

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

Friday, December 19, 1975

Lander, Wyoming

Vol. 7 No. 25



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Drawings by Carol Snow. Above, "Declaration" copyright 1974 and, below, "Child of the Universe, no less than the trees and the stars" copyright 1975

Environmental suit stirs questions

NEPA at stake?

by Joan Nice

A lawsuit lost by the Bureau of Land Management is causing consternation over what is considered to be the country's most important environmental law — the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

BLM says that NEPA has made them vulnerable to lawsuits which drain the agency's time and resources. The grazing suit it recently lost, **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) v. Morton**, is a prime example of the damage the act can do, the agency says.

NRDC, a national environmental group, says the courts are merely filling the vacuum left by a lack of leadership in government. The group claims that BLM hasn't made a serious attempt to comply with NEPA, and that the land is suffering as a result.

The most controversial section of NEPA requires a federal agency to file a detailed environmental impact statement whenever a federal action is expected to have "a significant impact on the human environment."

In the case of the grazing lawsuit, the court ruled that localized impact statements should be prepared on public lands leased for grazing. In a formal court agreement, the BLM promised to prepare 212 EIS's on groupings of grazing allotments over the next 13 years.

DRAINS TIME AND RESOURCES

The bureau has since made public statements about the hardships forced by the court agreement and by NEPA itself. In a speech given to the BLM's National Advisory Board, BLM Director Curt Berklund said that while it is admittedly a "cornerstone for multiple use management," NEPA has made his agency vulnerable to lawsuits.

"There are times when we have been placed in an advocacy role by special interest groups who feel that it suits their purpose to take us to court to 'stall' rather than 'resolve' one of our proposed actions. . . In the process, we are spending large amounts of time, money, and manpower . . . all of which would likely be put to better use in resolving issues and coming up with decisions to implement better land use management," he said.

"It puts your whole operation out of synch," Chad McBurney, chief of biological resources for the BLM in Wyoming, told a state advisory board meeting last month. "We feel like we're managing under a crisis situation."

AMENDING NEPA

As a result of discussions about the grazing suit, the BLM citizens advisory board at the national level passed a resolution

which hit the BLM's concerns right on the head. The board recommended that the Secretary of Interior "aggressively pursue amendment" to NEPA "to clarify and expedite the EIS process for the management of renewable natural resources on public lands."

Hearings to amend NEPA should be held "so that we can get on with business," said Tye Moore, a Wyoming rancher on the national board.

Moore is upset about a moratorium on grazing improvements which has been declared by the BLM, pending the completion of the environmental impact statements required by the suit. In some areas this can mean a moratorium for up to 13 years on new fencing, waterholes and other improvements, according to BLM's interpretation.

Laney Hicks, a member of the BLM's Wyoming advisory board, accuses the agency of using an unnecessarily strict interpretation of the suit to stir up trouble for NEPA.

"The BLM cares very little what effect the agreement has on ranchers. It appears they are trying to stimulate ranchers' sentiments against NEPA," she told HCN. Hicks is also the Northern Plains Representative of the Sierra Club.

NRDC says that only grazing improvements with "significant" impacts are blocked by the suit, as they would be under NEPA anyway, until environmental impact statements are prepared.

The BLM counters that it is very difficult to define the crucial qualifier — "significant." To protect themselves from the expense and distraction of lawsuits, they say they must interpret the court agreement strictly.

LICKING WOUNDS

In its consideration of the issue, the Wyoming State BLM advisory board did not look toward a revision of NEPA to relieve the strains created by the suit.

Colleen Kelly, who represents recreation interests on the board, told the group that she felt BLM was "paranoid" about the possibility of lawsuits. "Rather than sit here and lick our wounds, we should be setting up some kind of parameters for what is major impact," she said.

Although it never defined those parameters, the state board passed a resolution asking the BLM and NRDC to do so. The board suggested that the parties meet again to define the word "significant" in terms of specific range improvements.

The suit may have impacts on other BLM management decisions as well. Management of wild horses and other wildlife is

(Continued on page 4)

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Jane Bell

The movement back to the land has only begun. In times of uncertainty, man's basic search for security turns him back to the land. And not since the darkest days of the Great Depression has there been greater uneasiness about where this country is headed.

The deepest yearnings of men are fulfilled in the land. Whether held in common as by the Native American Indian or privately as by European custom, land is highly valued.

The values lie not only in the physical needs of food and shelter but also in the spiritual realm. We seek to know who we are and why we are. As a fellow writer has put it, "We learn things about Life — about untold eons behind us and before us — by watching and caring for our animals, our soil, our plants. There are no answers that can be written in magazines, books, or newspapers. They're only in the Earth and the stars, and no Man can convey them to any other. We can help direct each other's attention to them, to encourage our brothers' concern with the eternal truths... but that's about it."

Jerry Belanger, who wrote the foregoing, is editor and publisher of *Countryside and Small Stock Journal*. He is one of the more eloquent contemporary writers of the back-to-the-land movement. The eternal truths of Good Earth cannot be adequately conveyed by men's words, but Belanger comes about as close as any man can.

Countryside is only one of several excellent publications for those who are back on the land, or wishing to get there. The others that I have found very informative, as well as interesting, are *Organic Gardening and Farming*, *The Mother Earth News*, and *The Family Food Garden*.

Belanger writes an introductory piece for *Countryside* called "Beyond the Sidewalks," that is a personal and pithy discourse on a whole range of matters bearing on "homesteading." I find it excellent philosophy for our day and age.

Not only does *Countryside* usually have several good articles, but it also has regular sections on rabbits, poultry, and goats. Periodically, other sections appear on draft animals, dogs, dairying, pigeons, and many other areas of interest. All of the sections are normally complemented by advice and comments in letters from readers.

Organic Gardening and Farming is the definitive publication on organic methods of treating the land. But it also covers a host of other subjects of interest to the "homesteader." It is a magazine of small size, packed with useful and informative material from cover to cover.

The Mother Earth News hasn't been around for long but it has made its mark on the back-to-the-land movement. "Mother," as it is affectionately called by its admirers, came into being the same year as *High Country News*. Its appeal and its coverage have been far broader than HCN's, and it is therefore far more successful in its own way.

John Shuttleworth, editor and publisher of "Mother," puts the philosophy of his publication in his own words: "I had long since come to the conclusion that the highly interrelated, energy-intensive, planned obsolescence of industrialized, urban life was a dead end for both people and the planet. It seemed only logical, then, that our magazine should promote family farms

and small villages at the expense of large towns and big cities."

The Family Food Garden has a name that gives its identity and philosophy away. Unlike the other publications which are magazines, this one is a tabloid size newspaper like HCN. It can run from 12 to 28 pages of very useful information on home gardening, with up-to-date material on such things as greenhouses, solar heating and drying, and other ideas on producing and storing your own food.

Each of these publications is not for the corporate farmer, or even the one hooked on the energy-intensive, chemical-pesticide route to food production. But if you are interested in producing all or much of your own good, healthful food, then you would enjoy each or every one of these good works. If you are considering Christmas gifts, you might also consider one of these.

Countryside and Small Stock Journal
Rte 1 Box 239
Waterloo, Wisc. 53594
\$9 for 12 monthly issues

Organic Gardening and Farming
33 East Minor St.
Emmans, Pa. 18049
\$6.85 for 12 monthly issues

The Mother Earth News
Box 70
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739
\$10 for six issues

The Family Food Garden
Box 1014
Grass Valley, Calif. 95945
\$4 for seven issues



HCN
Letters

COMIC MASTERPIECE

Dear High Country News:

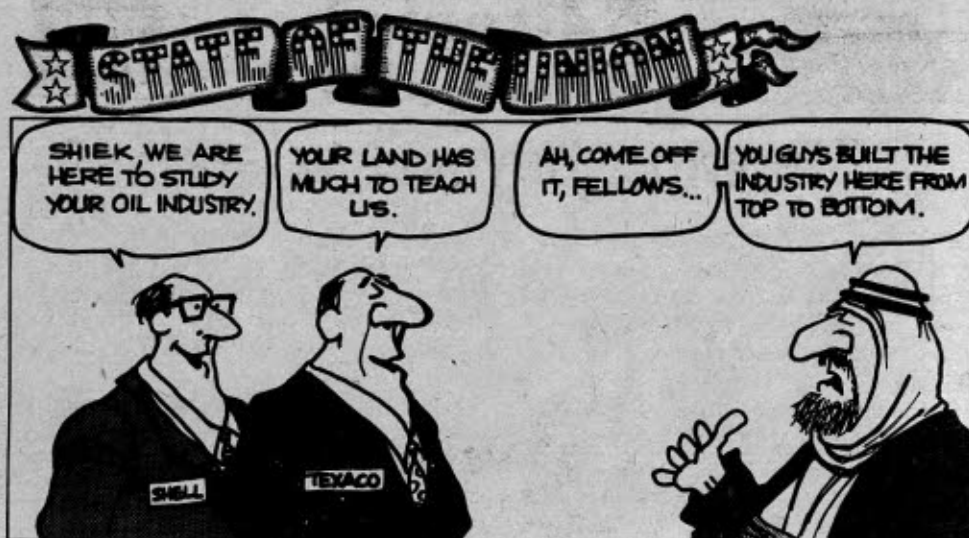
It seems to me quite false for Peter Wild to call Abbey's novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang* an example of "porno-violence." There is much love, some of it erotic, in the book, but certainly nothing pornographic; and all of the violence, such as it is, is expended upon material objects, machines, not upon human beings. The tone of the book is good-humored rather than angry, and it ends on a note of reconciliation and hopefulness, as all good comedies should. In my opinion *The Monkey Wrench Gang* will someday be recognized as a comic masterpiece.

Sincerely,
Vicki Carruthers
Denver Colo.

VOICE FOR COLORADO WILDLIFE

Dear friend of wildlife:

I have been appointed to serve a one year term as the wildlife representative on both the district advisory board and the Colorado state advisory board for the Bureau of Land Management. These boards consist of 10 members at the district level and 12 members at the state level, but only one member represents the interests of wildlife. The other members represent local



government, farming, industry, chamber of commerce, etc.

Wildlife definitely comes up on the short end, although I am sure that I will find allies among the members when the meetings begin in January. But help will still be needed. If you know of any current issues involving BLM lands in Colorado in which the wildlife or environmental concerns need to be voiced, or if any such issues crop up during the coming year I would like to hear from you.

I can be reached by phone (927-3503) or by mail (Box 70, Snowmass, 81654). Any advice or information will be greatly appreciated, and hopefully the wildlife of Colorado will be the primary beneficiary. Thanks for your help.

Best regards,
Bob Child
Snowmass, Colo.

P.S. Seasons greetings to you and the HCN staff. The enclosed (a check for \$19.76) is my idea of the most logical way to celebrate the bicentennial. Hope other readers will do the same.

CLOTHE HER IN DRAPERIES

Dear High Country News,

I am just an old guy (too damn old) but any way I have been around a hell of a lot of country from the Mississippi to the Pacific and want to say that the article "Second Rape of The West" (*Playboy* Dec. 75) sure hits the nail on the head. (HCN was mentioned in this article.—ed.)

One thing that gets my cork is all the wind energy going to waste. I lived in New

Mexico and hated the wind. I know how it blows in Nevada, Arizona, and here in California.

If we can send men to the moon and bring them back, why can't we build generators powered by wind and controls to cut the resulting current into the existing high lines when it is being produced?

And then there is the question of cutting down on the use of electricity. Here in California the manufacture and sale of draperies is a multimillion dollar business. And the sun is shining outdoors and the lights are on indoors and the drapes are pulled tight.

And the same women who scream for the privacy that drapes provide, will parade around the streets and beaches with every square inch of skin showing that they can get by with.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Peck
Lompac, Calif.

ORGANIZED SIMPLICITY

Dear Fine People,

Received your "Time to Renew" note for December. I'm impressed and pleased by your organized simplicity. Most organizations send copious amounts of literature attempting to lure subscriptions. Your beautiful little card convinced me I should renew. That's a compliment since I'm dropping a lot of other subscriptions (reluctantly). Your work is appreciated!!

John Mason
Little River, Calif.



Editorial

HCN

Stepping beyond science

Aldo Leopold, in an unpublished essay on "The Land-health Concept and Conservation," ruefully defined conservation as "a series of ecological predictions made by laymen because ecologists have failed to offer any."

Leopold's biographer, Susan L. Flader, in her book *Thinking Like a Mountain*, writes: "Yet, committed as he was to deep-digging ecological research, he was equally convinced that the ecologist had a responsibility to 'step beyond science in the narrow sense' and offer modes of guidance for meeting ecological problems that were not yet fully understood."

"If we wait," Leopold warned, "... there will not be enough healthy land left even to define health."

In southeastern Idaho, one of the state's healthiest wildlife areas is being threatened by proposed phosphate mining expansion. To warn the public of the potential trade-offs involved, the Idaho Fish and Game Department took a bold Leopoldian step — it published a series of articles on the situation in many of the state's newspapers.

The articles, one of which is printed in this issue of HCN, ventured predictions of what would happen to the region's wildlife resources if mining expanded as proposed. These "predictions" were what Leopold had called for in his essay. He wanted to hear "a shrewd guess" as to the probable conditions necessary for biotic self-renewal, or health. But rather than earning the Idaho department public praise, the articles have brought on public chastisement by A. J. Teske, Associate Secretary of the Idaho Mining Association.

Teske called the articles "a premature and completely unwarranted attack on the mining industry." He said, "It is obvious to us that these articles were deliberately designed to arouse and inflame rather than to inform."

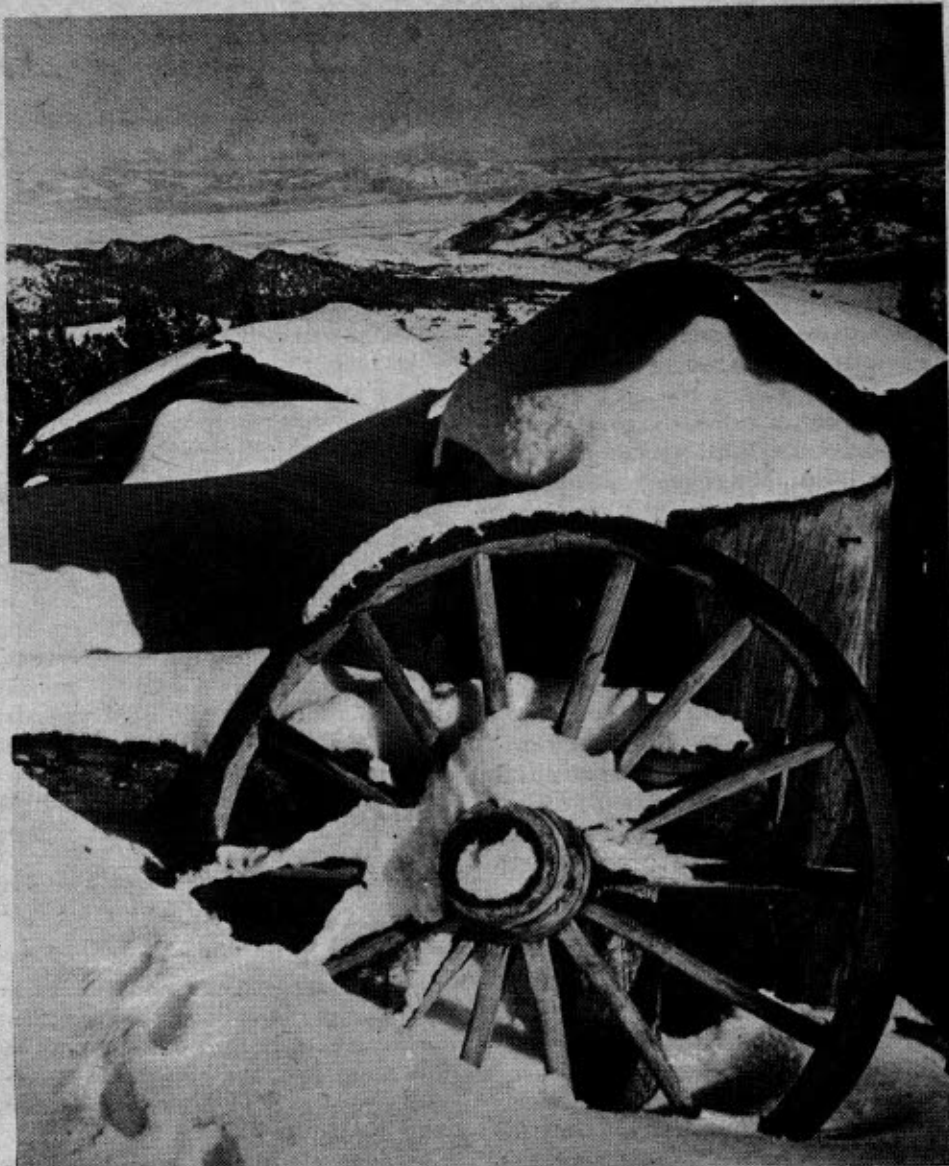
Teske said the department's philosophy was "Play Dirty." Since then, the *Idaho Statesman* reports that "the Fish and Game Department has already been threatened by mining industry spokesmen with retaliation in the next session of the legislature."

