborg is a retired forester who spent over 40 years as supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest and in other key forestry positions. A longer version of the article printed below first appeared in *The Missoulian*.)

by G. M. Brandborg

Two forest rangers have stated that at the present rate of annual harvest the timber supplies on their districts will be exhausted in 5 and 10 years, respectively. Apparently, this is the situation regionwide, judging by the many public protests and appeals that lead to court action, as well as continuing requests by lay people for studies by forestry and other scientists.

Something inside rangers — probably their dedication to professional integrity and a land ethic — has caused some rangers to resign and seek employment where application of principles is encouraged instead of suppressed. Serving in other niches in this bureaucratic structure are employees who have challenged the economic and social consequences of land and resource abuses. Such have been transferred to other places and positions if they persisted in expressing their concerns.

They may have been aware of the threat related by Daniel Barney in his book, *The Last Stand* (page 29): "With many Forest Service field officers openly apprehensive about their ability to produce timber yields without causing serious ecological harm, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz sent the regional foresters a terse memorandum commanding them and their subordinates to keep quiet publicly about their misgivings."

Rangers, especially, who are on the lower rung of the bureaucratic ladder, have been placed in an untenable position. They have been in the crossfire of public protests, of information contained in exhaustive Senate hearings, contents of the widely-distributed Bolle Report,

and national publicity that emphasized the consequences of ruthless exploitation of timber resources, which brought accompanying damage to other resource values.

Evidence indicated that either they were warned of the secretary's command by their superiors or were instructed to meet annual timber harvesting quotas which were in direct violation of the congressional mandates of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Undoubtedly, many rangers

Government instructions to meet annual timber harvesting quotas may be in direct violation of the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act. What can a forest ranger do?

agree with the one who said that he didn't know how he could cut a certain quota on his district, but added, "What can I do when my superiors tell me I have to supply a prescribed volume of timber from my district?"

James Nathan Miller's article in the July issue of *Reader's Digest* provides several illustrations of the way regulatory agencies are controlled by special interests. His prior investigation and reporting of the lack of enforcement of regulatory powers on the Bitterroot and other National Forests provided additional background for his current article, titled "Our Rotting 'Fourth Branch.'" The title is expanded by "Federal regulatory agencies, created as watchdogs for the public interest, often in fact protect the industries that they are supposed to regulate — and reforms have aimed at the wrong target."

Then he noted, "But . . . there is a very large fly in the (Continued on page 15)

Western Roundup

Wirth proposes RMN Park expansion

A bill which would make major additions to Rocky Mountain National Park has been introduced in the House by Rep. Timothy Wirth (D-Colo.). The bill, HR 8360, would add about 127,000 acres of contiguous lands to the park, including the Indian Peaks country to the south near Boulder, Colo. "The boundaries of the areas proposed for inclusion leave out major hunting areas, substantial volumes of commercial timber, known operable minerals, and the Boulder watershed," says the Wilderness Workshop, a strong supporter of the Wirth bill. Park Service management would provide maximum protection to the Front Range mountains, conservationists say. "The current situation is one of massive overuse, primarily in the proposed Indian Peaks wilderness area," says Martin Sorensen of the Sierra Club. "The Forest Service, by mandate of Congress in 1972, was to study 71,000 acres in the Indian Peaks area for wilderness designation. We are no closer to that designation than we were three years ago." Enos Mills first proposed the addition of the Indian Peaks area to the park in the early 1900s. The Wirth bill includes 77,000 acres of the Indian Peaks and also parts of the Comanche Peak area to the north, the Never Summer Range to the west, the Deserted Village to the northeast, and Neota Creek to the northwest. The Wilderness Workshop suggests that comments on the proposed expansion be sent to Reps. Wirth and James Johnson (R-Colo.). "A strong show of support is critical," says the group. The Workshop, at 1325 Delaware St., Denver, Colo. 80204, can also provide maps and more information.

