

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

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CHAMBERLAIN BASIN WILDLIFE. A bull elk, a grayjay, and spawning salmon in the West Fork of Chamberlain Creek.

Photos by Ted Trueblood

Idaho's secret: Chamberlain Basin

'Either we share it or we lose it'

by Carl Brown

How do you keep 1.5 million acres of prime wilderness a secret from the nation for over 40 years? Somehow, they have done that in Idaho, watching quietly while the crowds flowed into the Sawtooths and the Selway-Bitterroot. Now those who know Idaho best are letting out the word. Why? A tobacco-chewing local explained, "It looks like we have our backs to the wall. Either we share it or we lose it."

The Idaho Primitive Area and its neighbor, the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area, are the largest single block of wild land in the lower 48 states. Ironically, the threat to them is the result of an attempt to grant them permanent protection in the National Wilderness Preservation System. If admitted, the two areas will be combined

and renamed as The River of No Return Wilderness.

The difference between a primitive area and a wilderness is, essentially, a matter of bookkeeping. Primitive areas are managed under wilderness criteria, but without the legality and permanence of wilderness classification. The Wilderness Act of 1964 required that all Forest Service Primitive Areas be reviewed by 1975 and be recommended for either wilderness classification or declassified and opened to multiple use management.

Most wilderness advocates felt that reclassification of the two primitive areas would be a mere formality. After all, they are remote and of unquestionable quality.

Nonetheless, advocates enthusiastically joined in the ritual of public hearings, turning out en masse for workshops and send-

ing reams of letters to forest supervisors. All the other special interest groups showed up according to script. Livestock associations gave testimony to the salvation of government subsidized grazing. Prospectors left over from the 1860s warned of the Communistic takeover. Straight-faced corporate foresters suggested we acknowledge the right of all citizens to visit the area by crisscrossing it with roads which would intersect at dead center. Burned-out freaks pilfered the words and garbled the messages of John

Muir and Ed Abbey. It was fine entertainment.

COUNCIL ON THE OFFENSE

The real battle was not to save the primitive areas, but to enlarge them, to give protection to the pristine headwaters of the Salmon River. Ernie Day, Ted Trueblood, and several other veterans of wilderness wars joined ranks to create The River of No Return Wilderness Council. They took the

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Chamberlain Basin has been the secret of secrets, the one jewel that locals had hoped to keep to themselves.

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

"The development of production and the acquisition of wealth have . . . become the highest goals of the modern world in relation to which all other goals, no matter how much lip-service may still be paid to them, have come to take second place. . . ."

"This is the philosophy of materialism, and it is this philosophy — or metaphysics — which is now being challenged by events. There has never been a time, in any society in any part of the world, without its ages and teachers to challenge materialism and plead for a different order of priorities. The languages have differed, the symbols have varied, yet the message has always been the same: 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things (the material things which you also need) shall be added unto you.' They shall be added, we are told, here on earth where we need them, not simply in an after-life beyond our imagination. Today, however, this message reaches us not solely from the sages and saints but from the actual course of physical events. It speaks to us in the language of terrorism, genocide, breakdown, pollution, exhaustion. We live, it seems, in a unique period of convergence. . . ."

—E. F. Schumacher
Small Is Beautiful

These words from Schumacher are finally being taken seriously by some of those in the seats of power. *Newsweek* recently reported (March 22, 1976) on the growing interest in the philosophy of this British economist who dares to challenge the traditional wisdom of modern economics. *Newsweek* reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown declares, "If you want to understand my philosophy, read this (*Small Is Beautiful — Economics As If People Mattered*)."

Newsweek says Secretary of Commerce Elliot Richardson also reads Schumacher.

Dr. Rollo May, psychoanalyst, author, and teacher, has said, "We are living at a time when one age is dying and the new age not yet born."

In this election year, the mainstream of American society has a sense of uneasiness. Most know, or can sense, that things are seemingly the same — and yet they are different. They are registering independently at the polls in greater numbers than ever. They are looking back nostalgically — and voting conservatively. But they are really not yet aware that we have come to a unique period of convergence, or that one age is dying and the next "is not yet born."

Yet, an amazing number are discovering something that Schumacher preaches, man can better himself by scaling back on his wants and desires. *Time* (March 15, 1976) has recently reported on one of the merging phenomena of this decade, Americans on the Move. *Time* quotes pollster Louis Harris as saying, "Most Americans don't want more quantity of anything, but more quality in what they've got."

Time says that Americans may be feeling "that smaller and quieter home pleasures are more important than acquisitiveness and ambition. . . . The ethic suggests that bigness is no longer better, that mere dollars do not mean a more satisfying life, that success is more a matter of enjoying where one is than of moving ahead."

People are moving out of the great metropolitan areas and back to the countryside

in growing numbers. Small towns and small cities are growing as people move away from "terrorism, genocide, breakdown, pollution. . . ."

But these migrations are leading to mounting problems in this dying age. The problems of the big cities can only grow worse as people move out. And the countryside is being hit by the problems of unexpected growth, the kind that fosters the same conditions which migrants wished to escape.

None of our presidential candidates are really addressing these aspects of our changing society. It is a difficult situation with many complex facets, but one which must be considered by whomever would lead us.

As Schumacher points out, the events of our day are challenging the rampant materialism of the recent past. People are uneasy and fearful — and desperately searching for leadership.

That presidential aspirant who can most clearly define the goals for a new age, and can outline the best ways of reaching those goals should have the least trouble being nominated and elected. The question remains, is there anyone with such discernment and wisdom?



HCN Letters

COLORADO POLITICS

Dear HCN:

Keep up the old fight. It's a tough battle against big coal, oil, and developers.

Our Gov. Dick Lamm is yielding to some pressure, but is constantly reminded of his campaign platform and promises to protect the environment and natural resources. However, other politicians, especially our Republican state senate, control the voting.

Your paper is doing an outstanding job against terrific odds.

Geo. A. Shonka
Fort Collins, Colo.

SOLAR IN THE CITY

Dear HCN,

I am an environmental lobbyist and educator, a founding member and director of Consumer Action Now, Inc. (CAN), a non-profit corporation based in New York City, and having about 20,000 members nationwide. Personally, I am a life-long conservationist, having grown up on acres of farmland around the Charles River in Boston.

One of the things that is very hard for a New Englander to understand is the fact that water can be a limiting factor at all levels of western life. I am sure you find some difficulty with expatriate easterners moving to the West. They cannot conceive of there not being enough water for agriculture and unlimited industrial growth and 30 hours of lawn watering during the week, much less understand the part that



water plays in politics and the economics of any one region.

My own group, CAN, is at the moment concentrating much of its resources in an effort to obtain legislation favorable to renewable energy alternatives — solar forms. We believe very strongly that such alternatives must be developed, but they must be developed in very close conjunction with a massive educational campaign and legislation to promote nationwide energy conservation. Toward that end, we are working with legislators in Washington to write an omnibus solar energy bill.

Meanwhile we're lobbying for an Abourezk bill which provides for 2% loans for solar equipment purchase and installation, and another bill which will give an edge to Energy Conservation Cooperatives, which will be set up by CAN to enable people to first buy insulation materials for their houses, and learn conservation techniques, then perhaps lead them into solar retrofits or solar houses.

Locally, in NYC, we have recently pushed a tax-abatement through the city council which is favorable to solar retrofitting of urban cooperative residential buildings, and we are currently involved in finding a building willing to be an urban demonstration building for solar hot water heating.

We are greatly excited and encouraged by a building now almost completed in the lower East Side slum area. It has 32 solar collectors on the roof, the frames painted circus colors, looking like blooms of hope in a very dreary burned-out neighborhood.

Barbara Niles
New York City, N.Y.

URBAN INSULATION

Dear High Country News,

I have just read of your paper in the December 1975 issue of *Playboy Magazine*

in the article by Edward Abbey, "The Second Rape of the West."

I live in the southern part of Boston, the relatively low-income area of poor whites, blacks, and Puerto Ricans. I'm thinking that the problems aren't essentially so different between this city and the expansive uninhabited area you live in. But in city it is more difficult to maintain perspective. There are no Rockies, no beautiful, eons-old jagged canyons, no forests. Therefore, I see the predicted increase in urbanization as very dangerous. Fewer and fewer people being reminded first hand. The urban micro-world is a big wad of insulation. Mental and physical. How to cut through the insulation?

Hope folks like you will be successful in awakening the people.

Jeff McKillop
Jamaica Plain, Mass.



BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dear HCN,

An article as good as Mary Inman's ("Jackson Hole wrestles with growth," HCN, 3-26-76) deserves a biographical note to let the readers know who she is.

Ennis C. Blake
Washington, D.C.

Editors' note: We'll try harder to include more biographical notes in the future. Mary Inman is a biologist with a B.S. and an M.S. from the University of Michigan. She has worked for the National Park Service in the Everglades and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona. Recently she has done volunteer land use planning work in Jackson Hole. She is unemployed and is seeking work as a biologist or naturalist. Her address is Box 197, Wilson, Wyo. 83014 if you hear of a job.



Editorials

HCN

Help resuscitate stripping bill

The fight to pass a strong strip mine control bill in Congress has gone on so long that even some of those who have fought longest and hardest for the bill seem to be losing their fervor.

Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.), perhaps because he feels a need to fall in line with the views of his state's Democratic governor, is one who seems to have weakened his position. He told a press conference in Sheridan, Wyo., recently that he would rather have no strip mine bill, if it jeopardizes the passage of a coal leasing bill which promises to bring a lot of money into the state. It's hard to believe Roncalio

means that, after all the time he's put in trying to protect Western lands from strip mining abuses.

There are others who would have us relax because they say our state laws take care of us. Hopefully, no one in Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, or Utah is guilty of such self-delusion. These particular states have woefully inadequate standards. But every state's laws are threatened by an inconspicuous bomb in the federal regulations. As things now stand, stricter state laws might not take precedence over federal regulations. That means wherever the Interior Department judged a law to be

counter to the "national interest," Interior's strip mining regulations could take precedence. "Legislation by administrative fiat," Sarah Ignatius of the Northern Plains Resource Council calls it. So much for depending on strong state laws.

Section 505 of the proposed federal strip mine bill would clarify this point. Under the proposed bill, stricter state laws would always take precedence.

We believe we need federal strip mining legislation. As much as ever.

Passage looks difficult at this point, as you may have read on page 10 of this issue. However, positive action can still be taken and should be taken.

Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.) has drawn up a discharge petition to move the bill out

of the rules committee. If it gains the signatures of a majority of members of the House, the bill would go for a vote on the House floor despite the rules committee's roadblock. Ask your representative to sign it.

If we give up this session in hopes of starting afresh in the next Congress, we may be disappointed. Many of the strongest supporters of the bill may not be in a position to help us next year. For various reasons Interior committees will likely be losing Sen. Henry Jackson and Reps. Morris Udall, John Melcher, and Patsy Mink. Lest we lose our fervor in the face of the even tougher odds next year, let's get the bill passed in this session of Congress.

—JN

You must save it yourself

Reprinted from the IDAHO STATE JOURNAL, March 19, 1976.

by Gary Haden

"I think you should give them all hell in your last column," a friend said upon hearing I would end my employment with the Journal today.

"Who?" I asked.

"Boise Cascade, Simplot, FMC..." he went on for two hours. Then I hung up.

I contemplated a last blast at some of the spoilers before taking off for my next job as an agricultural and environmental writer at The Press in Mankato, Minn., and then concluded that the people who

would rape the environment won't stop because of anything I'd write.

There's no doubt that many people in industry deserve to have a little hell raised with them, but I shouldn't be the one to do it. What I always wanted at the Journal was to explain the issues and let the people change things, and I'll leave here convinced that is the way it has to be if Idahoans are going to maintain the kind of state polls indicate they want.

It seems incredible to me that people live in or move to Idaho because of the relatively pure air and clean water and then are too lazy to take steps to protect it. They are too lazy to find out who's doing a good job in the legislature — probably even too lazy to find out who represents them in their legislative district.

If Idaho is worth enjoying, it's worth protecting — even if it requires initiative actions for minimum streamflows, a bottle bill, and higher salaries for legislators, which would allow those with talent to run, instead of limiting it to those who can afford to take time off to look out for their own welfare. Cowboys, attorneys, labor lackeys, and retirees belong in the legislature, but not to the exclusion of the common worker, the housewife, the student or others who deserve to be represented.

The election of Cecil Andrus, who is generally progressive on environmental issues, shows the potential for electing those more in tune with the wishes for environmental protection, but it also shows glaringly how the people have failed to find people with similar ideas to serve in the legislature.

Some apparently believe the governor is enough, that he can veto the worst intentions of the legislature. That is folly for several reasons. For one thing the governor is not always right. For another, I am completely unimpressed with some of the sycophants who surround him, and I think he quite often gets bad advice or gets no objections to bad ideas. Finally, it is dangerous to put too much faith in one man. He could abandon Idaho for the Senate, leaving the state, at least temporarily in the hands of Lt. Gov. John Evans, who has not distinguished himself as a leader.

Without a strong, progressive governor, Idaho could be thrust back into the days when industry was king, because industry liked it when profit was paramount over environmental considerations. They can be criticized for this, but their efforts must be understood. They wish to operate in the best American tradition, and tradition was "Damn the environment, full development ahead" until recent years.

The companies that have it got it because the dollar came first, and you can bet they'll maintain that philosophy, because, wrong or right, they believe they must to remain competitive. When a dollar is at stake, you can expect them to fight for Pioneer, try to dam Hells Canyon, log Chamberlain Basin, strip-mine Caribou County or do whatever else is in their financial interests. If someone stands to lose money, and morality is diffused over an impersonal corporate structure, you can expect the monied interests to take the narrowest view, the one that will hurt them the least in the cash register.

This may not be a pretty picture, but it is a realistic one that must be understood by those who blame corporations or big companies such as J. R. Simplot.

It is easy to blame the big boys for all the ills, but the fault often lies with lack of effort on the other side.

If the Idaho I see when I return is better, it will be because people have dedicated themselves to the issues and have become knowledgeable of those issues. I don't know if Bill Smallwood and the others in Citizens for Alternatives to Pioneer can stop that plant, but the success they've had thus far is more than I ever imagined they would have.

