

The Environmental Bi-Weekly



High Country News

Vol. 8 No. 9

Lander, Wyoming

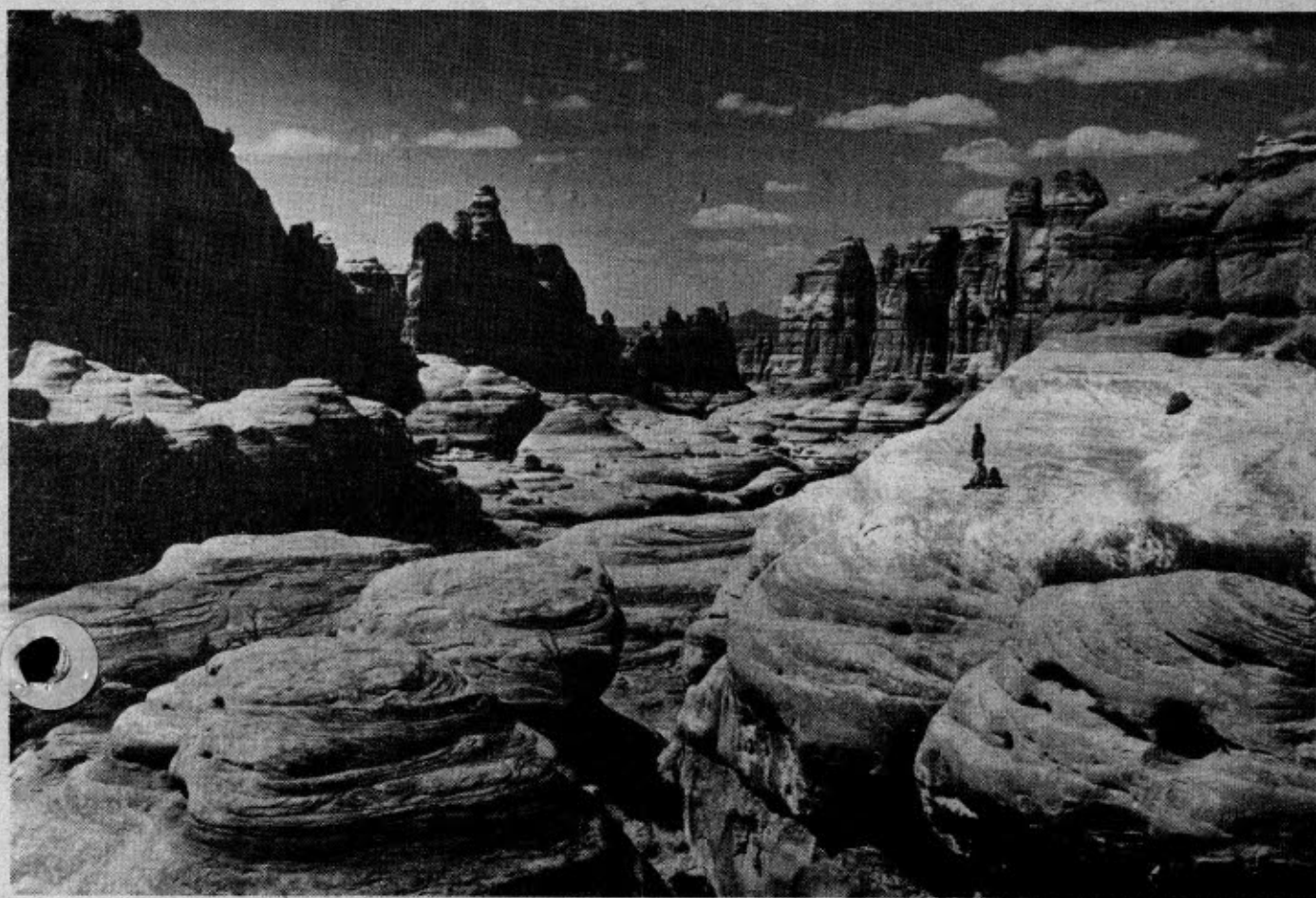
Friday, April 23, 1976



Glee and gloom in Utah

Kaiparowits coal power plans scuttled

by Jack McLellan



ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES, CLEAR SKIES. Elephant Canyon in Canyonlands National Park would have been just upwind from the Kaiparowits plant. Due to economic uncertainties in the utility business, the skies will remain clear here for a while longer.

Photo by Jack McLellan

Kaiparowits is dead — at least as presently envisioned.

The decision came shortly before noon on April 15 when William R. Gould, executive vice-president of Southern California Edison, said, "Our plan to construct the 3,000 megawatt coal-fired plant has been abandoned." Gould spoke for his partners in a consortium, San Diego Gas and Electric and Arizona Public Service, as well as his own company.

Keith Turley, president of the Arizona Public Service, said he and his company "will be examining the feasibility of the project — perhaps on a smaller scale — with other participants."

Increasing costs, environmental constraints, anticipated lawsuits, and anticipated legislation at federal and California state levels were cited as major reasons for the utilities withdrawal.

While proponents were shocked and angered over cancellation of plans for what would have been the largest coal-fired power plant in the U.S., opponents expressed elation tempered with suspicion. "Of course we're delighted," said Jan Johnson, Utah Environment Center Director. "But when we hear of secret meetings between the three power companies and the under-secretary of the Interior Department the night before the announcement, we wonder

(Continued on page 6)



High Uintas

In the time of the Uintas Indians the Uinta mountain range was wild and free. It still is. But it is threatened by the timbering prescribed in a Forest Service land use plan.

See page 7

Citizens challenge Wheatland ruling

by Marjane Ambler

The Wyoming Industrial Siting Council has decided, in a 4-2 vote, that a 1,500 megawatt power plant can be built at Wheatland, Wyo. Chairman John Troughton and Bob Wallick voted against the decision.

However, the Laramie River Conservation Council (LRCC) is taking the siting council to court to determine whether or not the council acted according to the state siting law.

The permit for the Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP) plant was allowed conditionally, with the conditions to be issued at another meeting April 26 in Rock Springs.

Dave Palmerlee, attorney for the LRCC, says, "It is my view that the council completely missed the point of the industrial siting act.

"The point is that if there is a doubt, it should be resolved in favor of further study



JOHN TROUGHTON. "I would like to say (to the industry), 'You're not going to change my lifestyle.' But I don't see myself as having the power or the authority to say that."

... In this case, as evidenced by the deliberations, they resolved every doubt in favor of the plant. This is contrary to the intent of the act and to the literal language of the act."

Palmerlee said the LRCC would be making "every effort to participate in drafting conditions to insure that they are the very best possible because even if we are ultimately not successful (in court action), we want the plant handled in the very best way possible."

Under Wyoming's unique two stage process, the council had two other options at its decision-making meeting in Jackson, Wyo. It could have granted the permit without conditions, or it could have demanded further study, thus putting the application into the second stage.

In order to grant the permit now, the council had to determine that the plant —

(continued on page 4)



Editorials

HCN

MBPP 'clay' was already fired

When news of the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council's decision approving the Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP) plant reached environmentalists and agriculturalists throughout the state, many were extremely disappointed.

But to those in the room when the decision was being made, it was even more distressing because it seemed that something was awry. The men of the council seemed uncomfortable. It wasn't just that they felt the eyes of 30 people in the room watching, with more than half of them MBPP men.

Nor was it just that they were working with technical and academic terminology from the hearing that some of them only partially understood — especially the two council members who had only attended part of the hearing.

Perhaps the reason some of the council members seemed to be squirming in their new roles was that they felt a conflict. They were well aware that their assignment, under the law, was to protect the people and the resources of the Wheatland area as best they could.

But they didn't seem to want to seize their power 1) to turn down the application, 2) to change the site, or even, apparently, 3) to say how big the plant could be. These are the only ways they could really prevent such a large project from having a serious effect on such a small community.

In one case it was blatant. Council member Ed Grant said about the impact on the agricultural economy, "There's nothing anybody can do in this area. Can there be such a thing as alleviation plans?" Therefore, he avoided the dilemma by saying there was no serious threat.

Why didn't they feel they had the legislative authority to make any of those three rulings? While there are many good reasons to say the individual biases of some of the members are to blame, the core issue seems to be one of timing.

Wyoming's unique two stage siting procedure seems to be designed for a very legitimate purpose — a purpose that should serve the interests of both the state and the applicant. It should allow the applicant to get the council's appraisal of possible concerns early in the process.

It appears that the law is designed so that any major facilities which are likely to have a major effect would then automati-

cally go to the second stage, where the intensive studies would be done.

That's why the law asks that the applicant prepare the original application and allows only 60 days for the staff to study it. In contrast, the second stage allows a maximum of 360 days for the staff to gather and the council to study information.

That's why a maximum of \$100,000 is allowed in the law for the first stage study while as much as \$900,000 is allowed for the second stage.

That's why the law uses terms such as "preliminary" when referring to the first stage.

To take it a step further, it would be even better if the council got involved before the

applicant narrowed down exactly where the site would be and before the size of the plant was determined. The applicant could supply information to the council about three or four different alternatives. Then the council could dictate which alternative would be the most acceptable, and the studies would begin at the state's direction. This would require a few changes in the law, especially in the length of the study period at the second stage.

Instead, MBPP was already far along in its planning before the siting act was even passed. By the time the council considered its application, the clay that the council was to mold to fit the contours of the needs of the state had already been fired and glazed.

MBPP repeated throughout the hearing that all of its mitigation plans to ease impact were dependent upon a 1,500

megawatt power plant being built — starting this spring — at the Wheatland site.

As Dave Palmerlee, attorney for the intervenors, generously pointed out before the decision-making meeting began, "It would be hard no matter who you are to make a decision under those conditions."

Enter the siting council. Its members are men who resist interfering with "free enterprise," who don't want to "create a hardship for the applicant," who assume the applicant will be "reasonable." And one of them, Paul Anselmi, doesn't seem to believe that agriculture is a good base for the economy anyway.

Perhaps their faith in the applicant being reasonable was based upon the individual performance of MBPP — which admittedly had gone far toward exercising corporate responsibility in the areas of housing and schools. But the siting act was passed because past experience in this state has shown that industry isn't always reasonable. Nor should the council generalize from the company's actions in one area to assume it will act responsibly in another, such as transmission line siting.

In any case, no matter how hard it is to make a decision under these conditions, that is the council's assigned responsibility.

And it's still within the council's legislative authority to put a strong condition on the approved permit: limiting the size of the plant. We would hope that next week when they meet they take a serious look at what the evidence shows the community can withstand and limit the permit accordingly.

MBPP has made many investments in its current plans. But as Tony Weber, Wheatland area rancher, points out, "If I've been hauled out. You just start over next year."

In the future, we hope the council — and perhaps the legislature — looks closely at the question of timing and takes whatever action is necessary to assure that the council members won't be forced into such uncomfortable positions next time.

—MJA



"DANGEROUS? WITH THAT SMILE?"

Don't export your pollution problems

Citizen groups fighting power plants in Wyoming and Idaho may end up fighting each other.

Groups in Wyoming — notably the Powder River Basin Resource Council, the Wyoming Outdoor Council, and the Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club — have been urging that coal be exported from their state and burned in power plants in other states near the electricity demand load centers. "Say goodbye to coal, not Wyoming," has been their battle cry. They say the people who demand additional energy should be required to live with the pollution from the power plants that their energy appetites require.

The Pioneer power plant planned for south of Boise, Idaho, is a good example. Pioneer is proposed by the Idaho Power Company (IPC). The coal for Pioneer would come from Wyoming, near Rock Springs, and most of the power would be consumed in Idaho. A plant to serve Idaho would be built in Idaho.

The last coal-fired power plant IPC helped build was the Jim Bridger plant near Rock Springs. Southwestern Wyom-

ing now lives with the pollution from Jim Bridger and a large portion of the power is transmitted to Idaho.

Idahoans are understandably worried about the pollution from the proposed Pioneer plant. Up until now they've been able to rely on hydroelectric power or coal-fired plants in other states like Jim Bridger. Recently Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus and a number of citizen organizations have come out against Pioneer in public hearings in Idaho.

We applaud Idahoans who want to avoid the problems of coal-fired power plants and are willing to seek constructive alternatives. We admire groups in Idaho that are pushing energy conservation; implementation of solar, wind, and geothermal energy; and a halt to new desert farming (which consumes great amounts of energy) as alternatives to building a 1,000 megawatt power plant in Idaho. But lately Pioneer opponents have taken a new tack — one we must protest vigorously.

Harold Miles, chairman of the power committee for Idaho Consumer Affairs,

Inc., recently testified for his organization against the Pioneer plant. In his testimony, Miles said that if and when IPC needs additional coal-fired capacity, it should build another unit at Jim Bridger. Jim Bridger, when completed, will be one of the largest power plants in the country totaling 2,000 megawatts. Another unit to service Idaho would make it the largest plant in the world.

Miles favors the Jim Bridger site because Wyoming has better air quality control laws than Idaho. That's a hollow argument.

Wyomingites worked hard to achieve tough air pollution regulations to protect their state — not so the rest of the region could send polluters to Wyoming to clean them up. If Idahoans want their state's air kept clean, they better pass tougher pollution laws or learn to do without additional coal-fired power.

There may be alternatives to building Pioneer, but one that should not be considered is building Pioneer in another state.

—BH

High Country News

Published biweekly at 140 N. Seventh St., Lander, Wyo. 82520. Telephone 307-332-1877. Second class postage paid at Lander.

Publisher	Thomas A. Bell
Managing Editor	Jean Nice
News Editor	Bruce Hamilton
Associate Editor	Margaret Ambler
Office Manager	Mary Margaret Davis
Advertising Manager	August Dauter
Circulation Manager	Georgia Nations
Design Consultant	Jeffrey Clack

Subscription rate \$10.00
Single copy rate 35¢

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

Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520.



Guest Editorial HCN

Big chance for timber reform

by Pamela Rich
and Ted Whitesell

Congress is moving as fast as possible to rush through timber management legislation which will have major impacts on all the national forests for years to come.

There are two major opposing legislative proposals around which the debate has focussed. One is the Timber Management Reform Act of 1976 (S 2926 and HR 11894) introduced by Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.) and Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.). The Timber Management Reform Act (TMRA) is strongly supported by conservation organizations and some members of the professional forestry community. A weaker bill (S 3091 and HR 12503) was introduced by Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) and Rep. Harold Johnson (D-Calif.), and is supported by the timber industry.

The timber industry has created a crisis atmosphere to rush through minimal legislation. Hasty action, however, could only

jeopardize this golden opportunity for forest management reform.

TMRA was introduced to replace the outdated provisions of the 1897 Organic Act with statutory guidelines for national forest management. These would better reflect management needs on today's forests. Drafted with the advice of professional foresters and representatives of such organizations as the Sierra Club and the Izaak Walton League, this legislation:

- limits the size of clearcuts to generally 25 acres;
- requires a 1,000 foot border between clearcuts in any 10 year period;
- requires marking of trees to be left standing in clearcuts;
- prohibits massive commercial cutting of immature trees in the national forest;
- requires sustained yield forestry on each ranger district;
- requires that all timber sales be planned by specialists in many resource disciplines so that all values such as wildlife,

fisheries, and soils are protected;

—encourages the Forest Service to manage tree stands so that a mix of trees of different ages is maintained — "uneven-aged management."

TMRA offers a chance for forest management reform which is unlikely to come again in the foreseeable future. Contrary to industry claims that it would tie the hands of resource managers, TMRA would serve to free the experts from the pressures of special interests.

The political influence of these special interest groups has already served to silence or overrule wise forestry, wildlife, fisheries, and recreation specialists. It codifies in law what the U.S. Forest Service says it is already doing, or at least, should be doing.

By setting cutting standards, and providing for interdisciplinary planning and public participation, this legislation mandates, at long last, meaningful implementation of the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960. All values of the National Forest — wildlife, watershed, soil, wilderness — are insured protection through this legislation.