Libby Dam feted; some regret it

President Gerald Ford attended a gala dedication ceremony for the Corps of Engineers' Libby Dam Project in Montana this month. In his speech Ford called the hydroelectric facility a "symbol of our commitment to the environment balanced with our energy need." In an earlier speech Montana Gov. Thomas L. Judge noted that the dam had "definite consequences for animals and people." He asked that Ford back a proposal to mitigate fish losses and to purchase game range to replace that lost to the reservoir. "We in Montana are hopeful the federal government will carefully weigh such costs as it proceeds with a national energy-development program in our region," Judge said. Lincoln County commissioners are now unhappy with the dam, which they once welcomed. They say it has eroded the county's tax base, will provide poor recreation facilities, and will hurt fish and wildlife resources. State Sen. Joe Roberts of Libby, Mont., says he thinks most area residents resent the boom and bust cycle that the dam construction has caused. Roberts told *The Missoulian* that when Libby Dam was first proposed the local people felt that whatever the federal government wanted they could have. "Our attitudes have changed about that now," he said.



Finis Mitchell's extensive experience in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming was officially recognized this summer by the naming of Mitchell Peak. The 12,482-foot peak is on the eastern end of the Cirque of the Towers climbing area. Seventy-four year old Mitchell made his 12th ascent of the peak in July to install a bronze name plaque at the summit. Mitchell has taken 100,000 photographs of the range and shared them with people from around the country in free lectures.

Boise citizens for planning, zoning

In a recent editorial, the *Idaho Statesman* called Boise people "far ahead of most elected officials on some issues — particularly good planning and zoning to regulate growth." To back its claim, the Idaho newspaper cited a recent survey of opinion in Boise which turned up the following statistics: 1) Fifty-two per cent said planning and zoning officials should have more to say about how land will be used. 2) Sixty per cent rated city government as not very successful or unsuccessful in achieving orderly growth for the city. 3) Eighty-nine per cent feel that houses should not be built in new subdivisions until an adequate sewer system has first been constructed.

BLM demands \$17,500 from Gulf Oil

The Bureau of Land Management is demanding \$17,500 in damages from Gulf Oil Corp. for destruction of three and a half miles of the historic South Pass-Point of Rocks Stage Trail. This is the first time that the agency has threatened such legal action, according to John Burnett of the Wyoming BLM office. "We see this as a precedent to preserve historic sites. What we're trying to do by demanding this amount of money from Gulf Oil is to put a dollar value on historic values," he said. Gulf was aware of the trail when it first contracted to do seismic exploring. According to State BLM Director Dan Baker, the damage occurred about 35 miles northeast of Rock Springs last November. Records of the damage were made by BLM personnel at that time and the claim was initiated. Baker says, "One of BLM's responsibilities in fulfilling its role as a multiple use management agency is the preservation and protection of historical values." One of every ten miles of historic trails in Wyoming is now obliterated, and one of every three badly damaged, according to Burnett. Other trail damage in the state is now being investigated and similar action is possible.



The few hundred remaining grizzlies in the lower 48 states are now protected by the Interior Department's "threatened species" designation. The ruling makes it illegal, with a few exceptions, to kill, harm, harass, import or export grizzlies, or to sell products made from grizzlies in interstate or foreign commerce. Exceptions may be authorized when grizzlies pose a serious threat to human beings or livestock; and for scientific studies. The ruling permits the hunting of no more than 25 bears per year in the segment of Montana west of U.S. Route 91 and north of U.S. Route 12. The Interior Department says this limited hunting will help keep the grizzly population within the carrying capacity of its rangeland and will keep grizzlies from losing their fear of human beings, a fear which protects them from more extensive conflicts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says grizzlies number 12,000 in Alaska and are not considered threatened there. Those that remain in the lower 48 are in three wilderness areas in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

Court halts Wildlife Range switch

For now, sole jurisdiction over three national wildlife ranges cannot be assumed by the Bureau of Land Management, a U.S. District Court Judge has ruled. Judge William B. Bryant says that the Interior Department must complete an environmental impact statement before a decision is made to take the ranges out from under the wing of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The ruling, a preliminary injunction, came as the initial response to a suit filed by the Wilderness Society and others who challenged the Interior Secretary's shift in management on the Kofa Game Range in Arizona, the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range in Nevada and Oregon, and the Charles M. Russell Range in Montana. "What is at stake here is the integrity of the National Wildlife Refuge System," says Stewart M. Brandborg, director of the Wilderness Society. A trial on the merits of the Wilderness Society suit is expected this fall.

Missouri Breaks — dam site or park?