Find an issue, learn about it to the point you're sick of it, and then go to work. Don't sit in a soft chair and be "concerned" or upset about things, without being informed and active.

There are few limits on what can be done, but great doubt on what will be done. Simplot and FMC will foul the air over Pocatello, Boise Cascade will log Chamberlain Basin, Bucyrus Erie will make Pocatello Chuck Berg's company town if you let them. And don't blame them for it, because it's in their economic interest to do so, and that's what our system is all about. You must make them understand they can have profits and you can have a decent environment at the same time.

Do you enjoy Idaho as it is today enough to force them to accept it on your terms? That's the question I leave for you.



ALASKA ACREAGE

Dear HCN,

We are grateful for the use of photographic materials, the mention of the National Interest Lands Proposals and Gregory Capito's "Report from Alaska."

I did want to urge that the 80 million acre figure used in the wetlands photo caption, March 12, be changed to reflect the Alaska Coalition's proposal (H.R. 2063 and S. 1688) which is closer to 107 million acres. Otherwise people get locked into the Administration's 80 million acre proposal as an upper limit.

Sincerely,

Jim Kowalsky

Executive Director

Fairbanks Environmental Center

Fairbanks, Alaska

DESOLATE AREAS

Dear HCN people

Looking through the Jan. 30, HCN, I came across a comment I hadn't seen before in your provocative article about the Kaiparowits press conference: That is, Kanab contractor Gary Cox's comment: "It's very difficult to raise a family on \$3 to \$5 an hour. I challenge anyone here to find a more desolate area in the whole world."

Well, I take your challenge. Here are a few more desolate areas: The Sahara in Africa, India, and Beirut — just off the top of the news. Two-thirds of the world would love to live anywhere in America including the so-called "desolate areas."

As for your wages, don't just sit there and bitch, go out and organize a union! Kaiparowits covered in power plants won't solve your problems.

Sincerely,

Alan Caben

Chicago, Ill.

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Chamberlain Basin. . .

(Continued from page 1)

offense by proposing contiguous areas for inclusion into the new wilderness. They argued that the area should be enlarged to 2.3 million acres, an almost ludicrous size to deskbound bureaucrats, but essential to old-timers intent on preserving one integrated river system for the nation.

The proposal of the wilderness council was strengthened by similar proposals from other, more conservative groups. Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus aggressively led a broad-based coalition advocating an expansion to 1.8 million acres, billing it as a compromise between the ideal of the wilderness council and the opposition of industry. His banner was carried by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Commission, The Pacific Northwest River Basin Commission, and Idaho Fish and Game.

Surprisingly, the Idaho Department of Commerce and Development released a statement declaring, "It is very true that the exploitation of the primitive areas would play a part in improving the economy . . . but it must be emphasized that it would be a short run improvement . . . it is the conclusion of the Idaho Department of Commerce and Development that economic stability throughout the state is best served by wilderness classification of the primitive areas. Any short term impact from development would be overshadowed by the perpetual loss of the character of Idaho's heartland (emphasis is theirs)." It looked like Idaho had learned from the mistakes of other states.

Even many of those who officially endorsed 1.8 million acres were hoping for more. Martel Morache, Education Officer for Idaho Fish and Game, summed the undercurrent when he said, "We are sympathetic to the idea of a 2.3 million acre proposal, but in light of opposition, realize that we must compromise. We will fight for 1.8 because it is the absolute minimum that will ensure our wildlife and fisheries resources."

TEXTBOOK DEMOCRACY

The machinery of reclassification takes a bit of time, but understanding of its basics is essential to fully savor the tragicomedy which resulted. First, the regional supervisor of the U.S. Forest Service in Ogden had to review public input before making his recommendation to the Secretary of Agriculture. In turn, the Secretary's recommendation was rubber-stamped by the President of the United States to become the official recommendation of the Administration. Finally, the Administration's recommendation became part of a bill to be voted upon by Congress. On the surface, it was a textbook example of democracy in action.

In December 1975, shortly after elections were wrapped up, the Administration released its recommendation. To a person reading a newspaper in New York

or Los Angeles, it looked like a great environmental victory had been won. Thirty-seven Primitive Areas across the country had been recommended for inclusion into the Wilderness System. Over nine million acres were to be added. It was a day of celebration.

But supporters of the River of No Return Wilderness were shell-shocked. Ernie Day of the wilderness council said simply, "This has been the worst day of my entire life."

Andrus called the proposal "completely unacceptable." He said, "I didn't think they

ting the geysers out of Yellowstone or stopping Grand Canyon National Park at the rim. The Administration had amputated Chamberlain Basin.

To even partially appreciate the loss of Chamberlain Basin, one must realize that Chamberlain Basin has been the secret of secrets, the one jewel that locals had hoped to keep to themselves. Chamberlain Basin is crucial to the River of No Return Wilderness because of its location, its size, and quality, which could easily serve as a basis for evaluating all other wild areas.

Chamberlain Basin is the geographical

found anywhere in the continental United States."

A classic study of mountain lion behavior was done at the University of Idaho's research station in the basin. The largest concentration of bighorn sheep in the state, one of the largest in the nation, browses the nearby crags.

The mountain goat, mule deer, whitetail deer, fisher, marten, northern flying squirrel, great grey owl, pileated woodpecker, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, lynx, wolverine, and timber wolf are also said to inhabit the basin.

Morache insists that the survival of significant populations of many of Chamberlain's species hinges upon wilderness classification. He says, "This could be the most far-reaching land management decision to ever affect wildlife in Idaho."

FISH, TOO

The fisheries resources of the area are also incomparable. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "The Salmon River and its tributaries provide approximately 80% of the chinook salmon and 30% of the steelhead trout in the entire Snake River System."

The quality of the fisheries is directly correlated with the quality of the watershed. Those who have battled all their lives to preserve it simply will not compromise on this issue. The granite soil of the Idaho Batholith is notoriously unstable. In the mid-1960s a "model" logging operation promised to safeguard such soils. Nevertheless, spring rains pulled a mountain into the South Fork of Salmon River, smothering the gravel spawning beds and destroying the anadromous fisheries of that tributary.

Nearly one-half of the watershed of the Middle Fork of Salmon River is outside the existing primitive area boundary. Although it is currently de facto wilderness, it is ripe for commercial exploitation. The contiguous areas proposed for addition by both the governor and the River of No Return Wilderness Council are intended to preserve the integrity of the Middle Fork.

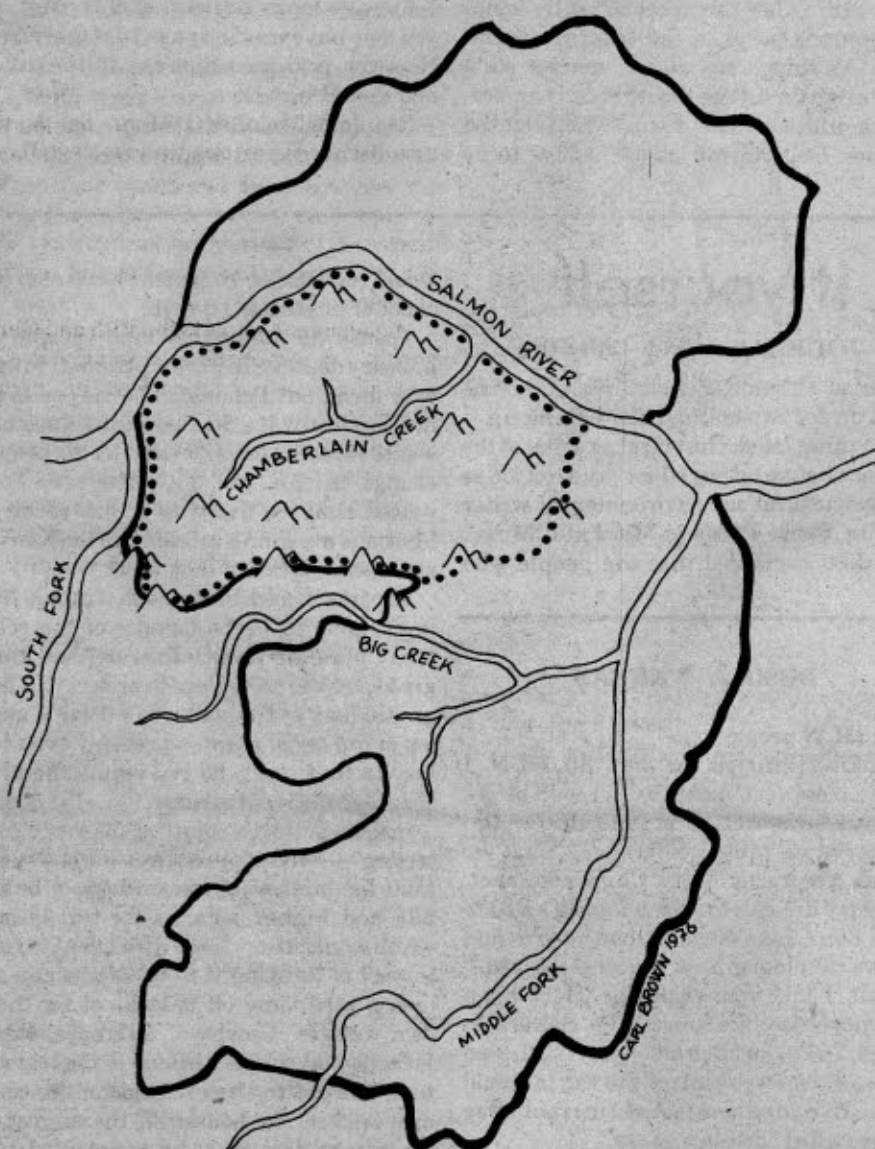
In a National Wilderness System built primarily of crags and quagmires, Chamberlain Basin is unique. A member of a Sierra Club survey team said, "With subdued topography and numerous meadows, the Chamberlain Basin offers a wilderness experience of a different temperament from the rest of the River of No Return Wilderness. This high plateau is relatively gentle, yet incredibly wild . . . when mists rise off the meadows in the morning, it is clear why it is said that this is a place for the wanderer and dreamer. It is a wilderness that can be enjoyed by the young and the very old . . . on the north edge one looks down over a mile in depth to the Salmon River. This breaks country is some of the most rugged and inspiring in the West."

GOUGED BY BUTZ, NOT USFS

Why then, was Chamberlain Basin gouged from the River of No Return Wilderness? Advocates believe that Secretary of Agriculture Butz was wooed and won by representatives of the mining and logging industries. Andrus was the first to sense and challenge political chicanery. He immediately sued the federal government, forcing Butz to make public the recommendation of his regional forester.

The report showed that the U.S. Forest Service had recommended a 1.5 million acre wilderness that included Chamberlain Basin. Andrus says that this is absolute proof that an arbitrary political decision was made in Washington, a decision that ignored overwhelming public opinion and made a mockery of the entire review process. He admits that he appears to be

Why was Chamberlain Basin gouged from the River of No Return Wilderness?



PROPOSED RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS. The solid black line outlines U.S. Forest Service 1.5 million acre proposal. The dotted line outlines the 4 million acre Chamberlain Basin. The area north of the Salmon River is the present Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area. The area south of the river is the present Idaho Primitive Area. Map by Carl Brown.

had the audacity to try to cut the heartlands out of the state. It is obvious that the powerbrokers of America have had their wish."

Jeff Fereday, lobbyist of the Idaho Conservation League, an ex-smokejumper usually noted for his unemotional eloquence, simply called the proposal "an outrage."

What had happened? Quite simply, the Administration had mutilated the River of No Return Wilderness with a double-edge sword. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz had pared it to a mere 1.1 million acres. But more important was what he had cut out. To Idaho conservationists it was like cut-

heart of the River of No Return Wilderness. If it were an entity unto itself it would rank 10th in size among the 126 units of the wilderness system. Anthony Park, attorney general of Idaho, described its value when he said, "It represents the best of what we in Idaho want to preserve for our children and our children's children."

The wildlife resources of Chamberlain are legendary. It is best known for its elk herd, the largest in the U.S. south of the Salmon River. The Basin is graced with 30 named and countless smaller unnamed meadows which serve as calving grounds and summer range. During winter the herd simply moves a few miles to the grassy slopes where Chamberlain breaks off and tumbles into the Salmon River, second deepest canyon on the continent. Chamberlain is home to more than 2,000 elk.

Chamberlain is more than elk. It is a refuge for 190 species of wildlife. Martel Morache of Idaho Fish and Game says, "These remarkable lands support one of the most significant wildlife communities

But more important was what he had cut out. To Idaho conservationists it was like cutting the geysers out of Yellowstone or stopping Grand Canyon National Park at the rim. The Administration had amputated Chamberlain Basin.



OUTSTANDING ELK RANGE. Cow and calf elk on a Chamberlain Basin meadow. Photo by Ted Trueblood.

throwing down the gauntlet and promises to lead the fight to Washington.

Official Administration rationale for the decision to exclude Chamberlain was sent to the Idaho Conservation League in reply to their demand for an explanation. "Evidence of man's work, opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement, potentials for mineral development and timber harvest at some future date outweigh the merit for allocation of Chamberlain for wilderness," it was told.

TAINTED BY MAN?

The excuse that Chamberlain is tainted by "evidence of man's work" is challenged by the Sierra Club: "The (only) road is impassable at this time and it penetrates the primitive area only for two miles, and does not constitute a significant disturbance. . . . There are several developments within Chamberlain Basin. . . . These inholdings do not significantly detract from the wilderness experience provided by this vast area." The inholdings mentioned are Forest Service guard stations and ranch headquarters for guides operating in Chamberlain Basin.

Dan Lechefsky of the Wilderness Society says that part of the reason for the Wilderness Act was to maintain, not to destroy, cultural heritage. Lechefsky suggests that the Administration is purposely twisting the Wilderness Act to placate corporations interested in Chamberlain Basin.

WILDLIFE NEEDS HELP?

The Administration's avowed desire to improve wildlife habitat by excluding Chamberlain from wilderness classification is under fire from wildlife biologists. Some who have worked in the area say the

best thing that could possibly happen to Chamberlain would be to classify it as wilderness. They note that Chamberlain is in a state of dynamic equilibrium, that the elk herd is healthy, maintaining a steady population, and consistently produces trophy bulls. One biologist said, "It simply doesn't make sense to use that excuse when

This could be the most far-reaching land management decision to ever affect wildlife in Idaho.