Events in Congress seem to be building towards floor votes in both Houses maybe as early as June. Hearings before both the

High Country News 3
Apr. 23, 1976

Senate and House Agriculture Committees were held in late March. Committee mark-ups are scheduled in the Senate for joint sessions of the Interior and Agriculture Committees for April 26 and 27, and May 4 and 5.

You can best influence action by writing directly to your Congressional delegation. Urge your Senators and the Representative from your district to support the Randolph-Brown bill's Congressional standards for forest management.

The national forests belong to no one in particular. But they are the home and refuge for countless wildlife species and a great flourishing of diverse vegetative types. They embrace and nurture the precious headwaters of the nation's mighty rivers. They provide priceless opportunities to fulfill the full range of man's needs, not only for wood resources and jobs, but also for solitude, recreation, and open space.

The national forests are a vital part of our lives. Let's take this opportunity to make certain that all the natural values of the national forests will remain forever vital and productive.



HCN Letters

SENSIBLE RANCHING OK

Dear editors,

Thanks for putting the range article (3-26-76) in an issue that emphasizes the positive values of ranching. I should have mentioned that there's a fifth alternative to inefficient range management: sensible ranching and economics of the kind Bob Child embodies.

I'm really not as critical of family ranching's range management as I am of agribusinesses' professional managers anyway.

Oh, also compliment Dixie Reece on the excellent graphics with Mrs. Evans' article — those kinds of images will surely remind people that the ranges are rich places to live, and live for.

Best wishes to all.

Gary Nabhan
Tucson, Ariz.

LIKE READIN' SIGN

Dear Joan Nice,

I've been reading your article, "Salesmen with Sun Power Woo the West" (2-27-76). Indeed, I've read it — like Kit Carson readin' sign — and I'm fascinated and impressed.

Lady, that is fine research and reporting . . . and a very useful article to anyone seeking information on solar home heating appliances.

Best regards,
Brainerd Horner
Ronan, Mont.

STRIP MINE ABOLITIONIST

Dear HCN,

Accompanying this note is my personal statement on strip mining which, in any

known form, makes victims of both the land and the people.

No matter how late the hour, I am still an abolitionist.

Drag-Line Light (for Vella Redding — who survives)

On the Redding place
out at Sarpy Creek,
the raw sandstone
rests uphill,
black against the late blue
of first evening
headed toward night.
Near the haystack
in the crusted, wet
up-valley snow,
the cattle bed
while the stone warps, arches, cracks,
leans and lies.

One night going on eight o'clock
I looked up at a Sarpy sandstone mass,
generating from itself
a lone ponderosa,
stone and tree stark
against the shine of what I thought
was moon.
The sandstone stood
against the drag-line light
of midwinter.

The wailing and barking of coyotes
clarified the electric sing,
the whirr
of the drag line.
I wanted to lose
the noise,
to vanish the astonishing
tree-struck stone.

Loving his land
and maybe his cows, too,
old Bud Redding
jawed his last years away.
But he is dead now, and,
when you help yourself to some Redding
tapwater,
little black flakes of coal
sit in the bottom
of your glass.

Randall Gloege
March 20, 1976
(rev., March 25)
Billings, Mont.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS RAPPED

Dear HCN:

In view of the almost total lack of interest expressed by the environmentalists in an effective means of encouraging free enterprise to develop the clean alternative sources of energy, I have concluded that they are far more interested in destroying the free enterprise system than they are in solving either the energy or environmental problems.

Sincerely,
Stephen Tarver
Gillette, Wyo.

ON OUR TOES

Hello Friends,

Please keep up the good work! High Country News keeps us on our toes.

Chris Arthun
Ft. Laramie, Wyo.



Photo by Charles W. Smith

4-High Country News — Apr. 23, 1976

Wheatland. . .

(Continued from page 1)

which would triple the population of Wheatland — would not pose a threat of serious injury environmentally, economically, or socially. If it determined that there was a serious threat in any of those areas, it would be required under the siting law to demand further study and go into the second stage.

The siting council's decision to grant the permit now instead came as a surprise to many people who helped get the act through the 1975 legislature. They expected that a decision on such a large plant would automatically go to second stage.

Critics say the council was confused over the differences between the two stages. This was the council's first decision on a new plant. The LRCC is asking the district court to define exactly what the act means and whether or not the council acted according to the law.

CAN CONDITIONS SUBSTITUTE?

The Industrial Siting Administration staff, which serves the council, had recommended at the hearing in Wheatland in March that the council not approve the permit at this stage because more information is needed in four areas.

Marilyn Kite, staff attorney, said, "There's an important philosophical and legal question of whether conditions could substitute for possible factual problems that may exist." Kite was referring to whether a conditional permit should be given or whether further study should be required.

The answer to her question revolves around the language of the act. It says that sufficient information must be provided by



J. D. BRUNK. "They're reasonable people involved. We would be creating a hardship on the applicant and its ability to move ahead."

the applicant. Efforts to make the impact "acceptable" are called for at the second stage, after the additional study.

The staff, after its analysis of the application, thought there was not enough information to grant the permit at this stage.

At its meeting in Jackson, the majority of the council decided there was enough



MARILYN KITE. "There's an important philosophical and legal question of whether conditions could substitute for possible factual problems that may exist."

information. The council reprimanded the staff for making recommendations, saying that on subsequent applications, the staff will "objectively analyze" the material submitted by the applicant. "The council is not about to abdicate its responsibility to make decisions," Chairman Troughton explained.

FOUR KEY VOTES

Council members took four key votes, any of which could have thrown the decision proceedings into the second stage for further study. In each case, at least one member would have preferred going to second stage.

Instead, the council decided to consider conditions on the permit in three of the areas: monitoring system, transmission line locations, and air quality. In the fourth area, agricultural economy, no conditions were discussed. Thus the council apparently resolved — to its own satisfaction — the philosophical and legal question referred to by Kite, saying conditions could suffice.

Three of the council members questioned, on different issues, how conditions could be enforced if the permit were already granted. Troughton raised the question on the monitoring system, J. D. Brunk on the transmission lines, and Wallick on air quality and on water availability.

Referring to the transmission lines, Troughton asked, "Are we going to shut the barn door after the horse is out?" Ed Grant, another council member, replied, "We're going to follow the horse around."

Council member Jack Sullivan said he didn't see where transmission lines were

going to be a problem. "A plant this big won't go in and run all over everybody," he said. Sullivan, who had only attended two days of the eight day hearing, had heard nothing of the protesting parties' testimony other than what he might have read in the transcripts.

Paul Etchepare of the Warren Livestock Co. had testified at the hearing on the difficulties his family had encountered with another large transmission line project.

Brunk referred to Etchepare's testimony in his suggestion to go to second stage. Both Brunk and Sullivan are ranchers. Brunk later voted with the rest of the council not to go to second stage over the transmission line issue.

On the question of the monitoring system, Troughton said he would like to see the design for the system before granting the permit.

He thought it would take only a short time for the applicant to prepare, but he thought it was crucial. "We're representing the people of Wyoming," he said. "We're trying to reach optimum conditions. That doesn't mean it's going to be Utopia, but we have to make sure it's the best possible. We're putting all our eggs in one basket (the monitoring system), and if we drop it, Platte County suffers."

The community would depend upon the system to be sure that changes from the expected impacts are noted and that something is done to adapt plans. For example, if population projections are wrong, then the schools, mental health, housing, and other services would have to be adjusted.

Arguing against holding back the permit, Paul Anselmi, another council member, said, "We have to recognize that in their own selfish self-interests, they'll do a monitoring program." He claimed that at Rock Springs, where he lives, the problem was a lack of housing, resulting in a high job turnover, which was costly to the industries.

Brunk agreed with Anselmi, saying, "They're reasonable people involved. We would be creating a hardship on the applicant and its ability to move ahead."

CONFLICT OVER AGRICULTURE

Philosophical differences among some of the council members stood out most clearly in the debate over effects on the agricultural economy.

While council members seemed to agree that agriculture would be affected, their opinions varied on the extent of the effect and whether or not it was bad.

Wallick, himself a rancher, steadfastly maintained there would be a "serious threat" to agriculture, saying he would "pack up" if he were a rancher near Wheatland and the plant were approved.

Anselmi, a businessman in Rock Springs, insisted the change was going to be for the better. "Agriculture has a history of not paying a living wage," he said. "Is this act to protect the haves or the have nots?" he asked several times.

"We have to change some people's thinking and the pay scale," he said, referring to

the evidence that wages would rise by several times throughout the community to remain competitive with construction wages.

"Perhaps the economy is going to change from agriculture to predominantly industry. Is that necessarily bad? I think it is very, very positive."

Wallick pointed out that few ranchers or farmers could pay such high wages so they would be forced out of business.

Grant, admitting that there was a threat, refused to say it was "serious." He added, "There's nothing anybody can do in this area."

SHUT WATER OFF

Water questions — whether it will be available and how much it will cost — were crucial to the question of the agricultural economy in Wallick's mind. However, the council voted to allow the state engineer



BOB WALLICK argued that there was a serious threat to the agricultural economy.

and the state board of control complete jurisdiction over all water questions.

"I don't think we should be charged with doing his (the state engineer's) job. Either he does it right or he doesn't. If he does, there are remedies," Anselmi said. Brunk suggested leaving it to the state engineer, too. "If they deplete existing water wells, we should leave it to the state engineer to shut them off."

Wallick suggested that would be hard to do once the plant was built.

Troughton added that the state engineer must rule on quantity but not on the economic effects, which the council is specifically assigned to consider.

Air quality questions were also referred to another agency, the Department of Environmental Quality. Wallick had pointed out that the air quality information provided by MBPP was based upon a model in Cheyenne — not in the Wheatland basin. This indicated to him that MBPP had not fulfilled its burden of proof and that more information was needed before a permit could be issued. A majority of the council disagreed.

Social impact was considered only briefly. The council decided that a vague

Ranchers disillusioned with siting

Representatives of both the Platte County Farm Bureau and the Laramie River Conservation Council (LRCC) sat quietly in the back of the meeting room as the six men in the Industrial Siting Council voted on the destiny of their community.

Lawrence Wookey of the Platte County Farm Bureau (FB) talked with HCN before returning home to Wheatland with the news of the decision. Wookey had left his fields to serve as the FB representative cross-

examining witnesses during the eight day hearing in March, rather than hiring an attorney.

He said he was "very disillusioned" after watching the actual decision-making process. "They didn't begin to exercise their responsibility. They were squabbling over what their responsibility was," he said.

"They were only looking two years ahead," he said, since they had ignored the nation's need for agricultural products. Some Platte County

land will be taken out of production by the plant, reservoir, transmission lines, lack of water, and other impacts, he points out, thus reducing the area's contribution to the world's food supplies.

Bob Harman of the LRCC agreed that the council was reluctant to face its responsibility. "I'm astonished at their refusal to consider the effects on the people — principally the school children and the farmers and ranchers."

"Mr. Anselmi said that if farmers

can't pay \$8 an hour, they should fold up and go to work for the plant even though Basin has said they'll just be hiring skilled workers," Harman said.

The Powder River Basin Resource Council, which also intervened in the case, charges that the council has abdicated its responsibility to the people of Wyoming. The organization says it hopes the council will not act upon any new applications until the courts and the next legislature have reviewed the council's actions to see if they comply with the intent of the law.

value such as "quality of life" could be measured only by whether or not facilities such as schools, housing, hospitals, and police and fire protection are available. They agreed that the applicant had shown these would be adequate.

"I can't go inside somebody's head and say this is quality of life. . . I don't think we can deal with it as a council," Troughton said. He added that the only thing the council can do is to make the change as possible.

"I would like to say (to the industry), you're not going to change my lifestyle. But I don't see myself as having the power or the authority to say that," he concluded. He said the council must determine what it "practically" can do.

Conditions under which the permit will be issued will be prepared by the staff and

approved by the council, even though none of the staff members except the director and the attorney were allowed to attend the meeting. The staff will listen to the two days' tapes to determine what the council's wishes are.

CONDITIONS IN THE WORKS

At the minimum, a monitoring system and transmission line requirements will probably be included. There was also some discussion of limiting the number of employees, at least to the level specified by MBPP in the application.

Limiting the size of the plant was only obliquely referred to as a possible condition.

The siting act says that the council has the option of determining when construc-

tion can begin, to allow enough time for the communities to prepare. Wallick said he didn't see how the council could set production schedules, and other council members agreed. He didn't indicate, however, whether he thought the starting date could be dictated.

The only other condition specifically suggested in the act is demanding that a bond be paid to the communities to assure that the project goes through. The bond would not be refundable if the project were abandoned.

OTHER BARRIERS TO CROSS

Even without the LRCC's court petition, MBPP couldn't have started construction of its \$1.3 billion plant immediately since

High Country News-5
Apr. 23, 1976

other permits are pending. At the state level, the Public Service Commission has not issued a certificate of necessity and convenience, and the Department of Environmental Quality has not approved an air quality permit. At the federal level, approval is needed of the environmental impact statement prepared by the Rural Electrification Association (REA).

Another delay which could also take lengthy legal proceedings to resolve is a conflict between the state and the federal government over jurisdiction of the Greyrocks Reservoir. The reservoir is part of MBPP's proposal to supply the plant with water. Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler is attempting to take legal action against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



THREAT TO AGRICULTURE? A key confrontation during the siting council's meeting was whether or not the 1,500 megawatt power plant would pose a serious threat to the Wheatland area. Bob Wallick insisted it would, but no one voted with him. Photo of cropland near Wheatland.

A close look at Wyoming's new law Changes may be needed in Wyoming siting act

(First of two parts)

The Wyoming Industrial Siting Act is a little over a year old, and while still a darling to many Wyomingites, some of its birth defects are becoming painfully obvious.

Between the time of its conception and when it emerged from the 1975 Legislature, committee revisions and Senate compromises narrowed its scope and reduced its powers to plan for industrial development in the state.

In its first few months of existence, warning signs appeared:

- The siting council found it had no jurisdiction over the Atlantic Richfield Black Thunder mine, even though it is one of the biggest in the state.

- The siting staff members realized the study period to review the applications is woefully inadequate.

- the first citizen group to intervene under the act decided to take the council to court over its first major decision.

- Some of the environmental lobbyists who fought hardest to see the law passed say they are "disillusioned" after watching how decisions are made under the act.

Clearly, there are problems. But are they the problems of any unruly child that just needs time to grow and maybe a little discipline? Or does the law itself need to be changed?

Some of those who have worked most closely with the act — the council chairman, the staff director, and the attorney who is taking the council to court — talked with HCN about these questions. While all seemed to think that conceptually, a good system, they indicated it looks like legislative amendments might be needed in some areas.

TWO STAGE STUDY

Among the many states with siting acts, Wyoming is unique in calling for two

stages in its decision process, according to Jack L. Van Baalen. Van Baalen is a University of Wyoming law professor who has examined the act and published his critique in the *Land and Water Law Review* at the university.

Within 60 days of the time an application is filed, the council must hold a public hearing. Within an additional 60 days after the hearing ends, the council must make an initial determination either issuing a permit or rejecting the application pending further study. If more study is demanded, then another hearing is held to look at the new information. An application can then be either granted or denied.

The law says that at the first stage, the council can grant a permit if the applicant demonstrates that the facility "will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the affected area; and that the facility will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants (emphasis added)."

If the council says this wasn't demonstrated and more information is needed, then the process goes to the second stage.

At the end of the second stage hearing, the council makes its decision on the basis of whether or not the probable impact is "acceptable" and if by the design and location of the facility, any adverse impact is reduced "to the extent deemed acceptable (emphasis added)."

The language is confusing. Van Baalen could find no explanation for using different language to guide the council in making its go or no go decision at the first stage v. the second.

The question bothered the council. In fact, Chairman John Troughton reminded members more than once at their meeting on the Wheatland plant that they were ar-

guing about issues for the second stage deliberations — not the first.

BALANCE IMPACT AND NEED

The director of the siting staff, Dr. Blaine Dinger, takes the analysis a step further. Dinger talked with HCN prior to the



DAVE PALMERLEE. "As evidenced by the deliberations, they (the siting council) resolved every doubt in favor of the plant. This is contrary to the intent of the act and to the literal language of the act."

council's meeting to make its Wheatland decision. He thinks the purpose of the second stage is to balance impact against need. At the first stage, he says, there is no provision for balancing one effect against another nor is there any provision for studying need for the facility.