So now the department may have to fight for its life ... and why? Because some bold policy makers within the ranks decided to take their mandate seriously and work to protect and enhance the state's wildlife resources.

The mining industry calls the department's stand "premature" and "speculative." Evidently, it would prefer to see the department stand idly by until it can count the bodies to be sure of its statistics. It's not premature in the industry's eyes to speculate on the added boost to the local economy when new phosphate mines start up. Why then, is it premature to predict adverse impacts?

Leopold wrote: "We are, in short, land-doctors forced by circumstances to reverse the logical order of our service to society. No matter how imperfect our present ability, it is likely to contribute something to social wisdom which would otherwise be lacking."

We hope the Idaho Fish and Game Department will not be intimidated by the Idaho Mining Association's verbal assault.

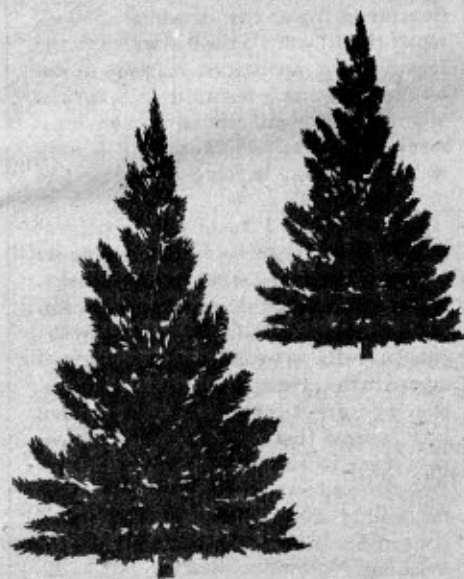


Winter in Montana

We hope Idaho citizens will rally behind the department and work to see that it is not crippled in the next session of the legislature. Above all, we hope that wildlife agencies in other states will take note of

Idaho's courageous department and follow suit.

"If we wait," to repeat Leopold, "... there will not be enough healthy land left even to define health." —BH



Year 'round yule

Some friends of HCN in Boulder, Colo., once kept their Christmas tree up in the livingroom from December through the following June. For them, and for other devoted tree lovers, we have come across a recipe for keeping the dying needles green and in place. (We haven't tested this yet, mind you.)

The *Arizona Daily Star* recommends mixing up a solution of: 4 teaspoons of Clorox, 2 cups of Karo corn syrup, 4 tablespoons of chelated iron, and 1 gallon of boiling water. When the water is cooled, cut off two to four inches of the trunk and put the tree in the solution which will be drawn up into the trunk and branches.

Weird, eh? Good luck, and Merry Christmas!

(Idaho State Journal editor Gary Haden recently underlined an important environmental victory in his column, "An Eye on Idaho." We are reprinting a part of his message below, because we think it is aimed right at many HCN readers. All of you "radical posy pluckers" (whether you're fighting for Hells Canyon or something closer to your home) deserve this eloquent thank-you for a job well-done. As Haden says, "If Hells Canyon can be saved, there's hope. ..." —Ed.)

by Gary Haden

Regional Editor, Idaho State Journal

I was surprised and pleased, to say the very least, when I learned Tuesday that the House had overwhelmingly passed legislation Nov. 19 to protect Hells Canyon from those who'd devastate that natural wonder in the belief that nature must always be subservient to man's destructive whims. If the House and Senate can now reach a compromise and the President signs the protective measure into law, I shall be overjoyed.

If Hells Canyon can be saved, there's hope the New River can be saved from the dam builders. There's hope the idiotic Garrison Project in North Dakota can be stopped before it ruins more water and wildlife. There's hope the Congaree Forest with many of the largest trees in the East can be

saved from loggers. There's hope strip mining in Death Valley National Monument can be halted, that a rational strip mining law can be passed by Congress, and that federal lands can be protected from an indiscriminate broadcast of poisons by those with predator paranoia.

Where there's hope, there's reason for thanks. While the system may produce a President of the mental caliber of Gerry

Ford, while politicians in general are avoiding the issues, while the majority is preoccupied with football and eating and CB radios today, there's still reason for giving thanks. Thank you! You radical, crazy, ecofreaking, rabid, unrealistic, posy-plucking, environmentalists, for your efforts to save Hells Canyon.



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(Thank you, HCN to share in proceeds.)

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Says only 'significant actions' should wait

NRDC supports lifting range freeze

A proposal designed to ease the plight of ranchers using public lands for grazing has been strongly endorsed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

The proposal, drafted by the Bureau of Land Management's Wyoming advisory board, attempts to lift a current agency freeze on range improvements on public grazing lands. The proposal requests the Secretary of Interior and NRDC to indicate which kinds of range improvements would have significant environmental impacts and which would not. The board's aim is to allow "insignificant" improvements to go ahead while court-ordered environmental impact statements (EIS's) are prepared on lands leased for grazing by the BLM.

In a letter to HCN, NRDC attorney Johanna Wald said that her group strongly endorsed the advisory board's request for guidelines on significant actions and would

be "delighted to participate in their development."

"In addition, we believe that these guidelines can be developed and adopted without resorting to the court and without making any changes in the final order itself," Wald said.

She said that the freeze on improvements was BLM policy — and not a part of the court order in *NRDC v. Morton*.

However, in her letter Wald gave only one example of a range improvement which she felt could go ahead without an EIS — one which the BLM has also said was not a part of the freeze, fence mending. "Obviously, it (NEPA) does not prohibit mending a fence," she said. BLM has said it will allow fence mending and other "maintenance" activities.

The court ruled in June that the BLM must prepare environmental impact

statements (EIS's) on groups of grazing leases. In a court agreement with NRDC, the BLM decided to prepare 212 statements over the next 13 years. On areas where "allotment management plans" (AMP's or formal BLM grazing analyses)

are complete, the agreement states that range improvements may be implemented. On the rest of the grazing lands, which make up 88% of the total, BLM has said that no actions, other than routine maintenance work, may go ahead.

"We are dismayed by the bureau's decision to rid itself completely of the need to analyze improvements outside AMP areas," said Wald, "not only because of the confusion and controversy that has resulted, but also because it has once again denied its employees and permittees the opportunity to experience these beneficial results."

Wald claims that, like the National Environmental Policy Act, the court order in this case demands only a halt to actions which will have a significant effect on the environment — not all actions.

"Obviously, it does not prohibit the bureau from preparing an environmental analysis report (EAR) when presented with a range improvement application in order to determine whether or not its implementation will result in significant ad-

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Bill Meiners, resource management consultant. "The problem is getting the BLM to function."

Suit stirs NEPA questions . . .

(Continued from page 1)

linked to range decisions which will be delayed until grazing EIS's are complete, according to Dale Brubaker, BLM resource area manager in Lander, Wyo.

On the Green Mountain (Wyo.) Unit, for instance, this means that although the range probably has more animals grazing than it can sustain, nothing can be done about the situation until 1979 — when the range EIS is scheduled to be complete. The problem exists because a thriving wild horse herd was not taken into account when the range was divided up between ranchers and wildlife.

SIMPLE, BEAUTIFUL OR IMPRECISE?

The BLM claims that the "imprecision" of NEPA is the problem and that Congressional amendment is necessary to keep federal agencies out of court.

One of the plaintiffs in the grazing suit, Bill Meiners, says, to the contrary, that "NEPA is one of the most simple, beautiful pieces of legislation I've ever seen."

"The problem is getting the BLM to function," says Meiners, who worked as a planner for the BLM for 10 years. He now runs his own resource consulting firm and is president of the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society. "The gyrations BLM goes through to avoid an EIS are monumental," Meiners told HCN. It would take very little additional time to prepare an EIS, he believes.

"SORRIEST RECORD"

BLM has "perhaps the sorriest record of NEPA compliance of any agency," NRDC attorney John D. Leshy told the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and the Environment at hearings on NEPA held in October. His group has chosen lawsuits "as a last resort in several instances to force BLM compliance with the law, only because of that agency's outright refusal to follow NEPA's mandate."

In the six years since NEPA was passed, the BLM has issued only one EIS on grazing, although it administers more than 150 million acres of public land for grazing. Leshy pointed out in his Congressional testimony. Similarly, the agency has issued only one timber EIS, although its forests support 88 billion board feet of merchantable timber, Leshy said.

Leshy said that although the Forest Ser-

vice administers only about one-third as much acreage as the BLM, the Forest Service prepares more impact statements. In 1974, Leshy said, the Forest Service prepared over 200 EIS's, while the BLM prepared less than a dozen.

"While comparing the numbers of EIS's is admittedly not an entirely satisfactory measure of NEPA compliance, the gross disparity in this case accurately reflects the degree to which each agency has integrated NEPA into its ongoing management programs," Leshy said.

Leshy quoted the report of an Interior Department Task Force set up in 1974 to review the department's response to NEPA. "Some of the delay (on Interior Department actions) can be attributed to litigation based on NEPA, but the bulk is caused by our own ineptness in doing a good job with NEPA," the report stated. One problem identified by the report was that "top management of DOI has not communicated a firm commitment to NEPA to departmental managers and employees."

GOOD FAITH ATTEMPT

A Wyoming BLM official claims that his agency has made a good faith attempt to comply with NEPA, but that the courts haven't agreed with the agency's interpretation of the law. In most cases BLM has chosen to do "programmatic statements" — EIS's which give a bird's-eye view of grazing, timbering, and coal leasing activities, rather than focusing on the local impacts of those activities. In the case of the grazing statement, the courts ruled against the programmatic approach to NEPA.

The BLM official also said that the agency had chosen to place heavy emphasis on Environmental Assessment Reports (EAR's). Through this document the agency decides whether or not an action is significant enough to require an EIS. Ways of mitigating the adverse effects of a federal action are considered in BLM EAR's, the official said.

This lawsuit and its demand for enforcement of NEPA has changed the way the BLM manages national resource lands. While the BLM says that means we must reform NEPA, NRDC protests. It is the BLM that needs reform, the environmental group says.

NRDC's letter to High Country News

HCN requested a response from the Natural Resources Defense Council on a proposal designed to ease the strains created by a controversial grazing lawsuit (see story above). The proposal was made by the Bureau of Land Management's Wyoming advisory board. The board has sent its ideas to the Interior Department, the BLM, and the federal judge involved in the case and replies from these corners are expected soon. —Ed.)

Dear High Country News:

We have reviewed the resolution of the Wyoming BLM State Advisory Board relating to range improvement projects and have the following comments.

The advisory board is to be commended for its forthright and farsighted approach to what it has called a "complex and frustrating problem." We greatly appreciate the board members' willingness to play a responsible role in the search for a solution, and we are willing to provide whatever appropriate assistance and support we can.

In particular, we strongly endorse their recommendation regarding the need for guidelines identifying actions which are, and are not, likely to require EIS's, and would be delighted to participate in their development. In addition, we believe that these guidelines can be developed and adopted without resorting to the court and without making any changes in the final order itself.

This view is based on our conviction that the BLM is solely responsible for the problem's existence, and accordingly, that the board and all interested parties must look to the BLM for its solution.

The BLM has consciously adopted a narrow and restrictive interpretation of subparagraph 8 of the final judgment in that case. Thus, in a recent telephone conversation, a BLM attorney in Washington, D.C., specifically agreed that the final order in *NRDC, et al. v. Morton, et al.* does not prohibit the implementation of all range improvements. On the contrary, he stated that "as a matter of policy," not law, the agency had decided to allow improvements only in connection with implemented AMP's.

Instead of mandating this restrictive approach, the order simply prohibits the im-

plementation of improvements which require an EIS until such a statement has been prepared on the project itself or on the area in which it will be located. In other words, it merely applies the National Environmental Policy Act's requirements specifically to range improvements.

Obviously, it does not prohibit mending a fence, for example. Moreover, it is equally obvious that it does not prohibit the bureau from preparing an environmental analysis report (EAR) when presented with a range improvement application in order to determine whether or not its implementation will result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Indeed, this is exactly what the bureau is doing with respect to projects in AMP areas.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that it is long past time for BLM employees to stop complaining about, and misconstruing, the effects of this order on range improvements. After all, the agency participated as fully as we did in its drafting and agreed to the precise wording and inclusion of every item it contains. Further, I have been assured that substantial efforts have been made to ensure that BLM field employees do understand which management constraints are the result of policy decisions and which are the result of legal restrictions.

While it is obvious that a greater effort in this direction is in fact required, we suspect that some people in BLM just don't like NEPA and are looking for an opportunity to discredit the law, if not to evade its requirements outright. As federal employees, these people have got to come to grips with the fact that that law exists and get on with their job of complying with it. Compliance with NEPA can make proper management of grazing on the public lands an easier task, and, as such, it can benefit the public and livestock operators alike.

We are dismayed by the bureau's decision to rid itself completely of the need to analyze improvements outside AMP areas, not only because of the confusion and controversy that has resulted, but also because it has once again denied its employees and permittees the opportunity to experience these beneficial results.

Johanna H. Wald
Natural Resources Defense Council

Dams—no boon to locals

Major dams along the Missouri River have not substantially benefited the rural areas where the projects were built, says Dr. Bernard D. Shanks of the University of Nevada. Shanks, who conducted a study of five main stem dams — Fort Peck, Garrison, Oahe, Big Bend, and Fort Randall — says promises of social benefits to the impacted areas never materialized. If the projects were re-evaluated today, says Shanks, several "might warrant major changes, even elimination to meet humanistic resource development objectives."

"Water development is more than just building dams — it may mean tearing them down as well," says Shanks.

Shanks is an associate professor of renewable natural resources and has studied the social impact of water development and wild rivers for three years.

In his study of the Missouri dams, Shanks found no significant benefits in the impacted areas from the water projects. "In nearly every important human category of

development, family income, education, dependency ratio, and population, the Missouri River region was in an inferior position to the state and national indicators," says Shanks.

He points out that hydroelectric power from the dams did not attract industry to the impacted area, "but was transmitted to existing cities and industrial centers." Similarly, projected irrigation and recreation benefits used to sell the project to the local citizens "also have gone largely elsewhere," reports Shanks.

"Apparently, the primary benefits of the water projects, after the construction phase, were exported to eastern and downstream regions," he says. At the same time, the costs to the impacted area "have included the flooding of prime agricultural lands, increased taxes, and the disruption of viable farm units and established social structures," according to Shanks.

Shanks says water development planners tend to focus on pre-construction benefit-cost estimates of social impacts,

but rarely if ever look at post-construction results of the projects. "While the large dams remain as landmarks to engineering prowess, the projects need to be evaluated for their success in meeting humanistic de-

"Water development is more than just building dams — it may mean tearing them down as well," Shanks says.

velopment objectives," he says.

"If developments are not continually re-evaluated, water resource projects will become stagnated with outdated facilities and outdated products. Having been authorized by antiquated standards, the large dams may become, if not re-developed, national monuments to archaic water policies."

Relying on his studies of the existing main stem dams, Shanks urges passage of federal legislation to prohibit dams in the Missouri Breaks in Montana. He says only seven per cent of the river was in "any semblance of a natural state."