—Martel Morache
Idaho Fish and Game

Chamberlain is, right now, one of the best balanced ecosystems in the nation."

Chamberlain Basin has what the Administration called "potential for mineral development" only if one accepts the expansion of the neighboring Big Creek Mining District to include Chamberlain Basin. Physically, this is a Herculean task because Chamberlain is separated from Big Creek by a wall of 9,000 foot peaks. Big Creek is acknowledged to be mineralized and its miners have injected a undeniable spirit into the hills. But Idaho Fish and Game points out that the creek itself in its present free-flowing condition generates more money for the Idaho economy in one year than the mines did in their entire history.

Despite the fact that Idaho has been scoured by three distinct mining booms, despite the fact that a recent U.S. Geological Survey report concluded that Chamberlain Basin is "one of the less mineralized districts in the Idaho Primitive Area," and despite the fact that the Forest Service already acknowledges 5,000 valid mining claims in the Wilderness System, the Ad-

ministration insists on excluding Chamberlain for its "mineral potential."

NITTY-GRITTY IS TIMBER

The nitty-gritty for the Administration's action seems to be to placate industry's demand for timber. Logging sales and logging roads are creeping closer to Chamberlain. In a region that is clearcutting in between its clearcuts in order to meet its lumber quota, 400,000 acres of virgin timber has a certain amount of attraction.

At the center of the Chamberlain timbering controversy are 300-year-old statuesque yellow pines which dot the grassy river breaks. These trees are so massive that they seem to support the sky.

Wilderness advocates are adamantly opposed to harvesting these giants. They fear that reforestation of the area would fail just as it has in similar areas outside the primitive area. At best, it takes 120 years for a tree to reach economic maturity in Chamberlain Basin. Also, the tragedy of the logging that wiped out the anadromous fisheries in another area is still a vivid memory.

A major concern of Idaho Fish and Game is that logging of the area would increase public access to Chamberlain, which would, in turn, erode the quality of the entire wilderness. They are vehemently opposed to trading one of the last quality elk herds in the nation, one which must be hunted with pack animals, for a quantity herd which can be hunted with a pickup truck.

Wilderness Council President Ted Trueblood dares to ask the basic question, "Do we even need the timber in there?" He points out that even the estimates of the timber industry give a "no" answer. The sustained allowable cut from Chamberlain would be equal to one week's export of logs to Japan. Andrus says, "The quality of life in Idaho is not advanced by cutting trees in Chamberlain anymore than by trying to establish an elk herd in downtown Boise."

CLASSIC WILDERNESS WAR

It is obvious that the battle over Chamberlain is going to be a classic, a battle to be studied by generals of future wilderness wars. Where does it go from here?

Apr. 9, 1976 — High Country News-5

iciting donations to fund the showdown in 1977. Those wishing to help the council may do so in two ways. One is to join the council. Membership is \$10 for a family or individual and \$3 for a student. Their address is Box 844, Boise, Idaho 83701.

The council is also broadening its base of support, establishing a national coalition. It urges individuals to help by contacting their local representatives. Periodic letters between now and the hearings will keep the issue fresh in the minds of elected representatives. Congressmen can be reached at the House of Representatives, Washington D.C., 20515. Senators can be reached at the Senate Office Building, Washington D.C., 20510.

BOOBY TRAP?

Everyone concerned about Chamberlain goes into battle realizing that the issue is probably a booby trap. They suspect that the logging industry is holding Chamberlain ransom, hoping to goad wilderness advocates into a victory-at-all costs fervor, planning to calmly sit back and use Chamberlain as a 400,000 acre bargaining-chip for lands they want elsewhere.

Those lands are likely to be the timber-rich but soil-poor contiguous areas which the wilderness council and the governor have proposed for addition to the River of

This is a place for the wanderer and dreamer. —Sierra Club Survey Team

No Return Wilderness; lands essential to preserve the fragile headwaters of the Salmon River, lands needed to protect the integrity of the rest of the River of No Return Wilderness.

The Wilderness Society is watching these flanks. Assuming that they will receive the necessary tax-deductible funds, the society will send professional teams into the contiguous areas this summer to gather specific data to further substantiate the need to annex each contiguous area.

LAST OF THE OLD-TIMERS

Perhaps the most frustrated individuals in the fracas are local employees of the U.S. Forest Service. They know the area best. Many of them grew up there and have rambed the length and breadth of the area. They are the last of the old-timers who hired on with the Forest Service so they could be in their beloved outdoors. More than a few of them have sacrificed career advancement by refusing absolutely to accept promotions which would take them elsewhere.

These men fought hard for the establishment of the River of No Return Wilderness. But now the old-timers are between the rock and the hard spot. Their agency recommended a halfway reasonable wilderness of 1.5 million acres. Then their parent agency, the Department of Agriculture, totally ignored their recommendation.

A ranger who has spent most of his life managing a portion of the Idaho Primitive Area was asked his position on the controversy. He replied, saying, "Hell, I can't even comment on it. They went so far as to send me an official memo telling me what I can and cannot say. I better just keep my mouth shut."

Considering the circumstances, the Forest Service could be paralyzed. Instead, they are drawing up an interim management plan for the Idaho Primitive Area. It

(Continued on page 14)

Solar workshop leaders say

You can invent an energy system

GREENHOUSES concepts that work

Since he had never experienced a Montana winter or hailstorm, Jack Park told the AERO solar energy workshop that his mission was not to tell people exactly what to build, but to give them a feel for the problems they might encounter.

"Then you go home and invent your own solution," Park said.

Among Park's personal solutions is a greenhouse based on the sketch shown on this page. At his home in California where temperatures dip to a low of 38 degrees, the structure requires no heat other than what it gathers from the sun. The temperature inside the greenhouse never goes below 55 degrees, Park says.

To use the same concept in colder climes, Park suggested a double layer of either glass or fiberglass on the south (sun-collecting) side, plus more insulation. Insulating schemes which would work range from covering the south side with old blankets to installing a Beadwall, a device invented by Steve Baer which allows the homeowner to pump insulating material between two layers of glass at dusk and suck the material out again when the sun is shining.

Also a wind power expert, Park advocates combining different types of alternate energy systems to do a particular job. Depending on economics, he said, "If you have a wind chill problem, I suggest you build some sort of wind generator and use it to augment the system on windy days."

MASONITE ARC

As the diagram shows, Park's system uses a clear, south-facing wall at a 60 degree angle to collect the sun. His north wall is an arc constructed out of untempered masonite and fiberglass insulation (enough to make a resistance factor of 11) covered with foil. He paints the inside layer of masonite gloss white. The color and shape of the masonite wall reflect incoming light to all sides of the plants.

Traditional greenhouses collect tremendous amounts of energy. The problem for the energy-conscious is to devise ways of retaining that heat. Park uses 55 gallon oil drums, filled with water and painted black.

During the day, each barrel stores up about 8,500 Btu, which it releases at night to keep the temperature up. In California, Park has found that's all the heat he needs.

He claims that an equally serious problem is avoiding overheating in the greenhouse in summer. He regulates the temperature by vents on the north and south side of the structure.

"Generally speaking you would like the hot air outlet to be bigger than the cold air inlet, because hot air is less dense. To get rid of a certain cubic capacity, you have to move more hot air in terms of volume. Perhaps a two-to-one ratio isn't unreasonable," Park says. But he warns, "We're starting to get into areas where even the theoreticians can't tell you what the ratio of inlet to outlet should be."

FILTERS, FINCHES, LADYBUGS

Park filters the air in his greenhouse, to rid it of insects and pollution. He says he's heard of other experimenters who have tried natural predators to get rid of the insects — without much success. Finches

by Joan Nice

Leaders at a solar energy workshop in Billings, Mont., did their best to bring out the inventor in participants. The March gathering was sponsored by the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO).

After an introduction to basic concepts of solar heating and practical lessons in plumbing and carpentry, participants were encouraged to start tinkering — to design a home-built system out of local materials that would suit their particular climate, site, and financial resources.

"Don't blame me if your solar water heater freezes over at 40 below," warned one of the workshop leaders.

While some participants toyed uncomfortably with the idea of taking personal responsibility for the design of energy systems that supplied their homes, the group successfully built a solar water heater.

As several participants pointed out, the particular design they were building might freeze up during a Northern Rocky Mountain cold spell or break in a hail storm.

"It's very early. You've got to remember we're really in the Model T stage of this," Ken Smith of Ecotope Group in Washington State told those who questioned the system's suitability for Montana. "What I encourage you to do is to get your juices flowing. Go home and build a few things and try them out."

"Use whatever works for you," said Jack Park, head of a company called Helion in Sylmar, Calif.

"But we're trying to find out what works," said a frustrated participant.

Neither that participant, nor anyone else at the meeting ever got sure-fire formulas. They were challenged to glean



Jack Park

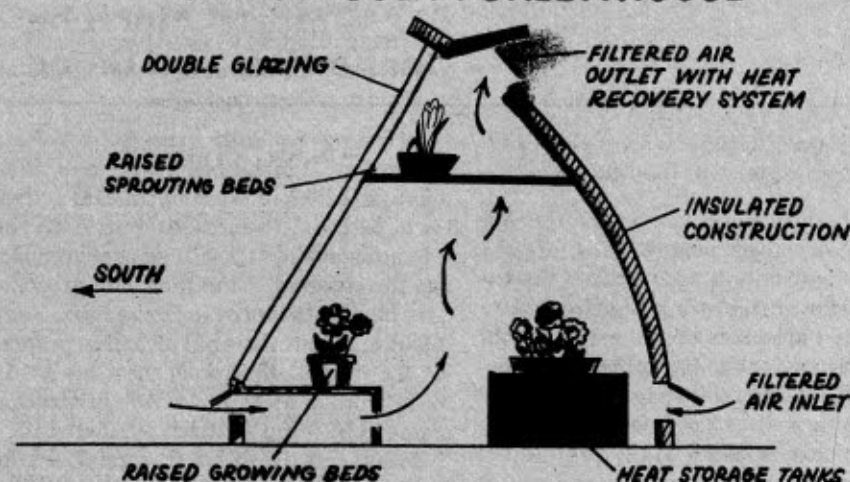
what they could from people with a little experience — and then to take their lives into their own hands by developing personalized energy systems. The do-your-own-thing spirit of the meeting was tantalizing to some and discouraging to others.

The following items are based on Jack Park's sessions with the group. They are the result of assorted questions from the audience — and represent a grab-bag of ideas, not a well-organized lecture. Park is an engineer who designs windmills, solar greenhouses, and alternative energy systems for homes.

In our next issue, we will describe the construction project, which was the focal point of the meeting. Using copper tubing, aluminum roofing material, a wooden box, and a 30-gallon hot water tank, the group built a solar water heater. They were led in the construction by Ken Smith and Lee Johnson, who are holding such workshops throughout the region.

HELION

HELION SOLAR GREENHOUSE



introduced into a greenhouse died when their food supply was exhausted. Ladybugs left the first time a vent was opened.

Park takes advantage of the natural temperature gradient in the greenhouse, from cool at the bottom to warmer at the top, to meet the needs of various plants he's growing. He uses the highest shelf for sprouting seeds because "sprouts go berserk when they're hot," he says.

Park encouraged the participants to try building a greenhouse adapted to local climate, available materials, and their own finances. He warned, "What you don't want

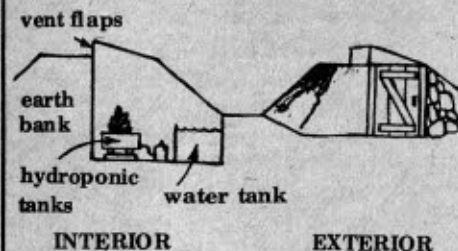
to do is go half-cocked into a project and not know what the problems are going to be. That's where it gets expensive. If you can solve the problems on paper before you build the thing, you are far better off."

For more information on solar greenhouses, Park recommended a 165-page book by James B. Dekorne entitled *The Survival Greenhouse*. Dekorne built a partially buried structure in New Mexico for raising vegetables, fish, and recycling wastes, an "integrated life support system," using only sun and wind power.

Foundation, P.O. Box 5, El Rito, N.M. 87530.

Another source is The Solar Sustenance Project, Route 1, Box 107AA, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501. In a 10-page report, Bill Yanda describes 11 small, low-cost greenhouses which were built as attachments to low-income families' homes. The structures cost about \$1.86 a square foot. If you write for this report, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

THE SURVIVAL GREENHOUSE



INTERIOR

EXTERIOR

Saving summer

Jack Park is refining a scheme that will allow his clients to store heat during the summer for use in the winter. The idea is called annual cycle solar heating. A similar concept is currently being tested by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Park's scheme departs from the usual rule of thumb on sizing storage tanks, which is about two gallons of storage for every square foot of collector space, Park says. Instead, he would take 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of water and heat it up during the summer with a small solar heater. During the winter, little by little, he would extract the heat from the pool.

Park says NASA's idea is similar, but is complicated by electrically-powered heat pumps and elaborate heat transfer systems.

NASA is using a heat pump during the summer to take heat out of the house and put it into a 22,000 gallon storage tank. "By the time the summer is over you've got 22,000 gallons of 160 degree water floating around in your basement," Park says. During the winter, the heat is pumped out to warm the house. By the beginning of the next summer, the house is sitting on an attractively cool block of ice, according to the theory.

Catching the wind

Among other things, Jack Park is a wind expert.

An engineer by training, he has designed a 1,200 watt wind generator which is manufactured by Kedco, Inc., of Inglewood, Calif. It costs \$1,695.

He tells you how you can build your own in a recent book entitled *Simplified Wind Power Systems for Experimenters*.

"If you have tried to find information on windmill design methods, if you have designed and built a windmill, if you're merely interested in windmills, by now you have discovered that most of the information available requires engineering training or is not complete enough to satisfy your needs," Park says in the introduction to his book. The book is an attempt to remedy the information gap.

For more information write Jack Park, Helion, Box 4301, Sylmar, Calif. 91342.