With the siting of new industries in the state, "you're inevitably forced into the situation of making tradeoffs," Dinger says. "Let's face it — you're not going to

build a 1,500 megawatt plant without impacting someone."

Dave Palmerlee says, "The basic problem is that the industry decides it's going to build a plant and comes to the council with its decision made and its investments made, ready to move."

Palmerlee, who is the attorney for the Laramie River Conservation Council (LRCC) which is challenging the council's Wheatland decision, talked with HCN prior to the council's decision.

"It's difficult, no matter who you are, to make a decision under those conditions," he said.

He suggests a solution that might make better use of the two stage process, although he says he's not sure it's the best solution. The logical progression might be, as he sees it, for the council or the Public Service Commission (PSC) to determine first if there is a need for the facility.

Then the siting council would look at what the general problems might be — before the sites are narrowed down and before the size of the plant is determined.

(Presently, the PSC determines need, but its decision isn't required prior to the council's hearing.)

The name of the act is the Wyoming Industrial Development Information and Siting Act, but as it works now, Palmerlee sees it as just an information act. The state and the communities learn what the industry plans to do but don't seem inclined to take authority to say how or where it will be done.

(Editors' note: Next issue, HCN will complete its analysis of the siting act. That article will look at citizen access to the process, jurisdictional disputes between the council and other state agencies, what type of facilities the act covers, and what it leaves out.)

6-High Country News — Apr. 23, 1976

Glee, gloom...

(Continued from page 1)

if the whole story's being told, or if political games are afoot."

For the present, however, environmentalists throughout the nation were celebrating a "victory for logic, reason, and conservation of natural resources."

As far as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is concerned, plans are going ahead on the Kaiparowits power project, since the utility companies haven't officially asked to pull out of the venture, says national director Curt Berklund. The BLM is the federal agency overseeing the project.

Berklund also said that reports of a "deal" made with the utilities to hold up the job until after the election in November "didn't involve any BLM people."

"This was the companies' own decision and not at the request of the BLM. If there was a meeting I was not aware of it," Berklund said.

Loss of the Kaiparowits power project spells a "setback to energy independence" for the nation, said Utah Gov. Calvin L. Rampton. He said environmental groups helped to "partly" kill the project by "delaying it and starving it to death."

"I've supported this concept for 11 years and I felt it was a sound project and ecologically acceptable," Rampton said. He said he would oppose development of just the coal reserves the plant would have used, partly because no viable population center would develop around an extraction operation. The governor said he would prefer Utah's coal development to center in the Carbon-Emery county area, where there are existing capacities for growth.

MOSS DISAPPOINTED

Utah's Sen. Frank E. Moss (D) stated, "This is a tremendous blow to the state of Utah — particularly to the people of Southern Utah who are so badly in need of jobs."

"We should now move rapidly to find other means of developing our vast energy resources," Moss said. "We can't allow the economic future of the state to rise or fall with the success or failure of this one project. I intend to call together a group of business, community, and labor leaders to discuss where we must go from here."

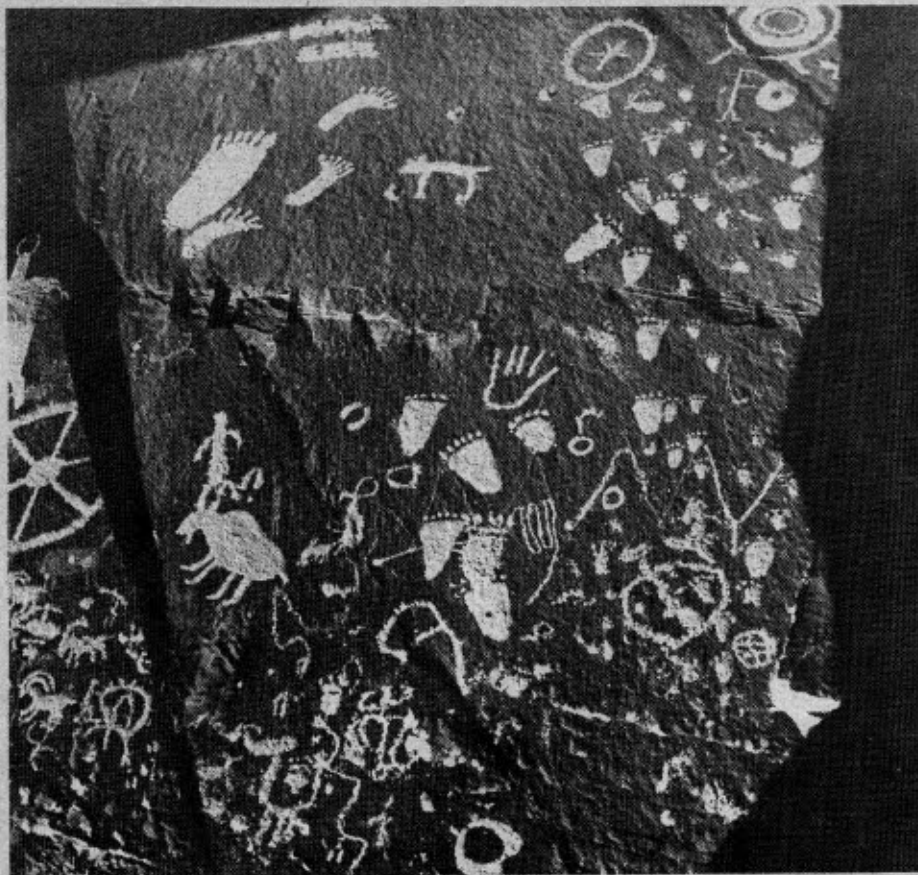
Utah's outspoken Junior U.S. Senator, Jake Garn (R), was "utterly surprised" by the power companies' decision to pull out of Kaiparowits, but didn't blame them, "considering all the harrassment they have been subjected to. The radical environmentalists have won their victory."

Garn attacked the environmentalists who led the opposition to the project, saying he was all for environmental protection, but feels there has to be a balance. "It is time the American people start waking up to what is being done to them in the name of clean air and water," he said.

June Viavant, a Utahn on the National Board of Directors of the Sierra Club and a vocal opponent of Kaiparowits, said the plant "will not be built because it was not a valid concept economically or environmentally."

"The Sierra Club is proud of the part we played — that of raising difficult questions for which there were no satisfactory answers," said Viavant. "As this action shows, if citizens are made aware of the issues, their opinions can be voiced, and their concerns do count."

The Kaiparowits Awareness Group, a University of Utah based group, has been active in arousing public sentiment over the past few weeks. Group leader Bob



MARKS OF MAN. Thousand-year-old markings such as these are found at Newspaper Rock State Park just northeast of the Kaiparowits plateau in Utah. What man's latest projects in the area lack in art, they make up for in size. They are gigantic power plants. The largest and oldest proposal of them all — for the Kaiparowits power project — was abandoned last week by its utility sponsors. At least three other plants are still planned for the area, however.

Photo by Jack McLellan

Kihm said he thinks citizen groups can help turn the tide on environmental issues. "We heard all sorts of comments in the beginning when we talked to people about Kaiparowits like, 'What can I do, look at all the money that's been spent.' Well, we did help stop it. That's important, and needs to be emphasized," said Kihm.

Naming Kaiparowits as a hot mail issue, spokesmen in the Washington offices of Sens. Moss and Garn reported a sharp turnaround in sentiment on the issue. "Until last month it was 90% in favor. Then it radically turned to 90% against," Garn's spokesman said. Both attributed the switch to increased publicity, singling out the appearance of actor-environmentalist Robert Redford on the CBS "60 Minute" show.

Jim Isenogle, Utah National Park Service director, said, "The study we completed indicated clearly enough there was ample justification for concern about the environment in the parks, especially air quality. In fact, later examination of the source material indicates that our original report was not nearly strong enough. It stated the environmental problems associated with the Kaiparowits plant very conservatively."

UTAHNS BURN EFFIGIES

A crowd of about 400 disappointed backers of the defunct Kaiparowits project gathered at the Kane County Courthouse in Kanab to watch the burning in effigy of

four figures. Robert Redford was the first effigy to be consumed in flames.

Redford was followed by a figure wrapped in red tape depicting government bureaucrats. The names of both Salt Lake City Mayor Ted Wilson, the first prominent politician to publicly oppose the project, and EPA Administrator Russell Train were displayed on that dummy. The third figure to be burned symbolized the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and other environmental organizations. The fourth was an effigy of former Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton who had rejected the plant several years before because of its impact on air quality.

Redford was accused by ALIVE officers of violating water-quality standards because his corral on the North Fork of the Provo River was too close to the river. An ALIVE member also stated that Redford's ski resort had ruined valuable timber lands by stripping for additional ski trails last summer.

A resolution read at the demonstration asked the Kane County Commission to adopt an ordinance requiring hikers going into the back country for more than four hours to carry portable toilets.

Two remaining major power projects in Utah — Warner Valley and Intermountain Power Project (IPP) — maintained they will proceed as planned, despite withdrawal of financial support for the embattled Kaiparowits project.

The IPP, a plant the same size as

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jack McLellan is chairman of the Sierra Club Utah Chapter and a chief spokesman for the Council on Utah Resources, a non-profit corporation which includes 23 Utah environmental groups. He was among those in the center of the battle against the power plant and has strong personal feelings about the recent decision to scuttle it.

"We would like to have the power attributed to us by some Southern Utah residents and prominent Utah Congressional leaders," he told HCN. "But what

really killed Kaiparowits was the outcry of a citizenry no longer willing to accept growth-for-growth's-sake. What is astounding is not that Kaiparowits was stopped, but that it was ever seriously considered in the first place."

McLellan points out that if the \$3.5 billion that would have been spent on Kaiparowits were now spent on insulation, it would save three times as much energy as Kaiparowits would have produced, according to Federal Energy Administration figures.

Kaiparowits at 3,000 megawatts, "has entirely different circumstances and premises," Joseph C. Fackrell, Project Manager, said. IPP is backed by Intermountain Consumer Power Association of Utah and six California cities. Fackrell says IPP lies near no major scenic or natural attractions "other than Capitol Reef National Park, which is well to the west."

Environmentalists say that the national park is just a few miles away from proposed site, and that pollution from the plant could have much the same effect as Kaiparowits would have had on other parks and recreation areas within the Colorado Plateau.

Warner Valley, a two-phase project by Nevada Power Co., proposes to place a 500 megawatt plant 25 miles southwest of St. George and a 2,000 megawatt plant near Las Vegas. Both sites would be fueled by strip mines in the Alton coal fields, southeast of and visible from Bryce Canyon National Park.

SIERRA CLUB BOTHERS MOSS

"The end of Kaiparowits came about in great part because of the foot-dragging by the Department of Interior," said Sen. Moss. "But what bothers me more is the Sierra Club members and their actions. The ending of Kaiparowits is only the tip of the iceberg so far as they are concerned. Because of their success on Kaiparowits, they will now go to work on Warner Valley, the Intermountain Power Plant, and Escalante," Moss warned.

Sierra Club leader June Viavant confirmed Moss' suspicions. She said that opposition was building against the IPP and Warner Valley, as well as other proposed plants such as Utah Power & Light's Garfield Plant in the Escalante drainage.

Viavant said, "We will now pursue, with equal vigor and dedication, our goal of convincing fellow Americans that it would be a disastrous mistake to locate IPP near the Capitol Reef National Park boundary, or any of the other plants near equally scenic and valuable sites."

WHAT KILLED KAIPAROWITS?

The reason for Kaiparowits' demise was economic. Once power company officials realized that their projections for electrical energy needs were in direct conflict with trends in energy use, the project was doomed. Adherence to an outdated method of projecting costs and benefits caught up with them.

In 1965, the cost of producing one kilowatt of coal-fired generating capacity was estimated at just over \$100. Today costs for Kaiparowits' capacity would have been \$1,166 per kilowatt. That figure is considerably higher than most power companies are paying, even today. Figures supplied by Utah Power & Light indicate that their new projects are costing from \$520 to \$828 per kilowatt of generating capacity. As costs of electricity go up, demand goes down.

From its start, the Kaiparowits Consortium was unable to sell 8.6% of its power. The Arizona Salt River Project pulled out in mid-1975, leaving a total of 18.6% unsold. That August, the consortium invited 24 other power companies to a meeting in Las Vegas in an attempt to sell the power, but as a Utah Power & Light spokesman said, "The power went begging to the last."

In December 1975, only three months before completion of the final environmental impact statement, Southern California Edison announced that the company was delaying the project another year — blaming "objections by environmentalists and lengthy approval processes." But the next day, Arizona Public Service admitted the delay was also because of a slowed demand for electricity.

Apr. 23, 1976 — High Country News-7

Wilderness advocate fears timber threat in Uintas



UINTAS COUNTRY. "Cathedral," a rock formation in the High Uintas range in Northeastern Utah. Photo by A. J. Frandsen, courtesy of Wasatch National Forest.

by Bart Koehler

The first Rocky Mountain trappers' rendezvous took place on the banks of the Henry's Fork in the summer of 1825. It was a time for mountain men to come together and sell their furs and to engage in the more important business of story telling, whiskey drinking, and playing games. It was here, along the present Wyoming-Utah border, that many a drunken American trapper first looked upon the North Slope of the High Uintas.

The Uintas Indians, a branch of the Ute Tribe, had known the wonders of this mountain range long before the trappers arrived. In their time the range was wild and free. It still is.

Today the range is one of the largest areas of unprotected wilderness in the Rocky Mountain West. But, if the Forest Service has its way, the wilderness expanse that surrounds the Henry's Fork will not remain intact much longer.

The High Uintas is the most prominent west mountain range in the U.S. and the highest range in Utah. The range contains more than 25 peaks over 12,000 feet and the five highest peaks in Utah. The highest of them all is Kings Peak, 13,512.

A REFUGE

There are over 1,000 lakes and potholes in the range, which is a last refuge for the Colorado River cutthroat trout. Fishing is excellent.

Mule deer, mountain sheep, black bear, cougar, and the southernmost herd of moose in the U.S. range in the Uintas.

Two species of wildflowers in the Uintas grow nowhere else on earth.

A stable supply of high quality water from the Uintas is of vital importance to Wyoming and Utah.

The range is also a storehouse of geologic treasures. Prime examples of mountain glacial activity are present, as are scenic ridges and peaks composed of deep red-colored sandstones and conglomerates.

A portion of the High Uintas Range was protected as a primitive area by the Forest Service in 1931. To its credit, in October of 1966 the Forest Service recommended protecting a larger area (a total of 322,998 acres), through classification as wilderness. This proposal would have increased the existing primitive area by over 120,000 acres. It was never acted upon by Congress, however.

At the hearing in 1966, conservation groups proposed an area 50,000 acres larger than the Forest Service proposal for wilderness designation. Due to a lack of information, conservation groups were unable to propose a major northern expansion. But they did suspect that vast areas of

wilderness lands existed on the lower part of the North Slope. Their hunch was confirmed by the Regional Forester's statement at the hearing: "We realize that there are some areas of considerable size outside the (Forest Service) proposal that are suitable for wilderness," he said.

Why didn't the Forest Service study the more than 120,000 acres of undeveloped land located north of the primitive area? Conservationists have reason to believe that the Forest Service had committed the North Slope to timbering before and during their "comprehensive" study of roadless areas' suitability for wilderness.

COMMITTED TO TIMBER?

A study conducted by a law class at the University of Utah in 1974 revealed that no less than three reports were prepared by Forest Service personnel that proposed massive timbering projects for the North Slope. The earliest report, in 1957, proposed that North Slope timber be sold for pulp wood. A second report in 1965 also

public support, were reviewed. Only areas with a QI greater than 155 and an EC greater than 100 were included. Here, conservationists believe, the Forest Service made a serious error. The Bald Mountain roadless unit met all of these criteria, but it was not added to the wilderness study list. The public was not solidly behind wilderness classification for the North Slope area. Therefore, its last chance for consideration fell into step four. In step four all "High Quality Areas" not recommended by regional foresters were reviewed. Areas that had strong opposition or an EC of less than 100 were rejected. For some strange reason, the North Slope was never considered by the Forest Service at this step.