Senate passes protection bill

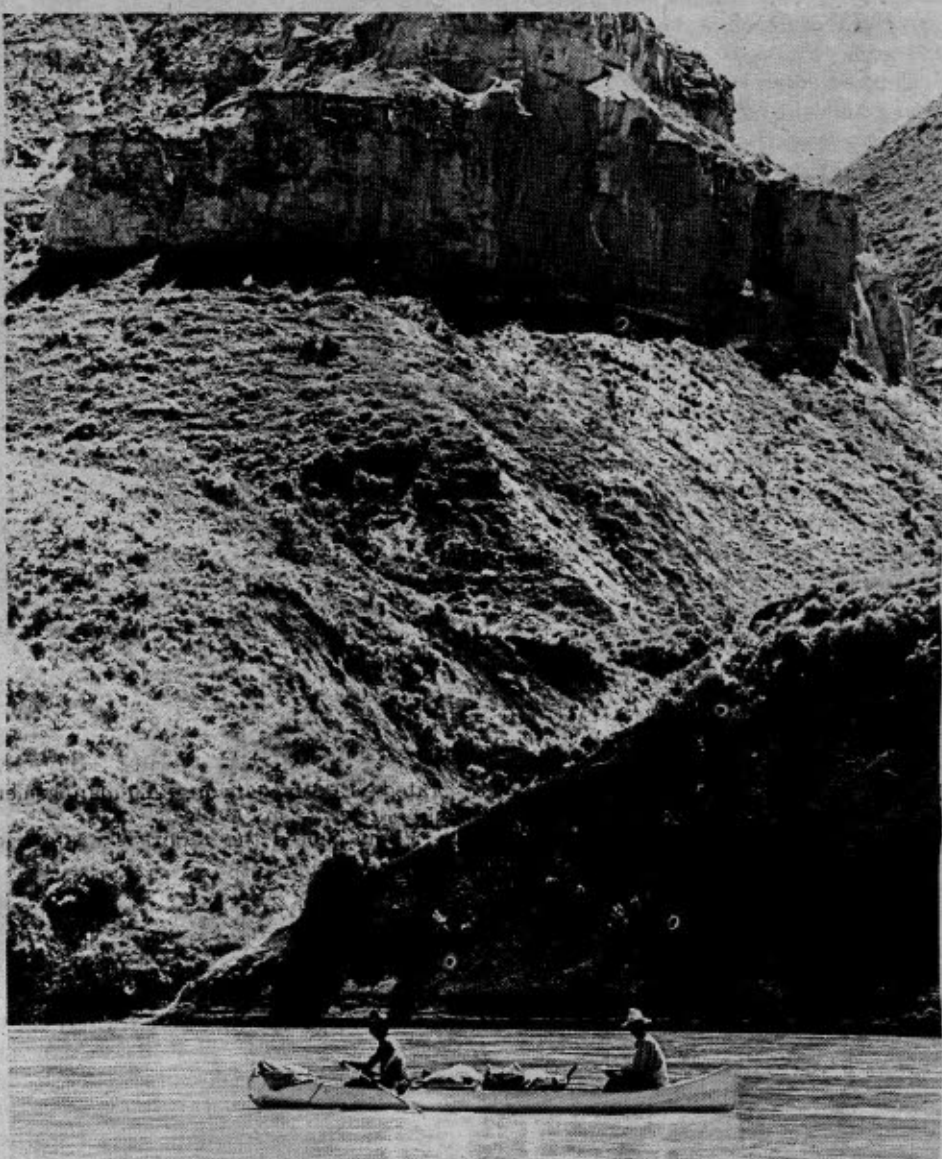
A bill to protect the last wild stretch of the Missouri River has passed the U.S. Senate on a unanimous voice vote.

The bill, S. 1506, sponsored by Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.), designates the Missouri Breaks section of river from Fort Benton to the Fred Robinson Bridge in Montana as part of the national Wild and Scenic River System. Such designation would block future dam proposals. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers have proposed damming this last free-flowing stretch of the Missouri.

Under S. 1506 the Bureau of Land Management would be the sole administrator of the 175 miles of river. The National Park Service would be responsible for the con-

struction and operation of a visitor center at Fort Benton. Livestock grazing would continue along the river.

The bill will now go to the House Interior Committee for consideration. Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.) who sits on the Interior Committee, has expressed general support for the concept of the bill. Melcher told the Montana Wilderness Association conference in Billings in early December that he would like to see a study on the feasibility of pumping water out of the Missouri along the Missouri Breaks and storing the water in off-stem reservoirs. This would keep the stretch undammed and enable Montana to store its portion of Missouri River water, he said.



The Missouri River in Montana — rich in history and now a candidate for Congressional protection. Montana Department of Highways photo

The Missouri River

Grand old lady of the West

by Lois McBride

From her official starting point at the junction of the Madison, Jefferson, and Gallatin Rivers in southwestern Montana,



the Missouri River flows 2,315 miles on her way across the nation. Somewhere along the way she becomes more than a river and turns into a **grand dame** — a grand old lady of the West.

Although the land's original inhabitants — Blackfeet, Crow, Cheyenne, Gros Ventre, Assiniboiné and Sioux — knew the Missouri and marked her route across the miles, Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery were the first white men of record to follow the river's willful ways.

Under orders from President Thomas Jefferson, the explorers set out in 1804 to investigate the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase, find the Pacific, and set up preliminary contacts for the purpose of dominating Indian trade.

It wasn't the first time Jefferson had eyed the Missouri. In 1793, while he was Secretary of State, Jefferson hired Andre Michaud, a distinguished French scientist, to explore the Missouri and the Columbia. Only an expedition against the Spanish on the Gulf of Mexico kept the proposition from succeeding.

Lewis and Clark described Montana in their daily journals, commenting on the river's "citadels of stone," teeming wildlife, and the great cataract that gives the city of Great Falls its name.

Hard on the heels of Lewis and Clark came fur entrepreneurs — Hudson's Bay Company, John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company, Manuel Lisa's Missouri Fur operation, and, in 1822, the Rocky Mountain

Fur Company, all trading for beaver, otter and mink on the banks of Missouri. Forts sprang up, starting with Fort Union on the Montana-Dakota border and appearing westward as need and conflict dictated.

Gold brought hordes of prospectors who used the Missouri as a pioneer rapid transit and her tributaries for gold panning purposes.

In the late 1800s the land-hungry and restless found Montana. They staked out ranches measured in miles instead of acres, and thousands of range cattle slaked their thirst in the Missouri. Steamboats plied up and down the indomitable river, carrying the trade goods of the nation.

She's still a grand old river — even after 170 years of serving as a trail across the continent. In Montana, great stretches of her are as wild and free as they ever were, with only time-worn tipi camp sites and crumbling sod walls to indicate that man was ever there.

6-High Country News — Dec. 19, 1975

Tetons' neighbors speak at enlargement hearings

by Ernest H. Linford

Grand Teton National Park is being buffeted by a variety of conflicting interests as changes in boundaries and management policies are weighed.

"Open-ended" hearings have been held in Wyoming and Idaho communities bordering on Grand Teton this fall on proposals to enlarge the park. Suggestions for the changes originally came more than a year ago from ranchers and other residents of the area.

Concern over tourist and recreational developments adjacent to the park, detracting from the scenic grandeur of the Tetons and environs, prompted the idea. After some preliminary meetings, the Park Service's regional service center prepared a list of alternative options for boundary adjustments. These were discussed at the community hearings.

LONG-TERM DISPUTE

Boundary and related questions have been in controversy even before the establishment in 1943 of a national monument, made up partly of land purchased by the Rockefellers and ceded by Congress in 1950 to Grand Teton National Park.

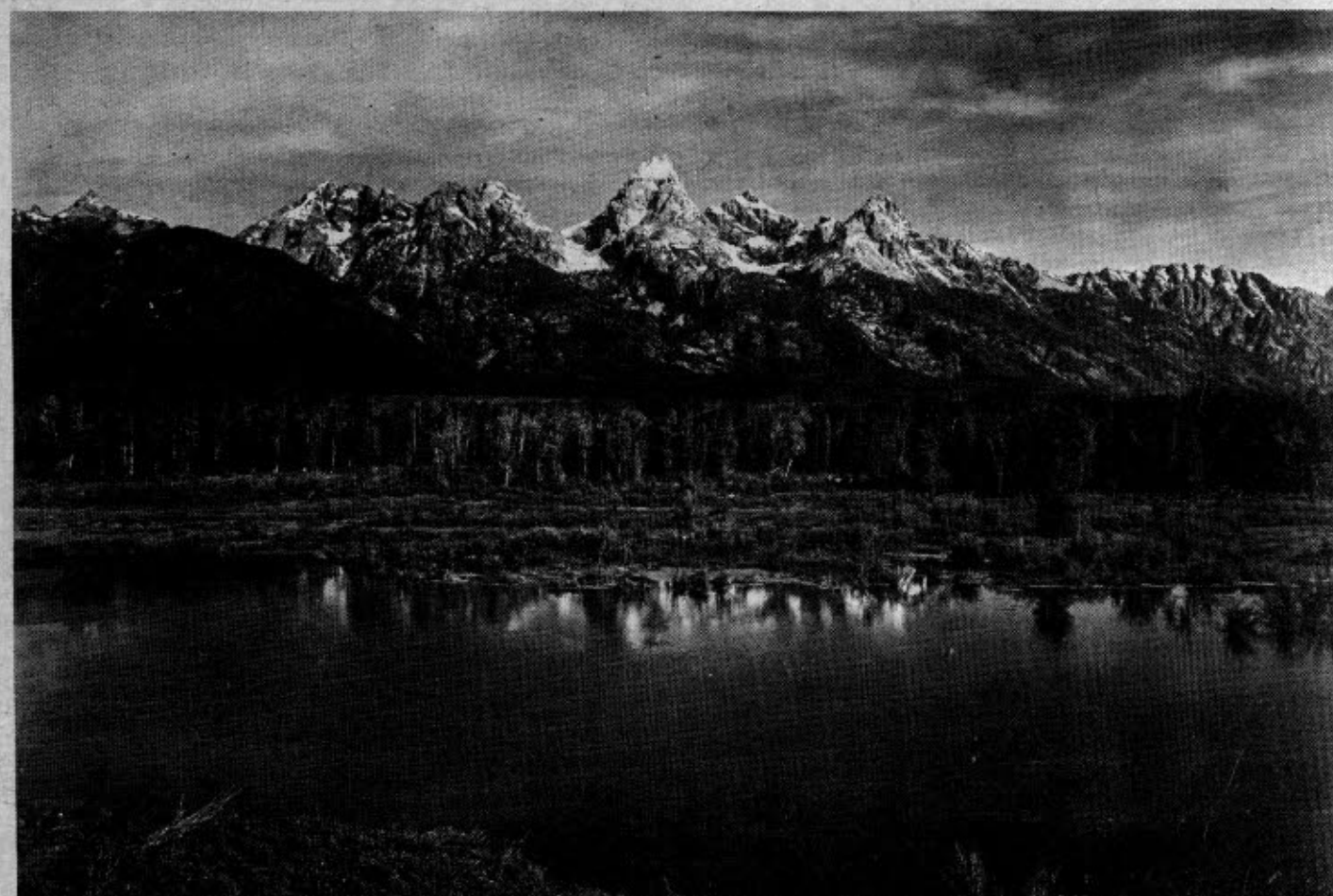
The present boundary study is expected to be completed by late next February and legislation should be ready for congressional scrutiny next summer.

Some nearby residents have questioned the advisability of pushing the Park Service proposals ahead of a Teton County master plan which will not be completed until 1977. The answer is that the purposes and jurisdictions of the two studies are not identical and several phases of the park boundary issue require urgent and relatively quick official action.

Other controversies revolving around Grand Teton include a proposal to extend the Jackson Hole airport (which is inside the park) to accommodate jet planes, hunting inside the park, elk management, lake management, and fire management.

The boundary study document calls for a close look at six specific areas and several alternatives for each. Among them:

South Boundary: bounded on the east and west by federal land and extending south to Hoback Junction, including much



TO GROW? Hearings on the expansion of Grand Teton National Park have been held in Wyoming and Idaho recently. The need to protect the park's edges from garish developments provided the impetus for the park service plan. The photo above shows the Tetons as seen from the Blacktail Ponds overlook.

Union Pacific Photo.

of the privately-held land in Teton County. (The town of Jackson is not included.)

West Boundary: the west slope of the Tetons, presently in the Targhee National Forest in Idaho.

Southeast Boundary: the Kelly area, including the town of Kelly (where the Park Service already owns 60 of the 180 lots), Teton Valley Ranch of 850 acres within the National Elk Refuge, (420 acres of which have been subdivided), and the elk refuge consisting of 24,000 acres, currently managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Lost Creek Ranch: about 160 acres, partly inside the park on the east side. Said

one Jackson Hole resident of this area which commands a full, scenic view of the Tetons: "This former dude ranch has been 'brutalized.' It was bought by Washington, D.C., promoters who subdivided it and sold small lots at big prices. The land should be bought by the Park Service if possible; at any rate no more development should be permitted. . . ."

East Entrance: The Moran area and the approach to the park along Highway 26-287, now in private ownership, where extensive developments are planned.

Alternative plans drawn by the Park Service range all the way from maintaining the status quo to buying up private

land at a cost of hundreds of million dollars and administering the different areas as full-scale national parks, recreation areas, or other classifications.

Under special consideration are some 5,000 acres of inholdings in the park. As an alternative to buying the land the service is weighing proposals for taking scenic easements in which the owners would be paid not to develop the property in disharmony with the natural scenery.

It is good that the close neighbors are being heard by the Park Service. The rest of us who have an interest in preserving this beautiful, fragile land may also express our views.

FOE leader speaks at MWA conference

Brower urges giving up one sin: despair

The complexity and magnitude of our environmental problems often leads conservationists to a mental state of defeatism, David Brower, president and founder of Friends of the Earth, told the Montana Wilderness Association conference in Billings. But this won't happen if we all stop contemplating and "grab the thistle."

"C. P. Snow says, 'Despair is a sin.' I think we should give up that sin. I don't care what you do with your others," said Brower.

As Brower spoke, any signs of despair in the audience disappeared. Brower's powerful enthusiasm and wry sense of humor inspired the issue-boggled conference-goers with verbal challenges.

At the end of the speech, a listener remarked to a Friends of the Earth representative, "That's some boss you have." He

replied proudly, "We don't have a boss; we have a patriarch."

The following are a few "Browerisms" excerpted from his Billings speech before the MWA:

On the Brown's Ferry nuclear reactor fire: "We learned a reactor is a thing you can't hold a candle to."

On power plant air pollution: "They still want to scrub what comes out of their stacks with your lungs."

On solar energy: "... those idiots that say solar is an exotic. I don't know how the world worked when they weren't around."

On doubling our demand for non-renewable resources: "It's not the only way we can save ourselves — it's the only way we can destroy ourselves."

On nuclear power: "When the atom gets out there, it doesn't know if it's at war or peace."

On economic growth: "Economic growth is a sophisticated technique for stealing from our children."

On Justice Douglas' resignation: "The environmental hopes of getting a fair shake in the Supreme Court went out with William O. Douglas. He was one of my heroes."

On clean air: "You can get along without a lot of things — but you've got to have air every five seconds."

On channelization and dams: "Let's get the Corps of Engineers to restore railroads instead of messing with our streams."

On "winning" environmental battles: "The conservationist can never win, so you've got to give him every break. Only the exploiter 'wins.' Even if you stop dams in the Grand Canyon once, you've got to keep 'winning' over and over again."

On being outrageous: Russ Train, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, once said, "Thank God for Dave Brower because he makes it easy for the rest of us to look reasonable." Brower's retort is: "Thank God for Russ Train because he makes it easy for the rest of us to look outrageous."

On amending the National Environmental Policy Act: "All NEPA asks for is an assessment of the social and environmental impacts and a look at reasonable alternatives. Agencies and congressmen are calling this unreasonable — it's an absolute basic!"

On the future: "It has been said, 'When you reach the edge of an abyss, the only progressive step is backwards.' We know growth must stop sometime. Why don't we stop the ugly growth while the earth is still beautiful?"