Solar without sun

Storing up solar heat for use when the sun isn't shining is one of the solar designers' most interesting problems. The heat

Craig Barnes



by Bruce Hamilton

Energy conservation involves more than turning off lights, insulation, and lower speed limits, said Craig Barnes, former president of Colorado Common Cause. "The energy conservation question is a question of values. It is a change in the mentality of the people," he said.

Barnes told the Energy Conservation Training Institute in Estes Park, Colo., in early March that to change our energy-wasteful habits we must do more than "tinker" and employ energy-saving devices. What is needed, said Barnes, is a change in public consciousness. We need to do nothing less than "change the world," said Barnes, and that goal is entirely possible.

"If you are interested in really doing organization and changing the world, the place to start in learning how to do it is with Mahatma Gandhi," advised Barnes.

"He may seem quite irrelevant (to the energy conservation issue), but there is really only one outstanding effective organizer in the 20th century — Mahatma Gandhi. I recommend that if you really want to know how to do it, that you read Louis Fischer on Gandhi, Gandhi on Gandhi — steady Gandhi.

"Irrelevant, perhaps, but not really. Gandhi organized a nation with over 300 languages, no single language in his movement, no television, low literacy rates — the people couldn't even read what he wrote — hundreds of small political units, no political organization to coalesce around him — and he toppled an empire," said Barnes.

Gandhi was what he wanted other people to become — and that's a rare thing.

To bring about India's independence from England, Gandhi used techniques that are "useful in Denver, California, and New York — and they're not often followed today," said Barnes.

"His first and most important technique was personal example. Gandhi was what he wanted other people to become — and that's a rare thing.

"He also had a theory about means and ends. The means and ends had to be consistent. If they are not consistent — if you live a life of profligacy and high energy use now in order to get enough professional expertise so that at age 50 you can get in to politics and attempt to change things — then you haven't made any gain yet. But if you are doing it right now — riding your bicycle to work — you've already begun to make the difference.

"Finally, he did something that most of us in citizen organizations don't do. He

Craig Barnes' words for environmental activists

How to change the world

aimed at the empire — or at the high energy users — and attempted to get from them the best that was in them. Instead of attacking them — backing them into a corner — he praised them for what they did that was good.

"He brought out in them the strength that they had. And he was willing, when he had to, to take a middle position in order to elicit from them the generosity of spirit that they had.

"He made them bigger than they were, better than they thought they were. And that's a tactic which works better than shrillness, or better than constant attack without some kind of leavening."

UNSELFISHNESS

"The citizen organization which does nothing that's unselfish — which always takes only for its own constituency — doesn't get far," said Barnes. "You've got to give to the community as a whole as well as take. There has to be an overriding philosophical premise that is bigger than just you, or just your own constituency."

If you follow the example of Gandhi, "you may do things that you think are not significant nationally, but I believe these actions are most significant," said Barnes.

"That means — riding your bicycle.

"That means — putting solar energy on your own home.

"That means — experimenting and maybe becoming a vegetarian. It takes 20 times as much energy to produce meat protein as it does to produce grain protein.

"That means — being an example of what you want others to follow and become.

"That means — trying to bring the balance between technology and humaneness into your own life.

"And when you do these things, you're persuasive. And when you don't, you're discredited by that amount, and less effective as an organizer by that amount."

Barnes said that this country is ripe for change. "An age ends when its metaphor ends," he said quoting a poem by Archibald MacLeish.

"People need a sense of what they are doing in history," Barnes said. "We had a sense in this country of conquering a frontier, and of protecting the world from communism." But all our metaphors crumbled in the 1960s.

"We're now in the process of reformulating the American metaphor. How is it that we're going to view ourselves? What kind

of a people are we going to be?"

Barnes said that discovering a new metaphor must come from the people, not from the legislatures. If citizens want conservation and harmony with nature they must organize the populace, not rely on their elected representatives.

"None of the movements that have changed what we are — the labor movement, the women's suffrage movement, the civil rights movement — began in the legislatures or in the Congress," said

The Congress floats on the body politic like flotsam and jetsam above the current.

Barnes. "They began with a change of mood as people began to redirect themselves. The Congress floats on the body politic like flotsam and jetsam above the current."

Barnes said that it is through meetings, speeches, organizing, petitions, and marches that we "change the consciousness, change the metaphor, and change the age."

What ever happened to ORV plans?

by Ann Schimpf

LOGAN, UTAH — What has happened to the U.S. Forest Service's proposed off road vehicle (ORV) plans in the Intermountain Region since the Dec. 31 closing date for public comment?

Little, if any public information has been available on the status of ORV plans since that date. Nevertheless, the Forest Service has taken some important administrative steps:

—Verne Hamre, head of the Intermountain Region, has issued a strongly worded directive to all local rangers and forest supervisors cautioning them against overly restrictive plans.

—Local ranger districts have begun to revise their plans.

—In areas receiving heavy public comment, including the Wasatch National Forest in Utah, advisory groups of public citizens will review and comment on revised ORV plans.

The Intermountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service says it maintains a structure of fairly independent local ranger districts organized under forest supervisors who are in turn responsible to the Regional Forester, Vern Hamre. Therefore, Hamre's February directive to "loosen up" ORV plans was significant.

INTERMOUNTAIN HEAD UNHAPPY

The Regional Forester was obviously unhappy with some of the ORV plans. Why? Answers are only speculative, but the Uinta Chapter of the Sierra Club is convinced that Hamre is responding to strong pressure from ORV enthusiasts. In an effort to bring counter pressure, the chapter plans to release a public statement in early April. A representative of the chapter, Tom Lyon, says the following points will be included:

—Individual national forests differ ecologically and socio-economically

Therefore, planning should be decentralized.

—The burden of proof should lie with the off road vehicle enthusiasts. That is, off road vehicles should be restricted unless it can be proven that they do not cause damage.

—As stated in the 1972 Presidential order requiring ORV plans, user conflict must be recognized. If it is not, the Sierra Club is prepared to take necessary legal action.

During March and April, local ranger districts throughout the Intermountain Region (which includes Utah, Idaho, Western Wyoming, and Nevada) are revising their off road vehicle plans based on public comments received last fall. In the case of some ranger districts, including those in Ogden, Salt Lake, and Logan, many changes are being considered.

PUBLIC REVISING

In areas receiving heavy public comment last fall, advisory groups of public citizens are being asked to participate in this "in house" revision phase.

Ranger M. J. Roberts of the Logan Ranger District says, "We're hoping to buy future law enforcement cooperation by getting the input of citizen leaders at this point. Everyone is going to have to give some, but I think snowmobilers are going to go along with any compromises if their leaders approve. The same is true of ski tourists, jeeps, and bikers."

Members of these advisory groups are selected by local ranger district staffs and are invited to attend certain planning sessions.

As is always the case with federal action, the process is long and involved. Following the local ranger district revisions this spring, each national forest will consolidate district plans into a forest wide plan. National forest plans then will be submitted to Regional Forester Hamre for ap-

level would mean a replay of the spring process. However, all national forests in the Intermountain Region expect to begin enforcing their ORV plans by fall 1976.

For more information contact: Intermountain Region USFS, Federal Office Building, 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401.

Chamberlain Basin

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A species whose numbers are diminishing, but is not yet endangered, is the bobcat, a valuable predator on rodents.

Filming endangered wildlife

The Stouffer brothers



Mark and Marty Stouffer.

Stouffer Productions is an Aspen, Colo., company that specializes in nature photography. Mark and Marty Stouffer, who head the company, have a deep concern with wild life, and have a special interest in informing the public about our endangered species.

To achieve this end, they spent three years in the field, filming every animal on the official list of endangered species (except the ivory-billed woodpecker and Bachman's warbler, which are feared to be already extinct). In the case of each animal, they consulted with biologists studying it, located it, filmed it in the wild, and tried to explain its decline by showing the environmental changes in its habitat. The resulting footage was made into a film, "Vanishing Species of North America," which was shown at World Expo 74 in Spokane, and into a TV special, "At the Crossroads."

The Stouffers have become specialists in solving problems presented by back-country photography. Camera batteries gone dead in cold weather were recharged by a 40 lb. gasoline-powered generator, packed in along with hundreds of pounds of cameras, tripods, film, and accessories. Problems of heat were encountered while filming the rare Sonoran Pronghorn antelope on the Mexico-Arizona border. Dry ice was packed in to keep the film cool. They spent over a month in the desert heat, filming from a blind. Total footage was small, but it was the first such filming of these elusive animals, of which there are fewer than 75 remaining.

Because they've spent so much time in the outdoors observing wildlife, the Stouffers have evolved very definite, if controversial, ideas about its management

While not necessarily anti-hunter (although they are firmly against trophy hunting), they feel that under the current system game management departments exist only to keep big game species at high levels. In a letter to the Colorado Wildlife Commission, Marty writes, "While on the surface, it might seem that many oppose hunting from a purely emotional standpoint, we feel that this is far from true. What is being opposed, we feel, is that MAN is trying to put himself in the position of MOTHER NATURE, GOD, and EVERYPREDATOR." He goes on to suggest that game management departments should not be funded directly by hunting and fishing licenses, as they now are, as a certain amount of "payback" to the sportsmen is then seen to be necessary. Instead, the cost should be shared by all the citizens — wildlife is, after all, part of our national heritage — and the goal of game management should become balanced ecosystems in our wild lands. The money should be split about equally between management of game and non-game species.

Hunting of predators, many of which have declining populations, should be stopped, and predators reintroduced into wild areas. The Stouffers drew up a foundation with the money necessary to reintroduce one grizzly female with cubs to Colorado, in an area far from possible conflicts with farmers and ranchers. The Colorado Division of Wildlife turned down their offer.

Marty also suggests that game "preserves," where wild game is propagated for hunting purposes, be banned as a perversion that is destroying the hunter's image.

—SD



The Stouffers won several awards for their film, "Bighorn." They became concerned about the declining population of the North American bighorn sheep population, now less than one per cent of its former numbers, and so made a 26-minute film in the hopes of informing the public of its situation.

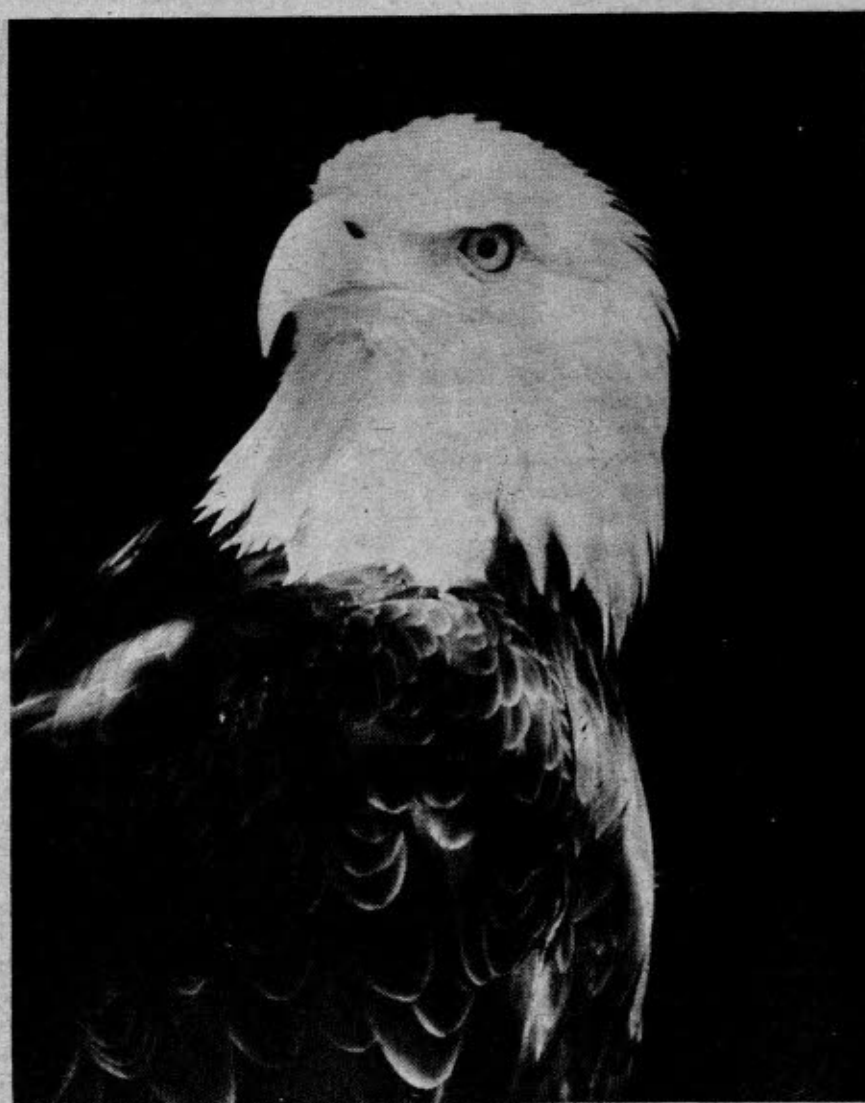
They located a herd of bighorn in Montana's Rocky Mountains, and spent a year close to them. At the end of this year, the sheep were quite well adapted to their presence, and they spent a second year following the herd and filming them, carrying heavy photographic equipment, and sometimes ropes and climbing gear.

"Man has an unlimited capacity to rationalize his own desires. It is unfortunate that he has been doing so at the expense of other creatures."



The timber wolf has disappeared from most of its former range in the United States.

Photos courtesy of Stouffer Productions, Ltd.



The bald eagle is making a comeback, due in part to the ban on DDT, halting of predator poisoning on federal lands, and a decline in illegal shooting.

10-High Country News — Apr. 9, 1976

Strip mine bill down, but not dead

The federal strip mine control bill is down, but it is not out. Last month the House Rules Committee tabled the bill on a voice vote and the bill's leading opponent, Rep. Sam Steiger (R-Ariz.), declared it "dead, dead, dead." But the bill's sponsor, Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.), says he will try to wrest the bill from the committee by means of a discharge petition.

The discharge petition is a rarely used parliamentary maneuver which could bring the bill to the House for a vote, despite the Rules Committee's decision not to send it there. If Melcher can obtain a simple majority of the House — 218 signatures on his petition — he can force a House floor vote. Signers are assured anonymity.