At this stage in the review process, the data were reviewed for possible errors (Phase II — Data Correction). Here the Forest Service discovered that the North Slope was qualified for Wilderness Study status. In the end it was eliminated, however, "because it has high opportunity costs which include timber. . . ." Ten timber sales

Conservationists have reason to believe that the Forest Service had committed the North Slope to timbering before and during their "comprehensive" study of roadless areas' suitability for wilderness.

suggested timbering on the North Slope, but foresaw uncertain cost-benefit returns. A third report, started a month before the October 1966 wilderness hearing, again suggested the North Slope for timber programs.

In 1972 the Forest Service conducted a nationwide inventory of roadless areas that had not yet been considered for wilderness classification. Lands which scored highest in the inventory would undergo a two-year study of their wilderness potential.

The agency identified over 400,000 roadless acres contiguous to the High Uintas Primitive area. The Forest Service broke the area up into 19 roadless units. In the end, the agency selected only three areas out of the 19 as new wilderness study areas. Among the units rejected were the Bald Mountain and North Slope roadless areas. Both were prized by conservationists — and seemed to meet all of the Forest Service's criteria for wilderness study.

In the roadless area review, two agency terms determined areas that were qualified for wilderness study:

1) **Effectiveness Cost**, a numerical rating expressing the relationship of wilderness value gained versus other opportunity values foregone. An EC of over 100 was in the top 25% and considered high quality.

2) **Quality Index** was based on isolation, scenery, and variety. A quality index of over 155 was in the top 25% and was considered high quality.

HIGH QUALITY

Bald Mountain and the North Slope rated in the top 25% in both categories. Bald Mountain received a QI of 169 and an EC of 101. The North Slope had a QI of 163 and an EC of 138.

Why weren't they selected? One catch was that the area had to be recommended by a regional forester. Neither area was. But even without this recommendation, high quality areas could qualify in steps three and four of the evaluation process.

In step three all areas not recommended by a regional forester, but with general

the Forest Service never intended to study them.

Despite the sad history of wilderness review for the High Uintas, the area that still qualifies for wilderness designation is impressive. It is 60 miles long and up to 27 miles wide. Potential additions to the High Uintas Wilderness proposed by the Forest Service in 1966 could be as large as 340,000 acres. This would enlarge the potential wilderness to a sizable 660,000 acres. That's not bad for Utah, a state without a single acre of designated wilderness.

Unfortunately, time is running out for this wilderness, which is in two different national forests. The Ashley National Forest, by finalizing the Vernal Land Use Plan in 1975, eliminated over 150,000 of the original wilderness potential of 800,000 acres from possible wilderness study. The Ashley Forest plans to release two other plans that are expected to eliminate vast wild tracts of land from possible wilderness study in the near future. These are the South Slope in July of 1976 and Eagle Creek in 1977.

When we add to the picture the North Slope Land Use Plan now being considered in the Wasatch National Forest, it becomes obvious that basic land allocations and the sacrifice of potential wilderness lands that are not listed as "new wilderness study areas" will be completed by the end of 1977.

The latest threat to the wilderness resource of the North Slope area, still miraculously undisturbed from roadside to mountain crest, is the "North Slope of the High Uintas Land Use Plan." It was released in early April.

The North Slope plan proposes to eliminate both the North Slope and Bald Mountain roadless units from possible further

(continued on page 15)

Bart Koehler is the Northern Representative of the Wilderness Society. He is based in Cheyenne, Wyo. To contact him write Box 1184, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001 or call (307) 635-3416.

The Forest Service side:

Needless to say, the Forest Service often sees things differently than the Wilderness Society.

In response to Wilderness Society representative Bart Koehler's article printed in this issue, a recreation officer for the Wasatch National Forest in Utah explained why he felt the agency had placed timbering values ahead of wilderness values on the North Slope of the Uintas. The officer, Jerry Horton, told HCN:

1) In his estimation the area is less scenic than the Uintas' higher country, much of which the agency has proposed for wilderness.

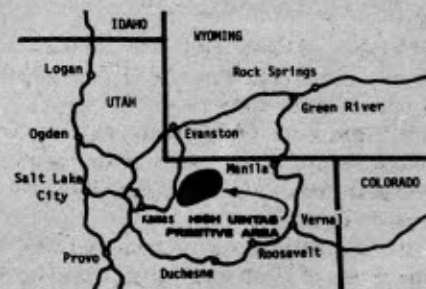
2) The productive lodgepole and spruce-fir forest at this elevation could provide timber which the country needs.

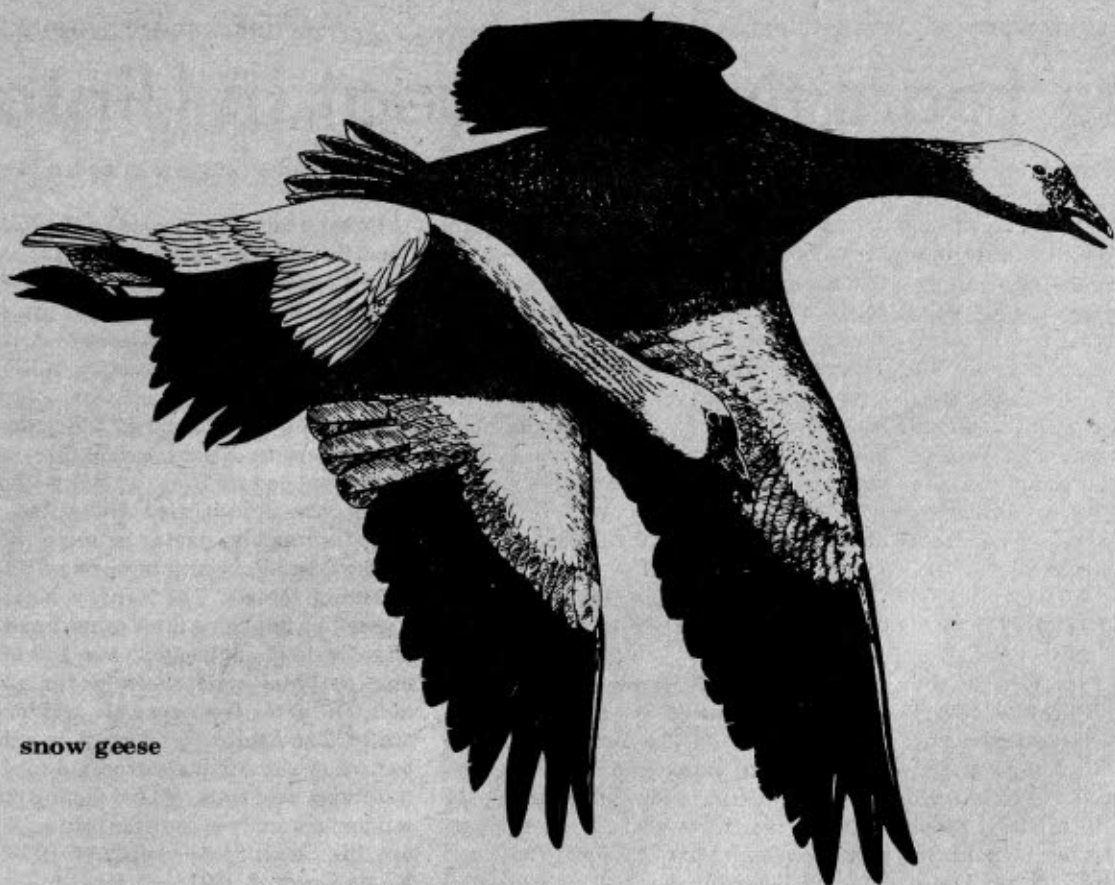
3) Timbering could be a valuable management tool for trees and wildlife in the area.

Wasatch National Forest's external affairs director, Robert Christopher, told HCN that he feels the issue also has something to do with the politics of wilderness classification. Sometime in the future, before potential wilderness acreage runs out, Christopher believes that the public will say, "Enough. No more wilderness."

Therefore, he wants to work swiftly to protect the areas of finest quality before that time comes — and not waste time debating over areas which he considers to be of less scenic value, such as the North Slope of the Uintas.

The Wilderness Society and many other conservation groups run on a belief that, to the contrary, as undeveloped land grows rarer in this country, it will become more precious to the public. Rather than calling a halt to wilderness classification, the public will treasure and strive to preserve natural ecosystems of all kinds, at all elevations, with various types of scenic or scientific appeal. They will — if we have left them the option by keeping remaining high quality roadless areas free from development, the society believes.

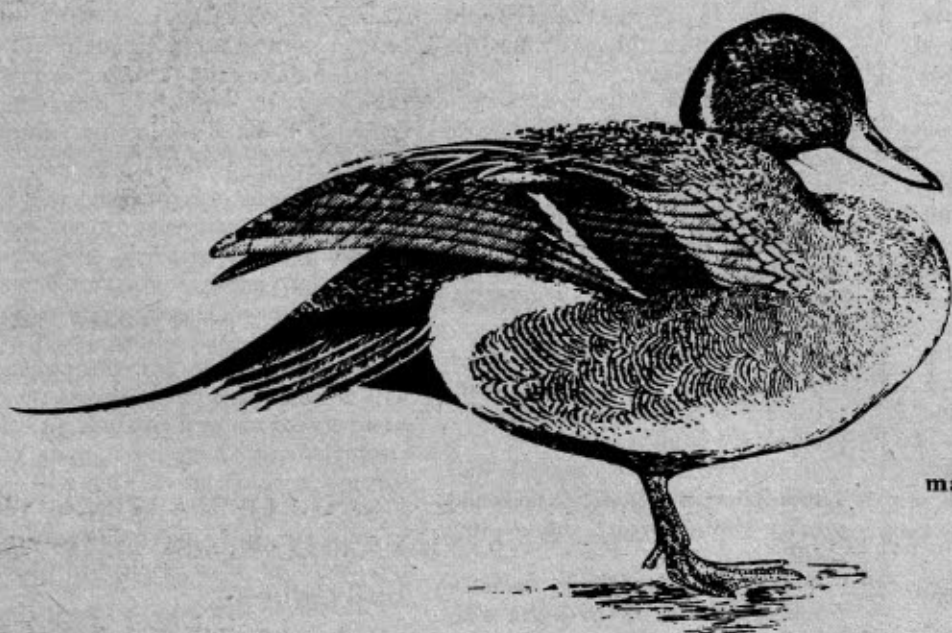




snow geese

There is an unsurpassable beauty embodied in a flock of snow geese clamoring in the sky and beating steadily toward the distant horizon, but the logistical complexities in the navigational problems, timing, and energy balance of these migrations make these esthetic considerations secondary.

—Paul Johnsgard



male pintail



Waterfowl

by Paul A. Johnsgard, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind., 1975, \$32.50, hard cover, 575 pages. Illustrated.

Review by Bruce Hamilton

"We cannot expect to learn from or communicate directly with waterfowl; they speak separate languages, hear different voices, know other sensory worlds. They transcend our own perceptions, make mockery of our national boundaries, ignore our flyway concepts. They have their own innate maps, calendars, and compasses, each older and more remarkable than our own. We can only delight in their flying skills, marvel at their regular and precise movements across our continent, take example from their persistence in the face of repeated disaster. They are a microcosm of nature, of violent death and abundant rebirth, of untrammelled beauty and instinctive grace. We should be content to ask no more of them than that they simply exist, and we can hope for no more than that our children might know and enjoy them as we do," writes Paul Johnsgard in his newest book, *Waterfowl of North America*.

This book is not just another superficial bird book filled with occasional notes on interesting avian habits and exquisite color photos. If it were, it would hardly be needed. *Waterfowl of North America* is a major research work, a reference destined to stand beside A. C. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*, F. H. Kortright's *The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America*, Jean Delacour's *The Waterfowl of the World*, and Johnsgard's earlier books *Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior* and *Waterfowl: Their Biology and Natural History*.

In preparing *Waterfowl of North America*, Johnsgard relied on all these existing works, and was careful not to duplicate already published material. Life histories, plumage descriptions, behavior, and taxonomy were well covered in earlier works, he found. What was missing was a volume that integrated wildlife biology, ecology, and behavior.

But don't expect *Waterfowl of N.A.* to be another dry treatise on some picky ornithological points. It is a compilation of information of interest to bird lovers, biologists, and sportsmen.

Other bird books tell you there is a difference in the bill shape and leg placement of waterfowl which can be used to help identify each species. Johnsgard attempts to unravel the why behind this structural diversity: "There can be little doubt that, by these structural modifications that influence the birds' capabilities for diving, underwater activities, and extracting various kinds of foods, the waterfowl have achieved a maximum degree of habitat exploitation with a minimum of interspecies competition for the same foods. Thus, with such closely related forms as the blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal, and northern



yl of North America

shoveler, there exists a progressive gradient in bill structure involving length, width, and relative development of sievelike lamellae. These change the bill from a tool adapted basically to probing and picking up materials from below the surface to a surface-straining device of remarkable efficiency."

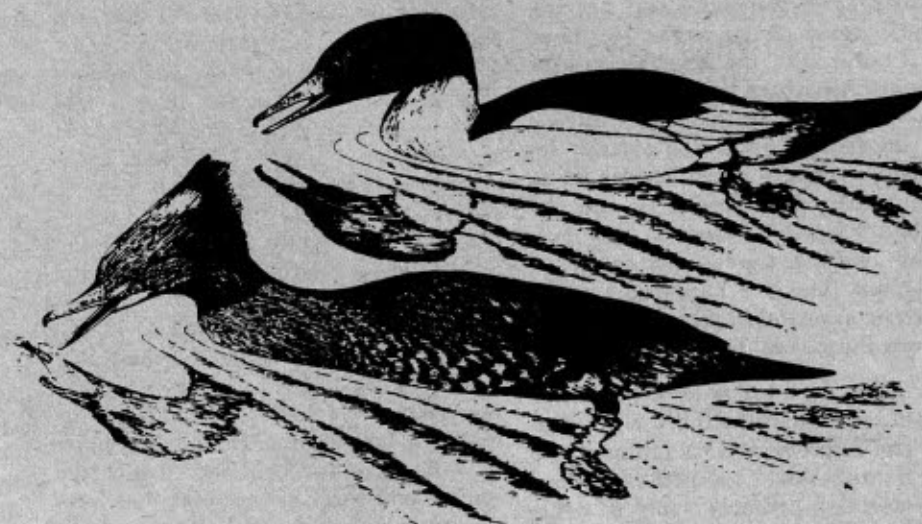
The main body of the book is a species-by-species account of all the waterfowl known to breed in North America. Each species chapter includes information on range, subspecies, measurements, identification, age and sex criteria, distribution and habitat (including a map), biology, ecology, and behavior.

There is an excellent black and white drawing of each species as well as a section of black and white and color photos of some of the birds. The photos aren't Eliot Porter quality, but they are adequate and are useful for illustrating markings and coloration.