Dec. 19, 1975 — High Country News-7

Biologist searches for formula for dawn of century

by Ernest H. Linford

What would you do the next 25 years if you were convinced that the human race would die out about 2000? What could be said or done to make you believe that life on earth is in grave danger?

Dr. George Wald, Nobel laureate in physiology and one of this country's most distinguished scientists and humanitarians says the human race is not likely to survive "much past the year 2000."

The eminent Harvard biologist cites a chilling list of reasons for his belief, including the proliferation of the bomb, nuclear and other industrial accidents, aerosols, limits of scientific research, and so on. Wald says it all adds up to concentration of unprecedented power in the hands of an elite, with the so-called free world wholly controlled by multinational super-enterprises.

The motto seems to be "I'll get mine and to hell with what happens to mankind and other living things."

Dr. Wald's speech called "A Generation in Search of a Future" was widely reprinted with great impact, a few years ago, but his latest pronouncement, made recently at a conference in Davos, Switzerland, has received scant attention.

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS
by Zane E. Cology

Power production must pause,
For a portly old man named Claus.
He's stuck in the stack
Of Gillette's Wyodak.
There's a blackout until he withdraws.

DDT LEVELS DOWN. "Residues of the pesticide DDT in the food supply, human tissues, and the environment have declined in recent years since the chemical was banned for major uses by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1972," reports *Farmland News*. The economic impact of the ban has been nominal, according to EPA.

NO FED-STATE COORDINATION. State and county officials who have been having trouble coordinating their land use plans with federal projects now know they're not alone. A recent Interior Department report was completed on federal management and assistance programs. It shows that none of the programs provide for the compatibility of federal projects with state land use plans when the federal projects have a significant impact on the use of nonfederal lands. Nor do they encourage coordination of the management of federal public lands with state land use programs, according to *Land Use Planning Reports*.

USDA KILLING SMALL FARMS. The number of U.S. farms could be cut in half within 10 years by current Department of Agriculture policies, according to the *National Farmers Organization Reporter and Liberation News Service*. The article, reprinted in *Borrowed Times*, quoted a USDA report, "Alternative Futures for U.S. Agriculture," which it claims was hushed up within the USDA. The report predicted that government programs now in force would cut farm numbers from 2.8 million to 1.0 million by 1985.

DOT AUTO-FREE ZONES. The Department of Transportation (DOT) will begin an experiment with "auto-free" zones in several American cities next year, Federal Highway Administrator Norbert Tiemann says. The cities for the test have not been chosen. "We simply cannot afford the one-car, one-occupant concept any longer" because of "the ever-growing congestion and air and noise pollution in our large cities," he said, according to *Land Use Planning Reports*.

TVA THREATENS EPA. Tennessee Valley Authority vowed recently that it won't install scrubbers unless the Supreme Court orders it to do so. TVA said, "If we lose the case there, we will try to get the law changed. We don't give up easy," according to the *Mountain Eagle*. The statement came after EPA Administrator Russell Train said TVA was a major obstruction to the nation's air clean up program.

This may be partly because of the "wolf wolf" psychology of a society long ago innured by doomsday predictions and partly because other scientists have already poo-pooed Dr. Wald's warnings.

For example agriculture and chemical industry scientists support Representative Poage of Texas in his move to paralyze the federal Pesticide Act. He would do so by requiring the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture before the Environmental Protection Agency could act to control any pesticide.

In the 28 years that the Agriculture Department controlled pesticides it failed to take a single one off the market as a health hazard, though it did modify their use in a few instances. When the dangers of DDT, aldrin, and dieldrin were established, the department fought for their continued distribution and finally joined the lawsuit to prevent the EPA from taking them off the market.

For every scientist or commentator warning against a poison, a weapon or a technology, a dozen scientific hirelings scream "unfair," and assure the public that the danger is exaggerated or a figment of a kook's imagination. So you pays your money and you takes your choice!

"Every nuclear reactor of any type now at work produces as a by-product plutonium 239, probably the most toxic substance known," says Dr. Wald. "One milligram inhaled is enough to kill a person within hours by massive fibrosis of the lungs. . . ."

Yet Sunday papers and magazines across the land are publishing articles quoting a high-sounding committee of "distinguished scientists" to the effect that nuclear power is no more dangerous than other types of fuels.

Dr. Wald says the danger from aerosols is very real and it is foolish to say that more scientific evidence is needed.

"If we were to stop all use of spray cans now, we would already be destined to lose about 10% of the ozone layer (above the earth). If we go on using aerosol sprays much longer we could lose it all," and short-wave radiation would kill all forms of life. And so on. The story is all-too familiar.

"Pit the future of life on earth against the economic welfare of a \$3 billion-a-year (aerosol) industry and where do you place your bets? Which is going to win out?"

As to solving problems through more research, Wald says, "All the facts are never in . . . So let's have more research. But let us also act; let us do what is needed. We already know enough to begin to cope with major problems threatening human life and much of the rest of life on earth. Our crisis is not a crisis of information; it is a crisis of policy."

Meanwhile Dr. Richard Scorer, a British meteorologist, is stumping the U.S. downplaying the dangers to the atmosphere's ozone layer. At a recent talk at the National Center for Atmospheric Research at Boulder, Colo., Dr. Scorer said too little is known about the ozone layer and its tendency to hold fluorocarbons.

Dr. Scorer is in the pay of the aerosol industry and on a commercial propaganda mission, but he is accorded all the privileges and media attention of a scientist with no axe to grind.

Though pessimistic, Dr. Wald says our destructive society doesn't have to race on to oblivion in the next 25 years. We can opt for life rather than death, he claims.

If he is right, the scientific community, with the help of all who influence public opinion, should be stumping the land with a formula for meaningful survival in the 21st century.

Locking up the land?

Whenever the subject of wilderness comes up, myths concerning its use are often mentioned. Following is a list of some of the most common myths, clarified by sections from the Wilderness Act and the Department of Interior's and Department of Agriculture's regulations for implementing the act.

Myth: Wilderness is a single use. It is not part of the multiple use concept. It locks up the land.

The law: "... wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use. . . . Nothing in this Act shall prevent within national forest wilderness areas any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment."

Myth: Wilderness prohibits grazing.

The law: "... the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of the Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture."

Myth: Miners lose their claims when an area is designated as wilderness.

The law: "... until midnight December 31, 1983, the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall . . . extend to those national forest lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas. . . ."

Myth: No sanitary facilities can be allowed in Wilderness.

The law: "The Chief, Forest Service, may permit temporary structures and commercial services within National Forest Wilderness to the extent necessary for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes."

A *Handbook on the Wilderness Act*, which contains the law and its regulations, may be obtained from the Wilderness Society, 729 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005



ON THE WAY TO SOLAR

Feds weigh sun power for heating, cooling

Solar heating equipment at a visitor center near Lovell, Wyo., will pay for itself in 10 to 12 years, says the National Park Service. After that, the savings in fuel costs will both save taxpayer's dollars and conserve on scarce fossil fuels.

The Lovell solar plan and 18 others contemplated by the Park Service were discussed at public hearings recently held by the House Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds. The subcommittee is examining legislation designed to spur use of solar energy for heating and cooling federal buildings.

The bill, the Conservation and Solar Energy — Federal Buildings Act of 1975 developed by Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), would require federal agencies to consider solar heating and cooling. Under the terms of the bill, a federal agency would prepare an energy use analysis of its buildings to determine what heating and cooling system would

be the cheapest to install over the economic life of a building. Ordinarily, costs estimates include only the initial outlay.

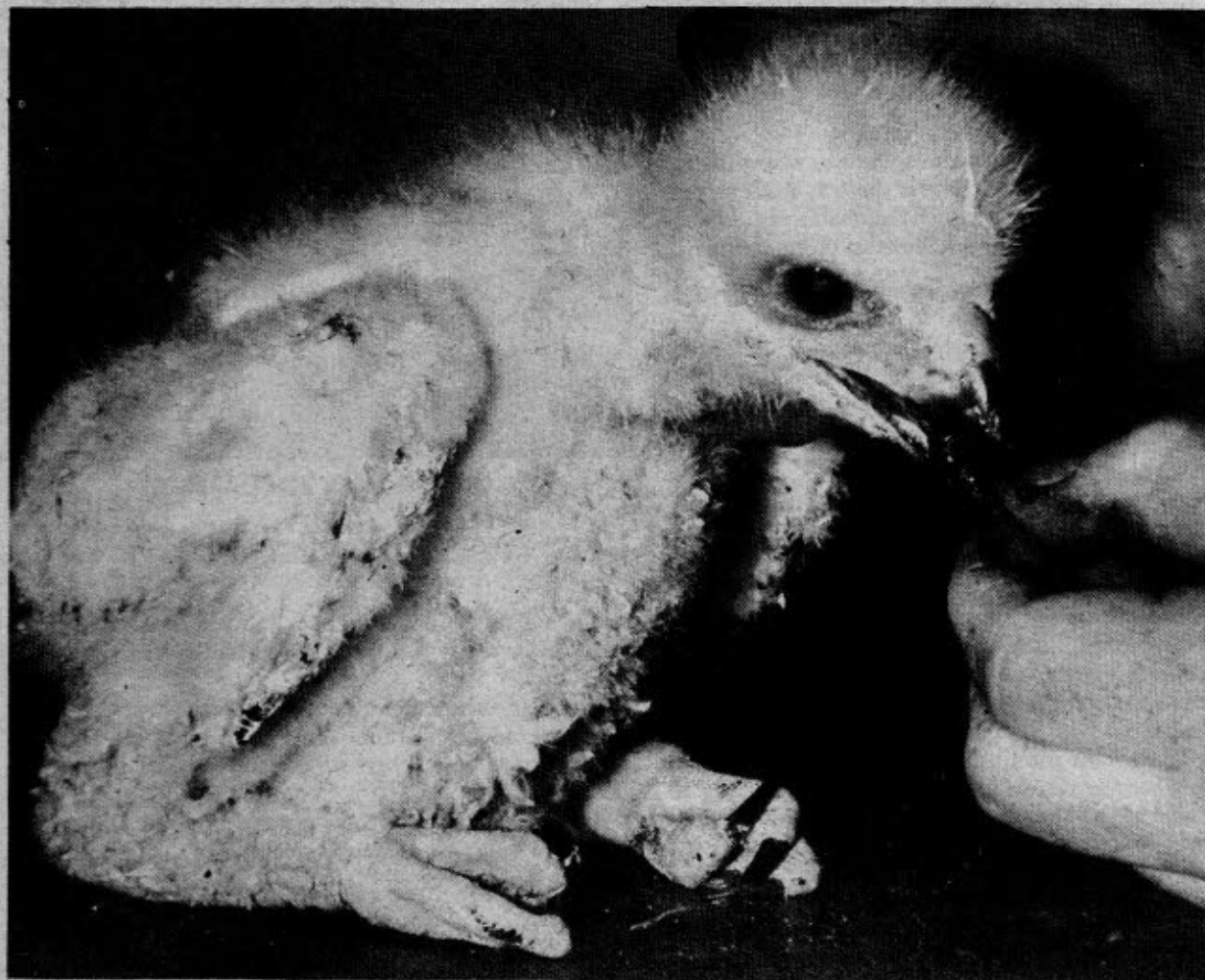
Until now, other than Park Service activities, "the federal government has done precious little in the way of using solar energy," says subcommittee chairman Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.).

Witnesses at the hearings pointed out that the problems with solar heating are related to marketing, not engineering.

"Someone is going to have to take the lead if these problems are to be overcome," Roncalio said in a recent press release. "The thinking behind the bills before my subcommittee is that the federal government might be that 'someone,' that the government could set the example by using solar energy in its buildings."



Red-tailed hawk. Photo by Don Domenick and courtesy of Colorado Division of Wildlife.



This golden eagle chick was recovered from a nest below Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge after its parents were shot this spring by a sheepherder. The gunman was convicted and fined. The chick died in captivity. Photo by Dick Randall of Defenders of Wildlife.

Birds of prey face

That eagle's fate and m
Which on the shaft tha
Espied a feather of his
Wherewith he went to

by Bruce Hamilton

Birds of prey experts and fanciers gathered in Boise, Idaho, in late November for the fall 1975 meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation. Scientific papers delivered at the three-day meeting ranged from the esoteric ("artificial insemination of American kestrels" and "pellet egestion in great horned owls") to the practical ("raptor electrocution on transmission lines" and "ways of detecting predator poison in birds of prey").

Staff members of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum's raptor rehabilitation program gave a paper on why raptors get injured and how to bring them back to health. Gary Bogue of the staff said the program is often criticized for "interfering with nature." He reported that around the museum in Walnut Creek, Calif., more than 90% of the birds recovered suffer from man-related problems — hit by cars, shot, entangled in kite string, electrocuted by power lines, etc. With this kind of record, Bogue feels the museum isn't playing Mother Nature, but rather trying to undo some of the harm man has already done.

Dick Randall of Defenders of Wildlife delivered a paper on using tracers to detect birds of prey that had died of predator poisons. Randall, a former government trapper, placed tracer material in poison baits laced with 1080 and strychnine. When he found golden eagles, prairie falcons, and other dead birds and mammals with tracer around the bait stations, he became convinced that the poisons were not selective for coyotes only. Randall's research is some of the only work done on poisoning of non-target animals with poisons.



Juvenile red-tailed hawks. Photo by Dick Randall of Defenders of Wildlife.

Prey fanciers parley

le's fate and mine are one,
n the shaft that made him die
a feather of his own,
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—Aesop

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Frank Craighead and David Mindell of the Environmental Research Institute in Moose, Wyo., delivered a paper comparing raptor populations in Grand Teton National Park in 1947 and 1975. Craighead and Mindell reported that as development of the park increased over the years, numbers of breeding raptors and breeding success decreased. On the other hand, raven and starling populations increased during the same period.

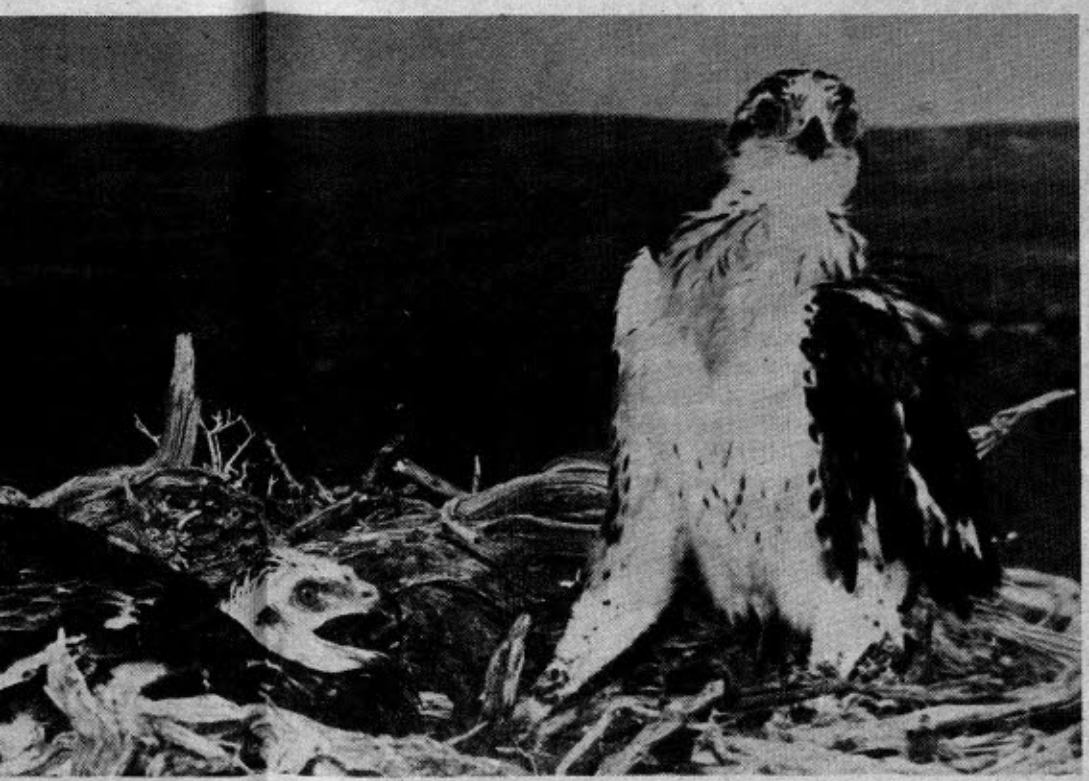
David Marshall of the U.S. Office of Threatened and Endangered Species in Washington, D.C., spoke on how the Endangered Species Act affected birds of prey. He said that if a private development with no federal support imperiled an endangered species like the peregrine falcon, then "legally it appears we have no recourse." In such cases, "mustering public appeal" or attempting to purchase the land is the only legal recourse available. However, federal projects jeopardizing endangered birds can be stopped under the act.