HCN Washington correspondent Lee Catterall reports, "The Rules Committee is

supposed to act as a filter for bills en route to consideration by the full House. However, the committee has become notorious in recent years for its casual practice of measuring the merit of bills to determine even whether they should be allowed on the floor.

"The second childhood of its chairman, Rep. Ray Madden (D-Ind.), at 84 the oldest member of the House, and the sandbox atmosphere reinforced by several other members, often has added humor to the committee's sessions."

But Melcher was not laughing last week. Catterall says Melcher believes a majority of House members want a strip mine bill this session, and he intends to prove it. Melcher has until the end of the year to obtain signatures on the discharge peti-

tion, but he expects to get the names in "several weeks," Melcher told Catterall. "It's an issue that won't go away."

A strong case can be made that the rules committee action was unjustified, says Pat Sweeney of the Northern Plains Resource Council. For one thing, the committee based its rejection of the bill on the fact that nearly identical bills may not be introduced in the same "session" of Congress. While a similar bill was introduced in this Congress, Sweeney says, it was not considered in this "session." Each Congress is divided into two "sessions," he points out.

Strip mine bills have passed the Congress twice in the past two years — but have twice been vetoed by President Gerald R. Ford. Ford pocket vetoed one

strip mine bill at the end of 1974. Congress revived and passed the bill again in 1975, but fell three votes short of the two-thirds vote necessary to override the veto.

An environmental lobbyist told **Land Use Planning Reports** that an effort will be made to get more than two-thirds of the House to sign Melcher's petition to forestall a possible third veto by Ford.

SUPPRESSED DATA

Melcher says this year's bill (HR 9725) has incorporated several major concessions to the Administration and is not a repeat of last year's vetoed bill. The National Coal Association, which is fighting the bill, calls it "virtually identical" to the vetoed measure.

Melcher says Ford will probably veto HR 9725, but he hopes his new bill will attract a few more supporters — enough to successfully override Ford next time. Melcher's concessions include: reducing restrictions on existing mines in Western alluvial valley floors, reducing red tape for small Eastern mine operators, extending the deadline for full compliance, giving the states more discretion.

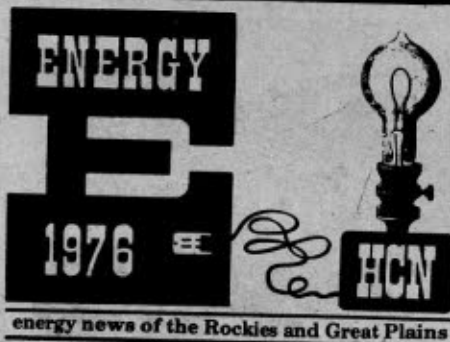
Melcher also hopes to gain support by refuting Ford's charge that the bill will reduce jobs. Scripps-Howard staff writer Ann McFeatters reports that Ford's chief political advisor, former Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton, has said the bill would increase jobs, not decrease them.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has completed a study of the impact on jobs, but an Interior Department official has suppressed the information. Raymond A. Peck Jr., a deputy assistant secretary of Interior, has ordered USGS employees not to give information to members of Congress. He says he didn't "want to see our scientists embarrassed or discredited by misunderstanding of their data," according to a copyrighted **Denver Post-New York Times** report. Melcher says he is still trying to get the data.

The Environmental Policy Center (EPC), the chief strip mine bill environmental lobbyist, cite three reasons for the Rules Committee action. Louise Dunlap of EPC says that certain House members didn't want to force another Ford veto which would make the President look bad in an election year. They also didn't want to force another House vote which might cost them conservationists' votes and/or discourage coal company contributions to their re-election campaigns.

Dunlap says getting a strip mine bill through this session will be difficult because of election year politics and Congressional recesses for party conventions and campaigning. However, forcing a vote this year is essential, she says, because key Congressmen in the vital Interior committees in both the House and the Senate may not be around next year. Reorganized Interior committees would make it more difficult to get a good bill through next year, even if Ford is voted out of office.

Specific examples offered by Dunlap include: Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), chief sponsor of strip mining legislation in the Senate and a candidate for President. Even if Jackson doesn't get the Democratic nomination, he will likely resign from the chairmanship of the Senate Interior Committee. Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), a key sponsor of strip mine legislation in the House Interior Committee and another Presidential candidate. If Udall doesn't get the Democratic nomination, he will likely try for the Senate. Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.), the prime sponsor of the House bill and a candidate for the Senate in 1976. Rep. Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii), a sponsor of the House bill, chairwoman of the Mines and Minerals subcommittee in the House Interior Committee, and another candidate for a 1976 Senate seat.



OIL SHALE ROLE DIMINISHES.

Interior Department officials have told the **Washington Post** that projections of producing one million barrels of shale oil per day within 10 years have been dropped. One Bureau of Land Management official, Dale Zimmerman, told the **Post** that oil shale might be dropped from the government's program altogether if political pressure gets too tough. "Oil shale is the weakest of the synthetic-fuels options right now," he said. "At this point even geothermal energy looks better."

PP&L WILL SCRUB. Pacific Power and Light Co. (PP&L) has withdrawn a request for a variance from Wyoming's sulfur dioxide emission standards on the fourth unit of the Jim Bridger coal-fired power plant near Rock Springs, Wyo. The company says it will be able to meet standards with a \$70 million sodium-based scrubbing system. A similar system has been installed on the Reid Gardner plant near Moapa, Nev. Officials at Reid Gardner have had trouble locating enough sodium solution to run the scrubber, says Randy Wood of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. The Bridger plant, however, has an abundant supply of sodium solution assured in the waste evaporation ponds at nearby trona (soda ash) processing facilities, Wood says.

COLSTRIP TESTIMONY ENDS. After 104 days of hearings, testimony has ended on the Colstrip 3 and 4 coal-fired power plant units proposed for Montana. The hearings began last May before the Board of Natural Resources. But the hearings have been "playing to an empty house," according to the **Borrowed Times**. The newspaper says the board members have not attended the hearings and accuse the state's mass media of "hit or miss" reporting that keeps the public from knowing what's going on. The board members will receive 12,000 pages of testimony transcripts on which to base their decision.

WYOMING READY TO FIGHT. Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler is feeling feisty now about three different fronts where he sees the federal government

threatening the state's sovereignty. In each case, he says the state is willing to go to court to protect its rights. He wants to prevent an Army Corps of Engineers hearing from duplicating a state hearing on environmental impacts of the reservoir for the proposed coal-fired power plant at Wheatland. He wants further assurances that strict state reclamation standards will prevail for strip mining in the state, even if it's federal coal. And he doesn't want the federal government to sell water that has been allocated for Wyoming use by agreements with other states.

COLO. LOSES NUKE FUEL PLANT.

Southern Colorado is no longer considered a prime site for a proposed nuclear fuel enrichment plant, according to a **Rocky Mountain News** report. Alan Fishman, an official with CENTAR Assoc., told the **News** that opposition from residents of Pueblo (where the plant would have been located) and from environmentalists in the state knocked Colorado out of the running. Gov. Dick Lamm had favored siting the facility in Colorado. The project is proposed by CENTAR, Atlantic Richfield Co., and Electro-Nucleonics, Inc.

LEASING PLANS ATTACKED.

The General Accounting Office has backed up environmentalists' charges that the federal government has no firm idea of how much of the national coal reserve it has leased to the mining industry. Assistant Comptroller Phillip S. Hughes told **KTWO News** that Interior is relying too heavily on market activities to indicate whether or not more coal needs to be leased. It is possible that so much coal is already under lease that further leasing, as proposed by the Ford Administration, may not be necessary, reported GAO.

KAIPAROWITS DECISION DELAYED.

Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe is going to visit the proposed site for the Kaiparowits power plant April 21 before he makes a decision on the plant. The decision was previously expected this week. However, Utah Gov. Calvin Rampton told Kleppe he thought the secretary should see the site before making his decision. A statement from the President's Council on Environmental Quality is expected soon on the proposed project.

NUCLEAR PLANT CALLED 'DEBACLE.'

The Fort St. Vrain nuclear plant near Denver is viewed as a "monument to perhaps the most stunning financial debacle of the nuclear age" by the **Wall Street Journal**. Its owner, Public Service Co. of Colorado, expected it to produce electricity by 1972, but now it looks as if its generators won't start until late this year. The delay has cost the builder \$260 million in losses so far.

WATER FOR ENERGY.

The Bureau of Reclamation has announced a \$290,000 study of ways to expand water-related energy production in the West, reports **Coal News**. The study will cover use of reservoirs and canals to cool thermal power plants, additional hydroelectric power, and possible integration of hydro power with other energy development such as coal or oil shale.

GAS PLANT CALLED OFF.

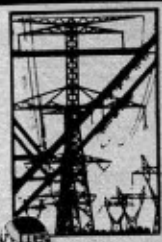
Tenneco, Inc. has dropped plans for a coal gasification plant in eastern Montana, according to Montana Gov. Tom Judge. Tenneco's decision resulted from the high costs involved and from the uncertain technology, says Judge.

OF COAL MINES AND CANARIES

Inside the Earth men gouge from veins
Sunlight of eons crushed into black stone
Here a golden birdsong shelters life
And silence tells of death beyond the carbide glow

When eggshells crumble to the touch
And Death claims eagle chicks
before they feel the sky
When trout float downstream on their silver sides
When on the night of the full moon
no wolf calls the pack to hunt
Because there is no more room for wild things
Who will trip the snares we set
Who will warn of Death beyond the arc
of science's weak light
When only the children of men are left

—John A. Ward
September 1, 1975



The ECN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

STATES SUPPORT SOLAR. Laws favoring solar energy have been passed in 13 states so far, according to the *New York Times*. Property tax exemptions for either the partial or the entire value of the solar energy construction have been passed by North and South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Arizona, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Oregon. In addition, Arizona permits a homeowner to deduct the cost of a solar installation from his taxable income over 60 months, and New Mexico grants a credit of 25% of a system's cost from state income tax liability.

FIRST NUCLEAR BREEDER PLANNED. The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) has hired three industry groups to draw detailed plans for the nation's first nuclear breeder power plant which would produce electricity and plutonium by 1988, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*. ERDA's Thomas Nemzek, director of the breeder development program, indicated the agency expects its experimental Oak Ridge, Tenn., breeder to be a success, even though it has not been built yet. ERDA has allocated \$5 million each to Westinghouse Corp., General Electric Corp., and Atomic International Corp. to develop designs.

UTILITIES FIGHT LIFELINES. Utilities are resisting a Congressional effort to require "lifeline" rates for electricity, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*. A bill is being considered in the House that would give below-cost rates on the first 100 to 400 kilowatt hours of electricity each month. This would be enough for lights and refrigerators in most homes

Canyon country in Audubon

The entire March issue of *Audubon*, the magazine of the National Audubon Society, is devoted to the canyon country of the Southwest. The report is illustrated with a portfolio of 57 pages of color photographs of magnificent scenery.

In one article Alvin M. Josephy describes the effects of huge coal-burning plants already in operation in the area. He warns of what will happen to desert air quality if the proposed Kaiparowits plant is built.

"It would pose threats to the health of people, the survival of wildlife, the productivity of the land, the ecology of Lake Powell and the surrounding country, and the very reason for the existence of the national parks and monuments," he says.

And more alarming, he reports, the industry is eyeing the canyon country for still more generating capacity. The draft impact statement for the 3,000-megawatt Kaiparowits proposal "made it clear," he said, that "once the plant was approved, the participating utilities might well double its capacity to 6,000 megawatts or even expand it to a staggering 25,000-megawatt capacity."

For a copy of this issue of *Audubon*, write R. Boardman, Public Information Department, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

but not enough for air conditioners, space heaters, and water heaters. The utilities claim the system would benefit people above the poverty level, too. Critics say utilities are apparently ignoring the system's incentive to conservation. Utilities say the reduced rate would not pay for meter reading, maintenance, advertising, or accounting costs.

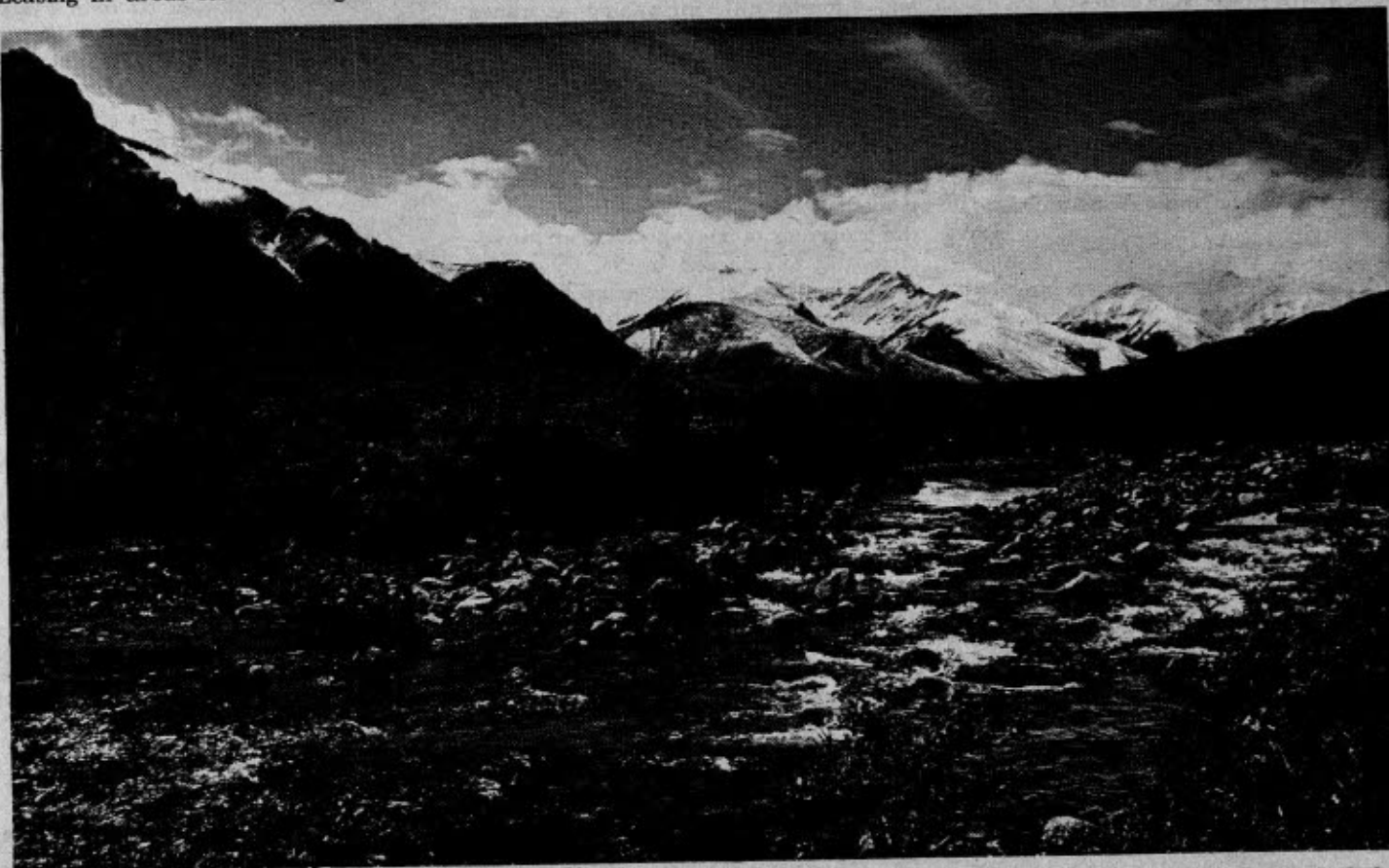
LEASE SALES DELAY. Procedural requirements of the new federal coal leasing program will delay the first coal lease sales until April 1977, according to *Coal Week*. Leasing in areas for which regional en-

vironmental impact statements have not been prepared will take longer. New leases are under the department's Energy Minerals Activity Recommendation System (EMARS). Under that system, Interior will call for nominations early in April, allowing 60 days for industry to respond. Later the public and the states can comment on industry's nominations and may suggest areas to be withdrawn. Then Interior must prepare a land use plan.