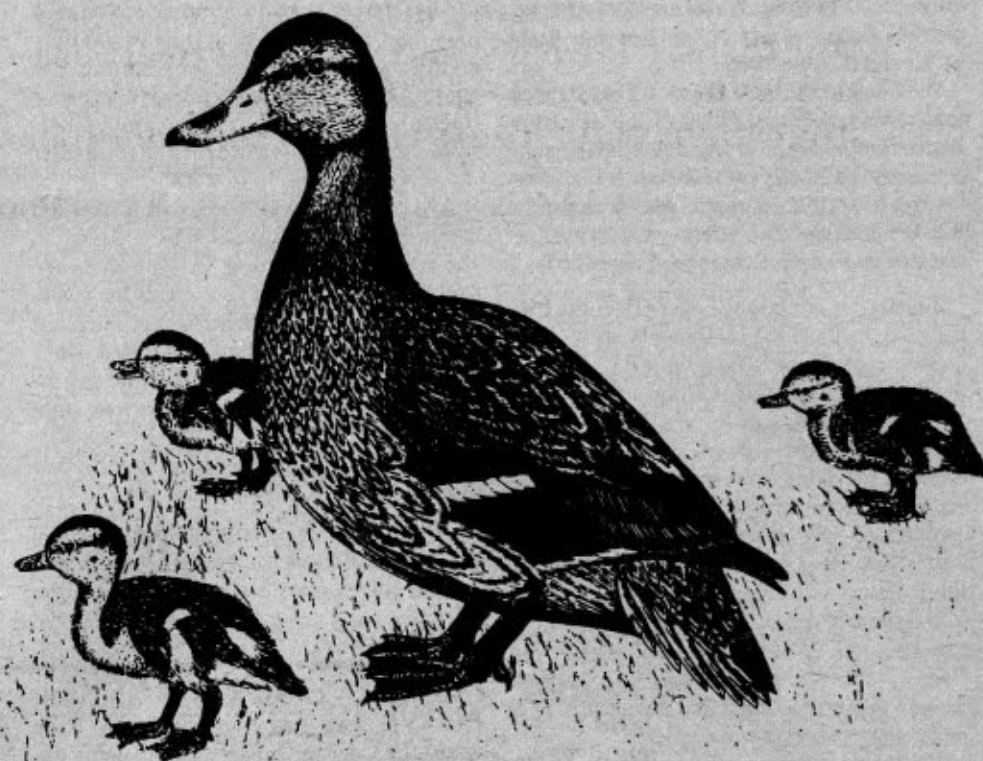
The species accounts are written in a stiff, academic style. They pack a lot of information in a little space. In contrast, the introduction is a delightful mixture of hard facts and thought-provoking personal observation. For example, Johnsgard

analyzes the Audubon Society Christmas bird count results, draws some conclusions about species abundance and scarcity, and then makes some comments about how environmental pollution in a wintering area can affect a breeding population the following year thousands of miles away. Above all, Johnsgard's sense of concern and respect for waterfowl permeates this book and penetrates the reader.

"In short," Johnsgard writes, "the sight of a migrating goose flock represents far more than a simple measure of the passing seasons; it is an unwritten testimony to dogged persistence in spite of adversity, to an inherited trust in the species' long-term design for survival in the face of individual starvation and violent death. . . . It is an example that should lift the human spirit; despite individual disasters, the geese endure. Each spring they push relentlessly northward to rendezvous with fate on a distant arctic shoreline; each fall they return with the future of their species invested in a new generation of offspring. We can ask for no greater symbol of determination despite appalling hardships than is provided by waterfowl; we should be content with no less than a maximum commitment to their continued existence."



female (front) and male (rear) common merganser



female mallard and young



Canada goose and young

Closed hunting seasons on an endangered species will do nothing to save it if its . . . breeding marshes are drained for agricultural purposes.

—Paul Johnsgard

10-High Country News — Apr. 23, 1976

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

Environmentalists say they won't enter next week's U.S. Supreme Court hearing over coal development in the Northern Great Plains with the hopeless outlook that might have been expected.

The Supreme Court in January lifted a freeze on federal actions to expand development in the Eastern Powder River Basin, causing close observers to say the court had "tipped its hand" on how it finally would decide the case brought by the Sierra Club. The club had sought a regional environmental impact statement on Northern Plains coal development.

The freeze in the Powder River Basin had been imposed by the U.S. Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court's lifting of the freeze, it was believed, meant the appellate court's decision probably would be overturned.

However, environmentalists think a few new cards that have since been added to the deck could cause the court to reconsider.

Magnanimous in victory, even apparent victory, the Interior Department has adopted a policy of preparing smaller area-wide statements, after arguing in court that impact statements were needed only for individual projects or groups of projects. The government has seemed to come around to the Sierra Club's point of view that regional statements are required, if only as a public relations gesture to Western governors.

Way back in U.S. District Court more than two years ago, Sierra Club attorney Bruce Terris argued the government was going ahead "helter skelter" with its plans for the area. "It is impossible to evaluate the environmental effect on a mine-by-mine or power plant-by-power plant basis."

Justice Department lawyer Herbert Pitte said individual statements were adequate since there is no area-wide program for the Northern Great Plains.

That dispute goes to the heart of the court case. In other cases, courts have said several, related government actions can be regarded as a "major federal action," according to the National Environmental Policy Act, thus triggering an environmental impact statement. The Sierra Club takes the precedent one step further, saying several, related actions, including "major" actions, can together be regarded as yet a separate "major federal action" of a more comprehensive nature.

By departing from its position that coal development projects in the Northern Great Plains are unrelated, the Interior Department may be jeopardizing its legal position before the Supreme Court.

Environmentalists are encouraged also on what may be an even more important front — the political one. Wyoming and at least 16 other states will be submitting a brief to the Supreme Court that Terris says will support the Sierra Club's position.

In 1974, then-Atty. Gen. Clarence (Bud) Brimmer wrote to the Justice Department in opposition to the Sierra Club's position, although the state "couldn't afford Washington counsel" to be at the U.S. District Court hearing, according to testimony at the hearing.

This time, the states' brief to the Supreme Court, Terris said, will emphasize the states' rights issue, one with which the conservative justices are more likely to empathize than with the environmentalist issue.

Miners, farmers join in N.D. fight

Gasification plant has new opposition

by Sheldon Green

HAZEN, N.D. — In coal-rich Mercer County, N.D., the spring of 1976 brings problems for the proposed American Natural Gas coal gasification plant. Along with the resistance from a local landowners' group, the company's plan is also being opposed by miners and by the local school board. In addition, the county planning commission resents the company's suggestion that local impact could be relieved later by state legislation if the county goes ahead with approving the plant now.

American Natural Gas System's (ANG) plant is the first to come under the state's energy siting act. The proposed plant would cover over 1,500 acres of prime agricultural land north of Beulah. Now over 6,000 farmers and ranchers live in the county, and many of their families have worked that land for three generations. ANG's plans could nearly double the county population, bringing 5,000 workers for the plant, coal mine, railroad, and service occupations.

Under the siting act, the Public Service Commission won't grant a permit without the approval of the local planning commission. The application goes first to the state water commission — which has approved the necessary water permits — then to the county, and then to the Public Service Commission.

The Mercer County Planning Commission held two public hearings in January on the company's request for rezoning. The county hasn't indicated when a decision might be made, and some commissioners would prefer to stall the decision until after the legislature meets in 1977.

ANG is, in part, responsible for the commissioners' reluctance to act now on the request for rezoning. ANG spokesmen told the county that if five conditions were met, the socioeconomic impact of the plant would be lessened. They suggested alternative means of dispersing tax monies, including three that would require new state legislation.

Since January, new factors have further discouraged ANG's prospects here:

—A petition drive collected over 1,500 signatures (37% of the county voters) protesting the gasification plant because the

lifestyle and traditional economic base of the county would be adversely affected. Most of the miners at the Indian Head Mine at Zap, which would supply the plant, signed the petition. The miners fear that with the increased demand, the mine would be exhausted in half the time now anticipated. This would put them out of work locally.

—The Hazen school board and the Mercer County Landowners Association filed petitions to intervene in ANG's application with the Federal Power Commission. They say the ANG plant would bring undue hardships to the school district and that the power plant would affect the ability of several farm families to continue earning a living through farming and ranching.

—Miners for the North American Coal Corp. at the Indian Head Mine at Zap announced April 1 that improper and illegal reclamation practices are occurring with the full knowledge of the company.

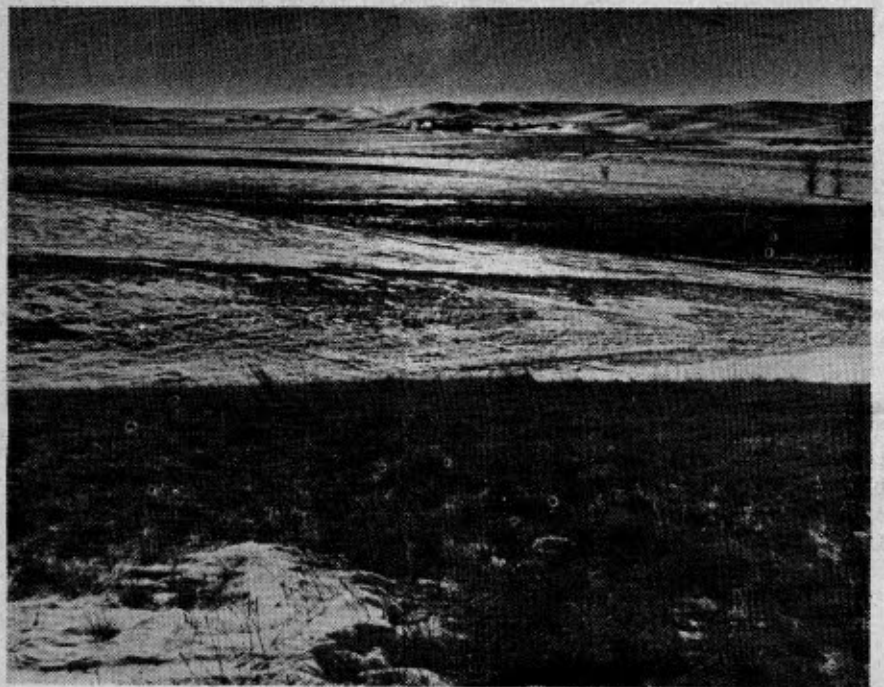
In response to this opposition and to uncertainty in obtaining finances for plant

construction, ANG has announced it will scale back its construction schedule. They will build half their proposed plant, make it operational, and then begin construction of the remaining plant. This would decrease the number of construction workers, thus diminishing social problems often associated with boom construction projects.

ANG has little to fear at this stage of its application. The planning commission could reject the application or require conditions. The county commission, however, has the final vote on the rezoning application, and they would, according to two of the three members, approve the rezoning application. That admission has sparked another petition drive calling for the formation of a five person county commission.

Federal legislation is now being considered that would provide federal loan guarantees for synthetic fuel production.

Sheldon Green is editor of the Hazen (N.D.) Star. Photo by Sheldon Green



GASIFICATION PLANT SITE. The coal gasification plant proposed by American Natural Gas Coal Gasification Co. (ANG) would be built on this site — 1,500 acres of agricultural land north of Beulah, N.D. The Mercer County Landowners Association oppose the site, but ANG says it is close to the mouth of the mine and so best for their purposes.

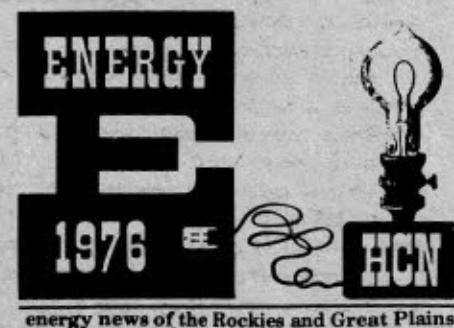
OIL SHALE COMPANIES ASK REPRIEVE. Two major oil companies have asked the Interior Department to delay billing them for at least 18 months for leased oil shale land. Two others threaten to ask the same thing if they don't get more help and less controls from the state and the federal government. Environmentalists charged that if Ashland Oil and Shell Oil can't afford to operate, they should abandon the lease. The other two oil companies are Standard Oil of Indiana and Gulf Oil.

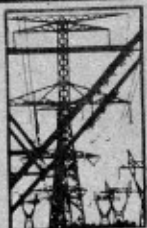
SHALE PLANS REJECTED. A detailed development plan for a federal oil shale lease tract in northwestern Colorado has received numerous negative reviews. The plan, submitted by Shell Oil Co. and Ashland Oil Co. for tract C-b, was reviewed by the Department of the Interior's Oil Shale Environmental Advisory Panel. Panel members reviewing the wildlife impact section said it was unacceptable because of inadequacies in plans to rehabilitate the mined area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found deficiencies in air and water quality sections of the plan.

MINERS PROTEST. Angry miners in Zap, N.D., say strip mine reclamation laws aren't being enforced in the state. The miners, employees at the North American Coal Corporation's Indian Head mine near Zap, held a news conference where they charged: 1) overburden has been placed over stockpiled topsoil, 2) mock reseeded was done to fool Gov. Arthur Link when he visited the mine, 3) reclamation work time cards are filled out incorrectly to make it appear that more is being done, 4) there is no inspection of reclamation efforts, and 5) reclamation efforts are concentrated along

tour bus routes to mislead the public. The miners have been at odds with their company before in a dispute over unionization. The N.D. Public Service Commission has agreed to hold a hearing on several of the charges.

UTAH LIFELINE. Consumer groups in Utah are asking the state Public Service Commission to initiate a lifeline utility rate structure in the state. The lifeline system would set a low minimum use rate charge and make up for lost revenue by charging large consumers more. The consumer groups claim a lifeline system would benefit low income groups and encourage energy conservation by penalizing large users. Three large users — Kennecott Copper Corp., Ideal Cement Co., and the Utah Coal Operators Association — are protesting the change. The companies claim low income people aren't low energy users and therefore wouldn't benefit from the lifeline system. The companies want to conduct a survey of low income Utah residents to prove their point.





The ECN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

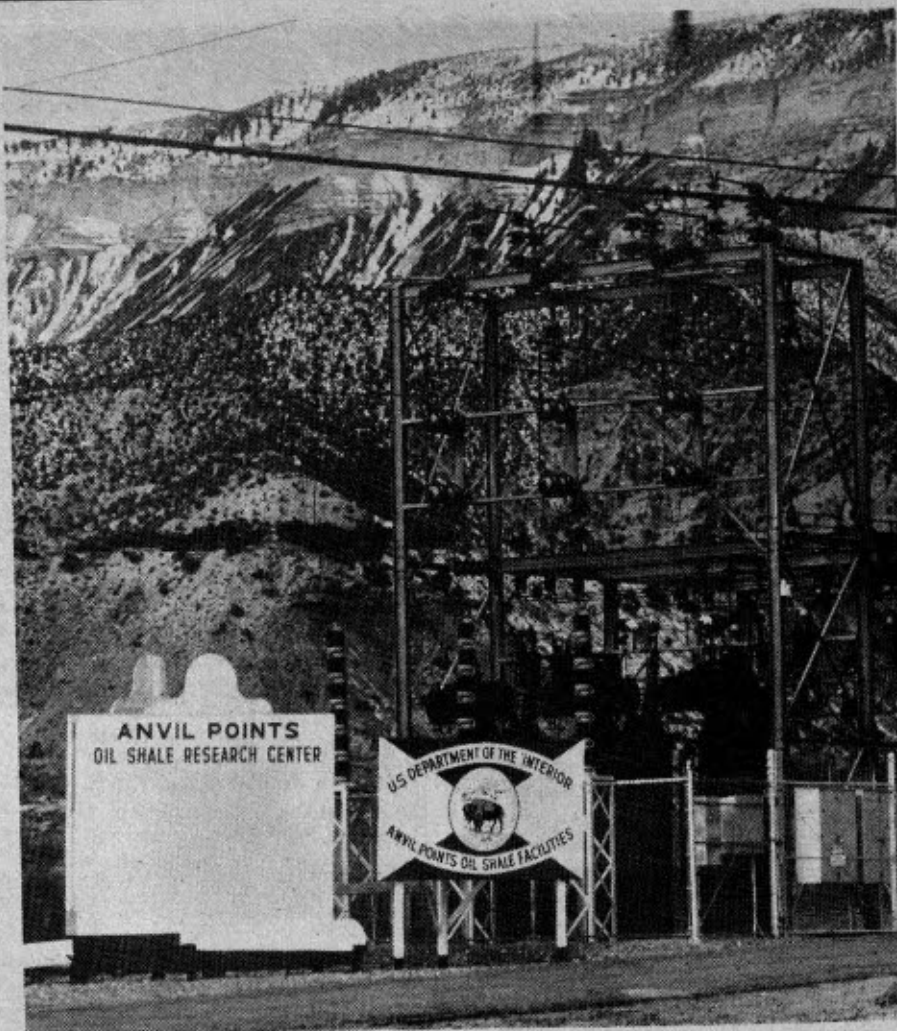
ALASKA HIGHWAY PIPELINE. A third alternative natural gas pipeline route to bring Alaskan gas from Prudhoe Bay to the Lower 48 has come to light. Northwest Pipeline Corp. has proposed a new route that would start out following the existing trans-Alaska oil pipeline route and then cut south and follow the existing Alaska Highway route across Canada. Up until now, national debate has focused on two controversial routes. The Arctic Gas route would cut across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and northern Canada and is opposed by environmental groups. The El Paso route would follow the trans-Alaska oil pipeline route to the Gulf of Alaska and then ship the gas to the West Coast by boat. This alternative would require costly liquefaction plants to convert the natural gas to LNG before shipping.