The people of central Montana have been "harrassed" for years by government bureaus trying to make the Missouri a wild river, says Ken Byerly, publisher of the *Lewistown New-Argus*. Now the bureaus are at it again. The National Park Service, the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and the Bureau of Land Management all have proposals concerning the upper part of the Missouri, from Fort Benton downstream 175 miles to Robinson Bridge. That section of the Missouri, the only wild stretch left, is known as the "Missouri Breaks." Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) has introduced S. 1506, which would declare the 175 miles of unspoiled river a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System under the jurisdiction of BLM. The legislation, Metcalf says, "would honor the Nation's Bicentennial celebration." Not only is the Missouri Breaks unspoiled, Metcalf says, the segment also includes intact the original route traversed by Lewis and Clark when they explored the upper reaches of the river 170 years ago. The bill contains several provisions which protect the interests of ranchers and farmers. It provides that the area be administered in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act, for the continued withdrawal of water for agricultural purposes, for the construction of a bridge to service agricultural communities in central Montana, and it forbids the Secretary of Interior from condemning lands except in limited access situations.

At Senate hearings in Billings Aug. 25 proponents of Metcalf's bill outnumbered opponents. The Army Corps of Engineers has pinpointed two dam sites on the Breaks. Dr. Bernard Shanks of the University of Nevada told the Senate committee that his studies had shown that such dams would not mean increased prosperity for the region. Officials of the state's rural electric associations spoke in favor of the dams, however. River residents wondered whether the river should be managed at all. Most ranchers, *The Billings Gazette* reported, said that if management of the river is needed, they would like to see Metcalf's bill passed. But one rancher suggested, "If you really want to preserve the sites cover them with (dam) water," he said. "Then nobody will bother them."

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We have a chance to double the size of our existing National Park System by including new Alaska preserves. Pictured above is Glacier Bay National Monument. Photo by the National Park Service.

"We need them all"

Murie tours Alaska wilds for Park Service

Reprinted from the JACKSON HOLE NEWS, Box 1906, Jackson, Wyo. 83001

by Matt Soyster

Up to the north of Fort Yukon the beaver floatplane failed and began to fall. The pilot told his two passengers to cover their faces with their sleeping bags. "The turf," recalls Mardy Murie, "was coming closer and closer." How did she know? "I peeked," she admits sheepishly.

There is very little that daunts Margaret E. Murie, conservationist, author and lifelong Alaskaphile. "We're alive!" she congratulated the pilot as the plane skid-landed to safety. "What a marvelous job!" And even though rescuers took 17 hours to come in from Prudhoe Bay, Murie was unconcerned. "We were having a good time," she laughs. "We could have stayed there a week."

In fact, the only thing that piqued the septagenarian wife of the late biologist and seven year president of the Wilderness Society, Olaus Murie, was the attitude of the pilot when, bailing equipment out of the wrecked plane, he ordered her to "go and stand over there." Murie, having spent a good part of her life on journeys and expeditions through the Alaskan wilderness, is anything but frail. "Well what's wrong with me?" she countered.

The plane crash was just one more adventure in a month-long fact-finding tour of proposed Alaskan park and wilderness reserves that the National Park Service recently sent Murie on. Without warning, National Parks Director Gary Everhardt contacted Mardy in May. "He just wanted me to circulate among the people in Alaska," she says. "He had an itinerary all ready for me; I wasn't allowed to spend a penny." The itinerary included a two-day humanities forum in Anchorage on June 10 and 11 at

which speakers discussed Alaska-in-1990, and a series of bushplane tours of at least eight wilderness areas Murie had not previously visited.

With characteristic modesty, Mardy expresses surprise that she was asked at all. But having spent all her childhood after age nine in Fairbanks, being intimately acquainted with Alaskan natural history, and reigning today as a sort of empress of the American conservation movement, she was the Park Service's logical choice for a fresh opinion. Besides, Mardy's appraisal can be trusted. As one Grand Teton Park official recently stated, "We have some idea where she stands, yes; but nobody buys Mardy Murie."

Under consideration are 28 areas proposed as National Parks, Monuments, Forests and Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Native Claims Settlement Act turned over vast portions of Alaskan federal lands to native inhabitants in 1973; but it retained 80 million acres for national interest

"Most of these proposals," she adds, "are in areas where there are no known oil or mineral deposits; that's why they were chosen."

"I think that with the help of the people in the lower 48 we can get them through. We have a slow Congress, but I have faith."