ALASKA COAL RESERVE WAITING. Alaska's cache of potential Btu's from coal is 70 times bigger than the energy poten-

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tial of its Prudhoe Bay oil which brought the oil pipeline controversy to the state, according to Associated Press reporter Tad Bartimus. But there is only one mine operating now in the state, despite the fact that Alaska has one-half the coal reserves in the U.S. Transportation from the mine to the market is the hurdle. There is only one railroad line, and port facilities are inadequate. However, Bartimus reports that America's needs ultimately will force the expensive steps necessary to extract Alaska's coal.



INTERIOR CONSIDERS DELAYING PIPELINE
The Interior Department says it might be a good idea to delay its decision on a 5,580 mile natural gas pipeline from Alaska, according to the Associated Press. In a final environmental impact statement on the pipeline — which would be Alaska's second — Interior said there may be "significant advantages" to postponing the decision for one to five years. The need for additional studies and legislation would delay approval until early 1977 anyway, Interior Secretary Thomas S. Kleppe says. Advantages of additional delay would be avoiding overlapping impact from construction of the oil pipeline and gaining time to study alternatives. Delaying this new supply of natural gas might encourage conservation and conversion to less scarce fuels, the study says, noting that it is not clear how serious the natural gas shortage

really is. Estimates of oil shortages that prompted the push for the Alaska oil pipeline are now turning out to be erroneous, according to the *WALL STREET JOURNAL*. A surplus of oil is now expected due to recent downward revisions of projected energy consumption and to anticipated increases in oil production in the lower 48.

The Alaskan Arctic Gas Pipeline route would cross the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The draft environmental impact statement predicts serious impacts on the wildlife refuge if the pipeline crosses it, including "possibly catastrophic effects" on one of the continent's major remaining caribou herds. This area is located near the Arctic Divide. The Phillip Smith Mountains in the background are a proposed addition to the refuge.

Photo courtesy of the Fairbanks Environmental Center.

'Wholesale exploitation' of N.D. coal delayed

Four major decisions in North Dakota recently will "delay the wholesale exploitation of the state's coal reserves," according to *Onlooker* editor Mike Jacobs. The four:

—American Natural Gas Company has decided to build a gasification plant now only half the size of that approved by the North Dakota Water Conservation Commission. The other half will be built "some time subsequent to 1981." Although inflation was one factor influencing the decision, the company said concern about the social and economic impact of the project was also important.

—Gov. Arthur A. Link has recommended that the Water Conservation Commission deny a water use application from the Natural Gas Pipe Line Company for as many as four gasification plants in Dunn County. The commission has not voted on the application yet, but an *Onlooker* poll of members indicated the permit would probably be denied.

—The Public Service Commission (PSC) has ruled that a large transmission line to carry electricity from Underwood, N.D., to Delano, Minn., falls under the state's siting act. An application must now be filed with the commission for the 400 kilovolt direct current line even though the commission has no authority over the generating facility itself in this case.

—The Water Conservation Commission has not backed down from its decision to force the PSC into a lead role in dealing with energy development matters. Jacobs says this is important since the PSC has authority to investigate every aspect of an energy conversion facility's impact — not just the water permit. In addition, the PSC is an elected body while the water commission is appointed.

Jacobs says the events "signal the emergence of a state policy which is consistent and appears to be cohesive as well." Citizen activists, in particular the farm-based United Plainsmen, have previously

attacked Link and his administration because there appeared to be no policy on energy development.

United Plainsmen President Rick Maixner said of Link's decision, "This is the beginning of proper leadership on the part of the governor in the energy development issue." Maixner said the announcement would probably serve to draw the Plainsmen into the Link camp in the 1976 election, at least unofficially.

Jacobs warns his readers that there are other energy companies waiting. But he says a delay is good because "each day of delay brings the nation nearer the time when renewable alternative energy sources will be available on a scale large enough to force cutbacks in the fossil fuel energy industry."

The *Onlooker* is an independent biweekly newspaper based in Mandan, N.D. (Box 351). Jacobs is also the author of *One Time Harvest*, a book on coal development in North Dakota.



Regional legislative review

Apr. 9, 1976

Colo. Senate blasted by newspaper

During the past two weeks, the Colorado Legislature — in particular the Senate — has succeeded in earning blasts from the **Rocky Mountain News**, in addition to the environmentalists who had criticized the body earlier (see HCN 3-26-76).

"If the Senate's Republican majority, serving only special interests and its own political animosity toward the Democratic Lamm administration, keeps killing off or hopelessly crippling such important bills, it will have compiled a record of shame in this session of the legislature," a **News** editorial said.

The editorial was prompted primarily by the Senate's action on three major environmental bills: one creating a Department of Transportation, another for min-

ing reclamation, and a third for energy facility siting.

The Senate killed the transportation bill and the siting bill, which had both been passed by the House. The reclamation bill and a fourth bill, increasing severance taxes, were both so weakened by Senate committees (prior to the **News** editorial) that promoters were having second thoughts about continuing any efforts for the bills.

Since that time, the Senate has indicated it might compromise and accept many of the provisions of the relatively strong reclamation bill passed by the House. At press time, no final decisions had been made on the bill.

The Colorado Mining Association, which drafted most of the Senate committee's

amendments, sent the legislature a memorandum endorsing most of the compromise proposals, according to the **News**.

The majority leader of the Colorado Senate, Denver Republican Richard Plock, told the **Denver Post** the Senate is not merely engaging in partisan politics. Democratic Gov. Dick Lamm had said the siting bill and the transportation bill were his top priorities. He had also pushed the reclamation bill and the minerals severance tax.

Plock said the Republicans objected to the bills because they were not well thought out, and they exemplified "fiscal recklessness." He admitted there are also philosophical differences.

Although Plock did not cite it as an example, the argument over the severance tax illustrated the traditional philosophical differences between the two parties that may have entered into the fray.

Finance Committee Chairman Les Fowler (R-Boulder) said, "The Republican philosophy is being injected in this bill" (referring to the tax amendments). "The mining industry should be given 'tax incentives' to develop energy sources," he said.

Fowler and other Republicans argued that high severance taxes could jeopardize jobs and lose revenue the state now raises



Statehouse dome in Denver

by taxing miners' wages, according to the **News**.

The finance committee consequently amended the severance tax bill to exclude metals mines, reduce the proposed tax on coal to 40 cents a ton for surface mines and 20 cents a ton for underground mines, and exempt small oil and gas wells from taxation.

ICL takes legislature to people

One Idaho conservationist, on behalf of the Idaho Conservation League, did her best to take the legislature to the state this year.

During the legislative session, Belle Heffner aroused citizens with a traveling slide and tape show, always featuring local legislators. She focused on plant siting, land use planning, solar energy, wildlife,

minimum stream flow, returnable bottles, water, and phosphate development issues.

She made presentations in 18 Idaho towns. Reactions to the slides ranged from "quiet reverie to laughter and even tears," she says. "Around the state, I found an enthusiasm for the Idaho Conservation League that more than kept me going. I found a genuine concern for conservation issues."

Conservative flush

The California Senate and Assembly have passed a bill requiring all toilets installed in the state to use no more than 3½ gallons per flush after 1977.

That's about a gallon less than California toilets are using today. About 900,000 acre feet of water will be saved by the act by the year 2000, sponsors say.

HCN

Bulletin Board

OIL SHALE TOUR

A field trip to oil shale facilities in western Colorado is scheduled for May 14-16 by the Enos Mills Chapter of the Sierra Club. The tour will leave Denver by bus Friday evening, travel to the Rifle area, and camp out. Saturday the group will tour the C-A tract, and Sunday they will tour private oil shale facilities. Cost is \$15. For more information, call Trevor Barrington at (303) 751-0462.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

An organization is forming in Montana to promote environmental education. For information about the Montana Environmental Education Service Association, contact Edward A. Heiser, School District No. 2, 101 10th St. West, Billings, Mont. 59102. The first annual meeting is being held May 6-8 at the Northern Hotel in Billings.

GRAND TETON PARK STUDY

April 30 is the deadline for comments on the draft statement for management of Grand Teton National Park. The 19-page draft notes that camping permits and backcountry camper nights were up 100% in five years while concessioner overnight facility use was down 26%. Use by individual skiers and snowshoers was up 600%. Copies of the draft are available from the park headquarters at Moose, Wyo. 83012.

DAM COMMENTS

A hearing will be held April 28 on the planned Greylocks Reservoir near Wheatland, Wyo. The reservoir is planned for the Missouri Basin Power Project and the Corn Creek Irrigation Project. The hearing will be held by the Army Corps of Engineers at 7 p.m. at the 4-H Building in Wheatland.

HELP INVESTIGATE BN

The Center for the Public Interest (CPI) of Bozeman, Mont., is asking for help in gathering information on Burlington Northern. The Center says that BN has cut off giving information to it because the railroad is irritated by CPI's interim reports. "You can't make a man an insider and give him more information than you give to stockholders," says a BN vice president. CPI's study focuses on the structure of BN, its land and mineral holdings, and development activities. To offer help and more information contact CPI, Box 931, Bozeman, Mont. 59715.

FOREST PLANNING

Final drafts of four Resources Planning Act publications are now available from National Forest Service offices. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz has submitted to Congress through these documents a proposed 44-year action program for the Forest Service, aimed at getting more goods and services out of the forests. The draft documents were issued last August.

WYOMING LAND HEARINGS

Four day-long hearings are scheduled to discuss the draft of state goals, policies, and guidelines for local land use planning in Wyoming. The draft is an outgrowth of the 10 public meetings held across the state recently. Some of the policies included in the draft are energy conservation (planning land uses that encourage conservation of energy) and preserving prime agricultural lands. The short 10 page copy of the draft is available from the Wyoming State Land Use Commission, Boyd Building, Room 500 Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002. Written comments are accepted until April

30. The hearings are all from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the following locations: April 21 at Wheatland High School Auditorium, April 26 at the Gillette High School Auditorium, April 28 at the Worland Junior High Auditorium, and April 30 at the Rock Springs East Junior High Auditorium.

ENERGY INDEX

Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) is offering an index to articles on nuclear and alternative energy that appear in the **Congressional Record**. Gravel also offers to enter relevant news items from around the country into the **Record**. To be added to the Energy Index mailing list or to send Gravel a news item write to him at 3317 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. The service is free, but Gravel asks for donations to help pay for paper and mailing labels.

INSTREAM FLOW CONFERENCE

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society and The Power Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers is planning a conference on instream flow needs in Boise, Idaho. The conference will run from May 3-6, 1976. For more information contact: Fred Eiserman, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, P.O. Box 840, Casper, Wyo. 82601.

N.M. WILDERNESS

A wilderness symposium including both skill practice sessions and group discussions on agency wilderness planning will be held in Albuquerque, N.M., April 24-25. Anyone interested in wilderness resources in New Mexico and western Texas can attend the event, which is sponsored by conservation groups. Lodging is being provided. The only cost is the optional barbecue at \$2-\$3. Contact Debbie Sease, Box 38, Glenwood, N.M. 88039 or phone (505) 539-2645.

WEST SLOPE TETONS PLAN

Copies of the final environmental statement and land use plan for the West Slope of the Tetons Planning Unit in Wyoming are available from the Bridger-Teton Forest office at 320 N. Cache, Jackson, Wyo. 83001. The final statement includes few changes from the draft, according to the **Jackson Hole News**. The plan will be implemented April 30.

SOLAR ENERGY HANDBOOK

"A Citizen's Handbook on Solar Energy" — which includes information on solar heating and cooling, wind power, bioconversion, ocean thermal power, solar thermal conversion, and photovoltaic energy — is available for \$1.50 from Public Interest Research Group, 2000 P St. N.W., R 711, Washington D.C. 20036.



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Western Roundup

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Fate of Missouri River up to Melcher

Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.) is sitting on a bill which would place part of the Missouri River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The bill, S. 1506, passed overwhelmingly in the Senate and moved to the House subcommittee on parks and recreation. Conservationists say that the bill probably won't be put on the subcommittee's hearing calendar unless Melcher, whose district the bill will affect, asks that it be scheduled. The bill passed by the Senate places 149 miles of the river from Fort Benton to the Fred Robinson Bridge in Montana in the protected system. Traditional uses of the river corridor are provided for in the legislation, including grazing and some forms of irrigation. Other members of the subcommittee who are in the Rocky Mountain region are Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) and Allen T. Howe (D-Utah).