Dr. Clayton White of Brigham Young University recommended a new direction in endangered species management. He suggested "saving endangered ecosystems instead of saving just endangered species."

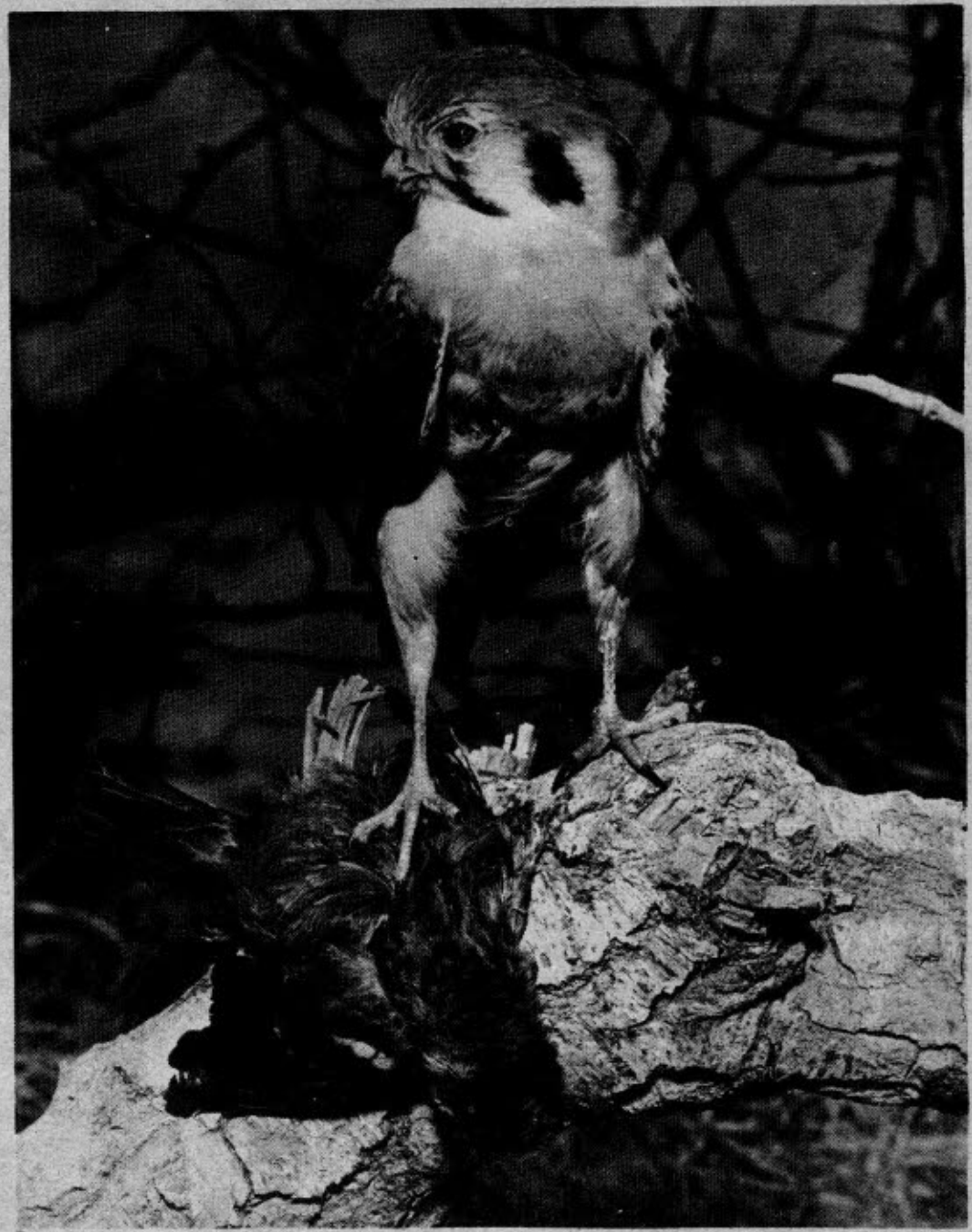
A major portion of the conference was devoted to papers on research on the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area south of Boise. Raptors in the canyon area are being studied intensively with remote control movie cameras in the nests, radio transmitters on the backs of the raptors, bright colored wing tags on eagles, and other techniques. The reserve was set aside in 1971 by the Bureau of Land Management. It is one of the only areas in the world reserved for raptors, and has one of the largest breeding populations of prairie falcons in North America.



Coopers hawk with small rodent prey. Photo by Don Domenick and courtesy of Colorado Division of Wildlife.



red-tailed hawks. Photo by Dick Randall of Defenders of Wildlife.



American kestrel or sparrow hawk. Photo by Don Domenick and courtesy of Colorado Division of Wildlife.

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Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

An unlikely, if not bizarre, coalition of the most conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats resulted in last week's rejection by Congress of President Ford's "crash" program for synthetic fuel production.

The President's \$6 billion loan guarantee plan would have given the push to installation of major plants in the West to produce the synthetic equivalents of oil from shale and natural gas from coal. One such coal gasification plant was planned for Wyoming or Montana by late summer of next year.

Senate Interior Committee Chairman Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) called the loan proposal "absolutely essential to launch a synthetic fuel industry in the United States."

Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) had a different view. Hays called it "the biggest Christmas gift to the biggest corporations in America since I've been in Congress."

As for its "bipartisan" support by both Ford and Jackson, Hays said, "That's the reason neither of 'em is going to be standing up here taking an oath of office a year from now." That jab was greeted with loud applause, and the House moments later rejected the proposal, 263 to 140.

Voting with Hays, Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) and other liberals were such stalwart conservatives as John Birch Society member John Rousselot (R-Calif.) and the American Independent Party's in-lieu-of-Wallace candidate for President in 1972, John Ashbrook (R-Ohio).

The loan guarantee plan was tied to an energy research bill approved by the Senate in July. The House had passed the same energy bill without the loan guarantees a month earlier.

That difference between the two bills suddenly became the most controversial feature, what Rep. Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.) called "the tail that wags the dog."

Rejection of the program does not necessarily doom future efforts by the administration to push for synthetic energy development in the West. Other factors, beyond that issue alone, produced the House vote last week.

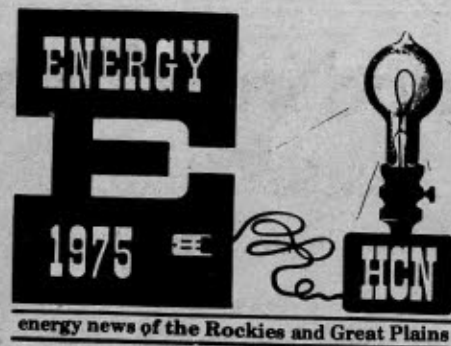
One such factor was timing; House conservatives were being asked by the President to support a multi-billion dollar potential "bail-out" for energy companies immediately after they had spoken forcefully against a bail-out for New York City.

So there was Rep. Barry Goldwater (R-Calif.) complaining about the government "once again interjecting itself into the free market system." Goldwater and other conservatives would have looked a tad silly supporting a bail-out of Exxon after opposing one for poor ol' New York City. That's the way it could have — and would have — been construed.

Another apparent factor was House self-esteem. The House was being asked to approve a massive program that had never been voted on even at its committee level. Hearings were held in a House committee only after the bill had gone to conference with the Senate bill.

"First we'll find him guilty," Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) analogized. "Then we'll hear the evidence."

Those elements, plus the obvious environmental opposition to synthetic fuel development, allowed the coalition to form in such large numbers that rejection of the proposal was not all that surprising.



GOVERNORS REACT TO SYN-FUELS. Gov. Ed Herschler (D-Wyo.) says the House of Representatives vote killing the proposed \$6 billion loan guarantee program for synthetic fuels development will be detrimental to the West, according to an Associated Press report. Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm declined to comment directly on the rejection of the loan guaran-

tee program but said there still was a need for a demonstration project of some sort to prove the economic viability of oil shale. Lamm had fought, through some members of Colorado's congressional delegation, to get Western governors' demands for state veto power into the bill and then had supported the bill. The loan guarantees program was passed by a conference committee but defeated when Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) asked that it be put before a separate vote in the House. The Senate could still ask to have it back in the bill. (See "Reckoning.")

TRIBES LOCK GATES. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council has ordered tribal police to lock the gates at the transformer construction site for the Flathead Irrigation Project (FIP) near Kerr Dam west of Polson, Mont. The tribes say they own the site, but the Bureau of

Indian Affairs (BIA) claims that FIP is entitled to use the land under federal regulations. The BIA said a review could change the solicitor's opinion but suggested the tribes permit the completion of the project to prevent a reservation-wide blackout. Tribal Councilman Tom Swaney says, "The compound should remain closed until we have a commitment from these people that they will negotiate on the grounds of a fair settlement for the land," according to *The Missoulian*.

STATE PERMITS EXPANSION. The Montana State Department of Lands has granted Westmoreland Resources permission to expand its mining operations at Sarpy Creek by about 225 acres, as long as it keeps its mining operations 400 feet away from a sharp-tailed grouse dancing ground from March to October. Since the area of the permit is within the company's five year mining plan for 770 acres, it is not forbidden by the courts under *Cady v. Morton*. That suit enjoins Westmoreland from going outside the original 770 acres without an environmental impact statement covering Westmoreland's total 20 year mining plan for the area.

CONSOL AWAITS BIA ANSWER. The legality of a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) superintendent's decision to void coal leases on the Fort Berthold, North Dakota, reservation is now being evaluated by the area BIA director and the BIA solicitor. Superintendent Anson Baker voided the coal lease the tribe held with Consolidated Coal because, he said, it did not comply with federal regulations. Baker, who was the first BIA superintendent to void a lease, told HCN he believes it is the "paramount responsibility of the BIA to assure that what the Indians get is a good thing." There are indications that Consol will lose its appeal, according to *Coal Week*. BIA Area Director Don Jensen says Consol is "fighting a losing battle" in view of opposition to coal mining by Fort Berthold tribal members. Baker's decision was supported by a unanimous resolution by the councils of three affiliated tribes, representing the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Indians.

COLORADO ISSUES STRIPPING REGS. Although Colorado has had a strip mine reclamation law since 1969, it has just issued its first rules and regulations. Acting under the advice of the state's former attorney general, the Colorado Land Reclamation Board requires individual reclamation agreements with each strip mine operator. The current attorney general says these agreements are illegal and unenforceable. Harris Sherman, the state natural resources director, now wants the law changed to cover oil shale, molybdenum, uranium, and other minerals and wants the reclamation staff expanded from three to eight. The present reclamation law and regulations cover only surface mining of coal, sand and gravel, quarry aggregate, and some limestone, according to a story in the *Rocky Mountain News*.

TRIBES MEET WITH ZARB. Representatives of 21 Indian tribes met with Federal Energy Administrator Frank Zarb recently. According to Anson Baker of the Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, the Indians told Zarb, "You're steamrolling all over this country." A large portion of the nation's coal reserves lie under Indian reservations, they pointed out. "Before you start assuming you own all of this because you're the feds, you better take another look at it. . . . You've got to start talking to us," Baker said. The Indians are seeking technical and financial help in inventorying resources and evaluating impacts.



Photo by Mike Jacobs

Solar grows, buyers beware

Solar heating units have been installed in about 1,000 homes this year, the Federal Energy Administration estimates.

As the demand increases, the number of companies manufacturing these units is growing at a breakneck pace. The manufacturers increased by 75% in the first six months of 1975 as compared to 1974, FEA says.

One result of the speedy growth of the industry is a need for the buyer to beware, says the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs. The OCA has received a few reports of solar companies who promise more than their products can actually deliver. Until the companies accused of the exaggerated claims are convicted in a court of law, the

office will not mention any names, however.

In the meantime, OCA suggests that consumers ask the advice of an independent solar engineer before buying.

Voluntary standards for solar products are currently being developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials and the American National Standards Institute, Inc.

A book entitled *How to Buy Solar* by the OCA is expected to be complete by the end of December. To obtain a copy write Joe Dawson, Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Polls show

Hearty support for the land in Idaho, Wyoming

Separate polls in Wyoming and Idaho show that a majority of citizens support protection of the environment in those states.

In Idaho, on a question of whether environmental quality or economic growth should be emphasized in management of the state's natural resources, 65% said environmental quality and only 21% said growth.

In Wyoming, 50% or more of the people in each of six survey areas named energy and environment as their major concern. This ranked high above "pocketbook" concerns, which were named by only 12% of the group sampled.

The Idaho poll was a statewide survey conducted for the Idaho's Tomorrow program, initiated by Gov. Cecil Andrus. The Wyoming sampling of 997 residents was

taken by the Wyoming Republican Party and the Republican National Committee.

ZERO AND NEGATIVE GROWTH

On a question in the Idaho poll on the rate of population growth, 35% wanted zero growth and 5% wanted fewer people. Another 35% wanted Idaho's population to increase by up to 25% in the next 20 years.

Forty-eight per cent of those polled said they were against the proposed coal-fired power plant near Boise. Thirty-eight per cent said they were for it.

On a question about what sources of electricity Idahoans prefer, 3% supported coal plants, 11% supported more dams, and 23% supported nuclear sources. But the majority of people polled (58%) named new sources of energy, such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

The Idaho Statesman called the Idaho poll results "a resounding vindication for the governor's efforts to protect environmental quality." The newspaper also said that the majority views "are almost 180

Dec. 19, 1975 — High Country News-11

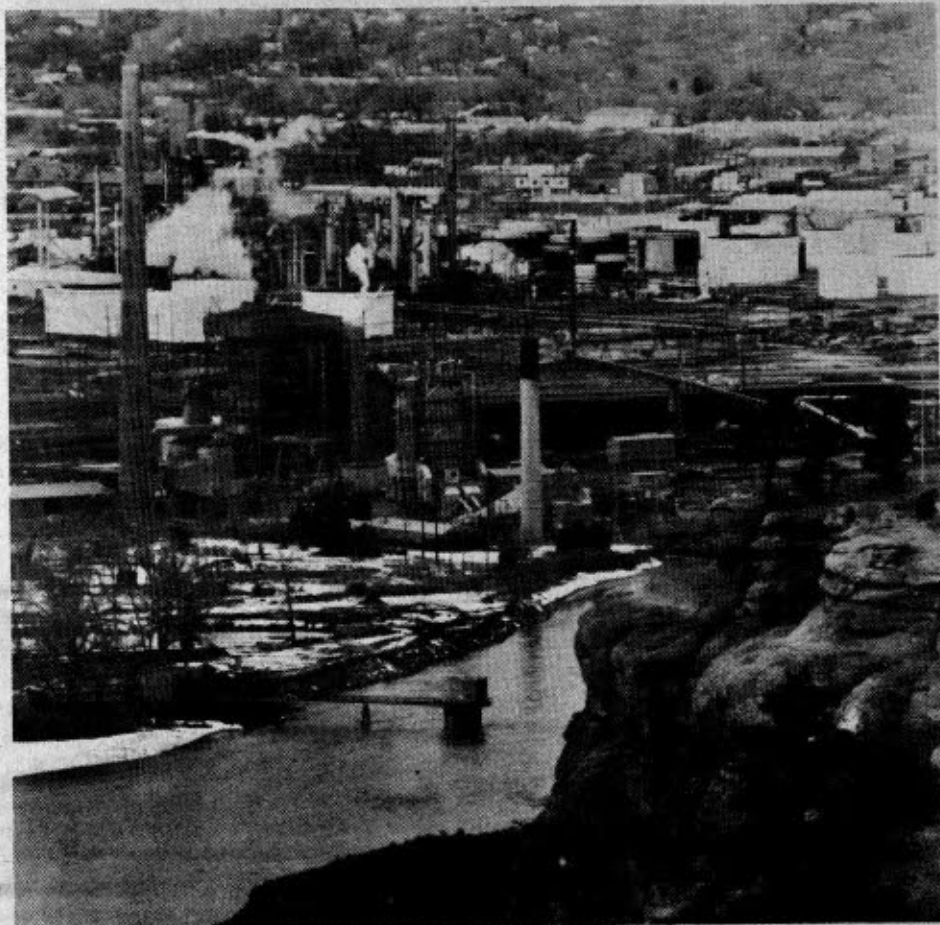
degrees away from the position on environmental issues consistently taken by (U.S.) Reps. Steve Symms and George Hansen."