Mardy confesses that "18 years ago, when we started agitating for the Arctic Wildlife Range, 9 million acres was all we dared ask for." But what makes her more hopeful today is a coming-of-age she senses in an Alaska that has now tasted some of the bitter fruits of development.

For instance, she says, "I hesitated about going back to Fairbanks." In her hometown, "even some of my old friends had been supporters of the oil pipeline." As an outspoken ecologist, Mardy says, "I didn't know if I'd be welcome."

But Alaskans are fed up with the pipeline and the

To Mardy's vision, anyone who has once felt Alaska's unconfined wilds keenly is forever captured and converted.

(D-2) areas. The current proposals would use this acreage to, among other things, double the present National Park system by adding some 31 million acres. If the D-2 lands are not so used, they may just revert to unspecified public lands under the Bureau of Land Management.

After visiting the sapphire-colored Twin Lakes, planning over Cook Inlet and between the great black gates of Ruth Glacier, stopping at Kenai Fjord and among the sand dunes of the Kobuk Valley, Mardy insists: "We need them all." What impressed her most, she says, is that "not one of these areas duplicates another."

industry it has brought, Mardy says firmly. "Fairbanks is bearing the brunt." The sleepy town has now swelled to 30,000 in population and is besieged by crime and unemployment. Last spring, says Mardy, "the Welfare Department had to transport out 32 families" — unqualified workers who had been lured to the north by job rumors. "It's a sad time for us old-timers up here now," one old friend told her.

"I would expect all sorts of untoward incidents around the pipeline," says Murie, who is not by nature a prophet

of doom. "I don't expect the bridge over the Yukon to last." Already, she says, the pipeline is "not one scar, but two." Off the roads every one half mile "is a side road ending in a gravel pit." Trillions of tons of gravel have to be dug up to insulate the hot pipeline so that it won't damage surface permafrost.

"The only nice thing about the pipeline," Mardy claims, "is that people are beginning to see what can happen to their land." From Anchorage to the Brooks Range, she talked to waitresses, bellhops, busdrivers, and taxidriv-ers — "one of whom," she grins, "got so eloquent he forgot where he was driving." In coffee shops, says Mardy, "I had a 100% success engaging the person next to me." These people, she says, "didn't know who I was or why I was up there, so I got spontaneous opinions." And although she discovered that the Alaskan everyman is appallingly ill-informed (some Alaskans didn't know the difference between the Park Service and the Forest Service), the consensus was overwhelming: they want their land saved," says Mardy.

What further brightens the present picture, according to Mardy, is that now "anyone who is going to deal with Alaska must deal with the natives." Under the provisions of the Native Claims Act, "they have the land, the power and the money." And she adds, "they're getting disen- chanted with skimoobiles and skidoos. A good many want to keep their village culture and not just be assimilated into the white man's world." Mardy reflects a moment. "They still love their land," she says. It is such love that might conceivably hold back the forces of development.

Where the proposed preserves are concerned, though, Mardy recognizes that there are still forces bitterly op- posed to what they regard as a Park Service landgrab. "Alaska for Alaskans" and "Sierra Go Home" bumper stickers still proliferate. A recent editorial in the pro- development *Anchorage Sunday Times* accused the Park Service of bungling the management of the 29 mil- lion acres it already has jurisdiction over in the lower 48 by providing insufficient visitor access and accommodations.

Normally mild-mannered Murie bristles at such statements. "National Parks don't have to be swarming with people to be valuable," she says flatly. Obviously, she points out, the Alaskan parks would not be girdled by highways like Yellowstone or Yosemite. "Nobody wants highways; they destroy too much." She admits that access to most of the proposed parks would have to be by bush- plane. But she insists that "anyone of average, moderate means would be able to visit."

The essential thing is not to pack in tourists, she notes, but to preserve some areas "uncontaminated by man's greedy hands." And Alaska, she says, "offers us the last chance on this planet to save some really superb scenery."

What we're dealing with, according to Murie, is simply "a question of philosophy." The way she sees it, "man is not a complete being unless he knows there is wilderness somewhere in his world." Several of the Alaskan urba- nites she talked to, notes Mardy, indicated that "even if they never got out in those areas, they wanted to know they were there."

Murie feels that Park Director Everhardt, who accom- panied her on part of the trip is, like herself "all for all of the proposals in his heart." At one of the stop off points, she recalls, "I was counting how many species of wildflowers I could see; there was a little bit of mist over the peaks; it was a sort of Gotterdammerung, and I had the feeling Gary wanted to be alone," she says knowingly. "He felt that place very keenly."