Rejected twice, Rainbows still seek site

Although its requests have been rejected by officials at Glacier National Park and Kootenai National Forest, the Rainbow Family still plans to hold a mass gathering in northwestern Montana in July. The loosely knit religious organization is holding an international peace gathering which could draw up to 20,000 people, members of the group say. They still hope to find an acceptable site, possibly through an appeal to Montana's governor. The group's application to meet on public forest lands was turned down by the Forest Service because officials said the gathering would cause "unacceptable" damage and because the area is designated for "dispersed, not mass, recreation." Kootenai National Forest Supervisor Floyd J. Marita explained, "We respect the rights of the individuals to meet. This right is guaranteed by our Constitution. At the same time, we must weigh this right against other rights, in this instance the right of the public to expect protection of public lands from excessive damage and the right to enjoy that particular area for dispersed recreation."

Senate committee passes range-aid bill

The Senate Interior Committee has passed legislation designed to rehabilitate more than 144.5 million acres of Western rangeland owned by the public and administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Sen. Floyd K. Haskell (D-Colo.) says "It's deplorable that we've waited this long to take strong action to stop the decline of the federal range." A 1975 BLM report rated 33% of the federal range in poor condition and only 17% in good or excellent condition.

Diamond Ring guilty; loses its permit

A tenth circuit appeals court has ruled against the Diamond Ring Ranch in Wyoming for the unauthorized use of herbicides on 3,600 acres of public lands. The ranch used the herbicide 2-4D to kill sagebrush on the land it was leasing from the Bureau of Land Management for grazing. In a lower court decision, U.S. District Judge Ewing Kerr had called the action an "innocent mistake," and lifted a 2-year revocation of the ranch's grazing permit. The appeals court reversed the decision, ruling that the BLM has the power to revoke a grazing permit for a willful violation of conservation laws. Shortly after the first decision, HCN Publisher Tom Bell pointed out in a column that the ranch had unsuccessfully applied for a spraying permit at least two years before the "innocent mistake" took place. The owner of the ranch, Van Irvine, had been fined for illegally killing game animals and filling the carcasses with poison. He had also been accused of building 69 miles of illegal fencing on public lands. "Judge Kerr was obviously not in possession of the facts, or conveniently chose to ignore them," Bell said. "The powerful and the high and the mighty get by with a broad wink in the very heart of our judicial system. (Van Irvine was president of the powerful Wyoming Stockgrowers Association on or about the time the spraying took place.)" See HCN 1-17-75, page 2.

Timber reform: rely on Congressional standards or professionals?

A shortage of toilet paper is among the consequences threatened by the timber industry if a bill which would regulate clearcutting is passed by Congress in May.

The bill, the National Forest Timber Management Reform Act of 1976 is strongly supported by most citizen conservation groups because it sets up legislative restrictions to protect wildlife, soil, water, and recreation resources. The bill (S 2926 and HR 11894) was introduced by Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.) and by Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.). (See HCN 3-12-76, p. 13)

A counter-measure introduced by Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) and Rep. Biz Johnson (D-Calif.) is being pushed by the forest industry and a number of government officials as a substitute for the Randolph-Brown measure. The Humphrey-Johnson bill would leave decisions about clearcutting up to government professionals.

Hearings on both bills have been held before the House and Senate agricultural committees. Most witnesses, including Russell Peterson, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality; John McGuire, chief of the U.S. Forest Service; Oregon Gov. Robert W. Straub; and a representative for Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus have favored passage of the Humphrey-Johnson bill (S 3091 and HR 12503).

Brock Evans, Washington representative of the Sierra Club and an expert on forestry, says the Humphrey bill gives the timber industry "everything it wants." Nevertheless, supporters of the Humphrey bill say that they have the votes to win in both committees and on the Senate floor. Evans is focusing his efforts on the vote on the floor of the House, where timber states have less influence.

Dale Burk, a conservation writer for *The Missoulian*, testified at the Senate hearings in favor of the Randolph bill, with certain strengthening amendments added.

"The people must regain control of



Clearcutting in Idaho. Should Congress set guidelines?

Photo by Ernie Day

their forests," Burk said. "Professional foresters are wood merchants first and catch-as-catch-can foresters second."

As an example of the Forest Service's vulnerability to outside pressures and the need for strong legislation to guide the agency, Burk pointed to President Gerald Ford's former campaign manager, Bo Calloway. Calloway allegedly used his influence to change a Forest Service decision about expansion of a Colorado ski resort.

G. M. Brandborg of Hamilton, Mont., a retired supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest, also testified in favor of the Randolph bill.

The controversial practice of clearcutting began on the national forests in 1964. In most of the country the Randolph bill would limit the size of clearcuts on public lands to 25 acres, except where timber has been damaged by fire, disease, pest infestation, blowdowns, or other

catastrophes. The bill would ban clearcuts in Eastern hardwood forests, except where the technique is judged necessary to improve wildlife habitat or salvage timber damaged by fire, disease, pest infestation, blowdowns, or other catastrophes.

Members of the committees have indicated they will try to resolve the differences between the two bills and have legislation on the floor of both Houses before May 15.

14-High Country News — Apr. 9, 1976



All the Strange Hours

The Excavation of a Life

by Loren Eiseley, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1975. \$9.95, hard cover, 273 pages. Illustrations by Emanuel Haller.

Review by Peter Wild

With such books as *The Immense Journey* and *The Firmament of Time*, Loren Eiseley has helped shape our perspective of who we are on the planet. His view is one that humbles: man is a bumbling transient in a world more wondrous than he deserves. Now, as the capstone of a career, his biography presents the visions behind the vision, making public the haunted mind that is the force behind his acclaimed writings.

Happily, the voice of the aging naturalist remains charged with the vividness that writers envy. The revelations are exciting but not pretty. As a youth during the Depression, he bummed across the West on the railroads, one among millions of other men, aimless and hungry in a rich but paralyzed nation. He remembers sharing a few scraps of food with a lost mongrel at a deserted siding. Again he sees himself moving on, swinging aboard a passing freight as the dog runs alongside. For 50 years the eyes of the trusting dog have haunted him. He remembers escaping through the woods from his deaf, perhaps insane, mother, who stumbles after him, face twisted, her screams incoherent. Revisiting a pond he loved, one of the sacred places of his childhood, he finds it filled with trash.

After years of sickness and poverty, Eiseley achieved fame as a writer and success in the academic world as head of a prestigious anthropology department. However, beneath the veneer of public life, at least as he tells it, all is madness, loss. His nightmares are those that live within all of us, though perhaps more dimly seen, less often disturbed. What would be the stuff of self-indulgence in less skilled hands Eiseley weaves into an artistic whole, a long prose poem.

Yet *All the Strange Hours* is more than a fascinating journey through the tormented landscape of a brilliant mind. Eiseley views his life as a metaphor for a nation that clings to an aggressive pioneer ethic long after its wilderness has disappeared. He feels himself part of "the debris of life" resulting from the conquest. It is a discomfiting, at times nihilistic, vision of a man who sees the destructive values promoted in his childhood dooming the land and its people. Somewhere the poet Louis Simpson comments on America's historical process: "At the end of the open road we come to ourselves." Coming to ourselves, taking a hard look at where we have come and where we might go, is one of those difficult turnings to truth that a civilization cannot ignore if it is to survive. Ahead of most of the nation, Eiseley has taken a painful step in that necessary direction.



Loren Eiseley Photo by Frank Ross

Without sun . . .

(Continued from page 6)

is commonly held by rocks or water, which are contained by anything from a stack of empty milk cartons to a specially designed tank.

From an engineer's point of view, a round heat storage container is best, because it has less surface area to lose heat, Jack Park told the solar energy workshop.

But once that principle is understood, Park suggests using the best vessel that is readily available to you. If you have an old cistern — fine — use it, Park says.

The alternative is to buy a tank. For storing water, polyethylene tanks which hold up to 2,000 gallons run about \$1,500 to \$2,000 a piece. Fiberglass tanks are cheaper, but for even less — a few hundred dollars — you can get steel tanks. Corrosion may be a problem with the steel, so Park recommends that you mount them somewhere where you can dig them out and replace them. Or you can avoid the corrosion by treating the sides of the tank with tar paint.

"I have a theory," Park says. "If you have a tank — no matter how inefficient it may be — use it. But build a gazebo or something on top of it so that you don't have the ground on top getting cold and drawing out heat. If you can insulate this area and not water it, then the ground around the tank will become part of the tank in terms of thermal storage."

Park also pointed out some problems associated with rock storage. Although you don't need an absolutely leak-proof tank, you do need to keep water out. Otherwise, troublesome problems may arise. For one thing, bacteria will grow and may contaminate the air which is passed through the rocks to pick up heat.

Grumman & Old Town

CANOES

HUNGRY JACK'S STORE
Wilson, Wyo. 83014

Conservation lobbyists announce Dirty Dozen

House Minority Leader John Rhodes (R-Ariz.) and 11 other congressmen have been named to the 1976 Dirty Dozen, a list of anti-environmental legislators targeted for defeat at the polls this year. The list was compiled by the Dirty Dozen Campaign, the political campaign committee of Environmental Action, Inc., a non-partisan national environmental lobby.

"These men have ridden roughshod over the nation's environmental interests for too long," said Dennis Bass, director of the campaign. "It's time for the people to clean up America by cleaning up Congress."

The group cited recent polls showing that an overwhelming majority of Americans believe that the time to reduce pollution is now. "Either these 12 men are not listening or they don't care what the public thinks. Americans are sick and tired of legislators who put corporate interests before the health and safety of their constituents."

Joining Rhodes on this year's list are Reps. Goodloe Byron (D-Md.), Donald Clancy (R-Ohio), James Cleveland (R-N.H.), Samuel Devine (R-Ohio), John Flynt (D-Georgia), Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), Albert Johnson (R-Penn.), Gene Snyder (R-Ky.), Steve Symms (R-Idaho), Burt Talcott (R-Calif.), and Richard White (D-Texas). The 12 have places on several important environmental committees, including Interior, Public Works, Commerce and Agriculture.

The Dirty Dozen were chosen in part on the basis of their votes on 14 key environmental issues in 1975. The votes included energy conservation, strip mining control,

nuclear safety, solar energy development, and the SST. None of the Dirty Dozen had more than three correct votes and Reps. Johnson and Clancy had no correct environmental votes.

In making its choices this year, the Dirty Dozen Campaign also considered the quality of each incumbent's opposition, his seniority and position on House committees that deal with environmental issues, and the interest and impact that local environmentalists will have in the campaign.

Meanwhile Rhodes and several other Dirty Dozen nominees have asked the Fair Campaign Practices Committee to investigate the ethical questions raised by such ratings, according to *Air-Water Pollution Report*.

Rhodes says that it's an "unfair and misleading test." He said that most of the so-called Dirty Dozen are not anti-environment, but pro-energy and pro-jobs.

The environmentalists asserted that many Americans will take the Dirty Dozen designation seriously when voting this year. They backed up their claim by pointing out that, after three previous campaigns in 1970, 1972 and 1974, 77% of those named to the list are no longer in Congress, including such men as Wayne Aspinall (D-Colo.), former chairman of the House Interior Committee, and George Fallon (D-Md.), former chairman of the House Public Works Committee. By comparison, only 10% of other House incumbents were defeated in those years.

Rhodes calls the affair "a cheap publicity gimmick."

Chamberlain Basin. . .

(Continued from page 5)

is the first in the 45-year history of the area. The scope of the task can best be appreciated by realizing that it is a cooperative effort among four national forests and that it is being done under fire from special interest groups to relax management of the area. After all, the groups reason, most of the area is going to be declassified anyway.

The rangers have responded by drafting a plan which will manage the area under the strictest possible wilderness criteria. The plan will be ready for public comment by summer 1976. Copies may be obtained by writing the Forest Supervisor of Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho 83638.

Although it is theoretically an interim plan, those in the field are prepared to use it indefinitely. One ranger said, "We have to manage the area until everyone else gets tired of political games." He recalls that the fate of the High Uintas Wilderness in Utah has been in limbo for approximately 10 years.

"CLEAR AS GIN"

So the "biggest and best" wilderness in the lower 48 is up for grabs. Wilderness advocates are preparing for battle, taking special precautions to guard their flanks. In a recent letter, Trueblood explained in a nutshell why he knows they will come out on top. He said:

"I recently flew home from Chamberlain after two days of steady rain which, added to heavy snow runoff, had Chamberlain Creek . . . out of its banks. Yet its water was clear as gin!

"It was the only clear water I saw that day. Every other stream we flew over on

the way to Boise was muddy, some of them almost chocolate colored. Chamberlain Creek has no roads or logging on its watershed; all the others do. The effect of this "multiple use" was so obvious that it doubled my determination to help preserve the River of No Return Wilderness — no matter how long the struggle may last."

Carl Brown is a freelance conservation writer based in Lake Fork, Idaho, which is near the Chamberlain Basin. He is also involved in environmental education work, including a project for the Rachel-wood Wildlife Research Preserve in Pennsylvania.

Photographer Ted Trueblood is a journalist based in Nampa, Idaho. He is president of the River of No Return Wilderness Council and a *Field and Stream* outdoor editor.

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Reckoning from Washington

INCREASED GRAZING FEES

by Lee Catterall

Stockmen can expect more sharp increases in federal grazing fees over the next four years unless Congress comes to their rescue.

The government announced earlier this year it would increase those fees by 50%. That brought howls from Western ranchers, and future increases seem certain to keep them hopping mad as the government tries to play catch-up with its long-range program to bring its own grazing fees more into line with private rates, or what it calls "fair market value."

The federal plans were supposed to end the controversy over grazing rates, not fan it.

However, when the government adopted the 10-year program in 1969, it didn't figure the livestock industry has some good years and, not infrequently, some disastrous ones. Responding to those disastrous years, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) departed from the gradual nature of the program and turned it into a series of thrusts and halts.

"If the Administration had done what it should have, there wouldn't be this controversy," former BLM director Floyd Rasmussen complained to this column.

In 1968, ranchers were paying the government a bargain rate of 33 cents an animal unit month — one cow grazing one month. The government inaugurated its program by raising that fee to 44 cents the following year, but three times since then has decided not to go ahead with increases outlined in the 10-year program.