UTILITY REFORM. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Sen. Frank Moss (D-Utah) have introduced bills to reform utility rate structures nationwide. The bills (H.R. 10100 and S. 2502) would: 1) ban the descending block rate structure, 2) require cost of service peak load pricing, 3) require a "lifeline" rate at least until peak load pricing is implemented, 4) ban the fuel adjustment clause, 5) make shareholders, not consumers, pay for advertising, and 6) abolish the Federal Power Commission and set up a Federal Energy Commission.

USING WASTE HEAT. West Germans are taking low level waste heat from their power plants and running it for many miles by insulated pipeline to heat buildings and even farmland, according to a column by Lee Olson in the *Denver Post*. Olson says the Germans plan to heat the whole Ruhr Valley with waste heat and thereby increase the growing season. Public Service Company of Colorado serves a small part of downtown Denver with waste steam heat.

ALASKA OFFSHORE LEASES. Three dozen oil companies have bid \$571.8 million for rights to 400,000 acres in the Gulf of Alaska. The lease sale was carried out a day after a federal court rejected a plea by the state of Alaska to stop the leasing. The state had called for a suspension of leasing pending further environmental studies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the President's Council on Environmental Quality had also protested leasing in the Gulf of Alaska because of environmental hazards.

COAL MARKET SHIFT. Pending Clean Air Act amendments in the House could reduce the demand for Western coal by five per cent by 1990, according to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report quoted in *Coal Week*. House amendments will probably require all new coal-fired power plants to install scrubbers. Therefore, "some plants, especially those in the Midwest, which formerly were planning to import Western low-sulfur coal in order to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act, will find it more economical to use local high-sulfur coal and install a scrubber," reports EPA. The EPA report also says legislative proposals to prevent significant deterioration of air quality won't preclude construction of new coal-fired power plants.



PARAHO TO SHUT DOWN. The nation's only operating, large-scale, above-ground oil shale retort will probably shut down by June, according to program director Harry Pforzheimer. The Paraho demonstration plant at Anvil Points near Rifle, Colo., can't expand or continue to operate without federal loan guarantees, says Pforzheimer.

Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm says he conditionally supports a proposed \$2 billion federal loan guarantee program to support synthetic fuels demonstration plants. Lamm's conditions include: 1) a limit on the size of subsidized oil shale plants, 2) written assurance that all state laws will apply to federal energy projects, and 3) grants rather than loans to pay for social impacts of energy development (Colorado's constitution prohibits the state from borrowing money).

Environmental groups oppose the loan program. They claim it subsidizes environmentally destructive technology and makes the taxpayer pay for information that may be kept as company secrets.

The bill is now in the House Science and Technology Committee which is chaired by Rep. Olin Teague (D-Tex.).

Photo of Anvil Points by David Sumner.

Report from Alaska

by Gregory Capito



The environmental implications of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline have generated tremendous concern. Yet despite built-in control measures, 4,000 oil spills totaling 300,000 gallons have been reported since June of 1974. An examination of these incidents reveals some interesting facts.

Most pipeline work camps have been constructed on gravel pads. Fuel lines are buried within these pads. Frost wedging and heaving has resulted in the fracturing of threaded fuel line joints and seepage of

Ethics must underlie the environmental movement if it is really to succeed in transforming man's thought and man's action. Conservation must become a matter of morality, not merely a matter of economics or of aesthetics or even of law. We must be concerned about environmental responsibility not because it is profitable or beautiful, and not even because it promotes our survival, but because it is right.

Roderick Nash

fuel oil onto the surrounding tundra. In three major incidents reported, an estimated 140,000 gallons has been leaked onto the ground.

Tanker truck accidents have accounted for 68 spills totaling 88,000 gallons. These diesel fuel spills were caused by inattentive drivers and treacherous road conditions.

Some of the remaining spills occurred as a result of extreme climatic conditions found in the Arctic. For example, three storage tanks burst and discharged 75,000 gallons of oil when the ambient air temperature rose from -46 degrees to -12 degrees, causing expansion and rupture of the tanks.

Most of these spills could have been prevented by:

- 1) better vehicle maintenance and training of truck drivers;
- 2) installing fuel lines with welded rather than threaded joints;
- 3) improving day-to-day communication between regulatory officials, pipeline engineers, and construction workers;
- 4) rigorous supervision of all fuel related activities, including the transfer, storage, and discharge of petroleum by-products.

To outside observers, the massive Trans-Alaska Pipeline project must represent the supreme irony. For what other nation in the world would invest \$7 billion to insure energy self-sufficiency and spill 300,000 gallons of precious oil in the process?

High Country News-11

Strip mine laws loopholes cited

"Although 34 states have enacted strip mining laws, few of these laws have proven adequate or effective in the regulation of the surface coal mining industry," says John C. Doyle, Jr.

Doyle, a researcher for the Environmental Policy Center (EPC), has recently completed an in-depth analysis of "the failure of six states to enact and/or enforce meaningful reclamation requirements." EPC is a Washington, D.C.-based public interest research and lobbying organization and the primary advocacy group pushing federal strip mine control legislation.

Doyle's study covers Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia — six states which account for about 20% of the nation's total strip mine coal production.

By exposing six states with inadequate laws, Doyle and EPC claim they have "documented the need for the federal strip mine bill (now tabled in the House Rules Committee) which would establish nationwide minimum reclamation standards."

There are states with stronger laws — notably Montana, Wyoming, and Pennsylvania — but EPC maintains Doyle's study is significant. EPC points out that Congressmen from the states in the study — including Reps. William Wampler (R-Va.), Tom Bevill (D-Ala.), and Joe Skubitz (R-Kans.) — have "praised the reclamation achievements of the strip mine industry in their respective states as a major basis for opposition to the pending federal strip mine bill."

Doyle's study concludes, "The simple appearance of a strip mining law on the statute books does not necessarily mean that the law will be applied, or that the provisions of the law will be adequate to control the abuses of strip mining and ensure even the most basic reclamation."

"Each state had its own peculiar penchant for framing loopholes, exemptions, and variances," reports Doyle. This gave the mine operator "some distinct legal advantage in the regulatory process, a process which more often than not effectively screened out the citizen."

Doyle's study reveals:

- None of the states examined requires the complete elimination of all highwalls;
- None of the states mandate public hearings in the permit approval process;
- Three of the states do not require topsoil separation;
- Four of the states have no controlling standards for spoil on the downslope;
- Five of the states have no specified provision for regular mine inspections;
- Five of the states have no provisions for citizen suits.

Many of these deficiencies would be corrected if the federal strip mine control bill is passed, says EPC.

Copies of Doyle's summary report and/or detailed state analyses are available from the Environmental Policy Center, 324 C St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 or telephone (202) 547-6500. Donations to help defray printing expenses would be appreciated.

Energy saver

Don't let sediment build up in the bottom of your hot water heater. It lowers the heater's efficiency and wastes energy. Once a month drain several buckets of water from the tank to flush out the sediment. There's a faucet near the bottom of the tank for this purpose.

12-High Country News — Apr. 23, 1976

The bull elk in velvet. Photo by David Sumner.



Elk hunting in Teton Park

by Mary Inman

Each autumn, 8,000 elk migrate from Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding national forests toward the National Elk Refuge near Jackson, Wyo. To reach the refuge, many elk pass through Grand Teton National Park. But the park doesn't guarantee safe passage to the migrants. To reach the refuge, the elk must make it past a maze of park hunters first.

Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) is the only national park where hunting of a native species is allowed. This unusual situation came about as a result of elevating Jackson Hole National Monument to park status. In the mid-1940s GTNP included only the rugged Teton mountain range. The good elk habitat on the valley

floor of Jackson Hole was a mixture of private land and monument land where grazing and hunting were both permitted.

Local and state interests objected to expanding the park into the valley because it might mean an end to grazing and hunting in the area. Wyoming's Congressional delegation stopped any funding for the area's management. In 1950 park status came only with a compromise between the National Park Service and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Public Law 787 that established GTNP allowed grazing (to be phased out and eventually eliminated) and hunting (with no calculated elimination) for the purpose of management and protection of the elk.

Today managers and technical people from Yellowstone National Park, the

Bridger-Teton National Forest, the National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and the Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WG&F) form the Jackson Hole Cooperative Elk Studies Group. They meet informally once or twice a year to coordinate land use and research, review hunting seasons, permits, and pressures, and discuss other problems. Their recommendations go to their superintendents, who work out agreements on a higher level.

So why does the public get upset about elk management? Because beneath all the coordination, policy conflicts remain unreconciled: management of natural range v. artificial feeding; natural regulation of a species v. hunting; hunting for sport and recreation v. hunting for reduction.

The proper management of the elk in GTNP involves mainly the restoration of their historic distribution and migration



routes. Before 1950 the west side of the Snake River and the Buffalo Fork had been hunted and cleaned out. Few summer resident elk were left in the monument. Because of displacement due to ranching, only 30% of the elk herd migrated through the river valley. About 70% took routes to the east through Teton National Forest. After 1950 hunting pressures increased on the eastern routes, reducing the numbers of elk there and reversing the migration percentages.

Since the establishment of the park, the west side of the Snake River has been closed to grazing and certain areas have been closed to hunting. The elk calving grounds shifted back from the high, forested Two Ocean Lake area to the Pot Holes area in the park, where cattle used to graze. The length of hunting seasons and the number of grazing permits elsewhere in the park have been regulated and have restored the elk's original distribution.

The restored population in GTNP is part of the total herd that winters on the National Elk Refuge (NER). While park officials have been trying to restore elk numbers in GTNP, elk overpopulation became a problem in NER. In an agreement between NER and WG&F only 7,500 elk will be maintained on the refuge. To reduce the herd to 7,500, hundreds of elk must be eliminated before they reach the refuge. Since 70% of the migrating elk now travel through GTNP, much of the reduction must occur within the park's boundaries. A limited elk hunting season is also allowed on the elk refuge. These hunts reduce the herd to keep it in balance with available winter forage. Hunting pressure also slows the elk migration so that the herd doesn't reach the refuge too early and use up available feed too soon.

Bob Wood and the park hunt

by Mary Inman

In the seven years that Bob Wood has been Resource Management Specialist at Grand Teton National Park (GTNP), the elk hunt has taken most of his time. This means studies, research, and meetings with the other agencies involved. Before coming to GTNP he worked in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks as a ranger and elk specialist.

Wood originally came to the West looking for work with beef cattle. In Wisconsin where he was born and raised, half-city and half-farm boy, he had had enough of dairy cows. After receiving his degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin in 1959, he headed for the Yellowstone area. He "cowboyed" on a ranch near the park doing "a little bit of everything." Mostly he stacked hay. And he discovered to his dismay, "You feed cows one place, they're the same everywhere." At last he got a ranger position at Yellowstone.

Yellowstone had an elk reduction program until 1966. Wood helped on the shooting teams, with a migration study and neck banding, and with trapping and live-shipping to other states. Wyoming received a lot of the shipments. These elk went to areas like Rocky Springs and Laramie Peak to start new herds.

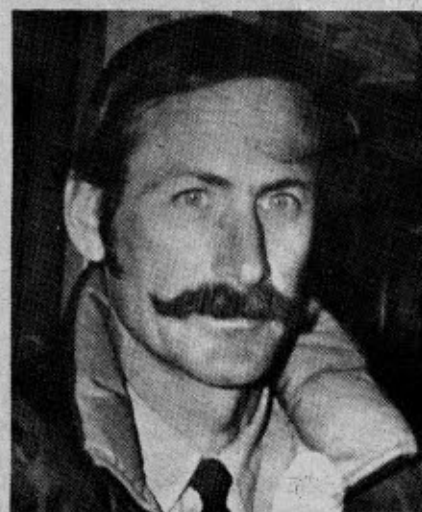
The Yellowstone reduction program was successful — it cut the herd in half. After 1966, there was a change in management philosophy and everything was once more naturally regulated. Wood said, "It seems to be working. Last year's severe spring

with winter kills and this year's winter kills, plus hunting in the Gardiner, Mont., area are controlling the elk population. This severe kind of weather usually happens every four or five years. This year makes two in a row."

Glacier National Park had an unsuccessful trapping program for reduction of its elk herd. Wood recalled, "The elk were supposed to be turned over to the Indians to restock their reservation. But Montana weather was a lot different then and the traps would fill up with snow. I think the Indians got 11 elk altogether."

Grand Teton is the only national park in the system which allows hunting of a native species. This is inconsistent with traditional park management policy which, in the last 25 years, has swung from manipulating nature back to letting nature do its thing. The elk management program has been referred to as a "slaughter" by some critics. Wood says, "We never tried to have it a sporting hunt or a recreational hunt. It is a reduction program. There is just as much overkill and maiming going on in the remote forests, which are getting easier to reach with more and more access roads. There, only those hunters know about it, not the public, so it's not called a slaughter."

"Safety is our concern — human safety, safety of property, resource protection. The hunters can't drive off the roads in key park areas which funnel the elk into the National Elk Refuge. They will surround these areas for their last chance at an elk.



Bob Wood Photo Mary Inman

We try to shift pressure from these concentrated areas to other areas. We'd be happy if the elk could be killed before they get into the park — the opportunity is there, the wilderness is open. Not enough hunters are interested."

Critics say the park hunt is not a quality hunting experience. Wood says, "Everybody has his own idea of what a quality hunt is. To the man on the Kelly Road above the National Elk Refuge — that's a quality hunt. To the man in the Teton Wilderness, that's a quality hunt. Neither may be a good marksman, either may participate in a 'slaughter.'"

"We are looking to involve the minimum amount of park land in the shortest time. We are not after sporting attitudes. It is a reduction program. Hunters never kill as many elk in the park as must be killed for a successful program."





Western Roundup

HCN

Golden proposes major hydro project

The city of Golden, Colo., has filed for a preliminary permit for the proposed Sheephorn water development project. The project will include seven major reservoirs, with a total storage capacity of 662,900 acre feet and two hydroelectric plants. The project will include a large portion of the central area of the state, ranging from Steamboat Springs on the north to Dillon on the west. According to the **Federal Register**, March 18, 1976, the power would be used by the city, with excess sold to the Public Service Co. Since the project covers such a large area, 60 miles of water tunnels and 130 miles of pipeline are needed. The application is on file with the Federal Power Commission, Washington, D.C. 20426. Anyone who wants to protest the application should file with the commission by May 17, 1976.

State under fire for film on grizzlies

Developers of the Ski Yellowstone proposal are apparently getting a little defensive about a movie recently produced by the Montana Fish and Game Department about grizzly bears. The film says the grizzly, a threatened species, needs room to live and has less room each year because of human encroachment on its habitat, according to the **Great Falls Tribune**. The attorney for the proposed ski development, Joe Sabol, wrote to the fish and game department complaining that the film was propaganda against the development. However, a department spokesman, Bill Schneider, said the film, "Room to Live," makes no mention of the development. "The movie makes the vital connection between this type of development and the increasing loss of habitat," he added. Gene Hawkes, supervisor of the Gallatin National Forest where Ski Yellowstone is proposed, also objected to the film. He said it is being used to promote special interest causes which are detrimental to hunting. Fish and Game Commission Chairman Willis Jones said, however, that a specific effort was made to stress the point that habitat loss and not hunting will be a key factor in the grizzly's future.