To Mardy's vision, simple but not naive, anyone who has once felt Alaska's unconfined wilds keenly is forever

Forest . . .

(Continued from page 12)

ointment. The only group with the power to cure the situation is the one group that is least likely to do so: Congress." He then warned: "Unless voters apply enorm- ous pressure, it's probable that reform will languish."

Within the Forest Service structure, rangers, espe- cially, can prevent reform from languishing. They could render a most worthy grassroot public service at a place where all effective reforms must originate. They can ac- complish this by revealing to the media and the public the forces that have prevented them from enforcing the reg- ulatory requirements of the Sustained Yield and En- vironmental Acts.

Unless the media at local, regional, and national levels accept the challenge of providing the public with facts and unless rangers exercise their constitutional authority to enforce the laws instead of complying with Secretary Butz's illegal command, American forestry will continue to remain a series of unsolved land-use problems.

captured and converted. And maybe that is why, now that legislators are visiting the last frontier, Mardy holds out hope for the Congressional vote that will probably come next spring.

Among the data Congress will have to consider is Mardy's own 9 page report — which probably could be summarized by the statement she made when, standing on the shores of Lake Clark, she was informed that there were ten peaks over 10,000 feet in the vicinity that were still unnamed. "Fine, she snapped. "Let's keep it that way."

BULLETIN BOARD

KAIPAROWITS HEARINGS SLATED

Public hearings on the proposed Kaiparowits power plant will be held in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah in September. The 3,000 megawatt power plant is proposed for southeastern Utah in the canyonland coun- try near Lake Powell. Hearings will begin at 9 a.m., 1 and 7 p.m. on Sept. 15 in the Salt Palace, Salt Lake City; at 1 and 7 p.m. in the Kanab High School gym, Kanab, Utah, Sept. 16; in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Room, Phoenix, Ariz., 1 and 7 p.m., Sept. 17; in the Clark County Courthouse, Las Vegas, Nev., at the same hours Sept. 18. Hearings will also begin 1 p.m. on Sept. 19 in the Convention Center and Exhibit Hall, San Bernardino, Calif.; and in the Commons Conference Room, University of California at Riverside, 7 p.m. the same day.

MONT, ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE

A Montana Alternative Agriculture Conference is being planned for mid-October in Billings. The conference will focus on three topics: energy, cooperative farming and marketing, and organic methods. To help plan the conference or to get more information as it becomes avail- able write: T. J. Gilles, Spring Creek Ranch, Rt. 1, Box 300, Laurel, Mont. 59044.

NATIONWIDE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The U.S. Forest Service has issued two documents of major interest to citizens concerned with the future man- agement of the national forests. One is a draft edition of an inventory and assessment of 1.6 billion acres of forest and rangeland. The second is a draft environmental statement of management alternatives being suggested for Forest Service operation over the next 45 years. Copies of the "assessment" and "program" can be obtained from all Forest Service headquarters. A 129-page summary of the two voluminous documents is also available. Public information briefings on the documents are being held in major communities throughout the West in early Sep- tember. Public hearings are scheduled for mid- September. The deadline for comments is October 15. Contact the Forest Service to find the date and place of the meeting and hearing nearest you.

KAIPAROWITS REPRESENTATIVE

Friends of the Earth, a national conservation group, has recently hired a Kaiparowits representative, Ronald Rudolph, who will work closely with the Canyon Country Coalition. Rudolph can be reached at 545 University Ave., Boulder, Colo. 80302 or phone (303) 449-6366.

WEATHER MODIFICATION WORKSHOP

The Southwest Regional Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club is holding a workshop on weather modi- fication (cloud seeding) impacts on the weekend of Sept. 27 in Denver. The workshop is open to anyone interested. For more information contact: Betsy Barnett, 338 E. de- Vargas, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501, or call 505-982-4349.

WILD HORSE MEET

The National Advisory Board for Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros will meet at the Holiday Inn in Rock Springs, Wyo., on September 4 and 5. The board advises the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture on policies and practices pertaining to the protection, management, and control of wild horses and burros. On Sept. 4 the board will tour the southwestern Wyoming lands used by wild horses. On Sept. 5, starting at 8:30 a.m. the board will hold an open meeting. Comments from the public will be heard starting at 2 p.m. on Sept. 5. For more information contact Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Bureau of Land Manage- ment, Federal Center, 2120 Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001.