WYOMINGITES MORE CONCERNED

A representative of the Republican National Committee said Wyomingites showed more concern about the environment than residents of other states he had polled, including Montana.

When asked if Wyoming's environmental laws have helped or hurt the state, 48% of those polled said the laws have helped, 17.8% said the laws have hurt, and 24.6% said the laws have made no difference. When asked whether the environmental laws should be temporarily relaxed until the economy improves, 34.8% said yes, but 53.3% said the state should enact even stronger laws.

Of the Wyomingites, 32.8% labeled themselves as Democrats, 31% as Republicans, and 32.2% as independents.



CLEAN LAWS NOT ENOUGH

"It's nonsense to boast" about tough clean air standards if state agencies don't enforce them, according to Jeanne Charter of the Northern Plains Resource Council. In a copyrighted New York Times News Service story, Charter commented on the implications of a recent announcement that the Corette coal-fired power plant in Billings, Mont., owned by Montana Power Co. was emitting as much as 10 times the amount of particulates into the air allowed under federal and state standards. The testing, which was done during October and November, was the first that the state had done since the Billings, Mont., plant was built four years ago. The state health department told the NEW YORK TIMES reporter that the department had been "tied up" with other problems. The federal Clean Air Act provides that states have the primary responsibility for enforcing air regulations. A Montana newsmen, Steve Jessen, commented that if this area has been chosen to generate the power necessary to sustain a standard of living for others, "we are entitled to expect full compliance with the law as well as full enforcement of it. . . ."

Montana Power Co. argued that the state had requested the plant to operate at higher than normal power in weather conditions that prevented the air pollution devices from operating at full capacity.

Pictured is the Corette plant, taken from Sacrifice Cliffs.



The Hot Line

energy news from across the country

COAL CAPITAL CRITICAL. New York's First National City Bank estimates that capital needs for coal production may range as high as \$20 billion for the coal productive capacity under construction, announced, or planned for 1985, according to Coal Week. The Wall Street Journal reports that investors are having fresh doubts about coal investments because of the rumors on Wall Street that the Federal Energy Administration is downgrading its Project Independence estimates for coal production for 1985, from 1.1 billion tons to 950 million tons. Some sources attribute this lower estimate to lower projections of long-term growth in electricity demands. A prominent energy researcher recently disclosed his coal demand forecast of demand increasing by less than two thirds of one per cent from 1974 through 1976. Coal Week calls John Lichtblau's estimate "sober — even under the best of circumstances," saying his research foundation is among the most respected analytical outfits in the energy business.

LEVELING PEAK LOADS. Several states are now trying plans which will reduce electricity demand during peak-load periods, and consequently may result in less demand for new power plants. In Vermont, two power companies have remote control over selected appliances such as hot water heaters and food freezers in the homes of cooperating customers. These appliances are turned off during peak-load time periods, and customers are charged less during off peak hours. The functioning of these appliances is barely affected since they can retain their temperature for short periods.

SOLAR "REA" PROPOSED. Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) has proposed a Rural Electrification Administration-type program for solar home heating and cooling, according to the Missouri Basin Systems Group newsletter. S. 2163 would create a Solar Energy Administration. Up to 10% of the cost of purchasing and installing solar home equipment could be allocated to a cooperative or other non-profit agency which would deal with the federal government in getting loans. He said that other legislation which provides for 8.5% interest loans is not enough incentive.

BORROWING FOR IMPACT. The Senate Interior Committee has approved an amendment to the National Resource Lands Management Act which would allow states to get immediate impact aid by borrowing against future mineral royalty income. The amendment was sponsored by Sen. Clifford Hansen (R-Wyo.). Borrowers would repay the loans by forfeiting a portion of future royalty payments. The amendment would also increase mineral royalty returns to the states from 37.5% to 60%.

NEW TECHNOLOGY NOT ANSWER. The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) is spending too much time and money on developing new technology to produce energy and not enough on conservation and presently feasible methods, according to a congressional study. Congress' Office of Technology Assessment says ERDA's plans for conservation is "timid and underfunded despite strong congressional encouragement," according to a Rocky Mountain News story. Only two per cent of the current ERDA budget is allocated for conservation.

Colstrip could destroy distant farms

The coal-fired electrical generating units proposed at Colstrip, Mont., may destroy good farmland in Kansas and Nebraska, says University of Montana professor Dr. Clancy Gordon.

"I am against putting stationary sources (of air pollution) near agricultural lands," he told a gathering of the Montana Wilderness Association in Billings. Gordon is a botanist who has done extensive research on the effects of air pollutants on plant growth.

The destruction he predicted for the states near Colstrip will proceed even if the units meet federal air standards, Gordon said. "I feel very strongly that those standards do not protect much of anything," he said. Gordon explained that in other industrial centers in Montana where he has ob-

served extensive plant damage, companies responsible are not in violation of federal standards.

The destruction at Colstrip is going to be slow, "but it's going to take a lot of land," Gordon says. An alternative which Gordon prefers is to lower the smokestacks to roof height and put on the best available technology. The land for five or six miles around the plant would be "sacrificed," Gordon says, causing the rapid death of a small area. He considers this preferable to the "slow, insidious death" of an entire region.

Gordon worked from 1969 to 1974 studying the plight of Christmas tree growers in West Virginia and Maryland, who had lost more than a million acres of tree plantations to pollution from coal-fired plants.

Growers as far as 50 miles away from the coal plants have sued for damages. They have recovered \$500,000 and hope to collect another million.

One of Gordon's concerns is sulfur dioxide emissions from the coal-fired plants. The gas reacts with water vapor in the air to form sulfuric acid. When it falls to the ground, the result is "acid rain."

"We are positive the acid rains are going to occur in the Fort Union Basin," Gordon says. "We know it will reduce the growth of beans 30-40%. We have no idea what it will do to grasses."

Gordon says that in alkaline soils, acid rain initially causes excess growth. But that rapid growth depletes the soils and "in the end you have to add tremendous quantities of fertilizers," Gordon says.

12-High Country News — Dec. 19, 1975

Newest threat to Idaho's fish — phosphate mining

by Royce Williams
Idaho Department of Fish and Game

The brown and white Renegade fly faded to the shadowy speck in the morning fog. It touched the surface of the Blackfoot River.

A cutthroat trout hunted lazily in the stretch of stream called the Blackfoot Narrows. So well were the cutthroat's needs satisfied in this river system that the angler needed all his skill.

This time the cutthroat rose, took the fly and the angler could boast of a fish of nearly five pounds.

Over the years cutthroat in the Blackfoot River of southeastern Idaho have faced the spectre of habitat loss, but these early struggles, though detrimental, are small in comparison to the newest threat — more phosphate mining.

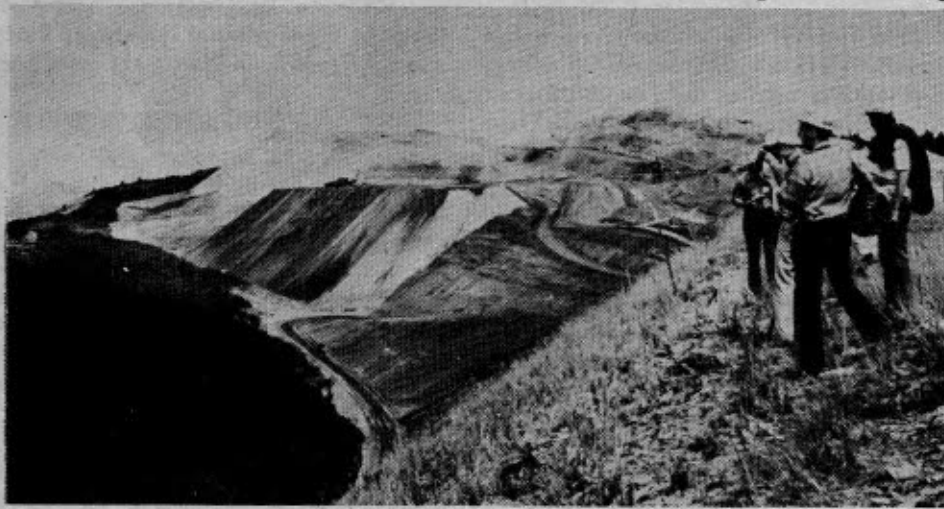
Plans to construct a new road and railroad tracks through the Blackfoot Narrows to transport personnel, materials, and ore from new phosphate mining operations, would turn the cutthroat's home into a biological desert.

Of the five major drainage systems in the proposed phosphate mining area, the Blackfoot River and Bear River drainages will take the brunt of immediate phosphate mining damage.

Over time the other drainages will suffer. As phosphate mining increases past those mines already proposed, the Salt River, South Fork of the Snake, and Grays Lake drainages will be degraded or lose fish habitat.

Among the fish affected should mining spread is the fine spotted cutthroat, a fish listed as rare by Wyoming. The fish is found only in the South Fork Snake drainage.

If the proposed mining occurs in the next



THE BEGINNING. An existing phosphate mine in Idaho. The Idaho Fish and Game Department fears expansion of the industry may mean trouble for trout streams.

Photo by Karl Holte

few years as proposed, about half the blue ribbon streams in southeast Idaho will be lost to fishermen.

The Blackfoot River and the streams that feed it support the major part of fishing in the phosphate area. Upstream migration of spawning cutthroat from Blackfoot Reservoir has not been severely restricted in the past. But spawning fish from Blackfoot Reservoir that use the Blackfoot drainage would probably be reduced in number. As a result, fishing in Blackfoot Reservoir would suffer along with the river fishery.

Creeks like Angus, Diamond, Kendall, Stewart, Olsen, Lanes, Spring, and Sheep will come under the influence of sediment washed from roads and railroads.

Pollutants, some poisonous, are likely to enter streams near the mining sites and

processing plants.

Total impact on the Blackfoot drainage will depend upon the extent of measures taken to protect streams from pollutants, but with the most stringent controls proposed, the drainage cannot survive as a quality fishery.

In the Bear River drainage, cutthroat are found in the main river and many tributaries. Cutthroat are also in Bear Lake and Montpelier Creek Reservoir.

Rainbows are stocked in Bear River, Bloomington, Georgetown, Montpelier,

and Paris creeks. Bear Lake also holds rainbow.

Paris and Bloomington creeks will probably catch toxic pollutants from a nearby proposed mine as well as sediment from waste material. Past phosphate mining activity killed the Georgetown Creek fish. Some fish returned after mining stopped, but the proposed resumption of the Georgetown mills would wipe out most of the fishery.

Those streams in both the Blackfoot and Bear rivers drainages not directly affected by mining and processing plants can be expected to carry increasing loads of sediments from waste dumps and transportation systems.

Erosion of this kind is expected to have a major impact over a long period of time.

Many stream channels will be altered or converted to conduits, making the threat of erosion of their banks more probable. Proposed slurry pipes for transporting ore from mine sites to railroad spurs could seriously degrade streams.

Release of large amounts of untreated slime into streams by accident or through seepage of the pipes would be hazardous and hard to control in the mountainous terrain.

A source of the water needed for processing phosphate has not been clearly stated, but could result in depleted flows in streams where the water was removed.

Non-hunters urged to buy stamps

"The individual American citizen can make a substantial contribution to the conservation of wild waterfowl in the United States by purchasing a Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp at the local Post Office for \$5," says Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

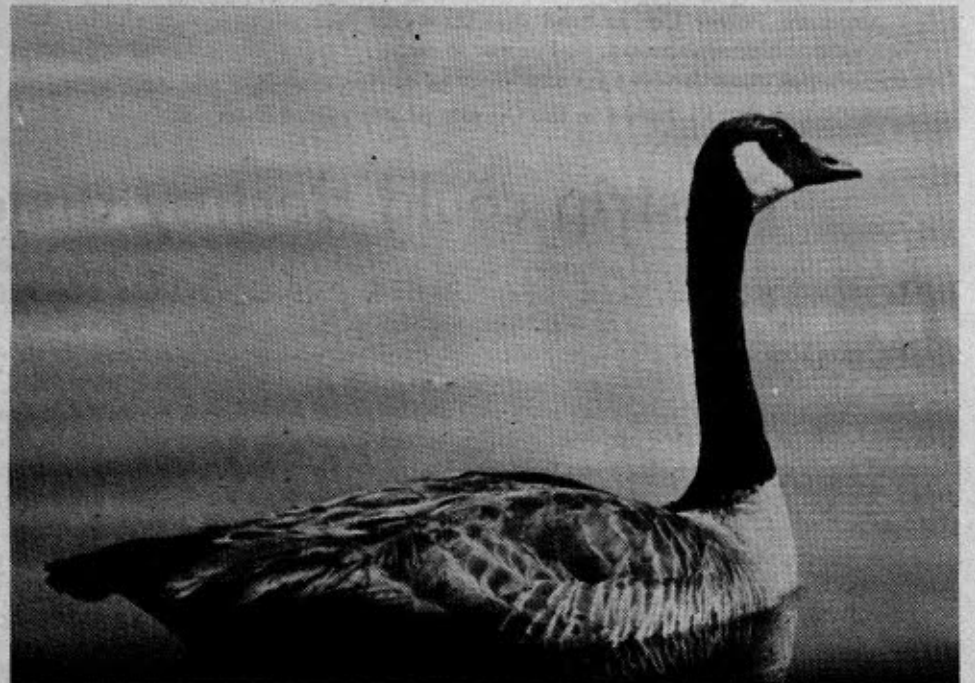
The proceeds from the sale of these stamps — known popularly as "Duck Stamps" — go directly into the purchase of wetland habitat for ducks and geese. The stamp is issued annually and is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older, but the Interior Department is now encouraging non-hunters who also enjoy the wildlife resource through photography and birdwatching to contribute to the U.S. conservation effort this way.

Since 1934 when Duck Stamps first went on sale, over \$160 million in revenue has been collected and used for the setting

aside of close to two million acres of waterfowl habitat. Each year over two million hunters, by purchasing the stamps, provide close to \$11 million in revenue. It is hoped that upwards of a half million to a million non-hunting Americans will voluntarily purchase one of the stamps.

Waterfowl abundance and distribution are closely related to the availability of living space. When requirements for production, migration, and wintering are not fully met, waterfowl numbers decline.

Central to the needs of most waterfowl is an aquatic environment. An estimated 127 million acres of wetlands existed in the United States at the turn of the century. By 1953, only 82 million acres remained intact, of which less than one-fourth was judged to be of significant value to waterfowl.



'DUCK STAMPS' HELP GEESE, TOO. Each \$5 invested in a Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp goes directly into the purchase of wetland habitat for ducks and geese, says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Photo by Tom Baugh

Lifting the freeze. . .

(Continued from page 4)

verse environmental impacts."

Wald said the agency's strict interpretation of the court agreement might be a symptom of the agency's dislike of the law on which the suit was based, the National Environmental Policy Act.

"We suspect that some people in the BLM just don't like NEPA and are looking for an opportunity to discredit the law, if not to evade its requirements outright," she said. "Compliance with NEPA can make proper management of grazing on the public lands an easier task, and, as such, it can benefit the public and livestock operators alike."