Tribe accuses BIA of timber abuses

Flathead Indian tribal members charge that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is mismanaging the tribal forests. They say the BIA is aware of loggers' actions and that heavy timber harvesting quotas on the reservation pose a threat to Indian forest workers and to the future of the tribal timber reserves, according to **The Missoulian**. The Indians took staff members from the paper on a tour to show them the damages. Some of the examples of questionable logging practices include: clearcuts allegedly done without the knowledge and against the wishes of the tribal council, clearcuts where large diameter insect-infested and dying trees were left standing in the middle of a clearcut, massive erosion of roads and stream siltation because culverts were clogged, and dozens of examples of commercial-sized trees damaged by logging operations but left standing and likely to die.

Range bills considered by Congress

Congress is considering two bills dealing with Western rangeland and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, according to the National Wildlife Federation's **Conservation Report**. The Senate Interior Committee is considering the National Rangeland Policy Act (S 2555). The bill would provide for an inventory of the nation's 150 million acres of rangeland under BLM management and calls for restoration of the land to "full, productive capacity." The bill is conditionally backed by such diverse groups as the American National Cattleman's Association and the National Audubon Society.

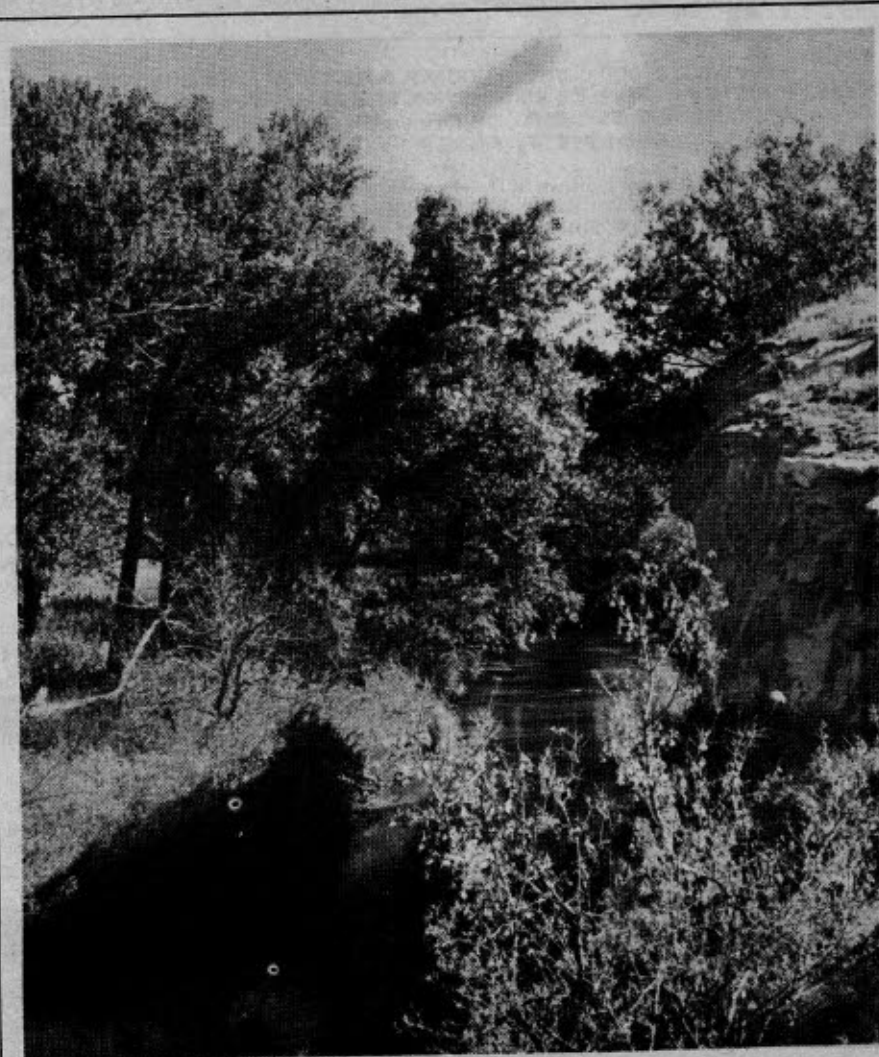
The House Interior Committee is considering the Public Land Policy and Management Act (HR 5224) — commonly referred to as the BLM Organic Act. The bill gives statutory enforcement authority to the BLM. **Conservation Report** notes that the latest version of the bill has a new grazing fee schedule "which prevents the public from achieving fair market value for its forage on public lands." Lately the BLM has tried to bring its grazing fees in line with fair market value (see HCN, 4-9-76, page 15). An amendment by Rep. Jim Santini (D-Nev.) would link grazing fee charges to a "combined index" computed from the beef price index and the cost of production index, rather than fair market value.

Court affirms state water jurisdiction

A recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court was hailed as a "landmark decision" affirming states' judicial rights in water rights cases involving the federal government. N.D. Attorney General Allen Olson said the decision strengthened the position of Colorado and 16 other Western states who joined the case, including North Dakota. The ruling said that when a state has an ongoing process for deciding water rights questions, the federal government must come before a state court for action on water claims. This holds for Indian water rights as well as for water claims for national parks, forest, and recreational areas, according to **Land Use Planning Reports**. If a state does not have an ongoing procedure, however, the water rights actions can be heard in federal court. The specific question resolved was where a suit filed by the federal government on behalf of itself and two Ute Indian tribes against 1,000 Colorado water users will be adjudicated. The suit is expected to have broad implications in many jurisdictional disputes in the region in the future.

Reservoir called harmful downstream

A group of 85 local ranchers and the Powder River Basin Resource Council say that a proposed dam and reservoir on the Middle Fork of the Powder River in Wyoming would harm downstream residents and water users. In an open letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the group said they do not oppose the idea of a reservoir on the Middle Fork. But they believe the current plan is tailored to the needs of outside industry, not Wyoming people and agricultural interests. They asked that the BLM not grant the right-of-way for the reservoir until a minimum flow of 25 cubic feet per second below the reservoir and a minimum of 10,000 acre-feet in the reservoir are guaranteed, and until a detailed plan of operation is submitted. Half of the water to be stored in the reservoir will be controlled by Carter Oil Company (a subsidiary of Exxon) and Atlantic Richfield. At hearings held by BLM in March, the Wyoming Woolgrowers Association testified in favor of the project.



HERSCHLER CHALLENGES CORPS

Wyoming Governor Ed Herschler has decided to challenge the constitutionality of a section of federal water law that has infuriated Western states ever since it was formulated. Wyoming is filing a lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers questioning its authority to hold a hearing or issue permits on the proposed Grayrocks Reservoir. Other states are expected to join the suit. Wyoming Attorney General Frank Mendicino said the state is attacking the constitutionality of the definition of a navigable stream. The corps says it has jurisdiction over navigable streams, which includes the Laramie River. Herschler says the state should have control of water within Wyoming boundaries and that the Laramie River should not be included under the navigable water definition. The corps plans a hearing on April 28, but Herschler wants the federal court to nullify the hearing. The reservoir would supply water for the Basin Electric power plant near Wheatland (see front page story). "My feeling is that this is more important to the state of Wyoming than just the Basin Electric issue," he said. Photo of the reservoir site on the Laramie River.

Legislator opposes Idaho diversions

Idaho State Senator John Peavey says legislation is needed to prevent future diversions of Snake River water. He said that the proposed Pioneer coal-fired plant near Boise might have to use half of its total output to pump water for new irrigation projects and to replace the loss of hydroelectric power which would result from diverting the water from the river. He said there has been one filing for desert land entry which would need 63% of the present river flow to irrigate, according to the **Mountain Express**.

14-High Country News — Apr. 23, 1976

Moss attacks states' rights in air amendments

Clean Air Act amendments have been on the mark up tables for a full year. Much of the subcommittee's efforts have been directed toward assuring states' authority under the act — largely at the insistence of Western states.

The amendments provide the states the authority to classify their own land in most cases into either Class I or Class II, according to how much they think the air should be allowed to deteriorate. The principal exceptions are national parks and wilderness areas, which must be classified as Class I if they are over 5,000 acres.

Last week, a Western Senator challenged the heart of the amendments — significant deterioration. Ironically, Sen. Frank Moss (D-Utah) and three other Western Senators based their attack largely on the portion which is designed to

protect the states' rights. The three other Western sponsors are Sens. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.), Jake Garn (R-Utah), and Paul Fannin (R-Ariz.).

The significant deterioration provision is what protects states which still have air cleaner than the national standards.

Moss is concerned because there has been no analysis of the economic and energy effects of the proposed legislation. He says the impact can't be known because the designation has been left to the states.

"A major problem is that no one seems to know on a county-by-county basis how specific areas would be classified," he complains.

Consequently, Moss has proposed amendments that would delay implementation of the significant deterioration portion of the bill for a year until a study had

been completed. He says the study would include a full analysis of the economic, technological, and environmental consequences.

The National Clean Air Coalition reports that a vote on the amendments will come the week of May 4 when the Senate

returns from Easter recess. The utilities and U.S. Chamber of Commerce are lobbying for the Moss amendments.

For more information, write to the National Clean Air Coalition at 620 C Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 or call (202) 543-0305.

HCN Bulletin Board

LEVEL B MEETINGS

Two more work sessions are scheduled in Wyoming for planning water and related land uses as part of the Yellowstone River Level B study. The Tongue-Powder River Basin study team will meet in Gillette at the Wyoming National Bank on May 5 at 10 a.m. The Wind-Bighorn-Clarks Fork Basin team will meet May 4 in Riverton at the Teton Hotel at 10 a.m. While the meetings are designed as work sessions, there will be a chance for the general public to have input, according to Paul Shore, who is in charge of the study for Wyoming.

ECOLOGY V. ECONOMICS

Three seminars are planned by the Thorne Ecological Institute on balancing ecological and economic concerns in the planning process. In each seminar, 30 participants who are now involved in or affecting decision-making will join resource leaders in work sessions designed to produce solutions that could actually be implemented for regional problems. The seminars will be held in New Mexico May 3-5, Colorado May 19-21, and Montana June 9-11. For more information, contact Thorne at 2336 Pearl St., Boulder, Colo. 80302 or call (303) 443-7325.

SANDY GRAZING HEARINGS

Hearings are scheduled in May to give the public a chance to comment on allotment management plans for changing grazing regulations in the Sandy area of Wyoming. The area includes two million acres in the southwest part of the state. An environmental impact statement is being

prepared on the plan, as required by a recent court suit. Meetings will be held evenings in Rock Springs May 10-14 at the Bureau of Land Management District Office. To get more information or to submit written comments, write to the BLM at Box 1869, Rock Springs, Wyo. 82901. The deadline for written comments is May 30.

BACKYARD HABITAT KIT

Homeowners can create small wildlife refuges in their backyards. Free information packets prepared by the National Wildlife Federation tell how. Write to the federation at Dept. BY76, 1412 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

ENERGY EDUCATION

Free single copies of a bibliography of reference materials for use in energy education programs is available from the National Wildlife Federation. For a copy, write to Educational Servicing Section, NWF, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 and ask for "ENERGY: Selected Resource Materials for Developing Energy Education-Conservation Programs." Additional copies cost 10 cents each.

ROCKY MT. PARK PLAN

The final Master Plan for Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado has been released. For a copy write National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colo. 80517.

STATE LAW IDEAS

The Council of State Governments has released **Suggested State Legislation** for 1976. The information includes an act that would create a state land resources study commission and an act that would give counties authority to coordinate municipal planning and zoning when effects go beyond local boundaries. Write CSG at P.O. Box 11910, Lexington, Ky. 40511. The book is \$6.50.

WYOMING INDUSTRIAL SITING COUNCIL NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF INSUFFICIENT JURISDICTION WITH REGARD TO CONSTRUCTION BY UTAH POWER & LIGHT CO. OF TWO 400 MW GENERATING UNITS, KEMMERER, WYOMING DOCKET NO. WISA-76-1

Pursuant to Section 3.c., Chapter I, Industrial Development Information and Siting Rules and Regulations, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT UTAH POWER & LIGHT CO. HAS FILED AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF INSUFFICIENT JURISDICTION WITH REGARD TO CONSTRUCTION OF TWO 400 MW GENERATING UNITS AT OR NEAR THE COMPANY'S NAUGHTON STATION, KEMMERER, WYOMING.

The application, filed April 8, 1976, alleges principally that on the basis of the Company having received all state and federal approvals and permits required for the construction of the units (the facility) prior to March 1, 1975, that the proposed facility intended to be constructed does not qualify as an industrial facility under the Wyoming Industrial Development Information and Siting Act (W.S. 35-502.75 - 94; Laws, 1975) and that the Council lacks sufficient jurisdiction to require a permit to construct or that an application for a permit to construct be submitted.

The estimated construction cost of the proposed facility is stated as three hundred fifty-four million, eight hundred thousand dollars (\$354,800,000) based on current year costs.

The proposed facility will consist of two 400 MW coal-fired generating units to be located about five miles southeast of Kemmerer in Lincoln County, Wyoming, on land owned by the Company within Section 28, T21N, R116W.

Coal for the plant will be purchased, with the bulk of fuel expected to be mined from nearby properties. Water will be obtained by way of enlargement of the existing Viva Naughton reservoir, and an added pipeline delivery system. A new 345,000 volt (345 kV) transmission line will be built, and two existing 230,000 volt (230 kV) lines uprated to 345 kV service.

The facility will be designed and equipped to comply with all applicable air quality regulations, and will include equipment for the desulfurization and cleaning of stack gases. No wastewater will be discharged from the proposed plant property.

Interested persons (parties) who would be parties pursuant to W.S. 35-502.85(a)(iii) in any permit proceeding before the Industrial Siting Council with respect to the facility proposed may file objection to the issuance of a Certificate of Insufficient Jurisdiction with the Office of Industrial Siting Administration. Such objections shall be filed within thirty (30) days of the last day of publication of this notice.

Dated April 13, 1976.

Office of Industrial Siting Administration
Suite 500, Boyd Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Synapse Domes

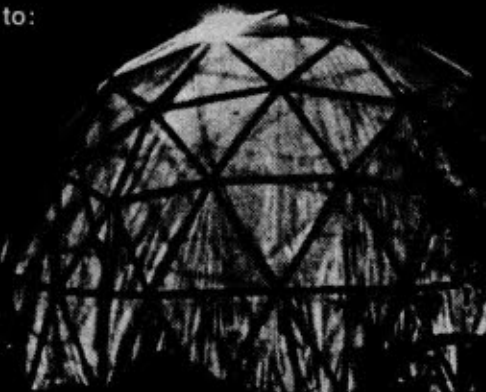
Domes have less surface area for more floor space than any other structure on earth. Engineered for efficiency; built to cost less and last longer. Quick construction, where conventional homes may take six months to build, dome homes can be constructed in two.

- Prebuilt component panel systems
- Easy to assemble kits
- Complete sets of blueprints
- Foam insulation
- Shake shingle options

For fully illustrated catalog send \$2 to:

Synapse Domes
Box 90-H Rt 62
Lander, WY 82520
Or call (307) 332-5773

"No Home Like a Dome"



Grumman & Old Town

CANOEES

HUNGRY JACK'S STORE
Wilson, Wyo. 83014



This spring plant something that will really grow. Place **High Country News** in the hands of a friend and watch a growing awareness develop. High Country News, 25 issues, \$10. Enclosed is \$10. Send HCN to my friend.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____



Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

(Our regular distaff columnist, Marge Higley, is taking a break from deadlines for a few weeks. We have filled her space this issue with the work of a guest columnist, Myra Connell.)

Connell, a retired librarian, has lived in Wyoming for 50 years. She now spends her time writing and working for the cause of conservation in Lander, Wyo. She has written non-fiction articles on Western history and conservation and is also interested in poetry and fiction. —ed.)

by Myra Connell

Our saddle horses toiled up the last steep climb to the point where "The Falls" can be seen. It was June 5th, 1924, but big snowdrifts still lay on the north slopes. Furry pasque flowers bloomed at the very edge of the snow.