Under the plan, the rates were to increase by nine cents a year plus inflationary costs so they would reach "fair market value" by 1980.

Last year, BLM decided to keep the 1974 rate of \$1, and stockmen praised the government for being perceptive and sympathetic about the plight of the depressed livestock industry.

That moratorium put the government far behind its timetable, and it remains in the catch-up position even after this year's increase from \$1 to \$1.51. (The Forest Service, which also is part of the program, increased its rate from \$1.11 to \$1.60.) The rates still are less than the 1976 target of \$1.76 in the government's timetable.

That means that even without inflation in the coming year, the BLM fee will increase even more as the government tries to get on its track.

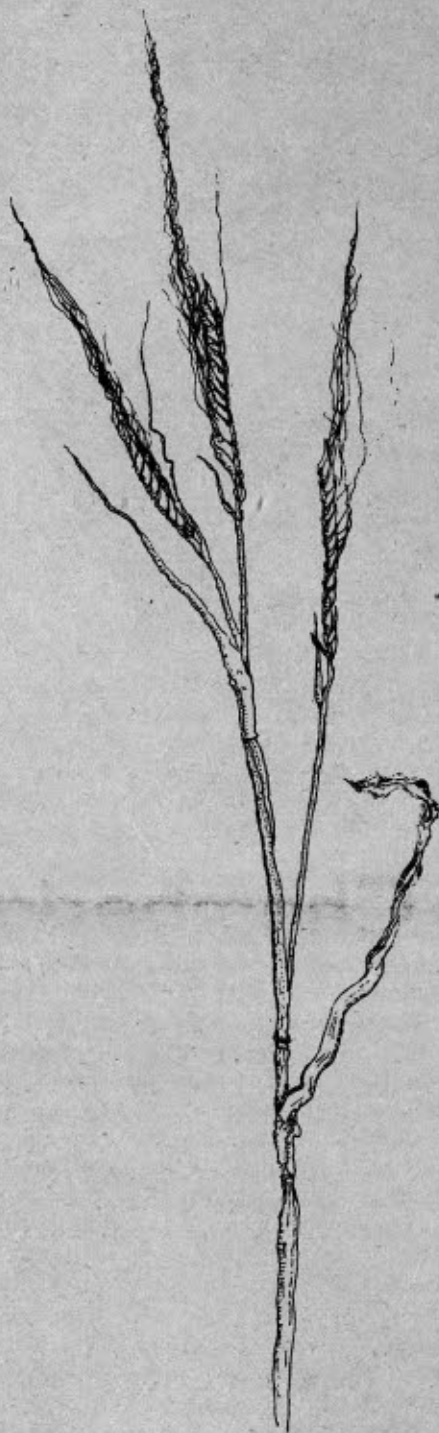
Meanwhile, Sen. Clifford Hansen (R-Wyo.) is trying to get Congress to scrap the timetable. This year's fee increase will put many "small family operations" out of business, he says.

Hansen disputes the fairness of the government tying its fees to its "fair market value" formula, which he says doesn't take into account the condition of the livestock industry.

Instead, he is pushing his own plan to tie fees to livestock prices. "If the price of livestock increases, the grazing fees will reflect proportionately a like increase," he told the Senate in February. "If they drop lower,

the grazing fee will be lower in a proportional amount." The Senate rejected, 36 to 53, an attempt by Hansen to attach his plan as an amendment to a bill before Congress then.

Hansen plans to push his plan as a separate bill. Hearings on it are planned later this month. Some environmentalists, who want the money from increased fees to be used for range improvements, will oppose the Hansen bill as a "rip-off" for livestock interests.



TANGLEHEAD

Drawing by Gary Nabhan

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Idahoans are feeling alarmed
For fear Chamberlain will be harmed
The rules are lax
On curbing the axe
And their wilderness may be tree-farmed!

* * *

KLEPPE BACKS STEIGER. Secretary of Interior Thomas Kleppe revealed his biases by co-sponsoring a \$100 a person fundraiser for Arizona Rep. Sam Steiger (R). Steiger has been in the forefront of efforts to kill strip mining legislation, land use legislation, and various wilderness bills. "By insisting on helping a virulent anti-environmentalist in his political campaign, Kleppe has called the integrity of his whole department into question," says Idaho State Journal columnist Gary Haden.

POWER SHIFT. The South and the West are the fastest growing regions in the U.S. and they will hold a majority of seats in the House of Representatives after the 1980 census and reapportionment, according to a New York Times prediction. New York state might lose another four seats while Florida is expected to pick up five. Western states expected to gain one or more seats include Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and Texas.

ENDANGERED SPECIES AMENDMENTS. A House subcommittee held hearings March 26 on two bills to amend the Endangered Species Act. Both bills would authorize paying citizens for losses of livestock or pets caused by either endangered or threatened species. The bills, H.R. 12057 and 12554, were introduced by Rep. James L. Oberstar of Minnesota and Rep. Don Young of Alaska. Oberstar says that farmers are killing wolves in his state to protect cattle. "I'm just trying to restore some respect for the Endangered Species Act," he says. The House Merchant Marine Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation is considering the bills.

PARK CONCESSIONS ATTACKED. Two House committees have attacked the National Parks System policy on concessions saying it favors "big business" in awarding contracts for providing food, lodging, and other services to visitors, according to a United Press International report. The House Government Operations Committee and the House Small Business Committee made the charges. The park service admitted it "prefers to contract with large companies for food and lodging

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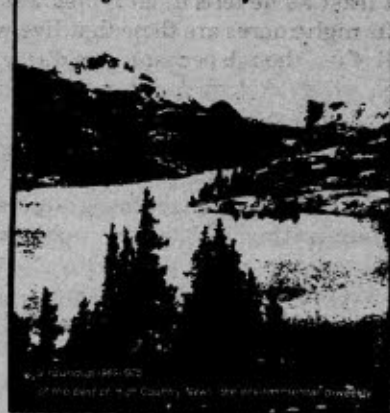
services on the grounds that small businesses generally do not have the financial resources necessary for such operations." The committees criticized the park policy of favoring a single concessioner in each park. "Such policies make a mockery of competitive free enterprise," they said.

AIR BIAS LACKS BASIS. "We are making multibillion dollar decisions about controlling air pollution on a 25 cent data base," according to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) researcher. Dr. John Knelson, who heads the laboratory set up by EPA to determine the links between air pollution and public health, says more emphasis should be put on research and on giving the scientists the resources to work with. Several scientists interviewed by the Los Angeles Times say air standards should not be changed until more information is available about the effects of pollutants.

ROME BANNING CARS. Italian authorities are banning private vehicles from congested urban centers such as Rome's and planning underground transportation systems, according to World Environment Report. The report says many countries are turning back to trolley buses and street cars to combat air pollution and excessive fuel consumption. Mexico City spent several million dollars between 1970 and 1974 to build up a fleet of 250 street-cars and 550 trolleys.

SIERRA CLUB AG POLICY. The Sierra Club National Board approved an agricultural policy at its meeting recently in San Francisco. The policy was initiated by the Northern Plains Regional Conservation committee in meetings with members of several agricultural organizations. The policy calls for estate tax reform to protect the family farm, land use planning which controls the conversion of agricultural lands to other purposes, and for predator control aimed at individual problem animals, according to the Casper Star-Tribune. The policy says that grazing fees on public lands should reflect the total social, economic, and environmental costs of the use of the resource.

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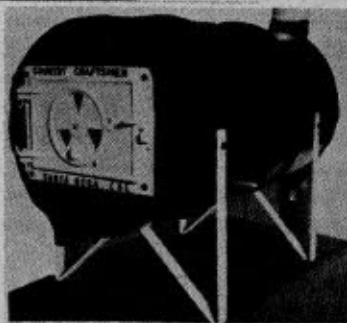
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Arizona activist Priscilla Robinson

Success formula: don't waste time losing

by Peter Wild

"I didn't waste time losing," says Priscilla Robinson of her activist career prior to becoming Director of Southwest Environmental Service. "I didn't let insolvable problems drain my energies when there were solvable problems at hand."

Her organization, known locally as SES, is funded by a private individual concerned with the future of Arizona. SES places special emphasis on studying ways for cities like Tucson to maintain the quality of urban environments and the fragile deserts surrounding them. Modeled somewhat after the Santa Fe Central Clearing

One of the biggest mistakes you can make is to stereotype the public official. The key to lobbying is to recognize that the political person is a whole person and to give him a chance.

—Priscilla Robinson

House, it gathers information and makes it available to volunteer community groups, which then play the advocacy roles of their choices.

Robinson's job is to be knowledgeable. She keeps in touch with the city and county planning departments and assembles research on open space, air and water quality, from state and federal agencies. Her extensive files are open to anyone. Further, to help people understand the kinds of alternatives available to them, she encour-

ages citizen participation by holding seminars on community problems.

A current topic of dispute is a proposed slope ordinance, which would regulate the city's spread into the nearby cactus-studded mountains. To discuss the pros and cons, she brought together homeowner associations, conservationists, and developers, groups often at loggerheads. They expressed their diversity and considered differing goals in order to plan what will be best for the community as a whole.

Though her work now is educational rather than activist, Robinson's varied background enables her to bridge the gap between the Junior League and Friends of the Earth, between the local Chamber of Commerce and wildlife groups. She was the first president of the Southern Arizona Environmental Council, whose members include women's clubs, conservationists, and business and neighborhood associations. The organizations are of several persuasions, often those not primarily committed to a quality environment. She helped promote consideration of the beneficial roles each might play in making the city livable in the coming decades.

For a year she gained practical experience in journalism by editing the council's newsletter. Before this she directed public affairs for Planned Parenthood in the state and lobbied for the Equal Rights Amendment in the legislature.

Reflecting her independence and savvy, she once was a welfare worker, crisscrossing the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations alone in her pickup. Male counterparts at the time considered the trips unsafe unless they traveled the vast tableland in pairs.

Of SES's several functions, the public makes most use of information supplied on



Priscilla Robinson

Photo by Peter J. Robinson

planning for future growth. Robinson feels that "the community is ready to move toward land use planning." And she is "optimistic because the political climate is favorable."

Things weren't always so bright. As is true of many Western cities, after World War II Tucson boomed, a huge, mindless amoeba expanding across the desert. Community leaders had their eyes open only to the temporary benefits of unregulated growth. They gave little thought to its consequences, or to who would pay the long-term costs. Typically, developers from the East bulldozed hilly desert areas flat, erected suburbs, then went home with their profits — leaving the taxpayers to deal with the problems of schools, sewers, and parks.

When compared to the long history of apathy, public attitudes changed almost overnight, spurred by a core of about 25 strong-minded activists who united behind common goals of social and environmental causes. In 1972 the townspeople demonstrated their awakening to abuses by electing the first environmentally committed candidate to the city council. A year later voters added two more, and the 1975 elections environmentalists gained a majority on the city's ruling body.

Showing that they are willing to pay as well as vote for quality, citizens recently approved a \$4 million bond to acquire Rancho Romero, a wild area in the nearby Catalina Mountains, in order to protect a

small band of bighorn sheep threatened by business expansion. Robinson comments that five years ago most people would have thought such major shifts in public sentiment impossible. She is also quick to point out that, "because of the opportunities that didn't exist elsewhere in the old politics," women are largely responsible for the new political atmosphere. The informational services made available by SES dovetail nicely with the changes being carried out mostly through volunteer efforts.

Added to her thoroughness and drive is a genuine enthusiasm for people. She says "Most of the job is pure fun. In no way is what I'm doing work."

For her the one-dimensional mossback politician doesn't exist. "One of the biggest mistakes you can make is to stereotype the public official. The key to lobbying is to recognize that the political person is a whole person and to give him a chance." Robinson sees people, whether environmentalists or developers, in the round, as individuals with concerns and needs. Understanding their situations and aspirations is essential to understanding the positions they take on issues.

Further, she "enjoys seeing a whole range of opinion." Her job as she views it is to help women and men to do things well, to help others consider the future from new angles and to find new roles that will benefit the community. "That might sound corny, but that is something important to me," she says without apology.

Dear Friends,

This week, sitting here at what we like to call the "hub of the region," is somewhat like being at the eye of the coming storm of energy activity. To our north, at Colstrip, the testimony has ended and a decision will be made soon on the two additional coal-fired units there. East of us at Buffalo, Wyo., and at Douglas, gasification plants look likely, with another north of that in North Dakota. West of here, another round of hearings has just ended in Boise on the coal-fired Pioneer plant. To the southwest, Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe is taking one last look before he decides whether the granddaddy of them all, Kaiparowits, will be built on a scenic plateau in Utah. Colorado, too, is bustling with activity as legislators from the northeast corner of the state — where the Brush plant is planned — try to convince Republicans that the time is now for energy laws.

Of course, little isolated Lander isn't really seen as the "hub" by anybody else. We feel that way because of the newspapers piling into our office from all corners, we suppose. And the phone calls that keep us in touch with some of your tribulations.

The fantasy has its frustrations, particularly at this time of year, when the legislatures are meeting. We're too uncomfortably aware of all the obstacles to regionwide communication — for citizen activists, for legislators, and for media people, too.

Wyoming people are complaining about the lengthy, expensive hearings for the 1,500 megawatt plant proposed near Wheatland. The hearing before the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council took eight days.

If only they knew the Colstrip hearings for their 1,500 megawatt proposed addition took 104 days. . . .

Colorado legislators mutter about industry leaving the state or having to fire workers if a higher severance tax is passed.

If only they knew how those words have reverberated across the region, from one state to another, as each raised its severance taxes . . . and how there has been no mass exodus.

The most extreme example of legislators being apparently ignorant of the momentum building in the region for energy development are the Republicans who defeated an energy siting bill in Colorado because it "isn't needed at this time."

Maybe it's the mountain ranges that block the flow, creating "information sheds" as well as air sheds. Or maybe it's the long stretches of prairie. More likely, it's the energy shortages of the people themselves.

At any rate we and other regional groups will continue to try to cross those barriers with your help. But HCN just doesn't reach enough people, and never will reach everybody. Any ideas out there?

—the editors

In
The News

Chamberlain

Idaho's secret is out.

1

Solar tinkerers

workshop for inventors.

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