Wyoming BLM Director Dan Baker told HCN that Wald had also sent him a letter

relating to the range improvement controversy. He said that the advisory board's recommendation would have to be considered at the national level, but that he hoped BLM would have "further contact" with NRDC.

"I think there will be further contact to try and develop a strategy to come into compliance with NEPA in a more expeditious, economical manner," Baker said. "There is no reluctance on our part to undertake these activities."

Baker said the BLM was searching for a better understanding of what products the law demands. He said the agency has been accused of putting out EIS's which were both too general and too specific.

"We're walking a tightrope," he said.

Ski Yellowstone EIS challenged

The U.S. Forest Service has issued a final land use plan for the Hebgen Lake area and the document hints that the proposed Ski Yellowstone resort may win the agency's approval of a special use permit, according to the **Great Falls Tribune**.

Although the land use plan makes no specific reference to the ski development, it suggests that "the best potential for increasing wintertime employment appears to be the development of winter recreation opportunities." The Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) and the Environmental Information Center have filed a letter of intent saying they plan to challenge the plan since it "definitely is biased" toward a resort development, preempting the option of a cross country ski area. They also said it doesn't comply with the Endangered Species Act, the Multiple Use Act, and the

National Environmental Protection Act.

MWA has proposed an area for non-mechanized winter sports at the same site as the proposed resort and will soon be filing for a special use permit from the Forest Service. The Forest Service plan includes "scores of exclusions and restrictions designed to minimize impact on the grizzly bear habitat," according to the **Tribune** story. However, the EIC charges that the plan does not give sufficient consideration to the Fish and Game input which said there would be "irreversible damage" to the bear, which is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Bill Cunningham, staff coordinator for the EIC, suggests that anyone concerned about the development write for copies of the Hebgen Lake Land Use plan from Galatin Forest Supervisor Lewis Hawkes at the Federal Bldg., Bozeman, Mont. 59715.



Western Roundup

HCN


PREDATOR SUIT APPEAL ANNOUNCED

Wyoming Attorney General Frank Mendicino says he will ask the Supreme Court to review a U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals decision on predator control. The appeals court upheld a federal ban against interstate shipment of three predator poisons—sodium cyanide, strychnine, and 1080. The state argues that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency failed to file an environmental impact statement (EIS) when it banned the poisons. It is seeking an injunction against enforcement of the EPA ban. The court held that EPA did not have to write an EIS. Meanwhile, in Montana, Gov. Thomas L. Judge has called for the release of 1080 poison to kill coyotes. Judge blamed predators for the decline in the sheep industry in his state and chastised the Fish and Game Department for not supporting reintroduction of 1080. Judge's speech won a standing ovation from the Montana Woolgrowers Association.

Photo by Don Domenick courtesy of Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Idaho land use law repeal sought

A petition calling for an initiative to repeal the 1975 Idaho Local Planning Act has been filed with the Idaho secretary of state's office. The petition, which will need 25,964 signatures to be put on the ballot in 1978, calls for all land use decisions in the state to be made on the county level by a two-thirds majority vote. "All we're trying to do is give people a chance to determine their own future at the local level," says petition drive organizer Jim Hill of Boise. The existing 1975 law directs local governments to plan and zone in accordance with basic land use planning principles. An Idaho Statesman editorial on the initiative said, "Those who want to deny a majority of Idahoans the authority to regulate land use will love this initiative. . . the desire of a majority of residents of a county or community could be defeated by a minority of one-third plus one."

Gov. Lamm to issue order on growth

Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm intends to issue an executive order on growth in the state next month, according to a Denver Post report. The governor, who has been accused by the business community as being anti-growth, plans to summarize the state's position combining past policy statements from governors, the legislature, and state agencies. The Post says the latest draft includes: encouraging "diversified industries" to move to or remain in Colorado; encouraging new growth to settle outside the Fort Collins-Denver-Pueblo Front Range area which is already developed; preserving the state's agricultural economy; encouraging tourism without exploiting natural resources; and decentralizing state government.

Flathead Coalition seeks zero pollution

Zero pollution is the goal of a new Montana group formed to monitor the Cabin Creek coal mining proposal in Canada. The group, the Flathead Coalition, is made up of individuals, businesses, and groups who want to protect the high water quality of the North Fork and Flathead Rivers and Flathead Lake.

Haskell asks EPA to bail out library

Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) has asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help bail out the ailing Conservation Library at the Denver Public Library. Because of city budget cuts, the library was to be closed and its books dispersed throughout the library system. Haskell asked EPA for \$40,000 late last month — enough money to allow the Conservation Library to remain intact through June 30, 1976, which should give a recently-formed committee time to raise additional money to continue present services, according to a Denver Post report. Haskell said he felt a federal contribution was warranted because between 25% and 30% of those using the library are federal employees. "The Conservation Library is unique in this country," said Haskell.

Cheyenne want Custer National Forest

The Northern Cheyenne Indians intend to ask Congress to turn parts of the Custer National Forest and adjacent lands held by the Bureau of Land Management over to the tribe. The lands — 550,000 acres of national forest and 33,000 acres of BLM land — are in southeastern Montana. Tribal attorneys are drafting the proposal, says tribal chairman Allen Rowland. Rowland says his tribe needs more land because "our culture is now more livestock-oriented," according to a Missoulian report. Most livestock permits in the area are now in the hands of white ranchers. One of the ranchers, Carolyn Alderson, called the announcement of the plan "sort of a bomb." "Most of the ranchers leasing are nearly totally dependent on the national forest land," she said. "If they take our permits, the ranches aren't any good."

"We don't want to put anyone out of the cattle business, but we don't want to be wiped out either," says Rowland. He says the tribe has rights to the land, which was once part of 53 million acres it held in several states, according to the Missoulian.

Young's wrath costs protester his job

"A federal worker is out of a job because he challenged his elected representative, Sen. Milton Young (R-N.D.), to explain why he supported a half-billion-dollar government irrigation project," according to Washington columnist Jack Anderson. Anderson says that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee Dr. Gary Pearson lost his job because he opposed the environmentally destructive Garrison Diversion in North Dakota. Young tried to have Pearson transferred out of the state and he was finally fired despite "excellent" job ratings, according to Anderson. "The senator insisted Pearson 'must have spent' government time on the Garrison project since 'he wrote so many letters' and 'went to so many meetings,'" reports Anderson. Pearson says he fought Garrison on his own time. Young replies that "there is no truth to the accusation . . . that I was responsible. . . ." Pearson says he has copies of correspondence between Young and his boss which he obtained under the freedom of information law which substantiates Anderson's charges against the senator. Pearson has filed an appeal with the Civil Service Commission.

Flat Tops, Eagles Nest bills progress

A bill to create a 235,000-acre Flat Tops Wilderness in northwest Colorado has been sent to the White House for President Ford's signature. The bill passed the House on a 369 to 1 vote in early December. It cleared the Senate in June. Sponsors of the bill were Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) and Rep. James Johnson (R-Colo.).

Haskell and Johnson are also pushing for a Eagles Nest Wilderness near Vail, Colo. The Senate has already passed a 129,000-acre wilderness bill for the area. Last week, a House Interior subcommittee approved a 126,500-acre wilderness proposal. Rep. Sam Steiger (R-Ariz.) pushed through a measure in the subcommittee to lop off 6,000 acres in the Meadow Creek area for timbering purposes. The House and Senate bills pose a major threat to the Denver Water Board's plans to divert water from the wilderness. House passage of the Eagles Nest bill is expected early next year.



BADLANDS WILDERNESS PROPOSED

A bill to create the Badlands Wilderness within Badlands National Monument has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. The bill, S. 1068, calls for the creation of a 58,924 acre wilderness. ECO-FORUM, the newsletter of the South Dakota Environmental Coalition, says S. 1068 will be amended by Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) "to the full 64,250 acres which conservationists believe should be included." Hearings will probably be held in January. "This may be S.D.'s only chance to have a wilderness area," says ECO-Forum.

National Park Service Photo by Robert A. Gram

14-High Country News — Dec. 19, 1975

HCN



Books



Eliot Wigginton, ed., Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1975. \$10.00, hard cover, 511 pages. Photographs and diagrams.

Review by Peter Wild

The subtitle reads: *animal care, banjos and dulcimers . . . summer and fall wild plant foods, butter churns, ginseng, and still more affairs of plain living*, indicating exactly what the book is, a large and casual how-to compendium of the once common arts of a rural, non-technological society. It's a bit jolting to realize that little in this book would be new to our grandfathers, perhaps our fathers. As for us, *Foxfire 3* captures many of the skills related to their work and play, skills now nearly lost.

Yet, beyond its kaleidoscopic and authoritative content, how the book was written is its second wonder. A few years ago, Eliot Wigginton arrived in Rabun Gap, Ga., to teach in its small high school. Fascinated by the folklore and crafts still surviving in the coves and hollows of Appalachia, he opened his students' eyes to

the uniqueness of their heritage. Together they set about interviewing and photographing. As a school project they issued their material in a quarterly magazine, *Foxfire*, a name taken from the glow sometimes given off by decaying material.

Contrary to their expectations, in a few years the periodical was receiving national attention. Doubleday, one of the country's largest publishers, took note of the stir in the grass-roots. *The Foxfire Book* resulted, selling nearly a million copies, a wonder of its own in the publishing field. Keep in mind that we're talking about high school students and a young man working in a village school in Georgia. Public interest in the arts of the past kept growing. The hefty *Foxfire 3* is the third tome resulting from Wigginton's work.

What's more, the idea is spreading; students from Maine to Alaska, inspired by events in Rabun Gap, are rediscovering the legacy of their forefathers, publishing the material, developing their abilities and gaining the appreciation for their heritage that no television set, no trip to Disneyland — not all the high-cost paraphernalia and gewgaws that the education industry foists on our public schools — can give.

And so through dozens of sensitive, student-written articles, we learn how to build a smokehouse or a lumber kiln; how to carve a guitar or a butter churn with simple tools; how to collect and preserve edible plants, including the mysterious ginseng; how to cure a ham or make brooms and brushes and dolls and gourd birdhouses. The book will be a delight for the city dweller and a practical aid for the growing number of those recoiling from the plasticized world. Interspersed through all this are interviews with old-timers, Simmie Free, who reminisces about hunting raccoons with his dogs, or about being chased himself by revenueurs; reflections by Beulah Perry, a black woman whose grandfather came to this country as a slave — all recorded in the local dialect and with the wit and zest of the native American voice.

There is a danger in the nostalgia. As appealing as it might be to read and dream

about, immediate return to the pristine, rural life is impossible. In many parts of the nation there isn't enough water or arable land available for everyone to live as his grandfather did. Also, people tend to forget that the country way involves hours of drudgery. Then, too, no matter where we go, we can't escape the realities of DDT, falling water tables, and nuclear pollution, the lethal problems which misused technology and misguided leaders continue to create for us and our children. For the present, solutions to these and similar ills lie in political aggressiveness, not in escape.

Nonetheless, such a book does show future alternatives. The care for the land and lack of waste of the people in *Foxfire 3* reveal the directions in which modern society must move to insure its survival by restoring harmony with the earth.



by Carol Euston, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1974. \$1.25, paper cover, 39 pages. Charts and illustrations.

Review by Peter Wild

Teachers and librarians thinking about environmental studies for grades three

through eight will find *A Better Place to Be* a splendid aid. Many environmental texts are expensive, confusing in their details, and downright glib. This oversized booklet takes a different approach. Obviously the writer has spent much time in the classroom; Carol Euston takes into account the limitations and opportunities that teachers face. At \$1.25, the book is cheap; only one copy is needed. The writer realizes that, like the rest of us, the teacher probably isn't an expert on air pollution, water treatment, or food chains. The wealth of exercises to choose from are designed so that teacher and students can explore and learn together. They require no fancy gadgetry; instead they make use of resources readily available: bottles, old hula hoops, rulers, and worms. For those interested in further information in particular fields, the back matter points to the organizations, books, and audio-visual aids that can provide it.

Lastly and most importantly, the entire booklet is meant to be flexible, to fill a variety of needs, whether for projects involving a couple of hours or many weeks, individual students studying on their own or an entire school. Just as every thing in the environment is connected to everything else, Carol Euston suggests ways to link ecological studies to math, art, science, social studies, and language arts. For example, an introduction to the concept of measurement might involve, "... spacing plants, buying grass seed to cover an area ... planning a fence to enclose a flower bed ... or mapping the school grounds." For more complex activities, she provides suggestions for taking field trips, building terrariums, and determining the phosphate levels of detergents.

Whatever the dimensions of budget or time available, she emphasizes the creative climate that environmental studies can inspire. I've seen few books of such sensitivity and good sense.

A Better Place to Be, stock number 2400-00805, may be obtained by mailing \$1.25 to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

by Marge Higley

Christmas is a nostalgic time of the year. A time when one tends to look back into his childhood at almost-forgotten memories of Christmases past. Naturally, the older one gets, the farther back he looks. Some of us were talking the other night, trying to recall the first Christmas that each of us could actually remember. I had to admit that my memory doesn't single out any one special Christmas — those long-ago Christmases all blend together as one.

In those days, the Christmas season didn't start in October, with Christmas decorations hanging, cheek by jowl, with jack-o'-lanterns, in the stores. In fact, the Thanksgiving turkey (even the soup!) was long gone before we started to remember that we had better behave ourselves, or Santa would fill our stockings with coal and switches.

We were a big family — 10, in all, counting parents, grandparents, and six little girls. In the weeks just before Christmas we would secrete ourselves in our rooms to work on gifts for each other. Some years we were given a dollar and allowed to visit the dime store. (A dollar would buy quite a lot, then — crayons for one sister, blunt scissors for another, a fancy pin for Grandmother, a top for the littlest one, etc.) In

great secrecy we would carry these treasures to our room, and then seek out Grandmother to ask for the wrappings. Every year she carefully saved each bit of ribbon, and smoothed the wrinkles from all the brightly printed wrapping paper. The wrapped gifts were hidden in some dark recess of the closet, which was strictly off-limits to the rest of the family, and were not brought out until Christmas morning. It was all excitingly secret.

Mother and Grandmother must have worked secretly, too. Somehow, the hum of the sewing machine late into the night seemed to have no connection to the dresses, aprons, doll clothes, or beanbags which appeared under the tree on Christmas day.

Even the tree was a secret. On the day before Christmas the house looked just as it did any other time. (It smelled different, though. From the busy kitchen the aroma of plum pudding, mincemeat pies, and homemade candy wafted through the house.) After supper on Christmas Eve we went to the Sunday school program, in which everyone had some small part. By the time we returned home, each clutching a sack of hard candy and an apple, someone had hung a stout cord across the mantel above the fireplace, and we would hang up our stockings for Santa. These were not fancy colored felt socks — they were the plain, ordinary ribbed cotton stockings which we wore every day. Looking back on it, it seems unjust that the smallest ones wore smaller stockings; at the time, it never occurred to me — at least until I was long-legged enough to appreciate the

equity of the situation! After a cup of hot cocoa, we would be sent upstairs to bed, and eventually, sleep would overcome our excitement.

Early Christmas morning (sometimes as early as 4 o'clock) one of us would wake up, remember what day it was, and eagerly arouse the whole family. The grownups hurried downstairs, while the six of us lined up (according to age) in the upstairs hall, awaiting the signal that the stage was set, the tree lights were on, and we could descend into the wonderland that was Christmas. To this day, I can still remember exactly how it felt to step into that living room on Christmas morning. Each year it was the same, yet different. The large glowing tree was always in the corner by the dining room, with gaily wrapped gifts piled under, around, and behind it, and sometimes wrapped dolls or tricycles nearby. And the six ribbed stockings, which had hung so limp and empty the night before, were now alive with the knobs and bumps of yet-to-be-discovered treasures.

Looking back on it, the emptying of the stockings and opening the gifts seems almost anticlimatic. My memory clings to that first glorious moment when Christmas arrived suddenly, and all at once, on Christmas morning. I think perhaps it was the element of secrecy and anticipated surprise. I'm certain that many of us, today, become satiated with the commercial trappings of Christmas long before December 25.

Years later, when I had children of my

own, I asked Mother how in the world they ever managed to get so much done in the few short hours that we slept on Christmas Eve.