TIMBER PLANS RELEASED

Ten year timber management plans for the Gunnison National Forest in Colorado and the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming have been released. Both plans are in final environmental impact form and detail future roads, future cuts, harvest levels, and other impacts. Either document can be obtained from the Regional Forester, 11177 West Eighth Ave., P.O. Box 25127, Denver, Colo. 80225.

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Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Each river dam that they build
Means that free-flowing water is stilled.
An "all-purpose" lake
Is a fatal mistake
When a beautiful river is killed!

MINERAL KING EIS OUT. A final environmental im- pact statement calls for a reduced level of proposed de- velopment at Mineral King Valley in the Sierra Nevada Mountains where the Walt Disney Corporation wants to build a ski resort, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. The resort would be near Sequoia National Park, Calif., and has been opposed in court by the Sierra Club. "Disney officials indicated they may build the resort in Northern California instead," reports the *Times*.

PLASTICS FROM MANURE? Environmental Protec- tion Agency agricultural waste researchers have ex- tracted significant amounts of ethylene from cattle man- ure. "Ethylene is the backbone of the plastics industry" and is ordinarily derived from petroleum or natural gas, says the EPA. Evidence to date indicates that the ethylene extraction process is economically feasible for large concentrations of feedlots. A 100,000 head feedlot could produce \$1.8 million of ethylene a year, according to EPA figures.

PESTICIDES BANNED. Citing an imminent human cancer hazard, the Environmental Protection Agency has banned the manufacture of heplachlor and chlordane for most household and agricultural uses. The pesticides have been widely used in home, lawn, and garden pest control. The major agricultural use was on corn crops.

PLASTIC PERIL? Ralph Nader's Health Research Group has asked the Food and Drug Administration to ban the use of plastic food packages because they may cause cancer. The FDA is looking into the matter, and is also exploring whether polyvinyl chloride plastic pipes used in plumbing may pose a similar threat.

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MODERN POETRY of Western America

Clinton F. Larsen
William Stafford

Modern Poetry of Western America

Clinton Larsen and William Stafford, editors.
Brigham Young University Press, Provo, Utah.
\$5.95, paperback.

Kuksu: Journal of Backcountry Writing

Dale Pendell, editor, Kuksu Press, Box 980, Al-
leghehy Star Route, Nevada City, California. \$5.00 a
year, 2 issues.

Review by Gary Paul Nabhan

There was a time when the range of poetry written between Walla Walla, Moccasin Flat and the Vermilion Cliffs had little chance of finding recognition. Journalism and literature from the western regions were considered either 1) quaint, parochial local color of no lasting value; or 2) imitations of Eastern urban styles, and therefore "passable."

Times have changed. Recently, major works by artists like Wallace Stegner and Gary Snyder (who are also two of our country's best conservation journalists) have captured the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, respectively. The literary world must now realize the high quality literature which western terrains and cultures have inspired. A different philosophy toward humanity and non-humanity is being expressed through a rich, land-rooted language.

Modern Poetry of Western America is an attempt to round up some of the best poets of the western states, putting them in the same corral. In spite of the unevenness of selection, the anthology is of lasting value simply because it is the first major effort to collect the region's poetic talents. A potluck of poems, it's easy to find something here to share with friends around a campfire, or to ponder over alone through a day's work in the fields.

A strong kinship with the land underscores much of this work. From Robinson Jeffers and Thomas Hornsby Ferril, to younger poets like Keith Wilson, Peter Wild, and James Welch, these writers have conjured up the scent of the earth. Still, other authors who may not at all deal with regional subject matter are included here because of the excellence of their creative legacy.

Subtle wisdom is sprinkled through the book: David Wagoner tells us "you must help yourself like any animal," while William Stafford's **Report to Crazy Horse** describes "how we depend on a steady pulse together." Though it is not the anthology's only attraction, I feel that

the spirited description of western lands will make many of us return to this poetry time and again. Try Richard Hugo's **Driving Montana**:

"... You are lost
in miles of land without people, without
one fear of being found, in the dash
of rabbits, soar of antelopes, swirl
merge and clatter of streams."