(For information of out-of-state readers, the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River runs through Lander, Wyo., and the falls mentioned above is about 10 miles upstream and southwest of the town.)

My friend and I had followed twisting wagon ruts, passed the Sinks, where the river disappears under the mountain, then took a sparsely-traveled trail. We met no one — saw no one.

A rock-chuck whistled and stared from the cliff across the canyon. The water roared on its stupendous way. That day began my love affair with Sinks Canyon and the Falls of the Popo Agie.

At other times I have climbed to the big cave, picnicked, fished, taken photos, and loafed at various spots. During the past 25 years I have walked the trail to the falls each spring. I hope to be able to walk there each year, all my life. If I walk there each year perhaps I shall always be able to. You've heard of the man who lifted the day-old calf, then continued to lift him every day, expecting to be able to lift him still when he was a full-grown bull.

During recent trips I have met others on the trail more frequently: gold-panners, families, cub scout troops with their harried den mothers, horse-backers, trail bikers, backpackers, old, young and in between; the falls draws them like a clover patch draws honeybees.

I still enjoy the hike even though it is many trips ago since the rock-chuck stared and whistled in protest against the intruder into his domain. I identify a western tanager half-way up the talus slope; I shed a nostalgic tear when I find the dwarf ferns again, unrolling their dainty curls in the shade of the boulders.

Thank God the pasque flowers are still bravely holding their ground!

But the trail! Each year the traffic wears it deeper, while snow and rain wash away soil. In places the trail is a ditch, hard to walk in. So people turn aside to make a new path parallel to the old one.

In several places it looks as though the Forest Service has tried to prevent erosion, but alas, too little. . .

Fifty years from now, what? Will one trail after another have to be abandoned until there is no space for a pathway?

I would like to think that this place which I have enjoyed so much will be enjoyed by others who come later. I hope many adventurous young people will explore the caves, many nature lovers thrill upon discovery of the pasque flowers, many hikers exult when they reach the crest of the last steep and hear the thunder of the falling waters.

LOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

Twelve big power plants all in a row
Setting up on the Colo. Plateau
Kaiparowits fell first
It was the worst
That's one plant down and eleven to go.

REDFORD HELPS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. Robert Redford, actor-producer for "All the President's Men," fought efforts from Democrats to use the Watergate film as a fund raiser for the Democratic Party. Redford insisted that any proceeds from premier showings be used for environmental groups and public interest groups. He threatened in one case to take the issue to court. "Our political and government leaders have nothing to be proud of in either party," he said. "It's a film that belongs to the people, and it is going to be used by them," he said.



BUTZ DEFENDS FERTILIZER. Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz challenged "dreamers" for advocating crop rotation and composting rather than "sensible use of commercial fertilizer." Speaking before the American Chemical Society, he said, "Backed into a corner with no job, no income, and an empty stomach churning from hunger, the most dedicated environmentalist will forget his fight for the seagull or the walrus. . . He will get down and scrape for survival like any other creature."

Classified Ad

PETZOLDT'S TETON TRAILS, hiking guide by legendary mountaineer Paul Petzoldt. Includes stories, history, and personal experiences in the Tetons by the author. \$4.95 postpaid, Wasatch Publishers, 4647 Idlewild Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84117.

NOTICE

Effective March 20, 1976

Brand Inspection Fees will be 30 cents per head for all Form A and Form H inspections and 5 cents per head for all sheep inspections per Enrolled Act No. 4, Wyoming Legislature 1976 Session.

Wyoming Livestock Board
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

PARKS MINING BILL THREATENED. Glacier Bay National Monument and Death Valley National Monument would not be protected from mining if amendments now being considered by the House Interior Committee are passed. Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio) is trying to strengthen the bill (HR 9799) back to the Senate language. Friends of the Earth representative Chuck Williams says anyone interested in affecting the legislation could contact four Western representatives who are considered key to the destiny of the parks: Reps. John Melcher (D-Mont.), Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.), Allen Howe (D-Utah), and Jim Johnson (R-Colo.). As the House bill now stands,

existing mines wouldn't be affected. The Senate bill would have put a moratorium on any new surface disturbance from mining — both existing and new.

HYACINTHS LOVE POLLUTION. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is touting the water hyacinth as a possible solution to sewage pollution woes. Recent experiments show that hyacinths thrive on a diet of raw sewage. When allowed to grow in a sewage lagoon, they clean up the water. Of course, the hyacinths themselves could become a waste problem, but NASA reports that excess hyacinths could be harvested and turned into fuel, fertilizer, or cattle feed.

High Uintas. . .

(continued from page 7)

consideration as wilderness by opening them to roads and timber cutting. If the plan is not altered by public review, the potential wilderness expanse of the High Uintas will be reduced by over 120,000 acres.

The North Slope unit should be opened up to "full resource production," the Forest Service says. According to the agency, roads and timbering are part of "providing overviews by removal of mature trees along some roads" and "implementing silvicultural practices to convert older, over-mature timber stands to young healthy stands."

The Forest Service proposes managing Bald Mountain as a "dispersed recreation area" to serve recreation users seeking a "near wilderness experience" who desire more facilities than are permitted in the proposed wilderness.

On the surface the proposal for Bald Mountain doesn't sound too bad. Yet if you read further, you will find that the plan also includes timber harvest to "enhance recreation and esthetic values" and numerous "temporary" roads. Such activities will destroy the wilderness values of the Bald Mountain region.

In defense of its land use plan, the Forest Service says that it is still proposing over 93,000 acres of the North Slope for wilderness designation and 16,000 acres for wilderness study. The catch is that over

73,000 acres are already included in the High Uintas Primitive Area. Furthermore, by implementing this plan, the Forest Service will effectively eliminate over 120,000 acres of contiguous wilderness quality lands on the North Slope and Bald Mountain from further wilderness consideration, by offering them to the chainsaw and the bulldozer.

To request a copy of the North Slope Land Use Plan and to submit comments write Chandler St. John, Forest Supervisor, Wasatch National Forest, 4311 Federal Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138. The comment period ends May 28.

COUNTRY CRAFTSMAN



HEATER KIT \$19.50

Convert any size steel drum into a high capacity wood burning heater.

Kit consists of: patented gray iron door with draft control, gray iron flue pipe flange, steel legs, instructions and all hardware for easy bolt-together assembly. No welding is required. (Drum not furnished)

Send check or money order to:

COUNTRY CRAFTSMEN

PO BOX 3333-H

Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402

Please add \$4.00 for UPS shipping charges. Dealer inquiries invited.

You can participate. . .

"Congress on Public Range Lands in the West"

Humanists — Users — Managers
will discuss conflicts in use of these lands

**JUNE 3, 4, & 5 — THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO
CALDWELL, IDAHO**

Sponsors: Snake River Regional Studies Center, College of Idaho; Association for the Humanities in Idaho

Outstanding speakers — Panel discussions —
Open forums — Ranch Tours — Entertainment

**Return coupon to: SNAKE RIVER REGIONAL STUDIES CENTER
College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID 83605**

———\$5 Registration Fee Enclosed

———Send me more information on the Public Range Congress

Name _____

Street or Route _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

(Registration fee is a tax deductible contribution)

16-High Country News — Apr. 23, 1976



by Bruce Hamilton

High Country News cartoonist Rob Pudim describes his birthplace — Wilkes-Barre, Pa. — as an area with "totally polluted creeks" and "coal spoil piles in my front yard." Pudim says growing up in such a bleak environment is one reason why today he's so active on issues of environmental quality and social justice in the Rocky Mountain West.

"I had to walk six miles over ugly coal fields to get to green mountains. I know in my guts what it's like to live with strip mines and coal," he says.

"My father was blinded in one eye from a coal accident," explains Pudim. All his uncles have coal-related injuries. "We were poor and our land was a shambles," he says.

Pudim worked his way out of Appalachia. He earned a B.S. degree in chemistry from Rutgers in New Jersey, and an M.S. degree in microbiology from Tulane in New Orleans. He joined the Army medical corps, which brought him west to Colorado.

"I came to Colorado in 1964 — before this state was all trashed," says Pudim. Now living in Boulder, Colo., Pudim loves Colorado, the Rockies, and its people. Periodically he does a giant state-of-the-state cartoon — a map of Colorado depicting all the environmental atrocities within its borders (see HCN, 12-20-74, page 8). "I do the state-of-the-state because I really care about Colorado," he says.

Pudim is a social activist with his pen and his personal actions. In 1970 he helped set up the Boulder "freak clinic." Formally known as The People's Free Clinic, it offered free medical care to the city's growing number of transient young people. When drug problems showed up at the free clinic, Pudim helped set up the Boulder Methadone Program to help heroin addicts.

Pudim started going around to schools giving drug education programs, since the school district didn't have such a program. Later, he also helped set up an abortion clinic in Boulder.

Today, Pudim holds at least four jobs. He is a counselor and lab technician at the abortion clinic, a staff member in the methadone program, a cartoonist, and an investigator for the Boulder County District Attorney's office. As Investigator



Cartoons, counseling, and butterflies

Pudim, he conducts drug and alcohol education programs for parents, schools, and community organizations.

Pudim also occasionally teaches at the University of Colorado in Boulder. This winter he helped teach a class in "comic sense." He will also be teaching a course in cartooning.

In a second phase of higher education, Pudim received a B.A. degree from the University of Colorado in philosophy and is now working on a Ph.D. in the philosophy of humor.

VORACIOUS READER

Pudim started his art career doing oil and watercolor fine art as a hobby. But he says he was much too opinionated to continue that type of art. Then he started doing cartoons in his spare time and was "amazed that people were willing to pay me for my prejudices."

Today Pudim does a strip cartoon — "State of the Union" — with his friend Paul Danish. The strip runs in 14 newspapers in three states — Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming. He does periodic editorial cartoons for 30 publications, including **High Country News**. He also does one daily editorial cartoon for the University of Colorado newspaper — **The Colorado Daily**.

"Sometimes I'll do 50 to 60 cartoons a week," he says.

To keep on top of the news and to produce pertinent cartoons, Pudim says he "reads voraciously."

"I read every newspaper I do a cartoon for from cover to cover," he says. Every issue is filed and catalogued.

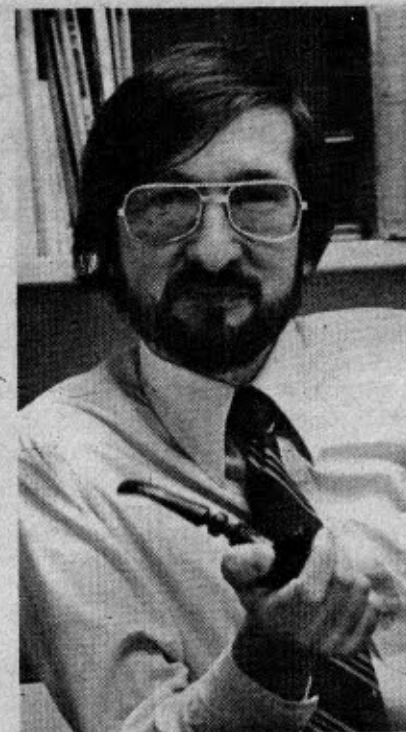
Pudim says he reads about 40 different publications a week. His list includes ones he cartoons for like HCN, **The Aspen Times**, **The Ouray County Plaindealer**, **The New Mexico Independent**, and **Mountain Gazette**; and national publications like **The Rocky Mountain News**, **The Denver Post**, **The New York Times**, **The National Observer**, **Time**, **Newsweek**, and **Scientific American**.

In addition he reads two or three books a week and listens to almost all the networks' newscasts on radio and television.

"I may only spend 15 minutes on a cartoon drawing it, but I spend a lifetime of research on each one. It takes me one minute to sketch out a cartoon, and another 14 minutes to ink it out," he says.

"People look at my cartoons and say I'm cynical. But, if I didn't feel there was hope I wouldn't bother drawing cartoons," he says. "I hope that when I zing somebody, people will take notice and do something about the situation — that's my optimism."

"As an editorial cartoonist you live in the world of 'as if' instead of in the world of 'as is.' I draw as if politicians were honest, or as if there weren't races. That's a dimension people don't see in me."



Rob Pudim

"It's frustrating," Pudim says. "I have to draw in black and white — good and bad — with maybe just a few shades of gray. It's so hard to take any complicated situation, weed out the black and white, and wrap it up with a wise crack."

BUTTERFLIES

When Pudim isn't slaying social dragons he's often out catching butterflies. A respected lepidopterist (butterfly fancier), Pudim has an extensive collection and has become an authority on the tribe *Limenitni*. *Limenitni* mimic other butterflies — for instance the *Viceroy* is a look-alike *Limenitni* of the *Monarch*. He likes this particular tribe because they're interesting from a genetic standpoint, hard to identify, and poorly studied.

Sometimes he'll identify mimics for other lepidopterists who have been on collecting expeditions to other parts of the world.

Pudim says his boyhood in the coal fields around Wilkes-Barre stirred his interest in butterflies. "It was a colorless environment — a dismal looking place. Butterflies were the only colorful thing in that drab world."

He claims collectors have very little impact on butterfly populations, but habitat destruction by man is a more serious problem. Developers in the San Francisco Bay area caused one once-plentiful butterfly to become extinct just recently. Development activities in the Rockies may have similar consequences, he warns.

LAST PIONEER

Pudim thinks population growth and associated development along Colorado's Front Range is the major environmental problem facing the state today.

"I realize I may sound like the last pioneer — 'let me in and then keep everybody else out' — but if you really love a state you want to keep it beautiful. If people weren't a threat, I wouldn't oppose growth in Colorado the same way," he says.

"I may sound anti-social, but the truth is I love people. I live in one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Boulder. But it's a gut reaction — I don't want to see Wilkes-Barre repeated in Colorado."

Dear Friends,

Can you think of a good place to site a coal-fired power plant? This year citizens have been fighting power plants on Utah's Kaiparowits Plateau as well as in Wheatland, Wyo., Boise, Idaho; Colstrip, Mont.; and Brush, Colo. It seems to the utilities that there isn't a site in the West that will satisfy conservationists.

William R. Gould, vice president of Southern California Edison, told the **Los Angeles Times** that environmentalists will have to change their attitude of "opposing almost any project of any kind if we are going to have adequate electrical energy — and I said adequate, not abundant, electrical energy." Southern California Edison is one of the utilities that has just postponed the Kaiparowits project indefinitely.

Naming acceptable sites is a tougher business than rejecting unacceptable sites. Some people in Idaho think Wyoming would be an acceptable site for a plant to serve Idaho (see editorial). People in Montana think the Pacific Northwest would be a grand site for Colstrip Units 3 and 4. In 1965, then-Sierra Club president David Brower argued that coal-fired plants could be built on the Kaiparowits Plateau for less than half the price of putting dams in the Grand Canyon.

It's always been easy pointing to anywhere else other than your own backyard. The problem is that we are

discovering that the world is finite, and the entire earth is our backyard. You don't hide a 2,000 megawatt power plant — not even in the uninhabited plateaus of Utah or on the spacious prairies of Wyoming. If we're going to build power plants, we're going to have to learn to live with them.

That doesn't mean conservationists should stop fighting power plants when they are threats to the natural or social environment. It means that when a plant is definitely needed, you should work to make sure that it will be sized, equipped, and sited so it won't be a threat.

But how do you tell if a proposed plant is needed and is the best possible alternative? When it's time to be for a plant instead of against one, how do you go about it?

Try to stop thinking in terms of power plants for just a minute and think in terms of trees instead. Aldo Leopold, in his **Sand County Almanac**, wrote: "I have read many definitions of what is a conservationist, and written not a few myself, but I suspect that the best one is written not with the pen, but with the axe. It is a matter of what a man thinks about while chopping, or while deciding what to chop. A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke he is writing his signature on the face of his land."

—the editors

In The News

Kaiparowits

utilities pull out.

1

Wheatland plant

is the siting law working?

1

Park hunting

guns in Grand Teton.

12