"It wasn't easy," she answered. "Lots of times we didn't even get to bed before you girls woke up." Then, smiling her gentle smile, she added, "It was worth it, though!"

I agree.

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BULLETIN BOARD

POWDER RIVER SHOW

Ranchers, businessmen, coal people, and children star in a slide program created by the Powder River Energy Project. The show discusses the effects of strip mining and industrialization on the ranching and small-town communities that exists now in the Powder River Basin. If you are interested in using the 10-20 minute program contact the Powder River Energy Project, 150 West Brundage, Box 6221, Sheridan, Wyo. 82801.

FEA INFORMATION

For a catalog of Federal Energy Administration publications on cars, conservation, and energy write to the FEA Publications Distribution Office, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20461. Many of the pamphlets are free.



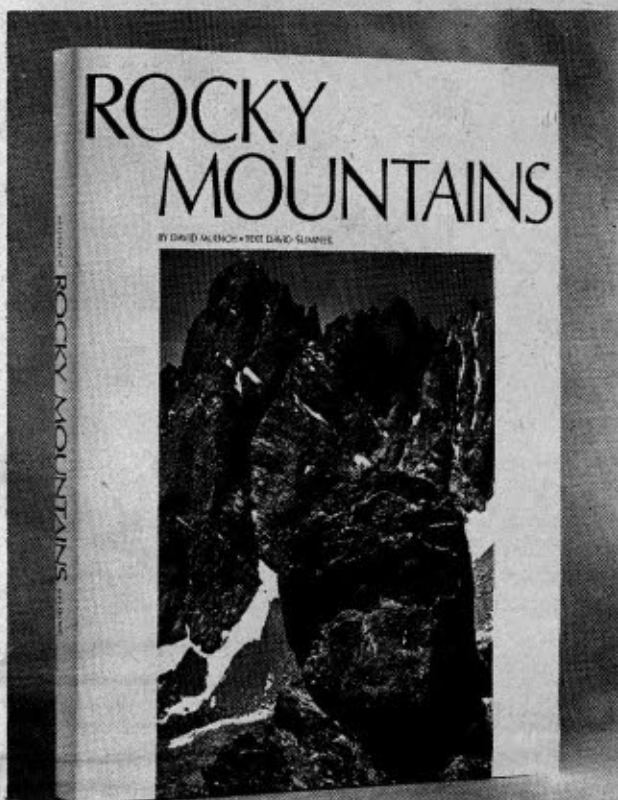
ENERGY BOOK

Energy Alternatives: A Comparative Analysis is a new 704-page publication of the Council on Environmental Quality. The council strongly recommends the study as a reference for basic description of energy technologies and their environmental impacts. The book is available for \$7.45 from Assistant Public Printer, (Superintendent of Documents), Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The Stock Number is 041-011-00025-4.

Dec. 19, 1975 — High Country News-15

IMPACT STATEMENTS STUDY

For two and a half years, The Environmental Impact Assessment Project of the Institute of Ecology has been studying inadequacies in the preparation of impact statements on various federal projects. In a new publication "The Environmental Impact Assessment Project: A Critical Appraisal" two of the project's staff look at the project and the EIS process and draw some helpful conclusions. The report studies the scope and length of EIS's (the "Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System" draft EIS was 17 volumes and 10,014 pages!), with some suggestions on how to reduce excess weight. "EIS's should not become ends in themselves. Rather they should be used to help attain the goals of NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act)," state the authors. Copies are \$2.50 prepaid from: The Institute of Ecology, 955 L'Enfant Plaza Southwest, Suite 2600, Washington, D.C. 20024.



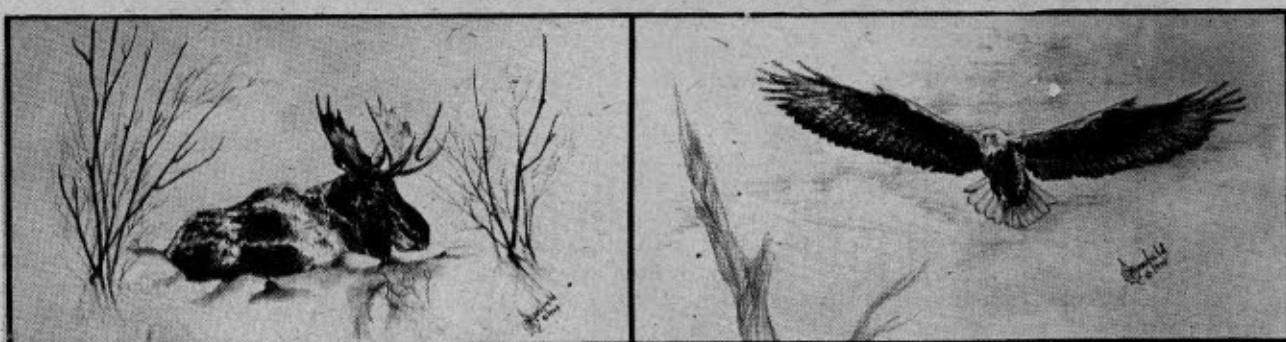
It is not an easy task putting a mountain range into a book; this is a brilliant attempt.

Rocky Mountains—Actual size, 10 1/8" by 13 1/2", 14,000 words of text, 162 illustrations in full color.

This book has scope large enough to match the mountains. Contrasts are forever present in the high country; massive ranges to singular peaks, masses of wildflowers to the single blossom.

The publisher of **Rocky Mountains**, Mr. Charles H. Belding, has graciously agreed to share the proceeds from the sale of this book with **High Country News**.

Give a fine gift and help the cause at the same time. To order, please use the combined order form located on the bottom of this page.

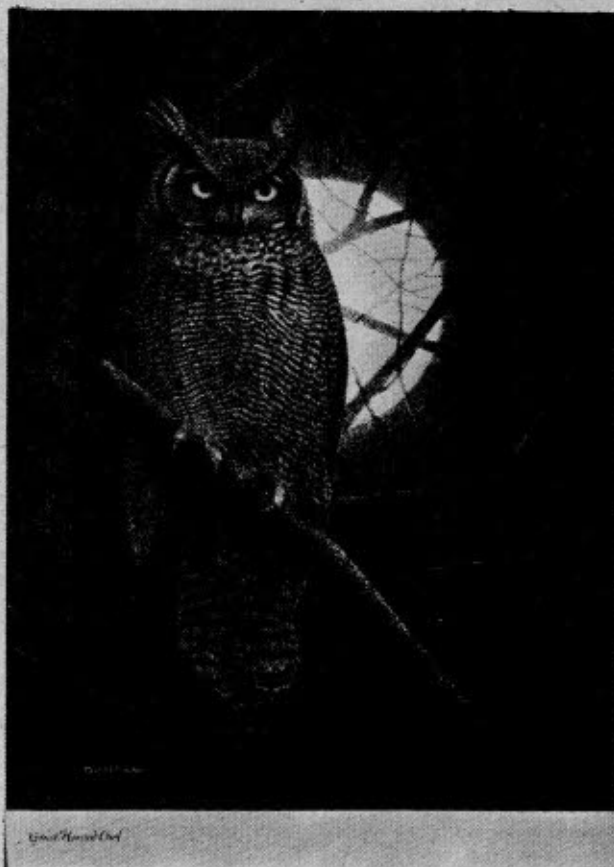


Note Cards

Holly Merrifield, a wildlife artist and friend has designed these note cards for **High Country News**. The cards are ready for your own personal notes. They are 3 1/4 by 7 Gold envelopes, ivory cards, designs in wheatfield gold, this is a handsome complement to your message.

\$2. Ten cards and envelopes per set.

Paul M. Breeden Prints



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Young Prairie Falcon

Black and white — 14 x 20 inch print. Limited edition of 500, signed and numbered. \$30.

The artist is Paul M. Breeden, a noted calligrapher and illustrator. His paintings and drawings have appeared in Audubon, Defenders of Wildlife, and National Geographic. Breeden and his agent, the Singing Sparrow gallery, are generously giving any proceeds from the sale of these prints to HCN. (To order, please use the form on page 15.)

Combined Order Form

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Ward taking stock in North Dakota

When Paula Ward ran for a seat in the North Dakota House of Representatives, she issued shares of "uncommon stock in the Quality of Life of North Dakota" to those who contributed to her campaign. Printed in an authentic-looking format, each said, "This share has no monetary value. Benefits such as clean air, good earth and uncrowded communities are difficult to measure in dollars. This share is non-negotiable. North Dakota must not be bought or sold, nor can the responsibility to protect it be transferred. . . ."

Ward didn't win the election, but that doesn't mean she has "transferred" her responsibility to protect North Dakota to those who did make it to the legislature. Taking stock in her state is a serious assignment for her.

While attempting to protect North Dakota's quality environment, she often feels frustrated and angry at government leaders, fellow citizens, and especially the media for not recognizing their own responsibilities for the future of the state. In her own town of Minot, Ward has threatened legal action against the media to insure balanced coverage of environmental issues.

Minot is a growth-oriented community with few active environmentalists. Ward sometimes suffers from the problems experienced by other isolated conservationists who work and live in small communities. She feels frustrated by the reticence of local people who are interested in opposing the Burlington Dam, but who lack hope for beating the Army Corps of Engineers "experts." Many of her neighbors don't want to make anyone angry in their home community, and say they want to be "for" something instead of "against" everything.

PUBLICITY PROBLEMS

Wasting little time worrying about people problems, which she realizes are faced by many citizen activists, Ward attacks the problem she can do something about — publicity.

Ward moved to Minot with her family in 1971. She has been fighting the Burlington Dam proposed near there ever since as being environmentally unsound, economically unfeasible, and inflationary. "We approached the problem with the idea that every avenue of compromise should be considered, and that reasonable compromises should be made public. We found that the local promoters and the Corps of Engineers weren't willing to compromise. More than that, they weren't even willing to consider alternatives," she says.

When the local television station gave the Corps of Engineers 44 minutes of free time to promote the dam, Ward challenged it under the Fairness Doctrine, which is a Federal Communications Commission requirement for equal time. "The station had no recourse but to give me 44 minutes of free time," she says. Ward arranged to have a panel of five farmers and a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service talk about the Burlington Dam with her as moderator.

Finding the farmers who were opposed to the project was not difficult since there is now an organization with 250 members

which has as its main purpose keeping the dam from being built — Citizens United to Save the Valleys. Getting them to go on television was a little more difficult, Ward admits.

Recently those who oppose the dam have become more unified as the result of a backlash reaction to a statement by the mayor of Minot this spring. As flood waters rose, he blasted those who opposed the dam, saying they opposed a permanent solution to flood control "to satisfy their gluttonous appetites for publicity and notoriety."

Everyone who had ever voiced any opposition to the dam took offense — not only Ward, but also the Farm Bureau, the Farmers Union, and individual farmers. Each pointed out that there are other solutions for flood control.

Ward's stand had been misrepresented before by the *Minot Daily News*. An article about her testimony before the State Water Commission was based on a rumor that she had advocated floodplain evacuation when, in fact, she had not mentioned it. Minot is located on a floodplain. When she confronted them with the facts, they printed a front page "apology," that said the paper apologized because Ward thought it should, not admitting that the paper was open to a libel suit.

Ward anticipates having to use the Fairness Doctrine again to guarantee equal time because the city and the county have planned to use public funds to promote the dam through a new organization known as



"4 Dam Limited." The county has withdrawn its share of the funds after a state attorney general's letter warned it might be illegal. The city is continuing to use its money to help hire a public relations firm to produce a film starring the Corps of Engineers and to produce promotional brochures and ads for radio.

GADFLY

Ward serves as an unpaid North Dakota representative for Friends of the Earth. In addition to water, her concerns span coal development, transmission lines, and

growth policies. Often the typewriter in her home's basement office is kept busy all night — hammering out testimony for utility rate increase hearings or Corps of Engineers meetings.

Ward served as a member of the Basin Electric Regional Environmental Advisory Committee and on a state advisory committee for siting transmission lines and earned a reputation as a gadfly, always demanding enough information to make reasoned decisions. Now, however, she says she will never agree to be on another "so-called advisory committee." She says the transmission line committee provided a "forum for industry" instead of a broad range of citizen input since it was so lopsided in favor of industrial members. "We were not even allowed to discuss the major issue of (as I defined it) 'What are North Dakota's limits to growth?' . . . Instead, we were supposed to concern ourselves with preparing for the impact," she says. She resigned from the Basin Electric committee because she felt members were being used.

The dividend payments that Ward gets for her stocks in North Dakota are the knowledge that other conservationists depend upon her work in the outposts, and the occasional local successes such as the formation of the Citizens United to Save the Valleys. In addition, she has faith that in the long run, the stocks will pay off for all of the co-sharers in the future of North Dakota.

Dear Friends,

We went to a county meeting a few weeks ago — one of a series of land use planning affairs held around the state of Wyoming. Even in the parking lot, the event had an apocalyptic air about it. More cars were there than show up for the basketball games.

We wondered if the governor might have scheduled it concurrently with a basketball game in the hopes of luring a few stragglers in during halftime to talk about the state's future. Or perhaps Santa was to appear in mid-meeting. Or they were giving out free beers.

No. They were all there to talk about land use planning, we decided later. Surely they weren't all there to be constructive, a friend whispered to me. The faces were familiar — a Riverton lawyer, the ranchers who come to all the land use planning meetings, the Bureau of Land Management staff, a couple of teachers, a Gas Hills uranium miner, our favorite pharmacist, and all the political types — both functioning and aspiring. But we had no idea what to expect.

The sheer numbers generated a potent excitement that later simmered down into patience with paperwork and a display of affection for Wyoming. There must have been 300 people in that room. Quite a crowd to gather from a little county spread out over five million acres.

In small discussion groups, we talked about the major areas of land use concern in the county and the state — and what we wanted for the future of Fremont County. Soon the mental list we'd made

of things we wanted to bring up was unnecessary. The other nine members at our table said it all. They stated things more strongly than we were about to in mixed ideological company. Things about strip mining, water, zoning, subdividing, and protecting agricultural land.

At first we thought our table was just a small stand of sanity in the range of Fremont County opinion. But as each table reported its findings we were forced to ditch that elitist notion. Others in the room listed the same concerns, and a similar vision of the future. For the most part, they wanted to preserve Wyoming. They wanted only growth they could handle gracefully. They treasured the state's wildlife, and its clean air and water. One table's greatest hope for the future was that they be "left alone." Though we couldn't agree with that as a course of action, we could clearly understand the sentiment.

Cleverly, state officials left the means to these ends for another time, another questionnaire. For one evening we were limited to talking about problems and goals. And for the most part we found ourselves in astonished agreement.

We were a little disturbed by the resurfacing of some very tired rhetoric. "Slow, orderly, quality growth" was one aim of the majority. The people of our county are not yet deeply embarrassed by the havoc wrought in the name of "quality growth." As a state, we still tend to be naive enough to believe that almost any profit-making activity can be acceptable — "if we do it right." That given the right site (in somebody else's backyard) and a law with teeth in it (not federal teeth of

course) and a liberal dose of free enterprise (with a dash of loan guarantees, just to be friendly), no industrial thing can hurt us.

But, despite that naivete, the recognition that a large number of people in the state see the same problems and hope for the same future was a revelation to us. And later, reading about polls taken in both Idaho and Wyoming (see story, page 11) our feelings were confirmed.

Unquestionably, most people hope for the survival of the West — culturally, socially, and environmentally. And they place this goal above their pocketbooks, according to the Idaho poll. Some are already working for this survival. Others need some guidance in translating their wish for "quality growth" into reality. They need leaders who can show that some of the old paths toward "qq" merely led toward crowded shanty towns lined with dollar bills. They need someone to show them a new way and why it will work.

It is a time for conservationists to step up and take the responsibility — "grab the thistle" as David Brower would put it. People from all walks of life agree, more or less, on what they want. They need sincere people to show them how to get there.

Conservation groups can worry less about how to say something appealing and start trying to say something inspiring and something practical. They can begin to lead and stop grumbling in the rear. The community of those who love the land is large and growing.

—the editors

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