Oregonian George Venn has argued that instead of forcing rural dwellers to believe they must watch New York or San Francisco to find out what to think or what to read, people should be encouraged to look around within their immediate locale. These local geographies are the vital source of the material in **Kuksu: Journal of Backcountry Writing**. This journal takes the logic of the **Modern Poetry** anthology one step further — there should be an ongoing quality outlet for yon-land writers who don't want to rely on urban publishing houses and literary cliques.

In its three years of existence, **Kuksu's** development somewhat parallels that of **High Country News** (though HCN has had a few more years of maturation). Originally a shoestring publication of only limited distribution, it

has extended its range of concern, changed its name, and strengthened its format, while still working on a rather small budget. **Kuksu's** vigor and refreshing philosophies, too, have lately been rewarded with the national recognition they deserve. Poets howling in the wilderness can now be heard.

The last two issues have been thematic — **Mushrooming** contained critical reviews of field guides, folklore, drawings, songs and essays regarding edible and poisonous fungi; **Work** described homesteading, hearth-building, firefighting and worksongs, among other activities. A future issue is planned on backcountry education; isolated rural residents have seldom had a way to exchange ideas on such a concern.

Modern Poetry of Western America and **Kuksu** are full of regionalisms such as hay derrick, cayuse, piss-pump, saddle cinch, chinook, powder monkey, sandpainting, and rabbitbrush, words which seldom find their way into print elsewhere. Perhaps the greatest gift these poets give to us is a language which expresses this land; they have conserved, resurrected, and engendered words which we'll need to describe a unique region worth saving.

Wilderness Areas of North America

Review by C. H. Nations

by Ann and Myron Sutton. Published by Funk and
Wagnalls, New York. Price \$10.00.

Wilderness Areas of North America provides the serious searcher of wildness some 500 options from the Arctic to Central America and from the West to the East Coast.

The authors have visited many of these parks and wilderness areas themselves but have also relied upon government furnished information.

This book not only details the types of animals, birds, and plant life to be found in each park or wilderness but also locates each wilderness with a reasonably detailed map and mileage notation. Camping facilities, hiking and fishing opportunities, and other activities to be found in each area are included along with other points of interest such as geological formations, history, and climatic conditions likely to be encountered.

The book is arranged into major geographical sections such as "The Far North," "The Southwest," and so forth so that a casual reader can select the area of interest without difficulty.

While liberally scattered photographs depict many of the outstanding features of the wilderness areas, I would have preferred use of some color instead of only black and white. Color would not only add to the general interest of

the book but would also serve to more fully portray the beauty and solitude of our wilderness areas. Aside from that, the book is very well done, concise, informative, and extremely interesting. Anyone who enjoys finding and exploring "new" wilderness areas will find this book to be a valuable addition to his library.

Wilderness Areas of North America

ANN and MYRON SUTTON



Concise, authoritative descriptions
of more than 500 wild places from coast to coast
and from Panama to the Arctic;
where they are,
how to reach them,
what to do and see there

Dear Friends,

It's been a restful and rewarding August vacation. Marjane went to Alaska to see the Far North first hand. She's been touring Alaska pipeline boom towns and wilderness and is (hopefully) on her way back now.

Mary Margaret went to a family reunion in Huntington Canyon, Utah, and took time to snap a few pictures of the Huntington power plant.

Bruce taught a two-week course in western environmental problems at a Telluride Association summer program on environmental decision making in Maryland. Joan joined him in Washington, D.C., where she interviewed conservation lobbyists. Upon returning to Wyoming, both spent a few days in the Wind River Range.

While we were recuperating from a year's worth of newspaper deadlines, it was comforting to see others still hard at work. Lynne Bama, a frequent HCN photographic contributor, came through with an article on Sunlight Basin — an area she has been studying for the past year. Lynne has been giving a slide talk on Sunlight to local residents to try and arouse support to fight the dam. The State Engineer should rule on the application soon and citizen input is critical if this exquisite area is to be saved.

We were also pleased to see that the National Park Service saw it fit to send wilderness advocate Mardy Murie to review proposed new parks in Alaska. Having

grown up in the Far North and seen it grow and feel the pains of development, she can offer a unique perspective to the decision making process. The story of her trip is reprinted here from **The Jackson Hole News**.

We're now back in the thick of work. Rested, and ready to carry on. We hope you are, too.

—the editors

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